Living the life precarious

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COVER: ROCK ROWS SEEN FROM THE SHORE IN OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK LEFT "GOLDEN LIGHT, PALOUSE" (PHOTOS CHIP PHILLIPS)
Stability. Every building is only as strong as its foundation. The same holds true for our countries, our communities, our lives.

One stabilizing force for many of us is work. It pays the bills for homes, food, and other necessities, and often provides satisfaction and pride. Many people lost their jobs last year, and hopefully we’ve turned a corner, but the world of work has been shifting for a while. The number of gig workers and people who travel the country as nomads searching for temporary work has grown significantly. The feature story in this issue looks at the lives of those workers and digs into the reasons for the change.

Another strong pillar for many of us is our alma mater or chosen home: Washington State University. During the pandemic, we reconnected with college friends and recalled good memories of student days. And, as young alumni and the students graduating in May face a transformed working world, they can also count on WSU help through the Coug nation and the WSU Alumni Association.

The WSUAA has always been a reliable partner for this magazine, and we’re pleased and thankful that this issue is exclusive to WSUAA members, subscribers, and the campus community. The alumni association has innovated during the past year to lift Cougar spirits with virtual events and more.

While visiting a real campus was difficult in 2020, we can still picture the iconic buildings there. WSU architecture professor Phil Gruen and others completed a monumental task of selecting significant structures across the state, including some at WSU such as Stevens Hall.

A community is definitely more than buildings, though. Health care sits at the heart of towns and cities, and the first doctors graduating from the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine are ready to go out and be community leaders.

However, we face a crisis of stability on a broader, national level. The January 6 invasion of the US Capitol represented a clear danger to democracy, and WSU political scientist Cornell Clayton places the event in historical context in his essay.

Hopefully this magazine offers you an ongoing connection to WSU and a steady presence in your life. We always welcome your support, and you can find ways to help at magazine.wsu.edu/friend.

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Editor’s note: We asked for your Stevens Hall stories and heard some great ones. Here are two of them, and you can find more stories and a link to Tori Stuckey’s Stevens Hall history site through magazine.wsu.edu/extra/Stevens-Hall-latters.

When I left my childhood home in Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii, in September 1961, to my new one at Stevens Hall, I had absolutely no idea what awaited. I was a 17-year-old who had never been to the mainland, what we islanders call the continental states. In those days, students from Hawaii didn’t go on campus visits, the Internet wasn’t born, and my only orientation to WSU was through the hard copy catalog.

Just after a month at WSU, I received a special delivery letter from my mom, telling me that my grandmother, who had lived in Hawaii, had suddenly passed away. Phone calls from Hawaii in those days were expensive and my family—with five younger siblings—couldn’t afford the call.

Due to the cost of airfare, I wasn’t able to fly home for the funeral. Knowing I was sad and homesick, my mom sent a letter with money to Mrs. Wade, my dorm mother, telling her about my grandmother’s passing and asking if she would host a birthday party for me. My birthday is November 11. November 12, as my friends and I were heading out to a movie in downtown Pullman, my roommate fanned a headache to stall our movie outing while waiting for the cue to tell me Mrs. Wade wanted to see me. When I was told that Mrs. Wade wanted to see me “right away,” I nervously thought, “What had I done?” As I walked into her apartment, a group of girls yelled, “Surprise!” I stood stunned with my mouth wide open.

“A sad time turned happy, thanks to my mom, Mrs. Wade, and my new friends at Stevens Hall.”

SHIRLEY (KODANI) CAVANAUGH ('65 SPEECH)

Stevens Hall is what really bolstered my love for history and historical architecture. When I lived there, I became obsessed with researching Stevens’s history. I looked through all of the old photos and documents in the government closet downstairs, the scrapbooks in the lobby, and the WSUMed. As well, to get any information I could get my hands on. The fact that thousands of women walked through those halls and that Stevens was the social hub of campus in its early years is what really is amazing. I could read for hours about Stevens—and did, actually. I made a website about its history.

TORI STUCKEY ('18 FORESTRY)

A message from the WSU Alumni Association executive director

Making and maintaining connections with Cougs is what the WSU Alumni Association (WSUAA) is all about. Doing that successfully during a pandemic is challenging. The WSUAA staff took the challenge head on. With equal measures of creativity and hard work, they pulled it off.

Communication is at the heart of linking Cougs with WSU and with one another. We produce CougNews—a compilation of stories from across the WSU system—delivered electronically each month. The WSUAA also prepares members only emails about benefits, services, and programs members can enjoy. Event announcements are another mainstay. Four times each year, we send all members copies of Crimson Quarterly, an old-fashioned, hands-on, printed newsletter that includes news of upcoming activities. WSUAA highlights, and alumni and volunteer features.

This issue of Washington State Magazine is an example of our innovative communications efforts. We partnered with the WSM staff to share this issue exclusively with WSUAA members—all 40,000+ of us. We are huge fans of the magazine and thank our WSM partners for helping us get this issue into your hands.

The WSUAA is likely best known for our events. In a “normal” year, the WSUAA conducts 1,000+ in-person events nationwide. Those stopped in March 2020 when we shifted to virtual programming. The positive response from our members has been overwhelming. Events range from our virtual book club (‘Will Read for Cougs’ to a live tour of Bolivia to our innovative Food-It-Home food-wine-fun virtual gatherings to career nights. Our programming focuses on learning, networking, and fun, three areas important to our members.

Truth be told, we miss gathering with Cougs in person. When we can, we will restart our in-person events while continuing our communications and virtual programming. Cougs are social by nature.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

In the meantime, thanks for being a WSUAA member and for helping us support WSU.

Go Cougs!

TIM PAVISH '80
Executive Director and Platinum Life Member

Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine
Washington State University

Alumni Association News

For the thousands of firsts you’ve made possible, and the thousands more to come.
As you know, Washington State University has greatly expanded its statewide presence during the last 30 years—going from a single flagship campus in Pullman to an evolving system of interconnected campuses in the growing population centers of Everett, Spokane, Tri-Cities, and Vancouver. Add in the ever-increasing contributions of our Extension programs and the worldwide reach of our Global Campus, and you begin to quickly grasp the complexity of managing this enterprise.

As I near my five-year anniversary as WSU’s president, I’ve seen firsthand multiple times the challenges of providing effective executive leadership that reflects the University’s long-held operating principle of “one university, geographically dispersed.” In short, the University long ago defined an operating principle but never developed a clear framework for how it would operate as a cohesive system.

It’s now time to address this need. While the University continues to make notable strides, including record student enrollment, the establishment of a medical college, and growing partnerships with the state’s agricultural interests, the institution is experiencing limitations due to our organizational and administrative infrastructure. Many of our campuses are, in fact, dependent on the flagship campus in Pullman to make executive-level decisions—restricting their ability to make needed decisions at a campus level.

What’s the best solution? For WSU to continue to grow its ability to meet the needs of the communities it serves, we are in the early stages of creating a unified system infrastructure. Known as OneWSU, we seek to provide an appropriate level of autonomy at each campus location, while at the same time ensuring consistent WSU mission, branding, and quality.

Through the OneWSU system structure, the University’s six campuses, four research and extension centers, ten subject matter centers, and 39 county and one tribal extension offices will join in a commitment to a set of OneWSU operating principles as outlined in the OneWSU System Strategic Plan.

We believe this approach will deliver significant advantages to our stakeholders statewide. While individual campuses will be obligated to contribute to the role and mission of the overall WSU system, they will also be free to pursue the mission and implement the programs most needed by the communities in which they are located. Likewise, we will clarify which administrative and organizational functions are best executed at the campus level versus those best executed at the system level.

You’ll be hearing much more about OneWSU in the weeks and months ahead. Bottom line: we are more committed than ever to delivering accessible, quality education to students, conducting research that solves everyday challenges, and serving the needs of residents on both sides of the Cascades. OneWSU will raise our game to the next level.

KIRK SCHULZ
President, Washington State University
Excess power from wind can produce hydrogen for aircraft fuel cells. The rising hydrogen economy could bring billions of dollars to the Northwest. Washington State University researchers and entrepreneurs are leading the way.

As a senior graduating this May, I also have my own doubts. What if I can’t find a job after I graduate? Or even worse, what if I get laid off from my first job due to the pandemic? I find myself increasingly uncertain about my future while time seems to be running out.

The COVID-19 pandemic upended the workplace across the country. Lost opportunities and occupations littered the summer of 2020. Workplaces, schools, and businesses slowly metamorphosed into their respective virtual worlds.

“If the pandemic has taught us anything,” says Amanda Morgan (’06 Bus., ’08 M.Ed.), associate director of the Academic Success and Career Center (ASCC) at Washington State University, “it’s that we can’t really anticipate what’s coming around the corner.” Now, as the dust of the job market crash begins to settle, navigating this new normal is an everyday challenge. But, Morgan says, although the online space in many people’s lives may be unfamiliar, “it actually makes opportunities a little more accessible.”

In fact, says ASCC internship coordinator Judy Hopkins (’12 Ag.), “there is an incredible opportunity for graduates because employers have literally pivoted from the previous way of managing their internships to creating remote opportunities.”

This pivot is opening doors instead of nailing them shut. So, what can young WSU alumni do to succeed?

Using online tools like LinkedIn to build connections within the WSU alumni family, Hopkins suggests, is where many young alumni should begin. “It’s not a cold call whatsoever; it’s a very warm connection when we have that opportunity to reach out to fellow Cougs.”

After building connections on LinkedIn, young alumni can reach out to relevant contacts for informational interviews. “Whatever it is that you are wanting, whatever your goal is, tell as many people as you can,” Morgan says. “You never know who’s going to be able to open that door for you.”

These informational interviews can serve as the first stop in a pathway to a dream job or even as the foundation to reach additional resources.

As Hopkins says, “Often, because we have that Cougar connection, there is a strong opportunity to reach out to fellow Cougs.”

Graduates must realize the job search process takes time. “I don’t think the only thing to do is take a step back and wait out the storm, now more than ever is an opportunity to push through the clouds of uncertainty,” Morgan says. “You’re graduating with other students, maybe competing for some of the same jobs,” Morgan says, “so this is not the time to be humble. This is the time to really showcase what you’ve done in every experience that you’ve had.”

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While it might be a challenge to push through this era’s scarcity, it is clear that things may not be so bleak after all. “We’ve been forced to be creative and innovative,” Hopkins says. “We have greater opportunities for success in new ways that we haven’t considered before.”
Significantly Washington

BY ADRIANA JANOVICH

Of course, Seattle’s iconic Space Needle is on the list.

So is the Pacific Science Center, Smith Tower, and Seattle Central Library, along with the Amazon Spheres, multiple museums—of Flight, Glass, Pop Culture, and more—and several entire towns: the Bavarian-themed Leavenworth, Victorian seaport of Port Townsend, and company mill town of Port Gamble.

Washington State University made the cut, too. The most difficult part of the project, says J. Philip “Phil” Gruen, associate professor in the School of Design and Construction at WSU’s Voilain College of Engineering and Architecture.

Gruen recently served as one of the coordinators of Washington’s Classic Buildings for SAH Archipedia, an online encyclopedia produced by the Society of Architectural Historians. The site contains entries for more than 20,000 landscapes, structures, monuments, and buildings across America. Its open-access component, SAH Archipedia Classic Buildings, contains maps, photos, and peer-reviewed essays for more than 4,100 structures in all 50 states.

Gruen and Robert R. Franklin, MA History, the other project coordinator and assistant director of the Hamford History Project at WSU Tri-Cities, were tasked in 2015 with selecting the most representative works of Washington state’s built environment. They enlisted the help of 25 colleagues statewide—current and retired professors, graduate students, architecture professionals—

to document each location’s building materials, techniques, and styles, as well as social and political contexts.

“We could have made it easier on ourselves by just selecting old buildings or buildings designed by well-known architects,” says Gruen, who teaches modern and vernacular architecture, historic preservation, the global history of design, and the built environment of the Pacific Northwest, including local and regional landscapes of the Palouse. He also serves on Pullman’s Historic Preservation Commission and WSU’s Historic Preservation Committee.

Instead, he and his collaborators considered contemporary as well as historical structures, famous and lesser-known designers, rural and urban locations, and variety in structure type—from private residences and places of worship to commercial buildings, including a tavern and a parking garage, to public spaces such as libraries, schools, and athletic arenas. Some of the sites that they considered don’t house buildings at all, but bridges, roads, or elevated tracks such as the Seattle Monorail.

Ultimately, Gruen says, these sites “had to be representative of the state. For us, that meant sites related to the landscape or the context in which they sat—for that sky, water, forest, mountains, or hills.”

Gruen and his team made sure to include places that are important to indigenous and underrepresented peoples, including women. “In my view, almost everything is significant—if you’re willing to work hard enough to talk to the people, to do the research, to dig up the archives, and to understand that the built environment is more than just famous old buildings designed by old white men. Looking at sites that way, I think, is a type of social justice architecture.”

Geographical balance was also important and, in the end, Gruen and his team included sites in almost every county in Washington state. Some of the locations they chose contain multiple structures. In all, their list of 100 sites encompasses 235 separate entries, including 17 at WSU Pullman. Gruen and Franklin edited all of the entries, researched and wrote about four dozen entries, and photographed the bulk of them.

Above all, Gruen says, “we wanted to tell stories—stories about place, about culture, about people.”

As a historian of the built environment, Gruen emphasizes interpretation and narrative as critical tools for reading human-made surroundings. His expertise lies in American architecture and urbanism of the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first centuries.

“Histories tend to focus on design and style and names and dates. But, fundamentally, it’s meaning. How did the designs resonate? The life inside the buildings—that’s how people begin to bring meaning to buildings,” Gruen says. “When we start to tell those stories, they become the architecture of the building, in many ways.”

Ten significant examples >>

A few of the 235 structures in Washington’s Classic Buildings

**Seattle Central Library, Seattle**

This sleekness in Seattle, a library for the digital age: a dynamic, light-filled, and unconventional edifice with a distinctive diamond-shaped exterior grid of steel and glass. This is, writes Jaime Lynn Rice, academic program manager in WSU’s School of Design and Construction, “one of the few buildings to place Seattle firmly on the international architectural map.”

Completed in 2004 for nearly $170 million, the 11-story Seattle Central Library encompasses a full city block and more than 350,000 square feet. Its exterior planes resemble stacked volumes while interior spaces are open and flexible to adapt to changing needs. Bjarne M. Krookhaas and Joshua Prince-Ramus of the Rotterdam-based Office of Metropolitan Architecture designed the contemporary public space with exposed structural elements and dramatic uses of color. Escalators radiate an almost neon chartreuse. A spiral connects four floors of bookstacks via gently sloped ramps. A mixing chamber, modeled after trading rooms, holds more than 100 computers. A dumbwaiter carries books between the stacks and the chamber.

**Stadium High School, Tacoma**

Construction started in 1881 on what was to become a historic holy temple resembling a French chateau. When a financial crisis hit two years later, the unfinished hotel was used as railroad storage. By the time the Tacoma School
DISTRICT bought it in 1904, the building had been partially dismantled, having sustained heavy fire damage in 1899. Tacoma High School opened in 1906; was renamed in 1913, and has since been renovated several times. In 1919, Stadium High School served as the setting for It's a Wonderful Life. Its Stadium Bowl, also seen in the film, opened in 1920 with seating for 32,000 and breathtaking views of Commencement Bay. Presidents Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, and Warren G. Harding gave speeches there. John Phillip Sousa and Louis Armstrong performed here. And WSU's football team played there in 1917 against a team from Fort Lewis, 1917 against Texas A&M, and 1918 against Penn State.

GOVERNOR'S MANSION, OLYMPIA
This three-story, red-brick, Georgian Revival mansion, designed by the Tacoma-based firm of Russell & Babcock, was completed with 19 rooms in 1909. Governor Marion E. Hay, his wife, Liz, and their five children were the first inhabitants. The mansion continues to serve as the state's executive residence. A 1975 renovation added about 4,000 square feet to the back of the building. Since then, the home has only seen slight alterations.

Rothschild House, Museum, Port Townsend
Washington's smallest state park encompasses a half-acre atop a bluff overlooking Port Townsend Bay. The heart of the property is a simple, two-story, Greek Revival home built in 1868 by one of Port Townsend's early merchants. David C. H. "The Baron" Rothschild opened his downtown mercantile in 1858, living with his wife, Dorette, and their first three children above the business. Their last two children, Emilie and Eugene, were born in the eight-room uptown house, which includes a formal dining room, parlor, sewing room, and children's playroom. Emilie, Port Townsend's first librarian, lived there until her death in 1954. Eugene, who had long since moved to Seattle, decided to purchase the property to start a five-year later. The Rothschild House Museum opened to the public in 1982, giving guests a glimpse into what life was like for a prominent family in Washington's Victorian seaport in the second half of the nineteenth century.

CAPE DISAPPOINTMENT LIGHTHOUSE, Ilwaco
Washington's oldest operating lighthouse stands at the mouth of the Columbia River, the most dangerous entrance to a commercial waterway in the world. Since the late 1700s, more than 2,000 vessels have wrecked in the Columbia Bar's shifting sands, high seas, and heavy winds, including the Overo, which, in 1853, was carrying building materials to erect a lighthouse to help other ships escape the same fate. Construction finally got underway after another supply ship arrived the following year. The Cape Disappointment Lighthouse was first lighted October 15, 1856. It stands 53 feet tall and tapers from a diameter of just over 14 feet to 10-and-a-half feet at the lantern room. Its distinctive black horizontal band was added in 1930. The light was automated in 1973.

STONEHENGE MEMORIAL, Goldendale
This concrete replica of England's famous Neolithic structure hon-ors Klallam County's World War I dead. Dedicated July 4, 1918, it’s likely the oldest full-scale Stonehenge replica in the world. The Stonehenge Memorial stands on 5,300 acres purchased by def-endant industrialist Sum Hill in 1907 with the dream of creating a Quaker farming community among the hills above the Columbia River. The remote location and lack of irrigation ultimately caused that project to fail. And, in 1914, work began on what was to be his hilltop Beaux Arts mansion; instead, Maryhill Museum of Art opened in 1940. The memo-rial, completed and re-dedicated in 1920, stands 36 feet tall and remembers 14 local men who lost their lives in the "war to end all wars."

ROLLING HUTS, MAZAMA
Situated on the eastern edge of the North Cascades, this pack of six, two-hundred-square-foot, contemporary cabins offers an elevated Washington state-is-ty camping experience. Their award-winning design features modular furniture and hardy, low-maintenance materials; the steel, glass, and wood-struct-ures, created by Tom Kundig and completed in 2007, stand three feet above the ground and are topped with butterfly roofs. Sliding glass doors and wrap-around decks give campers spec-tacular views of the mountains, meadow, and trees. Set close to nature, the industrial-looking, minimalist bars are outfitted with wood-burning fireplaces, Wi-Fi, and microwaves, but no bathrooms.

TEAPOT DOME SERVICE STATION, ZILLAH
This trapezoid-shaped gas station—short, stout, handle, spout—originally sat along the highway between Zillah and Hanford. Today, the roadside attraction serves as Zillah’s visitor center and landmark of a hundred-year-old scandal. In 1921, President Warren G. Harding transferred control of three oil fields, intended as emergency fuel supplies, from the US Navy to the US Department of Interior. Interior Secretary Albert Fall then leased the reserves to two oil companies at low rates without competitive bidding. An investiga-tion found Fall received $400,000 in bribes, and he became the first to be convicted of committing a felony while holding a Cabinet post. One reserve was at Teapot Dome, Wyoming, and the incident became known as the Teapot Dome Scandal. It inspired Jack Ainsworth, whose father had a general store in the Yakima Valley, to install a kattle-shaped gas station beside the mercantile. The younger Ainsworth designed and built the structure in 1922, dubbing it “Teapot Dome.” The cir-cular, wood-shingled edifice stands 14 feet in diameter with 10-foot ceilings, a decorative sheet-metal handle, and concrete spout that functioned as a stove pipe.

MONROE STREET BRIDGE, Spokane
When it was completed in 1911, the Monroe Street Bridge was the longest self-supporting arch in America and the third largest in the world. It replaced a bridge which had replaced a short-lived wooden bridge built in 1899 by the Great Northern Railway. The arch is 412 feet long and 25 feet tall. The Cleanup Bridge Scandal, originally sat along the highway between Zillah and Hanford. Today, the roadside attraction serves as Zillah’s visitor center and landmark of a hundred-year-old scandal. In 1921, President Warren G. Harding transferred control of three oil fields, intended as emergency fuel supplies, from the US Navy to the US Department of Interior. Interior Secretary Albert Fall then leased the reserves to two oil companies at low rates without competitive bidding. An investiga-tion found Fall received $400,000 in bribes, and he became the first to be convicted of committing a felony while holding a Cabinet post. One reserve was at Teapot Dome, Wyoming, and the incident became known as the Teapot Dome Scandal. It inspired Jack Ainsworth, whose father had a general store in the Yakima Valley, to install a kattle-shaped gas station beside the mercantile. The younger Ainsworth designed and built the structure in 1922, dubbing it “Teapot Dome.” The cir-cular, wood-shingled edifice stands 14 feet in diameter with 10-foot ceilings, a decorative sheet-metal handle, and concrete spout that functioned as a stove pipe.

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STEVENS HALL, PULLMAN
WSU's oldest women's dormitory, named for former Washington territorial governor Isaac Stevens and completed in 1886, is WSU's oldest residence hall and second-oldest surviving building. It has been in continuous use since its completion, save for a year-long closure for rehabilitation in 1958. Designed by the Seattle architectural firm of James Stephen and Timothy John Enoch Stevens Hall, done in New England Shingle Style with Pacific Northwest touches, feels classic and dignified yet unpretentious and homely. Local basalt, red brick quarried from clay deposits on campus, and sawn order shingles were used in the original build. During the college's forma-tive years, the hall served as a social center, hosting receptions, readings, dinners, dances, and teas.
Gender Gaps
You’re IT
by Becky Kramer

Michelle Carter was a single mom in her 30s when she earned a master’s degree in computer science. It changed the course of her life.

“Computer science was definitely the turning point for me,” says Carter, associate professor at the Washington State University Carston College of Business. “Even though I had an undergraduate degree in literature, I was still working part-time and living week to week, crisis to crisis.”

With database management skills, Carter became part of a cadre of highly employable tech workers. She worked in industry and later earned a doctorate in information systems—a career trajectory Carter says once seemed unfathomable for someone like her, a first-generation college graduate who returned to school after leaving at 15.

“I know what it’s like to be a single parent without enough education to have opportunities,” Carter says. “I felt left with a deep, abiding sense of wanting to help other people have choices. I became very, very interested in the role of information technologies in either enabling people or marginalizing them.”

As part of that drive, Carter wants to help other marginalized groups use technology, and specifically in information systems.

“Every time I walk into a classroom, I see ‘a typical working-class family.’ Women need to work outside the home to help support their families, Carter says. But they didn’t have career options. They were factory workers, retail employees, and nursing assistants.

Carter didn’t picture college for herself. But after leaving school as a teenager, she eventually earned the equivalent of a GED and an undergraduate degree.

Carter was teaching part-time at a community college when she got the chance to get a master’s degree in computer science. “Britain was recognizing that it needed to increase the number of technology workers,” she says. “I had never even been near Excel; the only thing I’d used was word processing. But it intrigued me. I took up the challenge.”

Carter was one of three female students in a cohort of 50 in her master’s program. She was also outnumbered by male peers when she worked in private industry.

“It’s not an easy profession for women to get into, and it’s not an easy profession for women to stay in,” Carter says. And that applies to the academic side, too.

After earning her doctorate in 2012 from Clemson University, Carter and her female colleagues compared the advice they were getting about job interviews. Another woman, who had recently married, was asked if her husband would be willing to relocate.

“For a male job candidate, being married was considered a sign of stability,” Carter says. “For a woman, it was a potential liability.”

Carter has helped raise gender awareness among academic professionals, Peterangan.

“We’re talking a lot more about inclusivity than we have in the past,” she says. “Research shows that teams become more diverse; they produce more creative solutions and better results.”

Gender equity work is more than individual universities can tackle on their own, so it’s exciting to have the AIS as a grant partner, Carter says.

Her role in the grant includes leading implicit bias training workshops for AIS leadership and members. The training will help people recognize subtle, ingrained biases that can cause them to favor one gender—or certain groups—over another as they think about candidates for awards, speaking engagements, and editorial positions at research journals.

“As humans, we exist in structures that give some people advantages. It’s OK to shine a light on these issues and try to address the challenges,” Carter says.

Pullman Was New Territory
By Adrian Janovich

In 1983, Glenn Terrell announced his plans to step down as WSU president, then athletic director Sam Jankowski left for the University of Miami, and the University of Iowa came calling. “It was ‘Raveling admits, ‘a lot more money at Iowa.’”

He coached at Iowa for three years before heading to USC, serving as assistant coach for two Olympic men’s basketball teams in 1984 and 1988, and winning numerous accolades. He’s been inducted into the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame and the University of Southern California Basketball Hall of Fame, which also bestowed him with his prestigious John W. Bunn Lifetime Achievement Award. The WSU Athletic Hall of Fame inducted him, too.

Raveling arrived in Pullman on the heels of the Civil Rights Movement and presented WSU with a miniscule and lasting legacy: serving as the first Black head basketball coach in University history.

“At the time, I didn’t think a lot about it,” he says. “I spent all of my time trying to prove to people that I could coach. When I look back now, race was never an issue. I didn’t remember any time that I felt uncomfortable as a Black person at WSU. The University, its leadership, and its alumni deplored racial tension along the way.”

One of the biggest differences he notes between today’s Black Lives Matter movement and the marches, sit-ins, and Freedom Rides of the 1960s is smartphones.

“Technology has been our best freedom fighter,” Raveling says. “Technology was able to link the events of the past, such as the 1960s civil rights demonstrations, to people around the world. And that changed the narrative.”

Raveling was served as WSU head men’s basketball coach from 1972 to 1983, earning 167 wins. He was twice named the Pac-10 Conference Coach of the Year and twice took the Cougs to NCAA tournaments. The team’s 1980 appearance marked the first for WSU since placing second in 1941. He also took the team to the playoffs during his last season at WSU.

“It was such a joy to coach there,” Raveling says. “I took a risk on me, and they supported me, and it was such a great journey. Maybe in those early years I would have liked to have won more games. But nonetheless, I made the 11 years I spent at Washington State for anything. They brought out the best in me as a human being.”

“Change is never easy—people inherently resist change—but I think people are really receptive to change right now and are trying to do the right thing. It’s going to take time, and we have to be patient and we have to be vigilant. But I remain enthusiastically hopeful that we are going to make the necessary changes.”

SIDELINES
BY AYSEN BOSTON

Can I have that, Dr. King?
He wasn’t planning to be there.

When his best friend’s father asked him and his buddy if they were going to attend the March on Washington, they both said no. They didn’t have the money, and they didn’t have a ride.

“He said, ‘Well, I’ll volunteer.’ He gave us money and the use of one of his cars,” George Raveling says.

It was two nights before the march. The 26-year-old former Villanova University basketball star hadn’t yet made history himself—as the first Black assistant basketball coach at alma mater and the University of Maryland, the first Black basketball coach in the Atlantic Coast Conference, and the first Black head basketball coach in the Pac-8 (now Pac-12) and at Washington State University, University of Iowa, and University of Southern California.

In 1963, he was having dinner in Delaware at his friend’s parents’ house when Woodrow Wilson, the preeminent Black dentist and Raveling’s friend’s dad, encouraged both young men to make the drive to Washington, D.C.

They ended up on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, working security during King’s famed “I Have a Dream” speech.

“I was right there beside him,” he says. “He seized the moment. ‘I said, ‘Dr. King, can I have that copy?’”

Raveling remembers seeing the historic page, which he has since signed and has it framed in his office. His copy is notHeaderValue

BY AYSEN BOSTON

Saying hello to goodbye
In the United States, death isn’t comfortable.

The sturdy and massive buoy, made from 800 pounds of military-grade steel, was likely once used to help hang anti-submarine and anti-torpedo netting in Port Townsend Bay. A system of heavy floats and cable netting—think giant chain-link fences—lines bodies of water—a part of maritime defense system designed to protect US Navy assets in Puget Sound during World War II. Buoys like this, says Janine Johnson, publications coordinator for the WSU Bread Lab in Burlington, “are exceedingly rare.” This particular metal buoy was found covered in blackberry branches on Marrowstone Island, located just east of Naval Magazine Indian Island, which was commissioned May 10, 1918. Seven months later, the United States entered World War I. Netting manufactured in Building 27 helped protect Naval Air Station Seattle and Navy Yard Puget Sound as well as Indian Island. It was lowered into the water from a tender, then attached to the seabed. A series of super-sized buoys like this one, which stretches five feet in diameter, kept the netting affixed. Crosswound wooden floats, manufactured in Bremerton from 1942 to 1943, were ordered by the Navy’s Bureau of Ordnance specifically for use by Indian Island. But the starting point of the steel floats appears lost to history. “Unfortunately,” says Indian Island spokeswoman Julianne Stanford, “we don’t know the origin of the metal buoys used at the island.” However, she says, Indian Island “used the metal buoys frequently.”

George Raveling recalls.

“It was two nights before the march. The 26-year-old former Villanova University basketball star hadn’t yet made history himself—as the first Black assistant basketball coach at alma mater and the University of Maryland, the first Black basketball coach in the Atlantic Coast Conference, and the first Black head basketball coach in the Pac-8 (now Pac-12) and at Washington State University, University of Iowa, and University of Southern California.

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Raveling remembers seeing the historic page, which he has since signed and has it framed in his office. His copy is not...
Wild berries

By Adriana Janovich

Get out your baskets and buckets. It’s berry-picking season.

Wild berries abound in Washington state in summer and fall. From tart to sweet, and deep purple to peachy pink, they come in a rainbow of colors and variety of shapes, sizes, textures, and flavors. Some are so delectable, it’s best to immediately eat them; they don’t travel well. Others bake beautifully into pies, tarts, and cobblers, or cook down into sweet-tart jams and sauces to top everything from ice cream to thick-cut steaks.

Finding wild berries can take patience. But if you know where to look, how to recognize them, and which ones to avoid, you can graze through the greenery, turning your summertime treks into wild and wonderful feasts, rich in antioxidants, fiber, vitamin C, and other nutrients.

According to the “berry rule,” a general guideline meant to help gauge toxicity, only 10 percent of white and yellow berries are edible; 10 percent of red berries are edible; 90 percent of blue, purple, or black berries are edible; and 10 percent of aggregated berries—those recognized by their clusters, such as blackberries and raspberries—are edible. Modernsuvival.org offers this rhyme to help berry-pickers remember: “White and yellow will kill you. Eating red could be good, could be dead. Purple and blue are good for you.”

Rick LaMonte’s favorite berry is deep purple blackberry. The founder of Northwest Wild Foods in Burlington prefers trailing blackberries, which his company calls Wild Blackberries. “Little Wild Blackberries are like mother berry in the world,” he says. “I’d rather have a Little Wild Blackberry pie for my birthday than anything else. Add a scoop of vanilla ice cream, and you’re just in heaven. If I was going to die of a heart attack, that’s how I’d like to do it. But I’d like to finish the dish first.”

LaMonte founded Northwest Wild Foods in 1988 and soon began supplying trailing blackberries to Anthony’s Restaurants, including Chinoos at Salishan Buzz. By the mid 1990s, he says, “Atlantic food writer Corby Kummer tried ’one of the best (desserts) I’ve ever been served in a restaurant”—the wild blackberry cobbler. LaMonte first picked wild blackberries as a boy in the late 1940s in the South Puget Sound region. “They go all the way back to pioneer days. My grandmother was born in 1883, and she harvested them,” he says. “You would never tell anybody where your picking was.”

The same is true for huckleberries, which enjoy a cult-like following throughout the Pacific Northwest. “Their flavor is legendary,” says Amit Dhingra, interim chair of the Department of Horticulture and director of the Genomics Lab at WSU’s College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences. He first tried huckleberries upon moving to Pullman in 2006. Today, Huckleberry Ripple is his favorite flavor at Ferdinand’s Ice Cream Shoppe on the WSU Pullman campus.

While he hasn’t foraged huckleberries, researchers in his lab have been growing their own for about ten years. “I was told it was impossible to grow huckleberries outside of their natural environment, that people have tried transplanting them from their place of origin and they don’t survive,” Dhingra says, noting the researches in his lab “are an adventurous group.” When lab manager Nathan Tarlyn proposed the idea of attempting to cultivate huckleberries, “I said, ‘Let’s try that.’”

They bought seedlings from a native plant nursery, and, “over the years, developed a method to grow huckleberries in a greenhouse. One could grow them in a controlled environment but not for a specialty market, but it would be at a high premium. Now, our approach is to try to bring the best traits of huckleberries—that legendary flavor—into blueberries, which are already grown commercially. That would benefit blueberry growers. But it would also help prevent excessive foraging of huckleberry stands on public lands.”

Before the pioneers, wild berries served as a staple for Pacific Northwest indigenous peoples for centuries. In their journals, while wintering at Fort Clatsop in 1806, as seen in the journals, both Meriwether Lewis and William Clark noted the plentiful salal berries, which Clark compared in size to “back shot.” Lewis described how Native peoples were them “when ripe immediately from the bushes” or dried them in the sun or kilns for later use. “Very frequently they wound them and bake them in large loaves of 10 of fifteen pounds,” he wrote, adding the loaves kept “very well during one season.” Lewis and Clark’s journals also noted Native peoples tended to prefer marionberries, wild salal, and other thimbleberries, and sold strawberries over salal, eating them fresh because they’re too soft to dry. Now, like then, they might end up in your mouth without ever making it into your picking pail—except for may be huckleberries, which might not make it into either.

BEARBERRIES (Arctostaphylos uva-ursi)—Although pretty in color, these bright red berries, also called bearberry, aren’t pleasing on the palate. Their skin is thick, their texture, mealy. Read the label and try. But don’t mean Lewis liked them. He called them “tasteful and invigorating.” The natives usually eat them without any preparation; he wrote, adding they would hang the berries in their lodges in bags where they dry without further trouble. In their most inclement state they appear to be almost as dry as flour.

CASCADE BILBERRIES (Vaccinium ovatum)—These sweet, dark blue berries, also called Cascade blueberries and blueleaf huckleberries, were a staple for indigenous peoples, who would often travel short distances to harvest them.

EVERGREEN HUCKLEBERRIES (Vaccinium parvifolium)—Native peoples also traveled long distances for these sweet-tart, deep purple berries, which grow in shady places.

OREGON GRAPE (Mahonia aquifolium)—Beware of the leathery, sharp-tooth, evergreen leaves—remnants of holly—when foraging these sour berries, similar in appearance to blueberries. Native peoples used to pair them with salal berries to sweeten them.

RED HUCKLEBERRIES (Vaccinium parvifolium)—These bright red, round, prairie berries taste like the darker variety and are most often found growing out of nurse logs or near downed trees or stumps.

SALAL BERRIES (Gaultheria shallon)—These dark purple grapes are commonly found in confusious forests and moist, shady areas. They have a somewhat measly texture, so use them in pies, jam, or jelly.

SALMONBERRIES (Rubus spectabilis)—Resembling large raspberries but ranging in color from yellow to peachy pink and orange, these mild sour berries grow in moist, shady areas. Watch out for their thorns.

THIMBLEBERRIES (Rubus parryi)—These tart, bright red, thorny berries resemble small raspberries, or thimbles, and are often found along the edges of drainages in shady, moist areas. Because they’re so soft and delicate, they’re best eaten soon after picking.

TRAILING BLACKBERRIES (Rubus ursinus)—Found in sunny brambles, dry open forests, or logged or recently burned areas, these blackberries are smaller than the invasive Himalayan variety but full of flavor. Beware of their thorns.

For more berries and how to find them: magazines.wsu.edu/wsu/wild-berries
The merits of capitalism aren’t usually top of mind when you’re scrabbling to make ends meet. Choosing to juggle a full-time job plus a couple smaller gigs on the side is more about surviving an economy that can leave people exhausted and wondering in bed at night why it’s so hard to get ahead.

The discouraging reality is built on decades of small social, political, business, and labor changes that, piled together, have pushed some Americans to forego conventional living arrangements and try their hand at “wheel estate.”

One by one, scrappy individuals have turned in house keys and adapted their vehicles, joining a growing subculture of nomads and van-dwellers who travel the nation working online or in temporary jobs for companies like Amazon. Many are older or retired but lost their retirement savings in the Great Recession. More than a few find it difficult to rejoin the traditional workforce.

The movement is increasingly fueled by younger itinerants who both live and work in their vehicles in order to save money for future endeavors.

It’s a phenomenon highlighted in Jessica Bruder’s eye-opening 2017 novel Nomadland, which follows a number of unhoused people as they crisscross the nation working in sugar beet factories, national forests, and Amazon warehouses. Nomadland was released as a motion picture in February.

The trend was also addressed on a deeper level by University of London professor Guy Standing, who extends the movement across the globe as the rise of the precariat—an emerging class of people who face financial insecurity, moving in and out of precarious work that provides little meaning to their lives.

A play on proletariat—workers whose value lies in their labor power—Standing writes that the precariat includes millions of people doing online piecemeal jobs or temporary work in the rapidly growing global gig economy.

Washington State University Carson College of Business associate professor Kristine Kuhn studies the gig economy and says over the last decade, technology has triggered huge growth in online platforms like Uber, Task Rabbit, and Upwork, which offer short-term jobs ranging from driving and delivery, photo tagging, home repairs, and moving furniture to accounting, graphic design, and writing.

Although gig work offers flexibility and some freedom to be your own boss, it comes at the cost of worker protections and a stable and predictable income. Kuhn says that although exact numbers are hard to pin down, the platforms movement has now grown so massive, it is beginning to disrupt workplace norms and trigger changes in public policy and employment regulations around the world.

That’s something Michelle, who has traveled 30,000 miles over the last two years, is trying to determine for herself. During a phone call last January, the self-professed professional vagabond agreed to share a few details from her peripatetic lifestyle. Due to some sensitive topics, we use only her first name.

Michelle, age 56, was employed at WSU for five years before going on the road full-time in 2015. She says, at the time, life just hadn’t been working well and she was ready for a change.

She didn’t like her job or being tethered to house payments or doing the same thing day after day. So, finally, she loaded her 2015 Jeep Wrangler Sport with three layers of emergency supplies and an inverter box for charging electronics and put the wheels in motion.

“I’m currently working at Big Bend National Park in Texas on a six-month seasonal contract,” Michelle says. “It’s a dark sky area—very remote and quiet. I’m enjoying exploring the desert on a deeper level.”
While she’s happy with this gig and doesn’t plan on leaving any time soon, some of her earlier experiences were a little less homey.

Last March, I had just begun working as a shuttle driver at the Snow Mountain Ranch in Colorado, she says. “I got free liquor, meals, and activities but it only lasted two weeks as COVID hit and we all got kicked out.”

“I thought, ‘Shoot, what do I do now?’ I had a job booked in Minnesota in April, so I drove up there. Wisconsin has its own version of this and I got hired at the Amazon fulfillment center. It’s a giant warehouse where packages get sorted, scanned, repacked, and loaded onto trucks—thousands of packages are whirling above your head on conveyor belts. They tell you’re signing up for a physical job—up to 8–10 miles of walking a day,” she says. Michelle “I chose jobs like loading and unloading trucks because that’s what I could stand. They pay $17 per hour. These are pretty decent hours. But I’m not naive. How could I still be targeted to that?”

To that end, Michelle has armed herself with two concealed carry permits, a .38 special, and a Smith & Wesson .357. She’s done self-defense training, ju jitsu, and how to hide her handgun.

“Twice I was in a situation where I was afraid,” she says. “But it was just my imagination. One night in Arkansas, I was at a free campground on a back road and everyone else left. I was alone and felt like I’m out here by myself and I felt really small and vulnerable. But nothing happened and later the other campers returned.”

Michelle says her biggest challenge is getting health care. She’s struggling with a few health issues and has insufficient insurance coverage.

“I live and work amongst people who lived in their cars and parked in various areas around town. M i ch elle’s je e p is too small to sleep in, so she usually set up a tent camp at each new gig, which fits well with her lifelong love of camping, hiking, and spending time in beautiful natural areas. Occasionally, the weather can be onerous.

“I can’t do high winds or the tent will collapse. I went through a thunderstorm in North Dakota; it scared the pants off of me,” she says. “The cold can also be a problem, as could a hurricane.”

BRIAN SLIER’ S X ’ 14 HAD JUST GRADUATED FROM FONZAGA SCHOOL AND FOUND HIMSELF A BIT AT LOOSE ENDS.

One morning, she awoke with Tom Petty’s song “Mary Jane’s Last Dance” rambling through her mind. A couple days later, he got in his car and took off for California, planning to visit his sister. But it was about a guy in his twenties with the years ticking by and he’s not doing anything with his life. Slier, 25, says he got his family home in Fullerton. “It was a pivotal moment for me.”

He spent his first night in the car in Ashland. “I was wondering if I should sleep in a hotel or my car and decided, ‘Screw it, I’ll sleep in my Camry and see what that’s like,'” says Slier.

“I parked downtown in a huge house with a bunch of other homeless people. I was paying $750 for one room,” Slier says.

“While working at Amazon, I was hierarchy. I went down to the Kennewick warehouse and walked in wearing jeans and flip-flops. I filled out the form and got a job. I was like a modern-day gold rush—alright of people were showing up from former white-collar workers to others who liked they’d just gotten out of prison the day before,” they all got jobs. If you could pass the drug test, you’d be hired 48 hours later.”

While working at Amazon, Slier also drove for the ride-hailing service Lyft.

“I love meeting people and making small talk and I don’t mind having strangers in my car,” he says. “A majority of the drivers were college graduates or middle-aged people trying to pay the bills. It was 2018, and many of them were making up to $150 per day.”

KUHN GENERALLY AGREES WITH SLIER’S OBSERVATIONS AND SAYS RESEARCH SHOWS MOST PEOPLE DO GIG WORK AS SIDE HUSTLE.

“They might have a regular job and also drive for Uber on the weekends,” she says. “Or work as a graphic designer but are trying to set up their own business and Upwork lets them if they can build up some clients.”

“For the first time ever, the firm or intermediate staffing agencies were a little less homey. Everyone was showing up from former white-collar workers to others who liked they’d just gotten out of prison the day before,” they all got jobs. If you could pass the drug test, you’d be hired 48 hours later.”

Kuhn says that under normal circumstances, 1099 workers are not eligible to receive unemployment benefits. During the COVID-19 pandemic, however, ride-hailing services Uber and Lyft were hit so hard by the economic downturn that they lobbied Congress to allow 1099 workers to receive unemployment. “For the first time ever, the US government agreed.”

Kuhn explains that many gig platforms consider their workers to be independent contractors or freelancers and pay them on a 1099 basis. This differs from short-term temp workers who are paid on a W-2 basis and have an employment relationship with the firm or intermediate staffing agency.

“If you’re a temp employee and become injured while working, you may be eligible to apply for things like worker’s compensation,” she says. “But if you are a 1099 employee, those sorts of workplace protections, including minimum wage requirements, are not paid to you.”

After two months, he moved to Seattle.

“Besides the song’s obvious reference to marijuana, I think it’s metaphorical. I think it’s about a guy in his twenties with the years ticking by and he’s not doing anything with his life.”

“I rented a room in a huge house with a bunch of other homeless people. I was paying $750 for one room,” Slier says.

“Then I drove to my next job in Ashland. I was wondering if I should sleep in a hotel or my car and decided, ‘Screw it, I’ll sleep in my Camry and see what that’s like,'” says Slier.

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It’s a result predicted by labor advocates who decried Prop 22 as an incentive for businesses to eliminate traditional middle-class jobs in favor of independent contractor agreements with fewer benefits and protections.

Kuhn says similar regulatory challenges are taking place all over the world.

“In France, courts decided a gig worker was falsely classified as self-employed and the company was ordered to make changes to its business model,” she says. “So, gig work is still evolving.”

It might tempt some people to forfeit traditional home life and take up residence in an RV, but it’s only one piece of a complex puzzle.

WSU associate professor and labor economist Ben Cowan says over the last 40–50 years, middle-skill jobs like manufacturing and office clerical work have steadily declined in the United States, thanks to changes in automation and globalization.

“For those who aren’t increasing their education and training, especially in high-growth fields, oftentimes the best alternative is a lower-skilled generic kind of job and those are the kind increasingly available,” Cowan says.

“That means real wages have progressively fallen since about 1980 for a good segment of the US population, even as wages for other segments, high-skill, high-education positions, have risen, often considerably so. All that has contributed to wage inequality in the US.”

Cowan says escalating housing costs are another factor, especially in large urban centers like the Bay Area, Seattle, and New York—areas that attract a high-skill labor force and companies that require those skills such as technology firms.

“Combined with a simultaneous shortage of affordable housing, he says it becomes very difficult for lower-wage workers to live in these areas, which ultimately depletes them of some of the best job opportunities,” Cowan says.

Sherman, who specializes in rural sociology, says the Pacific Northwest used to have many more jobs in extraction industries like logging and mining.

“Even if you were seasonal, they paid a living wage,” she says. “Now, they’ve often been replaced by service sector jobs that don’t pay a living wage. You really can’t support a family on service sector work anywhere.”

“The labor markets in rural areas are so small and nondiverse that they have little else to offer,” says Sherman. “Those making high wages are often telecommuting for work outside of the community.”

Sherman believes the nation needs to provide some kind of societal safety net, whether that’s health care, wages, or housing.

“Something has to change as this isn’t sustainable. It will be a disaster,” she says. “But we’ve come to accept disaster as an acceptable cost of the capitalistic system.”

Russell, 26, bought a 1987 Ford E350 van for $1,000 and put a couple thousand into repairs. He built it out with a kitchen and bed and was able to live and work in it for a long time. It cut costs really quickly.

He initially planned to park the van in different areas around the city while continuing to work at the office.

“My main goal was to save money so I could eventually buy a house or a plot of land,” Russell says. “But COVID happened and I couldn’t go back to the office, so I ended up working remotely. Summer’s pretty slow for me, so I was able to take advantage of that and travel throughout the west at the same time.”

On the road, he saw other people living in vans and busses.

“Vanlife is becoming very popular,” Russell says. “I think it’s bigger than most people realize. Unless you dive into that world in Seattle who last year paid $1,200 per month rent in Bellevue. Then he became a van-dweller.

“Vanlife is becoming very popular,” Russell says. “I think it’s bigger than most people realize. Unless you dive into that world...
**American democracy: An inflection point**

BY CORNELL CLAYTON

THE GOOD NEWS from the 2020 election? Record turnout. Nearly 67 percent, 155 million Americans voted. That is the highest turnout since 1996, when Bill Clinton defeated Bob Dole by a wide margin. The election won by Joe Biden was the closest since 2000, when George W. Bush won by an electoral vote margin of 271 to 266.

But there were also disturbing signs in the 2020 election, signs that should concern all Americans. The fissures in American politics are not just about policy, they have become deeply enmeshed in race, class, religion, and anxiety about identity. The US Capitol attack, the riots last summer over police brutality and race, the armed protests at state capitols over COVID-19 restrictions, and the violent white supremacist rally in Charlottesville in 2017, all indicate that identity-driven politics is leading more Americans to shed democratic constraint in favor of more violent political tactics.

A recent survey by the conservative American Enterprise Institute found bipartisan agreement that the American system of democracy is failing. Nearly seven in ten (69 percent) agree that American democracy serves the interests of only the wealthy and powerful—70 percent of Democrats and 66 percent of Republicans. Moreover, a majority (56 percent) of Republicans, 35 percent of independents, and 22 percent of Democrats now say they would support the use of force to prevent the decline of their traditional way of life.

These are red-flag warnings. American democracy is in serious trouble.

Americans have been divided before (including in 1860, when Lincoln’s election was met by southern secession). What is different this time is how protracted the divisions have become. Ideological polarization, close elections, and divided government have become the norm since the 1980s. The only other time we remained divided so deeply for so long was during the Gilded Age between the mid-1870s to early 1900s. That was a lawless era when the nation experienced persistent divided government and close elections, including two where the winner of the Electoral College also lost the popular vote.

Social divisions have deepened and become also remarkably like those experienced today. Industrialization created deep economic inequalities. Americans were divided by race and class as reconstruction ended in the South and millions of ethnic, working-class immigrants moved into urban areas. There were religious divisions over the acceptance of Catholics and Jews, and gender divisions as the women’s temperance and suffragist movements gathered steam.

Today’s partisan divides also mirror that period. Political parties were tribal, defined by ethnic, class, and religious divides. Populist demagogues like William Jennings Bryan claimed to represent the “silent majority” against corrupt elites, and peddled conspiracy theories like the anti-Semitic Gold Conspiracy. Campaigns were moral crusades where opponents were demonized.

Trump’s populist rhetoric, his refusal to concede an election, and his embrace of conspiracy theories have echoes from this period. In 1876, Republican Rutherford B. Hayes refused to concede to Democrat Samuel J. Tilden despite losing the popular vote by 3 percent. The election was eventually resolved in a backroom deal in Congress, the compromise of 1877, which gave Hayes the presidency in exchange for ending reconstruction.


Today, too, populism and partisan polarization are symptoms of deeper political challenges that the nation confronts. How should we deal with the destabilizing level of inequality created by globalization and technology? What should we do about the disappearance of middle-class jobs? How should we address climate change, the legacy of race discrimination, or the role of immigration in a society where demographics are rapidly changing?

Addressing these challenges is not easy. What we must avoid is transforming them into contest over identity. For pluralist democracy to work, people must view politics as a process of finding compromise and common ground, not an existential struggle between “us” and “them.” The autonomous political observer Michael Gerson notes: policy differences and ideological conflicts can be negotiated. “But if partisan differences become expressions of identity”—rural vs. urban, religious vs. secular, ethnic vs. white, nationalist vs. cosmopolitan—“then losing an election threatens an entire way of life.”

Elections reflect who we are at a moment in history, a mirror inviting us to consider whether we like what we see. 2020 was just one more in a long line of elections, which, by itself, will neither create nor end whole ways of life. But it is an inflection point. One that could lead us toward a different style of politics if we choose.

Biden ran a campaign committed to “restoring the soul of America” and healing our national divisions. Biden and his party won the popular vote by over 8 million and the House by a 379-222 margin. Biden won 306 electoral votes to 232 for Trump. A record 114 million votes were cast in the presidential election, the highest total in US history.

The big news? The nature of today’s polarization in threatening our democracy.

Let’s begin at the end. Compared to other recent elections, the 2020 presidential contest was not that close. Joe Biden won with a popular vote margin of almost 5 percent and a 386-220 advisor in the Electoral College. The Trump campaign lost more than 60 court cases challenging the results, many before judges Trump appointed. The president’s claims were rejected by his Department of Justice and his top election security official at the Department of Homeland Security, who declared 2020 “the most secure election in American history.”

Undaunted, the former president launched a last-ditch effort to stop Congress from certifying the election. On January 6, a mob stormed the US Capitol and tried to hunt down the vice president of the United States, the speaker of the House, and members of Congress.

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For inciting an insurrection, Trump was impeached a second time by the House of Representatives. Seven Republican senators voted to acquit the former president. The remaining 43 Republicans quibbled over whether a former president could be tried for impeachment after already leaving office. So, Trump narrowly escaped becoming the first president in history to be impeached, convicted, and barred from future officeholding.

First, Trump’s loss was no surprise. The campaign took place amid a pandemic that has cost half a million American lives, and an economic recession. Despite the zeal of his supporters, Trump consistently trailed Biden in national polls. Though he styled himself a populist, he was never popular. He lost the 2016 election by 3 million votes, never rose above 50 percent public approval during his presidency, and lost re-election by 7 million votes.

What one makes of Trump’s legacies regarding policy and in redefining the Republican Party (either of which are insignificant), his presidency will be viewed by historians as a fiasco. He was the only president ever to lose the popular vote twice, be twice impeached, and suffer the ignominy of senators from his own party voting to convict him. Like Nixon’s Watergate, the January 6 insurrection will forever stain his presidency.

Looking beyond Trump, what is most striking about 2020 is just how little changed during the last four years, or the previous twenty for that matter. Election margins have remained close, votes polarized, and the red-blue map mostly unchanged.

Congressional elections are a better indicator of these trends. In 2020, Democrats retained control of the House of Representatives, but lost 24 seats. They now have a slim 7-seat majority (222 to 211). Republicans meanwhile lost 5 seats in the Senate, which is now evenly split 50-50. This gives Democrats the narrowest point of control of the Senate since 2003. Of the 435 districts in the House, 234 are “safe” for either party. Of the remaining 201, 101 are in one-party districts, only 4 percent of districts “split” their tickets, the smallest number in 70 years.

The fissures in American politics are not just about policy, they have become deeply enmeshed in race, class, religion, and anxiety about identity. The US Capitol attack, the riots last summer over police brutality and race, the armed protests at state capitols over COVID-19 restrictions, and the violent white supremacist rally in Charlottesville in 2017, all indicate that identity-driven politics is leading more Americans to shed democratic constraint in favor of more violent political tactics.

A recent survey by the conservative American Enterprise Institute found bipartisan agreement that the American system of democracy is failing. Nearly seven in ten (69 percent) agree that American democracy serves the interests of only the wealthy and powerful—70 percent of Democrats and 66 percent of Republicans. Moreover, a majority (56 percent) of Republicans, 35 percent of independents, and 22 percent of Democrats now say they would support the use of force to prevent the decline of their traditional way of life.

These are red-flag warnings. American democracy is in serious trouble.

Americans have been divided before (including in 1860, when Lincoln’s election was met by southern secession). What is different this time is how protracted the divisions have become. Ideological polarization, close elections, and divided government have become the norm since the 1980s. The only other time we remained divided so deeply for so long was during the Gilded Age between the mid-1870s to early 1900s. That was a lawless era when the nation experienced persistent divided government and close elections, including two where the winner of the Electoral College also lost the popular vote.

Social divisions have deepened and become also remarkably like those experienced today. Industrialization created deep economic inequalities. Americans were divided by race and class as reconstruction ended in the South and millions of ethnic, working-class immigrants moved into urban areas. There were religious divisions over the acceptance of Catholics and Jews, and gender divisions as the women’s temperance and suffragist movements gathered steam.

Today’s partisan divides also mirror that period. Political parties were tribal, defined by ethnic, class, and religious divides. Populist demagogues like William Jennings Bryan claimed to represent the “silent majority” against corrupt elites, and peddled conspiracy theories like the anti-Semitic Gold Conspiracy. Campaigns were moral crusades where opponents were demonized.

Trump’s populist rhetoric, his refusal to concede an election, and his embrace of conspiracy theories have echoes from this period. In 1876, Republican Rutherford B. Hayes refused to concede to Democrat Samuel J. Tilden despite losing the popular vote by 3 percent. The election was eventually resolved in a backroom deal in Congress, the compromise of 1877, which gave Hayes the presidency in exchange for ending reconstruction.


Today, too, populism and partisan polarization are symptoms of deeper political challenges that the nation confronts. How should we deal with the destabilizing level of inequality created by globalization and technology? What should we do about the disappearance of middle-class jobs? How should we address climate change, the legacy of race discrimination, or the role of immigration in a society where demographics are rapidly changing?

Addressing these challenges is not easy. What we must avoid is transforming them into contest over identity. For pluralist democracy to work, people must view politics as a process of finding compromise and common ground, not an existential struggle between “us” and “them.” The autonomous political observer Michael Gerson notes: policy differences and ideological conflicts can be negotiated. “But if partisan differences become expressions of identity”—rural vs. urban, religious vs. secular, ethnic vs. white, nationalist vs. cosmopolitan—“then losing an election threatens an entire way of life.”

Elections reflect who we are at a moment in history, a mirror inviting us to consider whether we like what we see. 2020 was just one more in a long line of elections, which, by itself, will neither create nor end whole ways of life. But it is an inflection point. One that could lead us toward a different style of politics if we choose.

Biden ran a campaign committed to “restoring the soul of America” and healing our national divisions. Whether you voted for him or for someone else, we should all wish the new president success in his effort. Our democracy may depend on it.

Cornell Clayton is director of the Thomas S. Foley Institute for Public Policy and Public Service and Claudius O. Johnson Distinguished Professor of Political Science at Washington State University.
What’s up? Doctors.

The Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine launches its first class of physicians to fulfill the mission of bringing health care to rural and underserved communities.

This inaugural class of WSU physicians has 21.4 percent who grew up in a rural county and 18 percent notably in a Washington rural county. 18 percent are first-generation college graduates. 55.4 percent come from a low socioeconomic background.

18 Washington counties represented: Benton, Chelan, Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Franklin, Grant, King, Kittitas, Pacific, Pierce, Snohomish, Spokane, Stevens, Thurston, Whatcom, Whitman, Yakima
Most people studying to be a medical doctor have those moments. Alex Frankle experienced it when he helped a baby with botulism. It’s that “aha” moment that reminds future physicians why they are pursuing the medical profession.

While on a pediatric emergency medicine rotation in Spokane last summer, Frankel, a fourth-year medical student at Washington State University’s Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine, diagnosed the rare condition, which affects an average of 77 infants each year in the United States. Frankel explained the situation to the parents, and, with treatment, the baby was fine.

It was another milestone for Frankel, who grew up in Seattle and first became an EMT in New Orleans. Now he is fulfilling his goal to help launch the college. Chauvin is one of the faculty members who is not a medical doctor. He teaches biochemistry and molecular biology, and is chair of the committee to admit new medical students.

The first class of medical doctors graduates in May and marks the next chapter for only the second public medical school in Washington state, which launched in 2017 at the WSU Health Sciences campus in Spokane.

After four years of rigorous study and rotations all over Washington state and the country, Frankel and the other students take their white coats, MD degrees, and their dreams to residencies across the United States.

One of his fellow students, Becky Gold, was inspired to pursue obstetrics and gynecology. “The first time I felt a baby born, I knew I was going into OB-GYN. It just took the one time,” Gold says. “The patients actually asked if they could take a picture of me with the baby, because they wanted to put it in the baby book. They could always tell their baby that this was the first baby that I saw born.”

The tireless work of late WSU President Elson S. Floyd and his wife, the late Cori Koglin, led to the accreditation and was the founding dean of the college. Then, it was a whirlwind of momentous events: receiving preliminary accreditation in 2017, the first class of medical students. They decided to use MCAT and test scores for initial screening, but the revolutionary holistic process focuses on personal attributes and experiences of well-rounded students. That included extensive interviews with applicants.

“When the accreditors came in 2019, they were shocked that not all of that all of it would stick,” Chauvin says. “I think it’s up to doctors to advocate more, not less, for those patients, so don’t get left behind. That sentiment resonates with students. “You have to remember why you started doing this in the first place,” Gold says. “I’ve had my

Students like Gold really noticed the difference. “I don’t know how they picked the exact right people for this first class, but they did,” she says. “It was like every time we needed something from a specialist, there was someone who fit that role perfectly.”

The admissions committee selected 60 students, and then decided to call them personally to offer acceptance rather than just an email or letter. “I remember we had the entire admissions team gathered in my office for our first phone call to a student to accept them,” Tomkowiak says. “I can tell you every single student that is in our college remembers that phone call because it’s a life-changing event.”

After they arrived in fall 2017, the students took part in the white coat ceremony, a medical school tradition to welcome them to the profession. Tomkowiak fit the weight of the moment. “When I gave my first white coat ceremony speech, I ended with a quote that the great thing about a first is it leads to a thousand other firsts,” he says. Then the hard work began.

When the accreditors came in 2019, they “were shocked that the molecular biologist was in the room,” Chauvin says, but it was part of the holistic vision of the college. The small group got right to work in the first class of medical students. They decided to use MCAT and test scores for initial screening, but the revolutionary holistic process focuses on personal attributes and experiences of well-rounded students. That included extensive interviews with applicants.

“Tina was involved from the beginning as they prepared for accreditation,” Tomkowiak says. “I think it’s up to doctors to advocate more, not less, for those patients, so don’t get left behind.”

That sentiment resonates with students. “You have to remember why you started doing this in the first place,” Gold says. “I’ve had my
most positive and meaningful experiences when I can educate and advocate for my patients.”

The medical students also benefit from the college’s emphasis on training in health care teams. The interprofessional training, led by nursing faculty Barbara Richardson, brings together students from nursing, pharmacy, the medical college, and other health sciences, which reflects the real hospital experience.

“There’s definitely a commitment to making sure that our students and faculty really acknowledge and work well with multi-disciplinary teams,” Nandagopal says. “I simply couldn’t do my job as a doctor if I didn’t have the staff in the office, the social worker, the certified diabetes educators, to round out how we help care for the patients.”

“We get to do some integrated simulations and sessions with some of those other programs, nursing, pharmacy, nutrition and exercise physiology,” Gold says. “We know how to work with them and it makes the patient care experience a lot smoother if everyone knows their role.”

In addition to the interprofessional teams, the medical students need a solid understanding of science, says Chauvin. “We require all of them is a medical doctor. The rest are scientists. We work with the physicians to make sure we teach at the right level.”

The positive results of the clinical training recently struck Nandagopal. “I saw my first code with one of my very best friends because he really helped out with that kind of learning curve.”

“Medicine can be really isolating, even pandemic aside,” Gold says. “I’ve never been in a school where I think there’s been this great relationship between faculty and students. We change what we’re doing based in part on student feedback. That’s allowed us to really be on the innovative edge of medical education across the country.”

“The relationship goes beyond innovation in learning. The faculty and students support each other, even outside the classroom or operating room,” Gold says. “We do a homestay that usually does a really good job of integrating us into the community,” Gold says. “We work in Vancouver and Centralia. ‘It just makes it so much smoother because they really helped out with that kind of learning curve.”

“We have patients who really struggle with housing insecurity and food insecurity right next to these really nice neighborhoods and mansions,” she says. “I’m getting to meet patients from all walks of life and learn how their needs are just really different.”

Conrad aims to return home as a family physician in Colfax.

Frankie hopes to become an emergency room doctor in Seattle. An event this spring as he was on a rotation in the emergency department reinforced that goal. He and the attending physician had a patient go into cardiac arrest, so they did CPR, pushed medication, and were able to bring the patient’s pulse back.

“It really reminded me of why I was going to do emergency medicine,” Frankie says. “To be with people at these inflection points in their lives.”

Watch videos of the first class of WSU medical doctors: magazine.wsu.edu/extras/1st-docs
When first entering the tech scene in her native Thailand, Patama Chantaruck ('95 MBA) had few female peers as a computer science and engineering undergraduate and even fewer when she penetrated the professional ranks.

After venturing to the United States and earning her MBA from Washington State University, she stepped into the halls of Microsoft, a female foreigner in a world then largely dominated by white, American-born men. Sometimes when she walked into a room, she was asked not for her input, but for a cup of coffee.

“I was an Asian woman with an accent and little understanding of the culture,” she says. “I couldn’t talk American football, and I didn’t play golf.”

What Chantaruck had, however, was intellect and drive. Unapologetically, even cheerfully, she shattered tech’s traditional mold.

“I understood my mind is what matters,” she says.

Throughout a 23-year run at Microsoft, Chantaruck mixed intellect, humility, and an industrious spirit to climb the tech giant’s corporate ranks. By 32, Chantaruck guided Microsoft’s marketing in Asia. By 35, she claimed responsibility for the enterprise’s $3.4 billion global marketing program.

No longer mistakenly asked to fetch coffee, she led efforts championing tech as a force for good—a means to connect people, spread ideas, and help individuals create.

“There wasn’t one day I didn’t want to go to work,” she says of her Microsoft career that coincided with the twenty-first century’s tech revolution. “We were helping to change the world with technology.”

In 2018, however, Chantaruck left Microsoft for a position heading IBM’s operations in Thailand as well as the company’s Indochina expansion. The move enabled Chantaruck to continue her journey in tech and to be closer to her aging parents.

“I wanted to come back home, but I wasn’t leaving Microsoft for just anything,” she says. “I needed to be with a company that’s committed to having an impact.”

At 110-year-old IBM, which was behind the success of the first man on the moon and now applies its innovative mindset to global problems like cancer and supply chain, Chantaruck is certainly doing that, leveraging technology such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, and the cloud to propel local businesses and empower residents. During the past two years, Chantaruck has overseen the debut of the world’s first blockchain-based platform for government savings bonds distribution as well as the launch of a smart farming project that uses AI and the Internet of Things to support crop health, prevent disease, and improve yields of sugarcane, one of Thailand’s principal exports. More recently, Chantaruck and her IBM team helped Thai citizens navigate the impact of COVID-19, including supporting...
residents, businesses, and governments transitioning to a remote workforce.

“It’s using technology with a purpose and in benefit to others,” Chantaruck says. “As a child, my parents encouraged me to figure out what I wanted to be when I grew up, not what I wanted to do. Today, I try to be the best version of myself and use the platform I have to pay it forward and inspire others.”

**For Evers Hope**

**By W I L L F E R G U S O N**

Black History Month is both a celebration and a call to action. For Hasaan Kirkland (’99 MFA), an art professor at Seattle University and Seattle Central College, it is a celebration in the sense that there is a lot to honor about African American history, African art, and the myriad complex contextual relationships that bind the two together.

Kirkland, who previously served as chief curator of the Northwest African American Museum in Seattle and before that as a studio art professor at Johnson C. Smith, a Historically Black College and University, knows this better than most. He readily admits he could talk for days about the historical contributions of local Black artists and scholars as well as the lives of prominent national icons such as Romare Bearden, Jacob Lawrence, Lois Mailou Jones, Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and David Driskell to name a few.

“Black History Month is a celebration because it gives us this time and the due elevation to show some relevant love, gratitude, perspective, acceptance, and profound respect to the contributions of Black people historically and today,” Kirkland says. “But at the same time, I think it is a weak offering and a dismissive compliment to note the contributions of Blacks in America and in the world in a month of time.”

After all, Black people were making significant political, cultural, agricultural, civic, scientific, and evolutionary contributions to the world before America was colonized and well before 1776 when February was administratively set as a month to be honored.

“Black History Month is not enough,” Kirkland says. “It is with perspective, grace, and mercy that it is received, but it is with honor, respect, and accountable gratitude that it should exist and be celebrated.”

Kirkland’s artwork often straddles the line between art and history, weaving the two together to bring exposure to the systemic racism and political, educational, economic, medical, and societal neglect Blacks have faced and continue to face today.

In his painting *For Evers Hope*, he attempts to capture the life, death, and legacy of Medgar Evers, a civil rights activist and World War II veteran who was shot dead in his driveway in Mississippi in 1963 for his work advising Black voters to overcome segregation and increasing voting rights for African Americans.

Kirkland says the concept behind the painting was that while Evers was murdered for challenging the greater establishment, his beliefs and his sacrifice led to a future where the idea of a Black president and greater equality is even possible.

“It’s powerful because despite the opposition against him, women, and children, it conveys the secret to having boundless power over oppression,” Kirkland says. “You can reduce us or even kill us, but you cannot kill our ideas.”

*For Evers Hope* is among five of Kirkland’s recent paintings that helped earn him a Black Lives Matter Artist Grant from the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art at Washington State University. The grants recognized 20 artists from across Washington for their creative works responding to the Black Lives Matter movement, marginalized communities, and experiences with systemic racism and inequality. The works will be featured at the museum beginning in fall 2021.

“In my time in the state of Washington, I often noted the marginalization of Black artists and members of the Black community in the landscape of art or culture, as well as the lack and limited representation regarding positive imagery, thought leadership, inclusion, placement, and equitable artistic cultural expression and agency,” Kirkland says. “I would like to contribute to change that.”

One of the hardest things he says he’s struggled with throughout his award-winning career was the desire to be an artist on the same conceptual and literal platform as other artists and not just a “Black artist.”

“A child of military family who grew up traveling between diverse locations such as Turkey, England, France, and Japan, it wasn’t until coming back to the states to start high school in Tacoma and later attend WSU as an arts student that I discovered what this meant,” Kirkland says.

“Getting introduced to racism and the deep-seated prejudices that are generated from the existence of systemic oppression against people who look like me began to shape my desire to stand up, speak out, and develop my art and creative voice within the lens of social justice,” Kirkland says.

“The unfortunate regard I faced and continue to face forces me to manage twice the load: one to manage perception, complicit negligence, and the inescapable covert and overt judgement or critique by White counterparts brought on by my presence and involvement in the fine arts. The other: succeeding in the fine arts.”

Despite the challenges, Kirkland has gone from a young man inspired by comic books and graffiti to an internationally acclaimed painter and visual artist, who has published and exhibited in prestigious venues around the world throughout his 30-year career.

In addition to his role as a studio artist and educator in the Seattle area, he founded a visual art company, Karios Industries, in 2010 and started a visual and performing arts honor society, Psi Rho Alpha, in 2014.

Kirkland is also pursuing a doctorate from the University of Washington where he is studying education — curriculum and instruction, and art as pedagogy and social justice.

“I am continuing my education as a means to expand my own career and creative intellect and deepen my discovery of reshaping the landscape of instruction and learning,” Kirkland says.

**Passing it on**

**By A D R I A N A J A N O V I C H**

When Rick Small (’69 Ag.) planted his first wine grapes “by and large,” he says, “people thought it was a joke.”

It was the second half of the 1970s. Small was in his late 20s, and the soil quality on that little plot of land was second-rate. “It was very poor land, with a lot of basalt underneath. It was not good for wheat. That’s why my father was willing to let me take care of an acre of it — and try to learn something.”

Small, who comes from a family of dryland wheat and cattle ranchers, learned that basalt-rich soil was great for wine grapes. And he experienced even more success as he planted more vines farther up the same ridge, now covered with myriad varietals, from cabernet franc and cabernet sauvignon to sauvignon Blanc, merlot, and several experimental Italian and Iphonne varietals.

“I was hopeful,” Small recalls. “I was out to prove to my father that this could be viable, but I didn’t know for sure that it would be or that it could be. I was just too pleased to have the opportunity, and I ran with it.”
Today, Woodward Canyon Winery, es-
tablished in 1981 as the second
winery in the Walla Walla wine region, is cel-
ebra ting its fortieth anniversary with a limited-
release premium red blend, made mostly from
seven-year-old cabernet sauvignon. And Small and
his wife, Darcey Fugman-Small—he’s a Coug, she’s a Husky—are preparing for the re-
sults of generations of leadership. Their children,
part-owners in the winery, have been taking on
more and more responsibility.

“I’m proud of our winery and the quality of
our product and our reputation,” Small says. “What we didn’t expect, but it’s noth-
ing that our customers are doing today with the
virus and the lack of sales in restaurants be-
cause of the shutdowns.”

Judd Dunn-Small, director of direct-to-consumer sales operations, cre-
ated Woodward Canyon’s wine club and has been working on boosting online sales.
After college in Portland, she returned home to
work in the wine industry, joining the family business after several years at other
wineries and wine-related businesses, in-
cluding the Walla Walla Wine Alliance.
Today, she’s an alliance board member.

After attending culinary school in Seattle, Sager Small spent ten years working there as a cook. Since coming home and completing her family business after several years at other
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The Winery At Home
I’m writing.

The twenty-six lyrical essays in this exceptional compendium of lesser-known or forgotten fruits, one for each letter, explore culinary, cosmetic, cultural, natural, medicinal, and the cultural, literary, and Pacific Northwest places as well as the works of other food writers. Sharp, poetic, enchanting, and rich with precise language, insight, and wit, Difficult Fruit is as well researched and recipe-tested as it is intimate—contemporary food writing at its finest.

—Adriana Janovich

The Book of Difficult Fruit: Arguments for the Tart, Strange and Unusual (with recipes)

KATE LEBO

RAVEN PUBLISHING: 2019

Besides his wife and mother, evangelist Billy Graham called Henrietta Mears the greatest female influence on his life. Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ, crafted his life’s work according to her principles. So did Jim Rayburn, creator of Young Life, and dozens of other “Mears boys.”

As director of Christian education at First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood, Mears persuaded generations of young people and adults alike to put their faith in Christ. She spoke in front of crowds of hundreds at Christian conferences around the country, authored Sunday school curricula used by thousands of churches, created a nonprofit to bolster Christian education programs around the world, founded her own publishing house, and helped bring music and movie stars into the evangelical fold.

She did all this and more with a particular generosity of spirit,” writes Arlin C. Migliazz, professor emeritus of history at Whitworth University, in his academic but approachable biography of one of the most influential figures largely undereognized en- gineers of modern American evangelicalism.

His deeply researched account offers historical context along with the chronology of events that shaped the pioneering Sunday school teacher’s rise to power in the Presbyterian Church.

Migliazz’s portrays Mears as a charis-matic, forthright, and formidable character who transformed Christian education in mid-century America. He examines her involvement with the National Association of Evangelicals, creation of the Forest Home Christian Conference Center, and connection of prominent conservative Protestants to each other and the wider community and culture. At the time of her death in 1961—35 years after her arrival in Hollywood in 1928—her Sunday school was the largest in the country.

Perhaps more than anything, Mears was a bridge builder, coaching and connecting future leaders of the evangelical movement for generations to come.

—Adriana Janovich

Mother of Modern Evangelicalism: Life and Legacy of Henrietta Mears

ARLIN C. MIGLIAZZO

EERDMANS: 2020

Random Perfect Plan

Maya and Richard Tillinghast ’11

2020

11 short songs on this eclectic, poetic, folk album are written and performed by an husb- and wife who have been married for 10 years and making music together since 2005. His bluesy guitar-playing singer-songwriter with an evocative voice. She’s a classically trained soulful cellist who also sings, whistles, and plays violin and accordion.

Their new Alb-

Random Perfect Plan also features Jason Russon on percussion, Adam Schmidt on trombone, Tim Orlieh on drums, John Cochrane on violin, and Patrick Mahaffy on keyboards.

—Adriana Janovich

BRIEFLY NOTED

The First-time Gardener: Growing Plants and Flowers. All the know-how you need to grow and tend outdoor areas using eco-friendly methods.

ALLISON AND SEAN McMANUS ’03

HORT. ’04 MS HORT.

COOL SPRINGS PRESS: 2021

Start a basic understanding of plants and flowers, and learn what to grow when in this easy-to-follow introduction to gardening.

A process accessible guide, The First-time Gardener offers hopeful green thumbs a crash course in plant growth—from composting to avoiding common problems and mistakes.

Allison McManus was a middle-school science teacher and her husband Sean owned a landscape maintenance and consulting company. Now, they run the Spoken Garden podcast and blog at spokenarden.com.

Field Guide to Grasses of Oregon and Washington

RICHARD BRAINED, BARBARA WILSON, NICK OTTING, CINDY (TALBOT) ROCHER

(74 MS FOREST & RANGE MGRT., 43 MS FOREST & RANGE MGRT., AND ROBERT KORPHAGE )

RANGE MGMT.) AND ROBERT KORPHAGE (74 MS FOREST & RANGE MGRT., 74 MS FOREST & RANGE MGRT.)
NEW media

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS: 2019
Identifying grasses—from rare native species to invasive weeds—can be difficult. Differences are often subtle and minute. Macrophotographs in this 488-page comprehensive field guide show otherwise hard-to-see features up close. Detailed descriptions, range maps, field photos, and identification keys for the 376 species, subspecies, varieties of both native and introduced grasses that grow wild in Washington and Oregon are also useful. Last fall, their effort won the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries’ 2020 Annual Literature Award, recognizing “a work that makes a significant contribution to the literature of botany or horticulture.”


Contemporary Technologies in Education: Maximizing Student Engagement, Motivation, and Learning

OLUSOLA ADESOPE AND A. G. RUD PALGRAVE MACMILLAN: 2019
This volume outlines the uses of various technologies in education—from social media and wikis to serious educational games, master open online classes, and more. It also offers an overview of the current state of learning analytics as an emerging technology in education and discusses key theoretical, methodological, and practical issues in the field. Olusola Adesope, a professor of educational psychology, and A. G. Rud, a distinguished professor of educational studies and social thought in education, won the Society of Professors of Education’s 2020 outstanding book award for the effort.

War and Fire

RICHARD E. MIRALLES ’50 FOREST AND RANGE MGMT.
2020
Richard Miralles is 17 when he enlists in the US Navy, serving in the South Pacific during World War II. He’s shot down over Guadalcanal and survives subsequent crashes, missions, and bomb and kamikaze attacks. This slim autobiography, written with help from daughter Kathy Olsen, documents one life of the fast-disappearing Greatest Generation—from childhood in foster care in California to looting at Washington State College, hitchhiking across America, riding through Europe on a motorcycle, and enjoying a 30-year career with the California Department of Forestry before retiring in 1980 as head of the Sikisyo Ranger Unit.


All in a Garden Green

PAUL J. WILLIS ’65 MA, ’85 PHD ENGLISH SLAUGHT 2020
Piano lessons were never like this—at least not in the twenty-first-century life of thirteen-year-old Erica Pilioli, who walks through a door and into an accidental adventure in Elizabethan England in this lively young adult novel. Suddenly, it’s 1578. Queen Elizabeth is slated to arrive at Hengrave Hall, and Erica, an American teen in the present living abroad with professor father and family, becomes a key player in a prominent Catholic family’s attempt to entertain the Protestant queen. Author Willis, an English professor at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California, visited Hengrave House in 1992 when he taught a seminar abroad, accompanied by his wife and two children.

Scoot the Mighty Tugboat

CHARLES REY ’99 FINE ARTS
ALBERT WHITMAN & COMPANY: 2020
This playful picture book, written and illustrated by Charles Rey, follows Scoot the Mighty Tugboat as she pulls ships into port and pushes them out to sea—all by herself. When an oil tanker is too heavy for her to pull alone, she learns an important lesson: It’s OK to ask for help. This charming story, aimed at 4- to 8-year-olds, is Rey’s first kids’ book.

Spreading Sprinkles

KELSEY KENNEDY ’06 ELITES ED., ’09 TEACH. CERT. ILLUSTRATIONS BY BRAD DINSMORE ’99 FINE ARTS 2021
"Everything is better with sprinkles on top!" chez Mrs. Dinistin in this delightful children’s book, written and illustrated by a brother and sister team. She’s a teacher and reading specialist, he’s a community college art instructor, and they combined their two passions in their debut book, inspired by the generosity of loved ones. Mrs. Dinistin spends her life blessing others with her hot pink sprinkles.

Pharaoh’s Shadow

TASHA MADISON ’05 COMM. AUTHOR ACADEMY ELITE: 2020
This novel honors the author’s distant ancestor by exploring the conspiracy to murder Ramses III. A recent DNA test showed Tasha Madison belongs to the same haplogroup as the ancient Egyptian king’s paternal-line descendants. Each chapter in this suspenseful story of power, greed, jealousy, and betrayal in ancient Egypt is told from a different point of view.

Donny Finds His Forever Home

MAURA (FLYNN) WARD ’87 ENGLISH, BUS.
2020
Word tells the true story of their family beagle, Donny, who started life in a six-foot enclosure at an animal testing lab in South Korea. The poignant story follows Donny’s journey from illness and rescue to his forever home with the Wards in Arizona. A portion of book sales goes to dog rescue through the Beagle Freedom Project.

To Protect a Predator

TODD A. VANDIVER ’79 FOREST AND RANGE MGMT.
2020
In Vandiver’s third novel, Washington state fish and wildlife officers Lisa Bennington and Joe Carzine, along with biologist Sunny Hagen, get tangled in a conflict between a mine and protecting two predators, Canada lynx and gray wolves. The tension heightens when the biologist goes missing after death threats.

Hey! How have things been since your virtual commencement?

The Alumni Association has a lot of ways to connect with Cougs. Use your membership!

That works, they have a mobile app too, Spreading Sprinkles and you’ll find it.

The discounts are great! Being a member has been a lot of fun, keeps that Coug Spirit going and

Good, just miss the Coug family!

Really?

SOUNDS AWESOME!! THANKS!! DO YOU JUST GO TO THEIR WEBSITE?

THANKS AGAIN BUTCH, I’M EXCITED TO CHECK EVERYTHING OUT!

Go Cougs! Go Cougs!!
The new Ruth Wylie Head House at WSU’s Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center is named for Ruth Wylie (’50 B.S.), who broke ground in public service as a Skagit County commissioner and state senator. The building, which supports research into soil health and improved practices for agriculture in northwestern Washington, was partly funded through a $100,000 donation from her daughter, Nancy Kirkichew (’79 Ag Econ.). Wylie, former business manager for United General Hospital (now Pacific Health Universal) in Sedro-Woolley, was elected Skagit County Commissioner in 1979 and served 13 years in that role before becoming Skagit County’s first female commissioner.

PYPILUS J. CAMPBELL (’79 B.S.), senior executive for JPMorgan Chase & Co. in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, has joined the board of directors of Air Transport Services Group. Campbell was previously president and chief executive officer of The Seattle Foundation and U.S. Bank of Washington. She serves on Toyota’s North American Diversity Advisory Board, chair the U.S.-Japan Council, and is a member of the board of directors of the Allen Institute. She previously served as executive director for Naikai AirLink and Närsmöllan.

At the request of the U.S. Justice Department, William Hyslop (’73 Ph.D.) stepped down as head of U.S. legal affairs and U.S. counsel for Eastern Washington effective midnight February 28. Earlier in the month, the acting general counsel announced President Joseph Biden’s request for the resignations of all U.S. attorneys appointed by the previous administration.

WALLER joined TIAA Bank has promoted John Horner (’84 MA, ’85 PhD Econ.) has stepped down as the president of the University of Kentucky. Horner’s tenure was marked by a focus on inclusion and diversity, with a particular emphasis on underrepresented communities. He led the university through a time of rapid growth and innovation, overseeing the development and implementation of new programs and initiatives. Horner is an expert in financial innovation. Before joining TIAA, Horner served as a senior partner in the Seattle Mariners organization, with a stint as chief strategy officer at Transamerica in 2011 and 2012. From 2010 to 2012, he was an assistant at WSU. Horner spent nine seasons as a catcher in the Mariners organization, reaching as high as Triple-A. He was also named player of the year for Eastern Washington effective midnight.

KEN COLLINS (84 Ed. S.) earned his B.S. in agriculture and became the president of the Friends of Gig Harbor’s Peninsula School District and Lake Chelan School District. He named with four children and four grandchildren.

RACHEL RUGGERI (Veterinary Services Support) in Fort Hood, Texas. Kelly Connolly (’00 Music) is executive officer. He also serves on the board of Coherus BioSciences and the board of directors of Koniag Inc. She’s served as vice president of investor relations and corporate affairs at Genentech, where she helped to commercialize the company’s first product. He has more than 20 years of experience in life sciences, including leadership roles at small- to mid-cap biotechnology companies, Stanford Medicine and UC California San Francisco, and 12 years at Genentech and Genzyme.

A new municipal judge in Spokane. She was sworn in as a member of the Federal District Court in 2019 and 2020, and served as vice president of investor relations and corporate affairs at Genentech. Before that, she worked as an associate in the Seattle Marriott organization, with a stint as chief strategy officer at Transamerica in 2011 and 2012. From 2010 to 2012, he was an assistant at WSU. Horner spent nine seasons as a catcher in the Mariners organization, reaching as high as Triple-A. He was also named player of the year for Eastern Washington effective midnight.

KELLY CORNWALL (’06 Music), a donor. The surgeries were performed by the county’s first female superior court judge. SVOBODA joined Thornton Tomasetti as vice president and chief financial officer. She previously served as senior vice president of investor relations for the company and was promoted to senior vice president and chief executive officer. She also serves on the board of the Parks Foundation of Clark County.

THOMAS FARNSWORTH (’00 MBA) is executive officer. He also serves on the board of Coherus BioSciences and the board of directors of Koniag Inc. She’s served as vice president of investor relations and corporate affairs at Genentech. Before that, she worked as an associate in the Seattle Marriott organization, with a stint as chief strategy officer at Transamerica in 2011 and 2012. From 2010 to 2012, he was an assistant at WSU. Horner spent nine seasons as a catcher in the Mariners organization, reaching as high as Triple-A. He was also named player of the year for Eastern Washington effective midnight.

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Memorial

LORETTA J. ANIBRERSON (88, Nursing), 63, November 1, 2018, Yakima. VICTOR VASQUEZ (’81 CU. Eng.), 47, October 21, 2020, Maple Valley.

BLAINA JASON (OCTAVIA Public Affairs), 60, November 25, 2019, Kalamazoo, Michigan. SETH ROBERT WILSON (’10 Int. Bus.), 39, June 30, 2015, Quincy.


SUSAN MARIE IRION (’72, COM ’02), 34, December 25, 2020, Ancortes.


FACULTY AND STAFF


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