

**Spring23**

vol22no2

# Washington State

MAGAZINE



**28**

New  
perspectives  
on autism



connecting you to WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY the STATE the WORLD

## feature

Earlier detection of autism spectrum disorder can help families and kids get the interventions they need. **28**

## upfront

To boldly go where no one in their family has gone before **9**

"Lock 'em up" versus a better way **19**

The Seattle Edgewater Hotel has a storied place in rock and roll history. **20**

Modern minutia that's now seen as a very big and widespread problem **21**

**COVER:** VIEW OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION (PHOTO SCOTT D. TINGLE/NASA)

**LEFT:** DETAIL OF "GRANDFATHER CUTS LOOSE THE PONIES" SCULPTURE WITH THE MILKY WAY ON THE HORIZON—ABOVE WANAPUM LAKE (PHOTO BILL BADZO)



COURTESY WSU CHICANX LATINX STUDENT CENTER

## Departments

### Thematics

#### OUR STORY **14**

From Rhodes to Fulbrights,  
a distinguished history  
of scholarship tradition

**22** Visualizing real-world results  
by promoting WSU research

#### SHORT SUBJECT **16**

When will artificial intelligence  
really pass the test?

**5** Vantage points **FIRST WORDS**

**24** Scapes and scallions **IN SEASON**

**26** The long kick **27** An MVP off the field **SIDELINES**

**37** Investing in invention **38** The equity in equality **39** The  
progress of changing lives **40** From simple acts—great things  
come **ALUMNI PROFILES**

**41** *Empire of Ice and Stone; A Little Bit of Land; From Refugee to  
Consul; Highest and Hardest; Seattle's Streetcar Era* **NEW MEDIA**

**45** CLASS NOTES | Johanna Brown '13

**47** IN MEMORIAM

**50** The biggest reunion **ALUMNI NEWS**

**52** Volcano views **LAST WORDS**

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# FIRST GEN

YOUR SUPPORT OF THE  
FIRSTGEN@WSU FUND  
CREATES NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Did you know? More than 30 percent of WSU students are first generation, which means their parents have not completed a bachelor's degree.

For these Cougs, having programs and resources that meet their specific needs can mean the difference between a successful WSU experience and a challenging one.

Amari Lowery, a psychology major graduating in 2023, knows the importance of support for underrepresented students. “Being a first-gen student means ending a generational cycle and starting a new one. At WSU, there are tons of resources to help make that happen, and the donors who have given to first-gen programs are the reason we have such great support.”

Many of the vital programs and spaces that aid first-gen students like Amari are supported by WSU donors who, like you, are passionate about student success. By giving to the FirstGen@WSU Fund, you can help build the future of first-gen Cougs at WSU and beyond.



To learn more about WSU's dedication to serving first-gen students—and how your gift can directly further their success—scan the QR code or visit [first.wsu.edu](http://first.wsu.edu).



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# 2023 Financial and Charitable Planning on your Agenda?



Eric Green, Financial Advisor at Purpose Financial, meeting with clients. As a member of the WSU Foundation Spokane Planned Giving Advisory Board, Eric regularly contributes his expertise and insights about complex gift ideas.

Achieve Your Goals and  
Support WSU with These  
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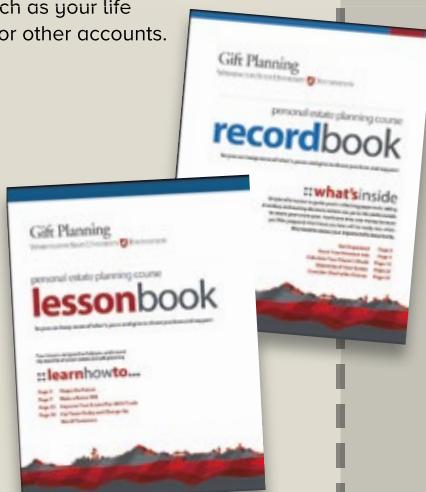
## We can help you leave a legacy at WSU!

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**Vantage points.** Japan truly opened my mind's eye to a new culture and way of life. As a junior at Washington State University, I was fortunate to go on a year-long study abroad program to the Osaka area, where I lived with a Japanese host family, took classes, and studied the language. It changed me in countless ways.

That same experience—a new point of view gained from studying outside of the United States—became a reality for a group of first-generation students in the past few years. As you'll read in this issue, the First-Gen Abroad program to Spain and Italy transformed students' lives. And, as First at WSU director Angie Klimko says, "the impact only increases from there. One student going abroad can influence generations to come."

Another avenue connects WSU's research to an international experience: Fulbright awards. Students who receive these distinguished scholarships take their research projects around the globe with WSU's support, as you'll read in this issue.

Research right here in Washington state creates meaningful change for people too. For example, scientists such as Georgina Lynch at WSU Spokane are making strides in understanding more about autism spectrum disorder, including early detection of autism through measuring pupil reactions in the eyes. The work could help families and health-care providers start interventions earlier for children.

Understanding different perspectives also applies to machines. WSU computer scientist Larry Holder and his team are part of a nationwide project to measure the ability of artificial intelligence to adapt its thinking in unexpected circumstances. You can read about the battery of tests for AI in this issue, along with a short piece written by AI, with my assistance.

Machine learning is one of many strands of WSU's research enterprise. Take a look at some of the achievements of the university's scholars in this issue's infographic.

Those accomplishments can be eye-opening. Beyond scientific inquiry, athletic feats such as the football kicking records of WSU alumnus Jason Hanson or the volunteer work of Nam Nguyen show us what's possible.

All of our WSU experiences, from study abroad to research successes to helping others, can leave a profound effect on our world, and how we see it.

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## TALKback

### Where's Minshew?

The photo of the Cougars playing in a blizzard (Talkback, Winter 2022) reminded me of another game, much more recent, that was also played in an incredible, blinding snowstorm. And it was the Apple Cup game of 2018.

The QB that year was Gardner Minshew II, a truly spectacular character and player, and full of fun and great passes. He had led the Cougars to a great year. But, perhaps especially, being a southerner, he could NOT deal with the blowing snow, the blinding whiteout, and the Huskies ended up winning the Apple Cup. I believe the snow was lots thicker than in the storm shown in your photo from 1955.

I was surprised all that remarkable year that there were no write-ups on this player who gave the whole Cougar fandom so much fun. I have not lived in Washington since my graduation, following my husband to the Bay Area for a position at Stanford. I mention this only to say that the Stanford publications talk of their teams a lot more than do you. As I say, I was truly surprised that more stories on Minshew's year were not published in your magazine at least.



COURTESY PETE CASTER / THE LEWISTON TRIBUNE

And that was such a season full of excitement and cheer!

HELENE FALKNOR WILSON ENGLAND '51  
Oregon

*Thank you for the letter, Helene. Gardner Minshew was certainly a shooting star through Cougar football. And that mustache is incredible. Since Washington State Magazine is quarterly, and we have a pretty lean crew, many of the articles are planned and completed a few months in advance. By the time Minshew had made his mark on WSU*

*football, he was on his way to the NFL. That said, we always love to follow up with Cougar alumni athletes, like this issue's story on legendary WSU and Detroit Lions kicker Jason Hanson, so it's possible Minshew could pop up in a story.*

*I also want to thank you for the story idea. Readers often ask where stories come from. While there are many channels, a number of stories come from readers, and we love to hear from all of you. If you know of a fascinating Coug story or would like to hear more about a topic, please tell us: [magazine.wsu.edu/contact](http://magazine.wsu.edu/contact)*

— Larry Clark



**COLLABORATION HALL AT WSU TRI-CITIES** OPENED THE FIRST DAY OF FALL CLASSES IN 2021. THE BUILDING FEATURES STATE-OF-THE-ART SCIENCE TEACHING LABORATORIES, INTERACTIVE CLASSROOMS, STUDY AND COLLABORATIVE AREAS, AN OPEN ATRIUM, AND AN OUTDOOR AMPHITHEATER. IT RECEIVED A NATIONAL DESIGN-BUILD PROJECT/TEAM AWARD IN 2022. (COURTESY WSU NEWS)

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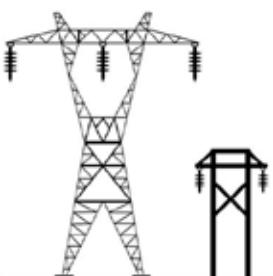
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# JORDAN SCHNITZER MUSEUMS OF ART



JORDAN SCHNITZER MUSEUM OF ART WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

## JUVENTINO ARANDA: ESPERÉ MUCHO TIEMPO PA VER

August 23, 2022 – March 11, 2023

*In Juventino Aranda: Esperé Mucho Tiempo Pa Ver (I Have Waited a Long Time to See), the artist searches for identity as a "Mexican and second generation American," among social, political, and economic struggles and notions of the American dream.*

*left: Y Llegaron Las Flores (The Funeral) detail, 2022.*

JORDAN SCHNITZER MUSEUM OF ART PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

## ARLENE SCHNITZER VISUAL ARTS PRIZE

February 28, 2023 – April 29, 2023

*The Arlene Schnitzer Visual Arts Prize is celebrating its 10th year! We are proud to see young artists rewarded and encouraged! This year's award recipients represent work in a wide range of media. Recurring themes include racial identity and justice, everyday life, and the environment.*

*left: Shelbie Loomis, The Art We Value: Michelle Grimes & Cecilia Saucedo, 2022.  
Print on archival paper, 24" x 36".*



JORDAN SCHNITZER MUSEUM OF ART UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

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April 2, 2022 – April 16, 2023

*On Earth: A Fragile Existence highlights works from the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art's permanent collection that reflect a multilayered understanding of humanity's role in our shared ecology with the nonhuman, or more-than-human, world.*

MORE EXHIBITIONS FROM  
THE JORDAN SCHNITZER  
FAMILY FOUNDATION

### **The Art of Food**

Oklahoma Contemporary Art Center • Oklahoma City, OK • 2/2/23 – 5/22/23

### **Storywork: The Prints of Marie Watt**

Johnson Museum, Cornell University • Ithaca, NY • 2/11/23 – 5/13/23

### **Kara Walker: Cut to the Quick**

Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art • Virginia Beach, VA • 3/9/23 – 6/11/23

### **Global Asias: Contemporary Asian and Asian American Art**

USC Pacific Asia Museum • Pasadena, CA • 3/10/23 – 6/25/23

*All Exhibitions from the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation provided at no cost to exhibiting museums*



## To boldly go

BY RACHEL KOON, TANYA RIVERA, AND MARITAY MENDOZA-QUIROZ

**The experience of studying in a new country can seem out of reach for students who are first in their families to attend college. Expense and other hurdles may look like they outweigh the benefits. First-Gen Abroad at Washington State University removes those barriers.**

After a two-year hiatus due to COVID, 16 students traveled to Rome, Italy, and 19 to Seville, Spain, last May, making that total cohort the biggest since First-Gen Abroad began in 2015.

"Coming out of the pandemic, I'm so excited that we were able to achieve two First-Gen Abroad programs," says Angie Klimko, the director of First at WSU, which supports first-generation students. "We're ready to continue providing a valuable international experience that sets our students apart."

First-Gen Abroad starts before students even leave the United States, with a one-credit class that covers key information such as what to expect in their host country, cultural values and bias, how to get a passport, and what to pack. Two advisors lead the course and travel with the students to ensure they have a safe, positive experience.

Students take classes in their host city, rooted in that city's history and culture. On the Rome trip, for example, they participate in a "walking classroom," where they visit the art and architecture they are studying. The courses count toward the students' degree requirements, Klimko ('01 Psych., '03 MA Comm.) says, so studying abroad doesn't add additional time to a student's degree completion, which can be a major concern for first-gen students.

First-gen students face concerns about and barriers to studying abroad that other students may not—particularly financial barriers, Klimko says. She works with students individually on financial aid and payment options and helps raise funds to support students in the program. Last year, Gary Schneidmiller ('71 Busi., '73 MA Ag. Econ.) and Chris Navan ('13 Intl. Busi., '14 MBA) donated to help offset the program and associated travel costs. Navan says his own experience as a first-gen student studying abroad motivated him to contribute.

"There's a lot of growth and camaraderie that comes from studying abroad," he says. "If I can give to someone from a similar background as me who may have decided not to go abroad because of limited financial opportunities, this is a good way for me to contribute that opportunity to someone in this program."

Klimko says some students think study abroad isn't in the cards for them because of financial barriers, fear of the unknown, and not knowing where to begin. "But it changes their lives, and the impact only increases from there. One student going abroad can influence generations to come."

It made a world of difference to WSU students Tanya Rivera and Maritay Mendoza-Quiroz last summer. They shared the experience, in their own words, with *Washington State Magazine*.

...

■ Nobody can discover the world for somebody else. Only when we discover it for ourselves does it become common ground and a common bond and we cease to be alone. ■

—Wendell Berry

**TANYA RIVERA ▶**

Growing up, my parents would surprise my sisters and me on random weekends and take us on trips. Whether that was visiting Seattle or the Oregon Zoo, or driving to other cities in Washington, I loved getting out and seeing new places.

Hearing that there was an opportunity to go abroad to Seville, Spain, through First-Gen Abroad had me convinced. I knew right away I wanted to learn about a different culture, travel outside of the country, and visit places I have always dreamed of, like Barcelona and Madrid.

The people, the food, the culture was such a unique experience, and I am forever thankful to have had the opportunity. I had to learn to be comfortable with the uncomfortable. I truly believe I came back a better person from studying abroad. I learned how to be culturally competent, changed my perspective on the world, and discovered more about myself and what I am capable of.

While it was hard to enjoy myself at times because my own family was back in the United States working, I have never felt more supported through a program. There was such a unique bond through the cohort because of the feelings we were sharing and realizing that our background did not have to limit our goals. Being able to bring textbook pictures to life, visit the architecture, and learn from the locals was an adventure of a lifetime. Looking back, I am glad I drank from the weird fountain on the street, ate paella, conversed with the locals, and bought every souvenir possible, because when was I going to do that again?

Although I got food poisoning, lost my passport, had to budget, and so much more, I would do this experience again in a heartbeat. I believe this program truly enhances a student's undergraduate experience. This first-gen Latina from a farmworking background was able to complete her childhood dream.

**MARITAY MENDOZA-QUIROZ ▼**

While looking through the plane window, everything was feeling surreal. I was traveling to Spain! I was going to spend seven weeks of my college life in Europe, doing the first-generation study abroad program!

“¡Miren llegue a las Europas!!” was the first thing I said to my family when I arrived in Spain. Who would imagine me, traveling abroad? Sounds crazy.

My time in Seville, Spain, was memorable. I was able to meet amazing individuals, take classes, and explore the city. Seville has so much history and meaning in every corner. In Spain, everything is special, from the tapas bars to

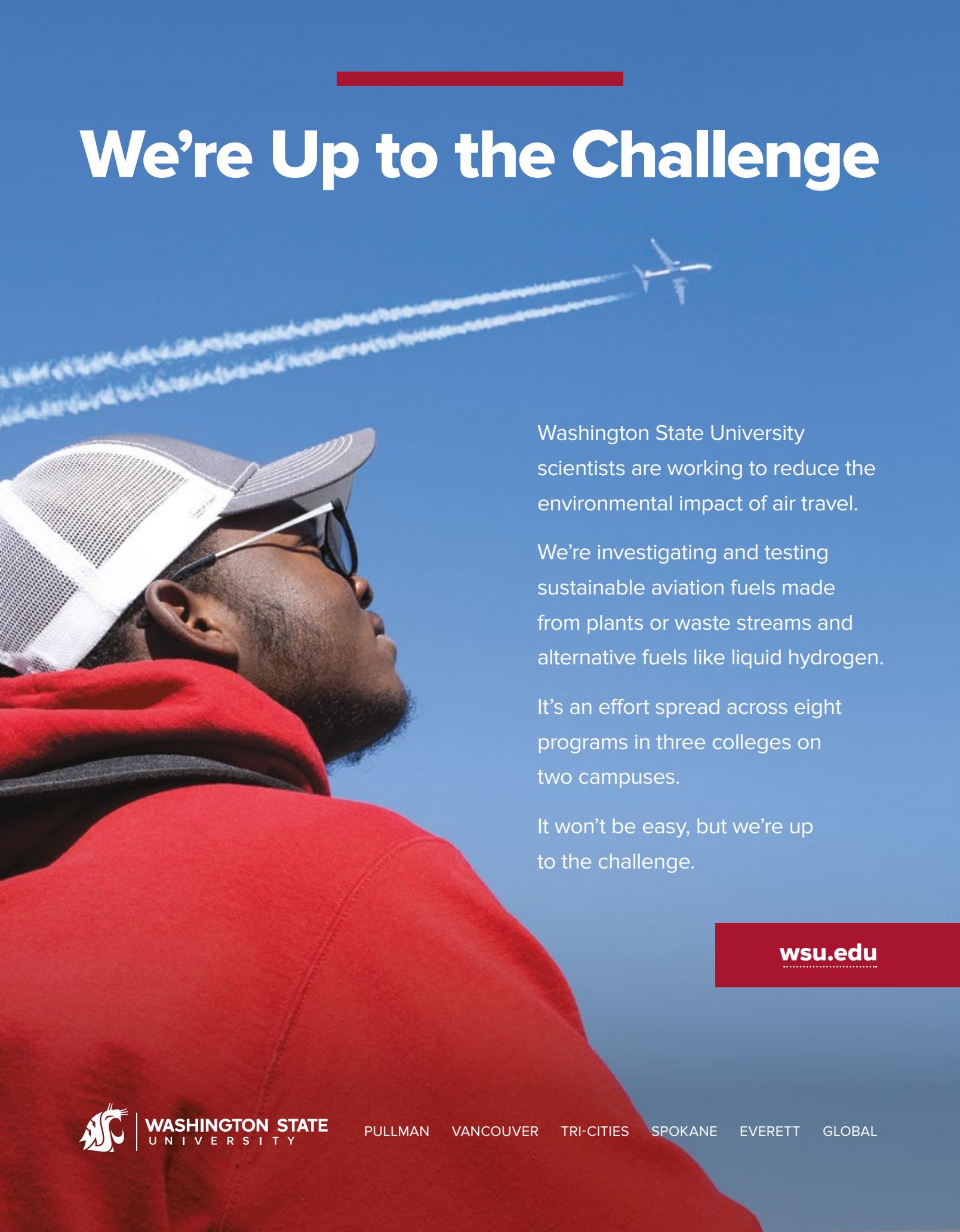
the beautiful architecture. In Seville, everything feels different. It's literally another world. Walking to class was the best—I was able to enjoy the city and my own company. I listened to my own thoughts, and I allowed myself to feel and learn.

Studying abroad helped me to see life and the world from a different perspective. I gained knowledge from other cultures, people, places. I learned so much about myself, about self-awareness, and about personal change. I explored new cities and traveled to other countries too. I made it to Portugal, France, and the United Kingdom. Simply amazing!

As a Mexican immigrant, first-generation, and low-income student, I never imagined I would be studying abroad. This is the first summer since I arrived in the States five years ago that I didn't work in the fields because I had the opportunity to be in Spain. I never imagined being on another continent. From selling oranges when I was a little girl in Mexico, to working in the fields since I arrived in the States, to now traveling to Spain, I did it! Now I see my own growth as a person because this study abroad program gave me a different perspective on life. Now, I won't give up! Y me pondre las pilas! \*



# We're Up to the Challenge



Washington State University scientists are working to reduce the environmental impact of air travel.

We're investigating and testing sustainable aviation fuels made from plants or waste streams and alternative fuels like liquid hydrogen.

It's an effort spread across eight programs in three colleges on two campuses.

It won't be easy, but we're up to the challenge.

[wsu.edu](http://wsu.edu)



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UNIVERSITY**

PULLMAN   VANCOUVER   TRI-CITIES   SPOKANE   EVERETT   GLOBAL



Anjelica Reyna Mora, Samantha Reyna, and Lourdes Reyna Alcala. Courtesy Lourdes Reyna Alcala

## Una bienvenida a la WSU

### Lourdes Reyna's earliest memory is in the orchards.

That's where her parents, both seasonal farmworkers in Yakima, would line an apple bin with a blanket as a playpen for Lourdes and her little brother.

As soon as the children could carry a bag, they joined their parents picking fruit. Up at 4 a.m., she'd get dressed, help make lunch and ride to the orchard with her family. The kids would always fall asleep in the car on the way home.

"We were so tired at the end of the day," Reyna says. "Picking fruit is very hard. I don't know how my parents are still doing it for a living."

She wanted to go to college, and her parents wanted that for her too. With no experience of college and very little English, however, Reyna's parents worried about their daughter's safety and happiness on campus. They also struggled with the complexities of admission, registration, financial aid, and housing.

Since 2007, families like the Reynas have found answers and welcome at Washington State University's La Bienvenida, a Spanish-language orientation for parents or caregivers of students who come from seasonal-farmworker backgrounds.

For the students, La Bienvenida is their required WSU orientation, with information on student groups, registering for classes, financial aid, and the like. For families, it's a chance to learn about programs and costs, to

see how their child will live on campus, and to meet other parents.

"I think more than anything, La Bienvenida allowed me to see that I could go to college, that it was a possibility," Reyna says. "It helped my mom build connections that made her comfortable sending us there and leaving us there."

She says "us" because Lourdes Reyna was the first Reyna sibling, but not the last, to become a Coug. She was followed to WSU and La Bienvenida by her two younger sisters, Samantha and Anjelica. Her brother attended another institution.

"Having the program in Spanish told me that WSU is inclusive," she says. "The people I met there, you truly felt they cared."

La Bienvenida is a mandatory part of CAMP, the federally funded College Assistance Migrant Program for students whose families work in seasonal or migrant agriculture jobs.

In 2022 for the first time, La Bienvenida was offered on WSU campuses in Pullman, Tri-Cities, and Vancouver, thanks to a gift from Bob and Karen Felton. The expansion meant La Bienvenida served more than 350 students and families last May and June.

The goal of La Bienvenida is to ease the transition to college and set the foundation for a successful first year, both of which are strong predictors of college success, says Marcela Carillo Pattinson, director of undocumented initiatives at WSU, which includes oversight of La Bienvenida.

The success has been dramatic. The number of participants who continue to their second and third years of college and on to graduation can be more than a third higher than for other students of color at WSU Pullman.

The majority of students served by CAMP and La Bienvenida are first-generation college students, so programming includes a lot of basic information. But families also meet with specialists from the Human Development department who can help lead discussion of potentially touchy topics like social life at college. Families who participate in Pullman stay in residence halls and eat in dining halls.

Says Michael Heim, director of the CAMP program, "When you have parents who are trying to navigate a system they haven't been through, it helps to say, 'Here's what that looks like.'"

He adds, "Parents are the same no matter their culture or nationality—they want the best for their kids."

The success of programs like CAMP and La Bienvenida, plus the wide range of multicultural student services, has brought growing numbers of Latino students to the university.

In fact, WSU serves one of the largest numbers of undergraduate Latino students of any college or university in the state, according to data from Excelencio in Education, a nonprofit organization that researches and promotes Latino student success in higher ed.

"WSU is becoming a destination for our Latinx communities within Washington," says Heim.

Lourdes Reyna—now Lourdes Reyna Alcala—graduated in 2012, majoring in criminal justice and sociology. She's a community health development manager at Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc. in Hermiston.

She says she had accepted another college's offer of admission before a friend invited her to visit WSU with her.

"It was during La Bienvenida," she says. "The vibe when I walked into that room was so motivating. I had visited multiple campuses and I never felt this kind of vibe before. I knew right away WSU is where I needed to be." \*

*Steve Nakata '86 contributed to this article.*

 Learn more about La Bienvenida:  
[magazine.wsu.edu/extra/La-Bienvenida](http://magazine.wsu.edu/extra/La-Bienvenida)

**2007** First year of La Bienvenida welcoming Spanish-speaking families to WSU Pullman for new student orientation

**2022** La Bienvenida expanded for the first time to WSU campuses in Vancouver and Tri-Cities

**111** Total student participants across the WSU system in 2022

**253** Total family participants across the WSU system in 2022

**100%** Participants who rated their experience with staff as good or very good



**"Me siento cómoda con la gente, nos recibieron con brazos abiertos."**

**(I feel comfortable with the people here. They welcomed us with open arms.)**

— A COUG PARENT WHO ATTENDED  
LA BIENVENIDA

LA BIENVENIDA HAS HAD GREAT SUCCESS IN EASING THE TRANSITION TO COLLEGE FOR MANY STUDENTS AND THEIR SPANISH-SPEAKING FAMILIES AND CAREGIVERS. THE PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE AT WSU TRI-CITIES, PULLMAN, AND VANCOUVER IN 2023. PHOTOS COURTESY MARCELA CARRILLO PATTINSON

# Distinguished scholarship tradition

**One wants to save the bees.** Another desires restorative justice for at-risk high school students. These two and many other Washington State University alumni benefited from distinguished scholarships, such as Fulbrights, that gave them a global perspective.

The first distinguished scholarship at Washington State College, a Rhodes Scholarship, took Spokane native and future leader in the US Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce Shirl Hyde Blalock to the University of Oxford in 1907. Since his pioneering achievement, 345 Washington State students have been recognized as distinguished scholars.

While the Rhodes is hailed as the oldest international postgraduate award, additional prestigious and highly competitive scholarships have emerged—such as the Fulbright, Goldwater, Udall, Marshall, Truman, Schwarzman, and Gilman—to meet distinct US and global priorities. The Goldwater addresses the need for highly qualified professionals in STEM fields, the Fulbright

## KATE ZUMSTEG—2022 FULBRIGHT

**KATE ZUMSTEG** ('05 English, '06 MEd) has been an educator for 15 years, and the chance to improve her effectiveness as a teacher of at-risk youth prompted her to apply for a Fulbright US Student award. She is conducting research at Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium with a professor who is renowned for restorative justice studies. The concept calls for a focus on mediation and reconciliation rather than punishment to settle interpersonal disagreements.

Six years ago, after teaching for a decade in public schools, Zumsteg joined Rosemary Anderson High School East, a nonprofit alternative school in Portland, Oregon, that serves at-risk students who have been expelled from or dropped out of public high schools. Many students are without homes and many are adjudicated.

"The chance to help create a positive learning and living environment with these youth, some of whom everyone else had given up on, made me decide to pursue a career (at that school)," she says. Zumsteg and her teaching peers have been specially trained and use

meditation, peace rooms, counseling, yoga, and restorative justice techniques to help students.

But she was alarmed when she saw the decline in effectiveness during the COVID-19 pandemic when students were not at the school. Determined to learn how to better help them, Zumsteg discovered that Belgium has the best juvenile justice system in the world and that the use of restorative justice is a large part of its success.

In addition to her studies, she is visiting local schools, collaborating with law enforcement officials, working with judges and counselors, and volunteering with an organization that offers restorative justice services to students.

When she returns to Oregon, Zumsteg will share her knowledge and work to make programmatic changes based on what she is learning in Belgium. She will also reach out to community professionals such as probation officers "so that youth are given the best opportunities available to be rehabilitated." Her ultimate goal is to implement practices and processes that can be used throughout all Oregon schools.

*Read more about Zumsteg: [magazine.wsu.edu/extra/Fulbright-Zumsteg](https://magazine.wsu.edu/extra/Fulbright-Zumsteg)*



## MELANIE KIRBY—2019 FULBRIGHT—NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC STORYTELLING FELLOWSHIP

The windows of bee specialist **MELANIE KIRBY**'s office in Santa Fe, New Mexico, look out over the foothills rolling up to the southern Rocky Mountains. Outside her building and just below her windows is a tiered garden and orchard where food and medicinal plants grow and artist-decorated beehives sit tucked under juniper bushes.

As the extension educator of land-grant programs at the Institute of American Indian Arts, the location—and the job—suit her perfectly.

"Being here is a blessing as this position promotes the Indigenous experience through artistry, scholarship, and leadership, and it is a great place for me to engage with my Native American heritage and history."

"Even though IAIA is a land-grant tribal college, we can't have large livestock here—but we can keep bees, which suits me perfectly!"

Kirby ('21 MS Entom.) credits aspects of her Fulbright—National Geographic Storytelling Fellowship with leading her to the tribal college



expands perspectives through academic advancement and cross-cultural dialogue, and the Udall fosters education in Native American health care, tribal policy, and the environment.

WSU helps students apply for the awards through the Distinguished Scholarships Program. Since its establishment within the Division of Academic Engagement and Student Achievement in 2011, students have honed their applications with staff help. Program director April Seehafer ('93 English) works with applicants to understand their goals, the paths to accomplish them, and how those goals benefit the state, nation, and world.

The program has significantly elevated the number of WSU's distinguished scholarships. After the first Fulbright recipient in 1949, one-third of all Fulbrights awarded at WSU have come since the Distinguished Scholarships Program began. There were five WSU Fulbright recipients in 2022, the largest number in a single year for the university.



"The Fulbright experience reinforced my independence and motivation, and validated my resolve about apiculture," she says. "It also helped me to recognize that I can share my skills and enthusiasm for STEAM representation with Indigenous students and communities, and that led me to the Institute of American Indian Arts.

"As a person with a mixed Indigenous, Iberian, and Caribbean heritage, I feel I can serve as a representation of marginalized peoples and am committed to help broaden the narrative of what it means to be a scientist, an artist, and an educator."

*Read more about Kirby: [magazine.wsu.edu/extra/Fulbright-Kirby](https://magazine.wsu.edu/extra/Fulbright-Kirby).*



Many other alumni received distinguished scholarships that led them to interesting places. Read their stories—or share your own—online at [magazine.wsu.edu/extra/distinguished-scholars](https://magazine.wsu.edu/extra/distinguished-scholars).

#### JULIAN J. REYES—2011 FULBRIGHT

**JULIAN REYES** ('10, '18 PhD Civ. Eng.), National Climate Hubs coordinator in US Dept. of Agriculture's Office of Energy and Environmental Policy, sees himself as a science cheerleader. His Fulbright took him to the University of Bonn in Germany, where he saw the need for international collaboration and science communication on climate change issues.

*Read Reyes's full story: [magazine.wsu.edu/extra/Fulbright-Reyes](https://magazine.wsu.edu/extra/Fulbright-Reyes).*

#### JUSTIN NIEDERMEYER—2016 FULBRIGHT

Physics doctoral student **JUSTIN NIEDERMEYER** ('16 Physics, Music, German) wants to understand how the universe functions. As a physicist, he studies quantum computation to solve important mathematical problems that conventional computing can't solve very efficiently. His WSU and Fulbright experiences in Heidelberg, Germany, gave him skills to succeed.

*Read Niedermeyer's full story: [magazine.wsu.edu/extra/Fulbright-Niedermeyer](https://magazine.wsu.edu/extra/Fulbright-Niedermeyer).*



# WHEN WILL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE REALLY PASS THE TEST?

Artificial intelligence is *getting very good* at doing certain things.

Google's AI team has unveiled impressive early detection and warning of floods and wildfires. AI can aid wildlife conservation by analyzing millions of animal images. Somewhat controversially, AI can generate art and write articles.

These AI specialists continuously improve on their tasks, but how do you measure an AI's general intelligence, and its ability to adapt and react to unanticipated changes?

"Most AI systems are evaluated in a narrow set of problems," says Larry Holder, a computer science professor at Washington State University. "It's what we call an AI savant that might be really good at one problem and terrible at another."

Holder and his research team at the School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science are working toward measuring how more robust AI systems can solve a large array of tasks with unexpected twists: an IQ test of sorts for machine learning.

They started in 2018 with AIQ, a free tool to evaluate AI abilities, developed by Holder and Christopher Pereyda, then an undergraduate and now a WSU doctoral student. AIQ provides an environment to test and rank AI systems on tasks like playing video games, answering SAT problems, and solving the Rubik's cube.

The timing of the AIQ effort coincided with Holder and WSU receiving a grant of just over \$1 million from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to develop and evaluate AI systems for their ability to handle novelty.

Eight teams run AI systems while four other teams, including WSU, throw unexpected challenges at the AIs in the project, DARPA's Science of Artificial Intelligence and Learning for Open-world Novelty (SAIL-ON). Three tests, called "domains," allow AIs to test their mettle in dealing with novelties.

The first test, CartPole, simulates a pole on top of a cart, with the goal of keeping the pole upright by moving the cart from side to side. Easy enough for an AI, until the WSU or another team introduces wind or an incline.

AI systems play a version of classic first-person shooter video game *Doom* for their next test. Specifically designed for AIs, ViZDoom "players" must shoot their way through monsters while avoiding damage.

It's pretty straightforward until Holder and his team introduce some surprises, such as teleporting enemies to other rooms or eliminating extra ammo. The AI might think, "I'll shoot like crazy because I can just pick up ammo if I need more. And now suddenly, you don't have that and so you have to change your strategy," Holder says.

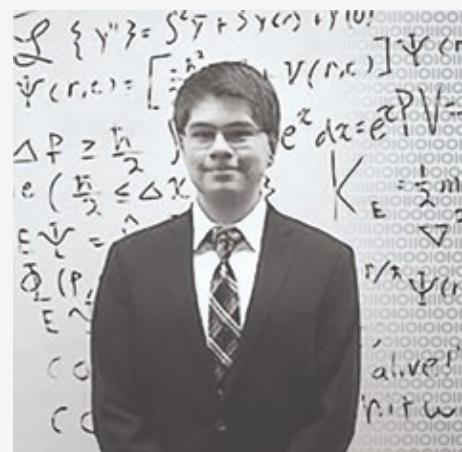
The third domain connects to a WSU research strength: smart home environments. Diane Cook, Regents Professor in computer science, leads several projects to bring AI into homes to help seniors and others who need assistance. She is also part of the SAIL-ON grant.

In the SAIL-ON test, an AI tries to determine what a person in a smart home is doing, such as cooking, cleaning, or exercising. A lot of sensors collect data but, Holder asks, what if a sensor stops working? What if a person "fools" the sensors by doing something like opening and closing a door while pretending to go for a walk?



"An AI savant might be really good at one problem and terrible at another," says computer scientist Larry Holder (left). Doctoral student Christopher Pereyda (right) worked with Holder to develop the AI testing tool AIQ.

*Derivative photos, originals courtesy respectively*



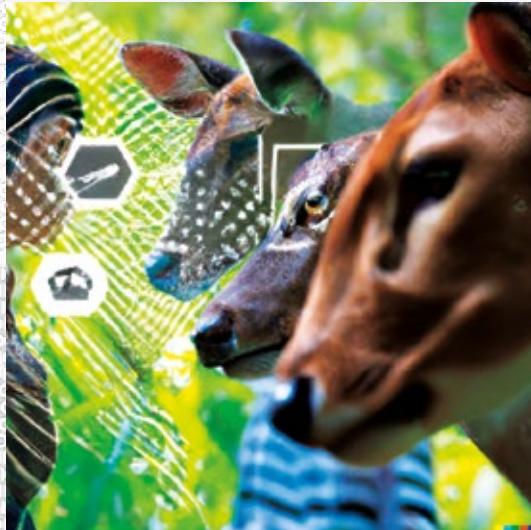
With each phase of the SAIL-ON program, WSU and the other teams introduce more hidden novelties. "We don't tell anybody about the novelties," Holder says, so in a complex setting like the smart home, AI systems really need to adapt to understand what's happening.

Holder would like to see a component for AI systems to detect and adapt to novelties, rather than hard-coding novelty into the system. Holder's team eventually wants to release this "novelty generator" to the public.

"Anybody could play these different environments, encounter novelty, and measure how well their system does against it," Holder says. "I think it would challenge the AI community and help motivate them to build more general purpose adaptability into their systems."

"In order for AI to progress and become more robust, it needs to be able to deal with lots of different tasks," Holder continues. For example, a robot assistant in a home might do laundry, cook, and clean. "They need to be able to do all those tasks pretty well, but they need to be able to adapt to changes that the programmers may not have anticipated."

Still, "I think we're a long way off from an AI system that essentially can compete or exceed human capabilities in all areas, like Data from *Star Trek*," Holder says. \*



**At left:** Artwork generated by deep learning model Dall-e 2 when we entered "artificial intelligence for wildlife conservation" as the description.  
*Courtesy OpenAI*

## AI for wildlife conservation—from an AI

BY CONTENTBOT (AND LARRY CLARK)

*Editor's note—I decided to try an AI experiment: the following article was primarily written by AI at ContentBot.ai. The grammar and structure were decent, but the AI had a hard time nailing down specific details. I added information about WSU biology professor Daniel Thornton and his team's work on identification of endangered species like the Canada lynx. Aside from that paragraph and some edits, the rest of the article was generated from a series of prompts to the AI.*

**With the help of artificial intelligence (AI),** we can now take wildlife conservation to a whole new level. We can use data to better understand the behavior of animals, their habitats, and even predict the potential threats to their populations.

AI can be used to track and monitor endangered animals, alerting conservationists of any potential threats. For example, researchers have used AI to track and monitor deer populations, helping wildlife conservationists create better strategies for their care and protection. By monitoring their behavior and habitat, AI can also provide insights into how climate change is affecting these animals.

Washington State University wildlife biologist Daniel Thornton and his research team placed 650 camera traps across more than 4,300 square miles of northeastern Washington in an effort to measure Canada lynx populations. Their 2020 study provided much-needed data on the lynx range in Washington to aid conservation efforts. To identify the endangered cat and other wildlife, though, AI can provide support in sorting through millions of images.

Besides using AI-powered image recognition at WSU, other benefits of research have included improved accuracy and speed in data collection and analysis. This has been especially true when it comes to correctly identifying animal species, using images as a primary source of data. Providing these advances in technology could prove to be a major milestone for our understanding of the environment and wildlife.

AI technology can still have difficulty identifying different species and habitats in the wild, especially when it comes to the most remote and diverse areas, such as Washington state's mountain ranges. With their vast and complex landscapes, mountains can provide challenging environments, so it's no wonder that even the most sophisticated AI technology struggles to recognize the differences.

Despite this, the potential of AI in researching and understanding these environments is being explored more and more. It can help scientists to understand and monitor these habitats in ways that humans cannot. AI-powered animal identification systems, such as the WSU research, are also more cost-effective and require less of a workforce than traditional methods, providing a great advantage for those looking to conserve endangered species.

We can only hope that as AI science continues to evolve, so too will our ability to protect and preserve our planet's natural beauty for generations to come. \*



ethical dilemmas of AI-generated art and stories: [magazine.wsu.edu/extrai/AI-ethics](https://magazine.wsu.edu/extrai/AI-ethics)

# Whole, new ways for criminal justice

BY ALYSEN BOSTON

**Imagine a program where someone charged with a nonviolent crime received a combination of support from the justice system, social and mental health services, rehabilitation programs, and their communities instead of being sent to prison.**

For those who support justice system reform, this approach sounds like a dream. But for some people charged of a crime, this program already exists. Drug courts have sprung up throughout the country to deal with rampant opioid use that traditional punishments just can't seem to fix. And it's been widely successful.

In Washington state, participants in drug courts were twice as likely to remain free of arrest in the three years following their participation in the program compared to people who didn't enter the program, according to a 2013 report from the state Department of Social and Health Services. Taxpayers saved approximately \$22,000 for each person diverted from prison due to the program.

So why isn't this model used for other types of crime?

"Most of the time, we tend to want quick fixes and oversimplistic approaches, even when they repeatedly fail over and over and over," says Faith Lutze, professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Washington State University. "We invest in traditional systems because we tend to view them as if they have always been and always will be."

Lutze, who has served on criminal justice policy boards at both the federal and state levels and provided expert analysis of drug courts and prison culture over the last few decades, has seen how the preference toward traditional systems can cause setbacks for individuals hoping to turn their lives around.

"We default to a punitive practice even though we have evidence that all these other interventions work better," Lutze says. "This affects the most vulnerable people, who don't have the resources to get support outside the justice system."

Thus, people who would benefit the most from holistic programs and resources, rather than imprisonment, don't usually get them until they've already committed a crime, Lutze says, which contributes to uneven applications of justice based on factors like race, gender, or income status. If we take the findings from drug court proceedings and apply them to the community, then many people wouldn't have to enter the system at all.

"If drug courts are effective in changing the substance abuse trajectory, why do people have to go through the justice sys-

tem to get these services?" Lutze says. "We should be doing both. Investing in programs that divert people from the justice system, but also giving them that same ethic of care if they do end up in the system."

And by addressing factors like education and vocational training, job stability, and affordable housing, society can not only reduce the likelihood that individuals previously convicted of a crime return to prison but also improve the quality of life for at-risk citizens too.

"To just accept things as the way they are upholds a system of oppression and maintains the status quo," Lutze says. "If we take a holistic approach, we can effect change and achieve the progress we want to see on an individual level as well as at a system level." \*

FAITH LUTZE (COURTESY WSU DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND CRIMINOLOGY)





**Left to right, top to bottom:** Nirvana on guest room balcony in 1993. The Edgewater was on the “circuit” for many of the great comics such as Mickey Rooney in the ’60s and ’70s. The Ink Spots performed there in early ’60s. Pearl Jam posters. Led Zeppelin had several notorious “episodes” at the hotel (here shown playing at Green Lake in 1969). The Beatles famously fished out their windows while guests. Diane Schuur was inspired when she heard and met (and played for!) jazz pianist George Shearing at the Edgewater. Aerial view of the Edgewater Hotel. Courtesy WSU Carson College of Business and Edward R. Murrow College of Communication



BY BECKY KRAMER

## Encoring Seattle's Edge

Seattle's Edgewater Hotel has a storied place in rock and roll history. Since the Beatles' 1964 visit during their first North American tour, the hotel has been associated with musicians.

“The Beatles kicked it off, and Led Zeppelin made the Edgewater infamous,” says Bob Peckenpaugh ('03 Hotel & Rest. Admin.), noting the rock band was twice banned from the hotel for antics that included keeping mud sharks in their suite and throwing furniture into Elliott Bay. “I lived through some of that history as a young front desk clerk.”

When Peckenpaugh returned to the Edgewater as general manager in 2016, a handful of employees who witnessed the bands’ raucous heyday at the hotel remained, but they were nearing retirement age.

To capture those stories, Peckenpaugh enlisted the help of Mark Beattie ('81 Hotel & Rest. Admin.), associate vice chancellor at Washington State University Everett and assistant professor of hospitality business management for the Carson College of Business. Beattie worked with Brett Atwood at the Edward R. Murrow College of Communication to set up an independent study for students to collect and archive information.

Over five years, WSU Everett students created an Edgewater repository with more than 3,000

files. The archive contains old photos, playbills, advertisements, employee interviews, news articles, and video clips.

“The archive is a ‘Who’s Who’ of the entertainers who came through Seattle,” says Atwood, a scholarly associate professor and former music industry writer.

Some of the material—including photos of the Beatles and footage of Nirvana’s Kurt Cobain—was featured in a mini-documentary prepared for the Edgewater’s sixtieth anniversary last year. In the future, the archived materials could be used for marketing campaigns, employee training, or even academic research.

“Knowing what happened here is almost like a little secret. This is where rock stars stayed and groupies hung out,” says Lindsey Kirschman ('18 Comm.), corporate marketing coordinator for Noble House Hotels, the Edgewater’s parent company. “We don’t want that authentic part of our history to be lost to time.”

The Edgewater was built for Seattle’s 1962 World’s Fair, but construction issues delayed the hotel’s opening. By the time the Beatles tour dates were announced, the property was struggling financially.

Other Seattle hotels balked at hosting the Fab Four during the height of Beatlemania. Too much security and insurance was involved. But the Edgewater’s general manager stepped up, and the band’s booking helped revive the hotel’s fortunes.

“The Beatles stayed less than 24 hours during that first visit, but there are so many stories,” says Peckenpaugh, who left the hotel in 2020, but remains interested in the archival project.

Riley Gilbertson ('19 Hosp. Busi. Mgmt.) spent a summer researching the Edgewater for the independent study, digging into Seattle newspaper archives from the early 1960s through 1970.

The work immersed him in the music of his parents' era. "They grew up in Seattle, and they remember when the Beatles came to town," Gilbertson says.

He uncovered accounts of screaming fans descending on the hotel, which was surrounded by a chain-link security fence. While a decoy limousine approached the Edgewater, band members arrived at the hotel in the back of an ambulance.

The Beatles' 1964 visit also produced the iconic photo of the band fishing from their room. At the time, the Edgewater had a bait and tackle shop for guests.

Gilbertson also found accounts of visits by the Monkees, Dave Clark Five, and the Beach Boys. As the hotel's reputation grew, its star-studded guest list expanded to include the Rolling Stones, Elvis Presley, Stevie Wonder, Black Sabbath, Emmylou Harris, and others.

Some of the side stories intrigued Gilbertson.

"One article described how a young man sporting flip-over hair similar to the Beach Boys got mobbed by a group of fan-girls outside the Edgewater," he says. "They were quite disappointed he wasn't part of the band."

Besides hosting big-name bands, the Edgewater had its own musical venue, the Crown Terrace Room. "It was an important contributor to Seattle's nightlife, and it booked a diverse group of musicians," says EJ Olsen ('19 Strat. Comm.), who also worked on the research. \*

Jazz singer Sarah Vaughan and singer and actress Eartha Kitt were among the notable Black artists who performed at the Edgewater during the 1960s.

"When you consider everything that was happening with the civil rights movement, this was very forward-thinking for a club atmosphere in a fine hotel," says Beattie.

The students' archival collection spans nearly four decades of hotel history. Maddy Cone, the final student involved, curated vintage photos and video footage from the project for the Edgewater's 10-minute mini-documentary. The timing was serendipitous for Kirschman, who had just started a marketing job at Noble House Hotels.

"When I found out WSU Everett students had created an Edgewater archive, it was the biggest win imaginable," she says. "Maddy was able to pull these really big names from the archive for us, including footage of Kurt Cobain on the balcony."

"The students built this trove of information now available for the Edgewater's use and for scholarly purposes," Beattie says. "I would love to see a music historian—perhaps someone from the university—dive into it."

Peckenpaugh says the archives will keep the Edgewater's legends alive. Some of the employees who retired during the pandemic knew Led Zeppelin lead singer Robert Plant on a first-name basis. Over the years, Plant became a regular visitor to the hotel.

"If you lose those firsthand stories, the personal connection to history gets lost," Peckenpaugh says. \*

## It's in the water

**Almost everyone in the United States has plastic in their blood.**

Specifically, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, known as PFAS. They're most often used to make products that are resistant to heat, grease, oil, stains, and water, like waterproof jackets or nonstick cookware. These products shed microscopic pieces of plastic that find their way into our drinking water, oceans, soil, animals, food, and finally, our bloodstreams, according to data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

Though the extent of the harmful effects of PFAS aren't fully known, the substances have been linked to health issues such as cancer in both humans and animals. Many companies have stopped using PFAS in their products, but it's not easy to remove the microplastics that have already contaminated our environment.

"It's terrifying," says Indranil Chowdhury, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering at Washington State University. "PFAS have a carbon and fluorine bond, one of the strongest bonds in chemistry. It's really hard to remove it from water."

Chowdhury and his team at the SMART Water Environmental Lab are exploring ways to efficiently remove and destroy PFAS, which earned the nickname "forever chemicals" because it takes hundreds or thousands of years to degrade the substances. Though PFAS can be mostly absorbed and sequestered from drinking water using carbon, it still exists as a waste product. Chowdhury's goal is to find a way to permanently destroy the substances without creating harmful by-products.

The team is also considering nanotechnology as a method to break the strong chemical bonds in PFAS, making it easier to absorb, remove, and eventually destroy the substances entirely. This kind of technique could eventually be used at water treatment plants or in home water systems, but practical applications are still far away.

"Even at a low concentration, PFAS can still be bad for our health," Chowdhury says. "But the alternative is just not there yet."

In the meantime, Chowdhury recommends filtering tap water with a carbon filter and avoiding plastic water bottles. It's also important to check if nonstick cookware has PFAS before buying it. \*



**ARTIST CLOSE-UP**

**Io Palmer**, associate professor in fine arts at WSU Vancouver, launched “In Ceramics In Science,” a collaborative project to create ceramic murals in the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine. **With a \$10,000 award and Research Assistantship from the OR**, she worked with students and the communities of Pullman and Spokane on the public arts initiative, with a long-term goal across the state’s schools, hotels, and other venues.

\$10K Competition:  
\$269,500 over the last six years to all awardees

**New Faculty, Seed Grant Program** 2000–2022: 963 proposals by junior faculty, 279 awards, \$4.75 million invested  
 • 734 proposals from NFSG winners brought in \$49.4 million in external awards • Average number of NFSG grants awarded each year: 12

The OR hosts programs such as the **Research Assistantship (RA)** and **\$10K Competition** and the **New Faculty Seed Grant Program (NFSG)** to provide first step funding to researchers, who then often go on to win national awards.



The impact of wildfire smoke on people with asthma. Artificial intelligence and advanced technology in agriculture. Ceramic art projects that collaborate with medical sciences. This is a small sample of the array of projects fostered and supported by the **Office of Research (OR)** at Washington State University.



**Functional Genomics Initiative:**  
Genetic technologies to address food security concerns



**Nutritional genomics:** Smart foods for optimal nutrition and health in diverse populations



**Green stormwater infrastructure:**  
Save energy and provide clean water for people and the fish they eat

**RESEARCHER CLOSE-UP**

**Julie Postma**, associate dean for research and professor in the College of Nursing, studies the impact wildfire smoke has on people with asthma. She is **one of the 33 participating faculty researchers** in HERC.



**Health Equity Research Center (HERC):** A network of faculty, staff, and students from multiple colleges and campuses examining the factors that promote health resilience and decrease health risks associated with poverty, discrimination, and poor access to health care.

STRATEGIC RESEARCH INVESTMENT  
2016–2021 PROGRAM

**Four projects funded with \$11 million**

- Initial investment resulted in **\$256.2 million total** among 762 awards
- 90 faculty members** across many disciplines
- 23.5 times return** on investment

The investment program also provided funding to the Center for Institutional Research Computing

SEED MONEY & SUPPORT

**Ananth Kalyanaraman**, Boeing Centennial Chair and professor in the School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, directs the USDA-NIFA Institute for **Agricultural AI for Transforming Workforce and Decision Support** (AgAID). With a \$20 million grant, AgAID builds partnerships between AI and ag communities to tackle some of agriculture's biggest challenges related to labor, water, weather, and climate change. The OR provided proposal development for two years and temporary program management.

# Research



ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROGRAM SUPPORT  
PARTNERSHIPS



## RESEARCHER CLOSE-UP



Nuclear Science and Technology Institute



Advanced Grid Institute



Bioproducts Institute



**ASCENT** (Aviation Sustainability Center): A cooperative aviation research organization co-led by WSU and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Also known as the Center of Excellence for Alternative Jet Fuels and Environment, ASCENT is funded by the FAA, NASA, the Department of Defense, Transport Canada, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

## GROWING RESEARCH DOLLARS—BY THE NUMBERS

Total R&D expenditures per tenure track faculty • **\$322,265 to \$413,800**  
(from fiscal year 2016 to 2021)

## NSF Higher Education Research and Development Survey

(HERD) R&D Expenditures • 2021: **\$357,648,000** • Awards with estimated totals of **\$10 million** or more (over the life of the award): From two awards totaling **\$46.2 million** (FY2017) to five awards totaling **\$184.3 million** (FY2022) • Total proposal amount: **\$960,416,742** (FY2022) • Average proposal amount: **\$434,185** (FY2022)  
• Total award amount: **\$283,743,079** (FY2022)

The OR's strategic investments, seed funding, administrative support, and partnerships within WSU and with external groups like the National Science Foundation (NSF) grow the university's research enterprise, with real-world results.

## Scapes and scallions

BY ADRIANA JANOVICH

**Think of them as garlic greens.** Whimsical and wild-looking, the tender stalks of hardneck garlic grow straight from the bulb, then coil into lovely, long curlicues topped with fanciful flower heads.

Their young cousins, scallions, or green onions, grow tubular and pencil-thin, shooting directly from bulbs that never fully develop.

Both of these oft-overlooked crops signify the spring harvest season. And, while they are milder than their counterparts—mature garlic bulbs and spring and other onions and alliums—they still pack a punch, offering a hint of what's to come in the garden.

"They both have that muted flavor," says Anna Kestell, food preservation and safety outreach educator at Washington State University Extension for Spokane County. "You're going to get that really beautiful garlic or onion flavor without the bite."

**HARDNECK or STIFFNECK GARLIC** (*Allium sativum ophioscorodon*) is planted in autumn and enjoys two harvests: one for scapes and another for bulbs. Cutting scapes is a must. If they aren't trimmed, plants spend their energy trying to grow the stems and

flowers, leaving bulbs underdeveloped in both size and taste.

Green, garlicky, and gently vegetal, scapes aren't as pungent as mature bulbs. Their flavor is more delicate and herbaceous, reminiscent of a combination of both garlic and green onion. Backyard gardeners and farmers' market regulars know not to let them go to waste.

Low in calories, rich in B vitamins along with vitamins K and C, and high in flavor—but not overwhelmingly so—scapes are great grilled, sautéed, and puréed into soups and sauces. Add them to pasta and pizza. Put them in frittatas and quiches, complemented with Cougar Gold.

Kestell pickles scapes, often mixing them into her giardiniera. Another favorite at her house: Cougar Gold mac and cheese with scapes.

Scapes can become tough and fibrous near the end that grows from the bulb. It's best to trim that part. That, and their relatively short harvest, might be the only drawbacks to this late-spring offering, says Janis McBride of Camas, a master gardener with WSU Clark County Extension since 2017. She's been growing garlic and scapes for six years.

She tends garlic both in her home garden and at Hazel Dell's 79-acre 78th Street Heritage Farm, where she volunteers to help grow food for a local food bank. Music is her favorite variety.

"The hardnecks"—including Music—"grow best in the Pacific Northwest," she says. "And they just have a good, solid garlic flavor."

White-skinned with a pink blush, Music yields large, easy-to-peel, medium-hot cloves. It's a Porcelain-type garlic, a hardy hardneck that's particularly cold tolerant. Bulbs will keep long after harvest—nine months to a year.

McBride grows Music at home. At the farm, she tends Romanian Red, Inchelium Red, Nootka Rose, and Shandong. They're planted in a 75-foot row, yielding "probably 300 to 400 heads of garlic" and as many scapes.

"I think garlic is the easiest crop to grow," says McBride, who recommends novice gardeners start with garlic. "It's a long growing season, but you don't have to do that much, just keep the bed weed-free. It's almost fool-proof."

Start with seed garlic the first season. "After that, take your largest cloves and plant those. You'll get a little shoot within a month, and it stays that way for many months. It feels like it's not even growing. Then come March or so, when it's warmer, it really starts growing. When the scape curls over, you know it's ready to cut."

McBride processes scapes into pesto for pasta or crostini, and tosses them into stir-fries. "They're really good in sesame oil with salt and black pepper," she says.

**SCALLIONS** (*Allium fistulosum*), rich in vitamins A and C, taste like a mild onion. The white bulb ends have a sharper bite than the long, hollow greens, which enjoy just a gentle zing.

Mix them into mashed potatoes or make scallion pancakes. A staple of Chinese cooking, scallion pancakes are easy and fun to make, not to mention delicious. Scallions are also great with smoked salmon and cream cheese on a bagel or in an omelet.

"For me, egg dishes are where they shine," Kestell says. "I also love them in mac and cheese. I'll use them in tacos. They're great in baked potato soup and stir-fries. They're also great in any salad because they won't overwhelm the salad."

One of her favorite springtime salads is strawberries and spinach with chopped scallions and vinaigrette. The scallions and dressing "balance out the sweetness of the strawberries," says Kestell, who also adds scallions to biscuits and breads as well as sandwiches "for a little bit of extra flavor. They also go well in salsa if you don't like a real strong oniony flavor."

Kestell dries them in her food dehydrator so she can "use them all the time. I've always got some on the shelf, even in the middle of winter." \*

## GARLIC SCAPE PESTO

1 cup garlic scapes, sliced crosswise (about 10 to 12 scapes)

$\frac{1}{4}$  cup raw sunflower seeds

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup extra-virgin olive oil

$\frac{1}{4}$  cup Parmesan cheese

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup basil leaves

Juice of one lemon

## PREPARATION

Place the garlic scapes in a food processor and pulse for 30 seconds. Add the sunflower seeds and pulse for 30 seconds. Scrape down the sides of the bowl. Add the olive oil and process on high for 15 seconds. Add the Parmesan cheese and pulse until the ingredients are combined. Add the basil and lemon juice, and process until reaching the desired consistency. Add salt to taste and serve immediately.

*From NYT/Cooking*



## The long kick

BY KURT ANTHONY KRUG

Courtesy PAC-12

**JASON HANSON** ('92 Zool.) never imagined playing pro football for 21 years, let alone setting records.

Hanson holds the National Football League record for the most seasons played with one team, the Detroit Lions, having been selected in the 1992 draft. During that long career, he racked up the most points of any player for the Lions until his retirement in 2013.

"Being the Lions' all-time leading scorer goes hand in hand with playing so long with them, so it's an honor to hold that record," says Hanson, who lives in a Detroit suburb with Kathleen, his wife of 30 years. They have three children: sons Ryan and Luke, and a daughter, Jessica.

Hanson also set an NFL record for the most games ever played (327) with a single team. And he holds the NFL record for the most 40-plus-yard field goals (189). He ranks fourth in NFL history in career points scored (2,150) and field goals made (495).

Although the Lions haven't won a playoff game in more than 30 years, Hanson says he

was honored to play alongside NFL legend Barry Sanders.

"Barry still holds up as a sports icon and one of the most special NFL players ever. He could literally change a game in a moment. He was electrifying. That's probably my real claim to fame: I played with Barry," Hanson says.

After his retirement, the Lions inducted Hanson into the Ring of Honor.

"I never really pursued playing for another team, as they always were willing to re-sign me and I was willing to stay," Hanson says. "I liked not having to move my family, and throughout my career I thought, 'Why not try to win and be successful here?' as opposed to trying to find the highest bidder in the free agent market. The team success never happened, but I don't regret playing only for the Lions."

**GRADUATE ASSISTANT COACH GREG OLSON RECRUITED HANSON AS A WALK-ON FOR WSU.** After making the team, he was awarded a full-ride scholarship.

"Playing football at WSU was an amazing opportunity. The support for Cougar football is amazing. To this day, being a Coug means something everywhere I've ever been in the country. I played with icons like Drew Bledsoe, and I played in some iconic games, like when we beat No. 1 ranked UCLA in 1988. It was such a special experience," Hanson says.

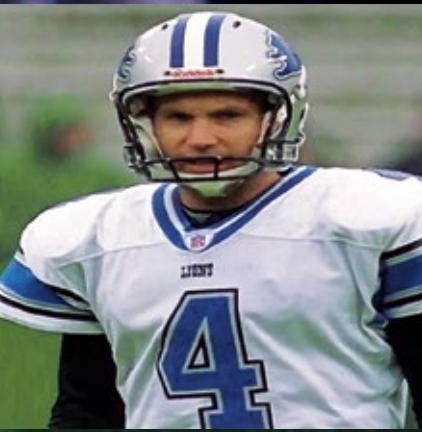
"The opportunities I was given as a kicker were extraordinary. We attempted long field goals that no other program in the country was trying. As far as my individual career, Coach Mike Price gave me chances to perform that were the reason for me eventually having a professional career."

In 2021, Hanson was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame, a milestone he called "surreal. I never would have imagined—walking on at WSU—that I would eventually be inducted," he says. "It is such an incredible honor, especially when you see the names of those who are already in the Hall."

**HANSON RETURNED TO WSU** after his first season with the Lions to complete two



**Above:** Hanson was the Detroit Lions kicker for 21 years. As a Coug, he holds NCAA records for field goals from 50 yards or more, and 40 yards or more. Photo kdoebl@att.net/Wikimedia Commons. **Below:** Video frame courtesy Detroit Lions



classes needed for graduation. Hanson says he remains grateful to have played football for WSU.

"The passionate fan base—the support from the Palouse, my hometown of Spokane, and the Inland Northwest—makes it so great to be a Coug. So, in that sense, I'm most proud to have actually played at WSU," he says.

Since retirement, Hanson has spent more time with his family, given private lessons to kickers, and done motivational speaking. His main activity, however, is supporting charity and faith-based events. He and his wife are very active in their church.

"For me, I think the most important development during my NFL career and now retirement is my growing faith and conviction," he says. "I believe each of us is in need of redemption and forgiveness, and it's found in Jesus Christ. And being a Christian athlete means I give my best to perform at the highest levels in sports, but that's always secondary for my identity. What God says of me and what God wants of me comes first." \*

BY JOHN CANZANO

## An MVP off the field

Rob Martin had been at Martin Stadium only for an hour when something went wrong.

"I didn't feel well," he says.

Washington State University was hosting the University of Utah in an important football game last fall. Martin, 56, who lives near Seattle with his wife and daughter and works as an engineer at Boeing, had an extra club-level ticket.

Also there was **ANDREA PERRY** ('11 Nursing). She's married with two young children and in a fight for her life. Perry, 33, has colon cancer. She's had surgery to remove a tumor and a section of her colon. That was followed by five weeks of radiation, a chemotherapy pump, dehydration, vomiting, and an emergency room visit.

"As crappy as the diagnosis was," she says, "it made me slow down and take time with my family."

Perry is an emergency room nurse. She works at Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane. Her husband, Ryan, is a nurse anesthetist. They have two children, a daughter and son, ages 3 and 1.

The Perry family holds WSU season tickets. Their seats are in Section 9. Prior to the season, Andrea posted on a fan message board, indicating she would miss some games this season.

A long-time WSU donor saw the message and reached out to Andrea, offering four of his club-level seats for the Utah game.

"We'd never sat in the club level," she says.

Martin didn't know he had a heart condition when he went to that game. Andrea Perry couldn't have known about it either. But as Andrea and her husband stood in line to get coffee, they looked over and noticed Martin sitting nearby, distressed.

Ryan had their 1-year-old son, Grayson, strapped to his chest in a baby carrier. Their 3-year-old daughter, Blakeley, was off to Andrea's side.

"That guy doesn't look good," Andrea whispered.

Ryan walked over to check. He noted that Martin was pale, sweating, and struggling to sit up. Just then, Martin slumped forward in the chair.

"I ran over," says Andrea. "He was unresponsive."

The ER nurse worked through a pandemic. Her husband did too. Now, they were at a Cougar

football game, back on the front line. The WSU fan had no pulse. He wasn't breathing. His color was fading. Andrea yelled, "Can you hear me?" No response.

So Andrea did what she's trained to do. She used the knuckles of her fist to perform a sternal rub on his chest.

Still no response.

"I knew I had to start CPR," Andrea says. She and her husband moved Martin to the floor. While the teams were playing on the field, the ER nurse began chest compressions.

One.

Then two.

Then three.

Martin's arms flew up. He gasped for air.

"He didn't know what happened," Andrea says. "He didn't know where he was."

Paramedics arrived. Martin spent the night in the hospital. The following day, he was discharged. Doctors say he has an "electrical signal" issue with his heart. It can be corrected without surgery.

"I appreciate that Andrea was present and willing to step in," Martin says. "She's an angel."

The nurse received a call from WSU football coach Jake Dickert. Running back Nakia Watson filmed a personal message for her. Also, former Cougars' coach Mike Leach reached out.

"I heard you saved a guy," Leach said. "What are the chances?"

Turns out, she wasn't done either.

A couple of weeks later, Andrea and her family were driving on US-95 from Spokane to Pullman for the Arizona State game. A fellow Washington State fan was pulled over on the side of the road in distress, having a seizure and struggling to breathe. Andrea and her husband pulled over. She snapped into ER nurse mode, clearing the patient's airway and instructing an arriving state trooper to dispatch Life Flight.

"I'm becoming a very firm believer that things happen for a reason and people are put in places they are needed," Andrea says. "Before my cancer I didn't believe that."

Andrea may have been thinking of others, but she had a scan scheduled for herself too. Doctors wanted to see if her cancer had returned.

"You're going to get good news," Leach told her on their call.

He was right.

Says Andrea, "I'm in remission." \*

**Feature**

ILLUSTRATION CINYEE CHIU

# Looking early



# for autism

BY LARRY CLARK

**The earlier that children** who are showing signs of autism spectrum disorder receive specialized intervention, the better the outcomes.

Early detection and intervention for autism spectrum disorder (ASD) can significantly improve the lives of autistic individuals. Research has shown that children who receive early intervention have better language skills, cognitive skills, and adaptive behaviors compared to those who do not receive early intervention.

**W**hile an estimated 1 in 44 children in the United States is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder by age 8, many kids get misdiagnosed or missed altogether due to the subjective nature of the diagnostic process.

Having a quick, objective screening method to encourage more extensive behavioral screening could help improve the accuracy and speed with which children are diagnosed. That's why Georgina Lynch and her research colleagues want to look into their eyes.

Lynch ('16 PhD Interdis.), assistant professor at Washington State University Spokane's Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, and her team have developed a tool that measures how the eyes' pupils change in response to light, known as the pupillary light reflex. Studies indicate that the eyes of children with autism respond differently than those of other children.

"It's a sensitive, indirect, noninvasive measure of neurodevelopment and could be an early indicator of autism," Lynch says.

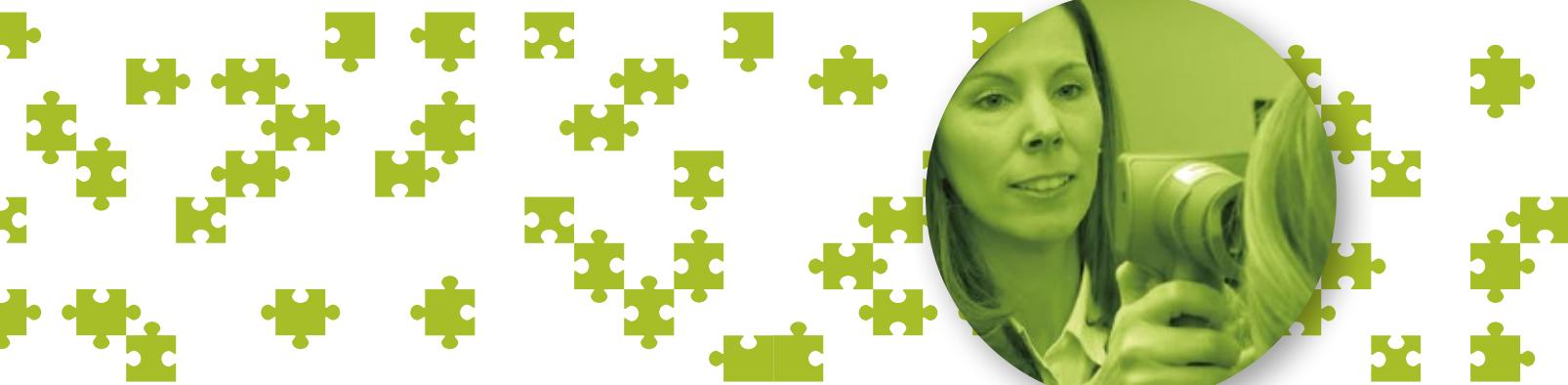
spectrum disorder," she says. "Many of these kids are late talkers or they're not talking at all, so speech pathologists are on the forefront of working with this population."

She watched parents struggle through the cumbersome process of pursuing a formal ASD diagnosis for their child, and wanted to help with an earlier, objective detection test.

Lynch would also often see kids with ASD affected by lights. "While working with these kids, it was really common to see shielding against the light and dilated pupils even under really bright light in our treatment rooms," she says.

"Often kids across the spectrum were wearing caps or tinted glasses. This photosensitivity stood out to me."

She notes that speech pathologists are trained to spot sensory issues and work to mediate them, such as turning down the lights. Lynch started thinking about the autonomic nervous system and cranial nerves that modulate both hearing and musculature for speech—and the pupillary light reflex.



GEORGINA LYNCH (COURTESY WSU INTEGRATIVE BRAIN FUNCTION AND NEURODEVELOPMENT LAB)

Since early intervention can reduce the severity of ASD symptoms and improve social interactions, communication, and daily living skills, the eye test could aid the work of health-care professionals like Dawn Sidell, director of the Northwest Autism Center in Spokane.

Sidell works with people with autism and their families. "The objective measurement can help physicians decrease that gap between identification and diagnosis, and increase the speed with which children get referred for treatment and support," she says.

Lauren Thompson at WSU's Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences also treats children with ASD. She says it would certainly help children to be diagnosed between 18 and 24 months since the average age of diagnosis in the United States is between 4 and 6 years old.

There's still a lot that isn't known about autism spectrum disorder, but detection tools could improve interventions and treatments at an early age.

### EYES TELL THE STORY

The idea for a portable eye-screening tool came to Lynch as a speech pathologist interacting with autistic children.

"I wanted to work with children and help them with communication needs, and that immediately led me to working with autism

Lynch received her interdisciplinary doctoral degree in neuroscience and psychology at WSU and began researching a tool to measure the eye reactions of children with ASD. They started with a more cumbersome binocular device in a lab, but found a smaller monocular device worked just as well in tests.

Trained clinical providers could use the handheld monocular pupillometer device to measure one eye at a time of a child. The researchers found that children with autism showed significant differences in the time it took their pupils to constrict in response to light. Their pupils also took longer to return to their original size after light was removed.

A pediatrician wouldn't need to administer the quick test. "It takes two to three minutes to do this test. A medical assistant or anyone working with kids in a medical setting can be trained to do this," Lynch says. A pediatrician could then interpret the results.

"Our hope is that this tool may be able to identify ASD as young as 18 months," she says.

Lynch and her team's next step will expand testing to a group of 300 or more 2- to 4-year-olds across a number of clinical sites, such as Seattle Children's Hospital, with funding from the Washington Research Foundation. The results could validate the device's

efficacy in younger kids and provide benchmarks for pediatric providers.

Meanwhile, Lynch is filing for Food and Drug Administration premarket approval for the device through her start-up company Appiture Biotechnologies, with support from WSU's Office of Commercialization.

"Washington Research Foundation has been particularly supportive," she says. "They understand the value of science that really helps change lives of people here in our state. We don't want to leave it in the university, where it may never see the light of day."

Lynch emphasizes that she doesn't do this research alone. Among her collaborators is third-year WSU medical student Lars Neuenschwander ('19 Bioeng.), who started working on the eye measurement device as an engineering undergraduate student.

"I like to say this is a whole community rallying around this research," Lynch says. "We're here for them as researchers at a land-grant institution. And locally, the Northwest Autism Center has been

says. "We're pretty excited about the research that WSU has pioneered in the use of biometrics and contributing to the diagnostic process."

Sidell, who received her nursing degree in 1987 at the Intercollegiate Center for Nursing Education in Spokane, says the American Academy of Pediatrics has established that the diagnosis can be made as young as 18 months. However, despite the exponential increase of autism identification in recent decades, there hasn't been a whole lot of success in improving the speed with which diagnosis gets made.

"We still see it languishing around age 4," Sidell explains. "Speeding up that process would be very helpful to children and families."

Gillian Brundage, clinical supervisor at the Northwest Autism Center, agrees. "If we can pack in as much learning in the first few years for any child, that's going to make a huge difference to their future. And having the appropriate tools influences the trajectory of that learning," she says.



DAWN SIDELL (COURTESY KXLY)

with us since the beginning. They're testing a whole lot of kids to help us build the data set."

Lynch wants to see the pupillary screening tool get in the hands of providers, but she recognizes that it could be a while and that it's just one step.

"This test will not help kids learn to talk, but it will absolutely help get them in with the right people who can assess what needs to happen to move that process along."

"I'm careful to say this isn't a be-all and end-all," she says. "That's the last thing we need in the autism research community. It's just one more piece of the puzzle. And I hope it helps build confidence for a health-care provider to start the assessment."

### THE VALUE OF SCREENING

Although the new pupillary reflex test is still in development, there are already several behavioral screening tools that can be used to identify children who may be at risk for ASD. The Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT) and the Early Screening of Autistic Traits (ESAT) rely on extensive interviews and multiple sessions.

"Historically, the diagnosis of autism has relied on interview and observation by qualified providers to make a diagnosis," Sidell

The Northwest Autism Center, which has its twentieth anniversary this year, serves as an Inland Northwest resource for people with ASD and their families. The center helps them navigate challenges such as finding a good place to get a kid's haircut or accessing dental services from people knowledgeable of sensitivities. The center is also a certified Behavioral Health Center of Excellence.

As the only state nonprofit that provides direct treatment services, people from all over Washington call for free ASD screenings. "It's not a diagnosis," Sidell explains. "But if screening results are positive, it gives people information to pursue further evaluation with a qualified physician."

Sidell has a son with autism who's now 28, but there weren't many resources when their family moved back to Spokane in 2000. She notes that insurance didn't cover treatment of ASD and there were only two pediatricians who specialized in evaluation and care of autistic children.

The community pulled together and launched the center three years later. It helped fill the gap, and Sidell says the center has worked very closely with the state's Health Care Authority, WSU, and the University of Washington to coordinate local training for providers so that they can meet state requirements for providing diagnosis and treatment referral.

As of 2014, Washington state covers ASD treatment through private and public insurance. About 50 trained providers now work in the region, and it is much easier for families to access a provider for a diagnostic workup.

Sidell says the center partners with WSU to bring in keynote speakers. "We make those available to the community and to students—in particular, medical students, but also other disciplines that are impacted by the needs of this population."

WSU students of speech and hearing sciences and others go to the center for practicum and internships.

"We value our relationship with Washington State University so deeply because of their commitment to advancing research in the area of autism spectrum disorder," Sidell says. "It fits very nicely with our own commitment."

WSU also assists children with autism directly at the University Hearing and Speech Clinic. Thompson, assistant professor of speech and hearing sciences, says they can identify risk of ASD in children.

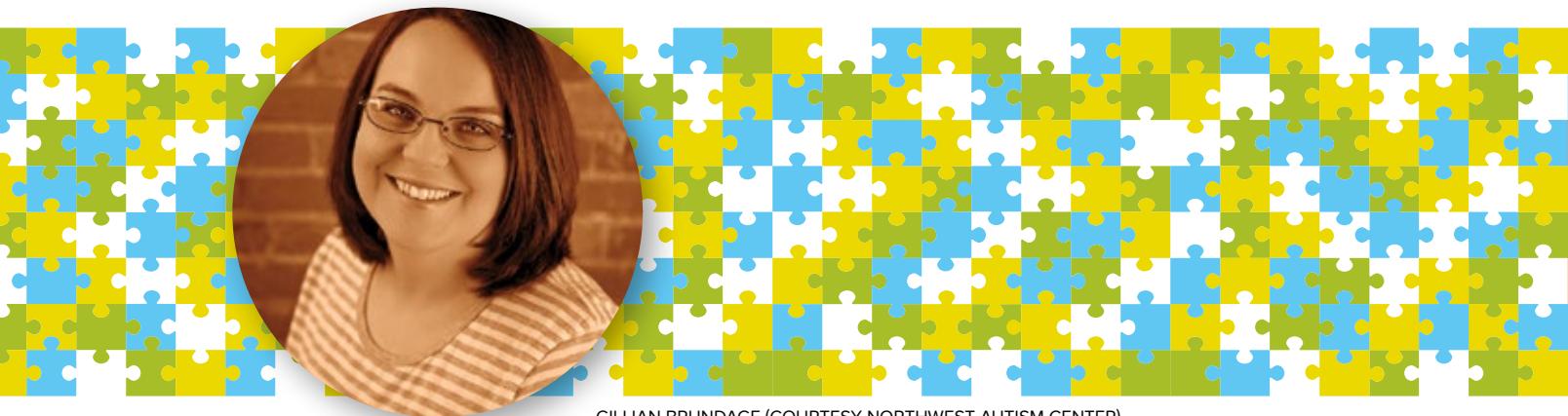
ence is for long-term outcomes, not just those immediate gains," Lynch says.

Thompson and the others point out that there are still some hurdles to assisting children with ASD and caregivers.

"It's not uncommon for families to be told that there's a 6- to 12-month waitlist to be seen by a provider who has the expertise to actually do the comprehensive assessment," Thompson says. "That's obviously too long when we have an optimal window for kids to receive access to intervention."

Access is particularly tough for people in rural communities. The Northwest Autism Center and WSU are expanding rural outreach through options such as telehealth partnership with parents. More people working in the field will help too. Brundage says the center had more than 200 parents come in last year that they couldn't serve because of limited staff.

Some underrepresented communities also lag in identification of ASD.



GILLIAN BRUNDAGE (COURTESY NORTHWEST AUTISM CENTER)

Thompson's research tries to address another big barrier: the quality of current screening tools for individuals. Thompson says that, according to the most recent statistic she has seen, only 17 percent of pediatricians conduct universal ASD screenings across the United States.

"Pediatricians are either not aware of the available tools or the tools don't work well enough that they feel confident using them in practice," she says.

Thompson is also curious about intervention models for infants and toddlers with autism, and how some children respond to certain interventions while others don't.

Thompson and Lynch are codirectors of a new WSU Autism and Neurodevelopmental Program of Excellence, which they hope will launch this year.

## EARLY TESTING, EARLY SUPPORT

Everyone involved in supporting autistic children agrees that an earlier assessment will start kids on a better footing.

"With autism, we know there are a lot of evidence-based practices that show it makes a difference when intervention is provided during that critical window of time. And the differ-

"We know that the sensitivity of the current behavioral screening tool, M-CHAT, for correctly identifying autism drops substantially if you're from an underserved community or minority group. It's because of social determinants that reflect how we report on that tool," Lynch says.

As Lynch and her colleagues measure the effectiveness of screening tools and investigate new tools, they make sure the focus is on the children with ASD.

"When we work with kids with autism, everyone is special. Every single child and every parent has a way of navigating through this process," Lynch says. "If this tool can help mediate some of that, I will have felt like I've made an impact that matters."

Thompson shares the sentiment. "Research here doesn't happen in a bubble. The work that we do with families and people with autism in our labs should have a direct and meaningful impact for the families and practitioners in our communities," Thompson says.

"My hope is really to just help children realize their full potential," Lynch says. "There's beauty in neurodiversity. There's also quality of life in terms of the ability to communicate your wants and needs."

"At the end of the day, it's really about helping children get to that point. So let's get them there." \*

**Courtrooms are stressful places** for young people accused of crimes. Expectations of certain behaviors, like eye contact with a judge, can elevate the tension. For teens on the autism spectrum who struggle with social cues, it might have even more repercussions.

"There might be kids who just can't stop fidgeting. And the court may interpret that as low self-control or disrespect or not taking the proceedings seriously," says Laurie Drapela, an associate professor of criminal justice at Washington State University Vancouver.

Drapela emphasizes the need for judges, lawyers, police officers,

have the young person understand the harm their behavior caused to the community.

When people get involved in the justice system, judges, juvenile probation counselors, attorneys, and juries are looking for understanding and empathy toward people who were harmed. Meeting those expectations can be difficult for autistic people, Drapela says.

Drapela studies the intersection of behavioral health and criminal justice, but she approaches the topic with a personal lens too.

"I've been part of autism empowerment for a very long time, having

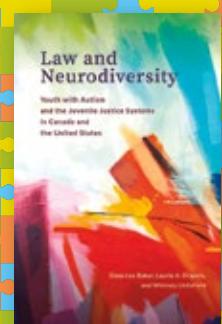
justice system can face a harder road without specialized assistance.

"How do you do this? What kind of supports are there for working with youth with autism?" Drapela says. "I would love to tell you it's a linear plan and it's all worked out, but the bottom line is that it goes child to child, practitioner to practitioner, and jurisdiction to jurisdiction."

National legislation in Canada guides juvenile justice practice, but the United States has both federal and state guiding policy. In most states, it's even decentralized to counties. Drapela sees the system



“...autistic children and teens who end up involved in the justice system can face a harder road without specialized assistance.”



counselors, and others connected to the justice system to recognize when they should use different approaches for autistic youth.

In the book she coauthored, *Law and Neurodiversity: Youth with Autism and Juvenile Justice Systems in Canada and the United States* (University of British Columbia Press, 2020), Drapela, Dana Lee Baker, and Cowlitz County juvenile probation counselor Whitney Littlefield recommend a commitment to understanding neurodiversity for better justice outcomes.

For example, Clark County, home of WSU Vancouver, uses a restorative justice framework for juvenile detention alternatives, which seeks to separate the offense from the offender, and then

a daughter on the spectrum, who's now 16," Drapela says. By the time her daughter was 4, the family saw that she avoided eye contact, preferred parallel play, and had other behavior that led to an assessment of autism spectrum disorder.

Her early assessment, along with family access to support and individually tailored education, contrasts with the experience of children on the autism spectrum who may not be diagnosed or whose families lack resources.

"They fall through the cracks, especially kids who are [from working poor families] or kids of color, and we did see this in the research for the book," Drapela says. Those autistic children and teens who end up involved in the

in the United Kingdom as a potential model.

Drapela says more advanced training in the UK's justice system grew from a strong partnership with autism advocates and legislative support from Parliament. Communities that want to build a more robust system could reach out to autism advocacy organizations to create training.

While Drapela and her colleagues studied youth with autism across two countries, gaps remain in understanding connections between neurodiversity, crime, policing, and justice systems.

"We need to do better at studying what's going wrong, so we can start making better policy decisions," Drapela says. 

**Children with autism** are far more likely to have sleep problems compared to typically developing children, including difficulty falling asleep, staying asleep, and waking up at night.

The reasons for autistic children's sleep issues are unclear, so Lucia Peixoto, assistant professor of translational medicine and physiology at the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine, studies the interplay between sleep and autism at a genetic level.

She says getting to the root of the difficulties could potentially help ease other autism symptoms, since sleep problems appear so early.

Peixoto's lab then studied mice with a mutation in the SHANK3 gene similar to what is seen in some patients with autism. Those mice took twice as long to fall asleep, slept less, and the sleep was of lower quality. This could explain why some individuals with autism simply cannot fall asleep, even if they're sleepy.

This finding is one of the earliest indications that sleep problems in autism may have a genetic origin.

The experiments with mice also showed decreased activity in a group of genes related to the body's circadian clock. Sleep-deprived mice had twice

"We know baby siblings of individuals with autism are much more likely to be diagnosed," Peixoto says. Sleep issues could be an early biomarker, and Estes showed that as early as 12 months, baby siblings who had trouble falling asleep were much more likely to later have a diagnosis.

Insomnia or poor sleep is not a side effect of your brain being different, though, Peixoto says. "It may be a core aspect of the disorder."

Peixoto points out that ASD is a developmental disorder and not everything is known about how sleep loss affects development. The Peixoto



LUCIA PEIXOTO (PHOTO CORI KOGAN)

"We need to talk about sleep," Peixoto says. "This is the first thing the parents bring to the pediatrician because it affects everybody in the household."

At WSU's Sleep and Performance Research Center, Peixoto examines sleep problems that may be linked to a mutation in SHANK3, a gene strongly linked to autism.

Peixoto and her colleagues first analyzed sleep data from patients with Phelan-McDermid syndrome (PMS), a genetic disorder often associated with autism known to be caused by a missing SHANK3 gene. Starting at age 5, most kids with PMS wake up multiple times, have trouble falling asleep, and often get less than six hours of sleep a night.

as many sleep regulation genes that didn't turn on correctly.

This suggests that people with SHANK3 mutations may experience worsening symptoms due to sleep deprivation, Peixoto says.

She collaborates on sleep research with Annette Estes, professor of speech and hearing sciences at the University of Washington, director of the UW Autism Center, and a specialist in early diagnosis of ASD. Peixoto says that the UW Autism Center received many comments from parents that they need to look at sleep. This prompted Estes to start her own research program on the connection between sleep, development, and autism, and forged the collaboration with WSU.

lab is continuing its autism research in collaboration with Marcos Frank, a world-renowned expert of sleep and development at WSU.

Plus, "there is no drug for autism. It is behavioral," she says.

Exploring the fundamental causes of sleep problems and ASD is more than academic to her.

"I wanted to work on something that was relevant to individuals and caregivers," Peixoto says. "Perhaps sleep problems can be detected very early on. As some aspects of the sleep problems develop as the baby develops, it potentially creates opportunities for intervention."

"And there's no debate that sleeping better will benefit everybody." 



# Women's Leadership Summit

□ **Friday, February 24, 2023 | 1:00–2:30 p.m.**

Cougs near and far are invited to participate in the third annual Women's Leadership Summit hosted by the WSU Alumni Association.

This online collaboration provides an opportunity to celebrate the successes and learn from the experiences of WSU alumnae. This year's Summit will highlight female leaders from across the OneWSU system and showcase how WSU played an integral role in their professional journeys.

Register today, then log on for the live event to be part of this important conversation.

☞ [alumni.wsu.edu/wls2023](https://alumni.wsu.edu/wls2023)



**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**  
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

- 
- 37** | alumni profiles
  - 41** | new media
  - 45** | class notes
  - 47** | in memoriam
  - 50** | alumni news

PICNICKING ON THOMPSON FLATS ON THE PULLMAN CAMPUS (FRAME FROM VIDEO—WSU VIDEO SERVICES)



*Courtesy Washington Research Foundation*

## Investing in invention

BY WENDA REED

**"I was told I was going to be a doctor," Ron Howell says of his parents' advice to him growing up. So Howell ('80 Biochem.) entered Washington State University as a premed student, but his heart wasn't in it.**

Instead, he became a partner of sorts with doctors and other health professionals. As CEO of the Washington Research Foundation (WRF) for 29 years, Howell helped researchers in Washington's university and nonprofit institutions turn their discoveries into commercial ventures to benefit public health. By providing funding, his influence has been felt in advances in an astonishing number of fields from vaccines, immunotherapy, and cancer treatment to AI-assisted 3D imaging, cardiac care, and inflammatory bowel disease treatment.

Getting there—as the Beatles' song says—was a "long and winding road."

Howell's father grew up in the projects in Youngstown, Ohio, facing a great deal of racial prejudice. He became a psychiatrist. His mother was a surgical nurse. "Education, education, education was what my parents emphasized," Howell remembers of his years growing up in Spokane and Lacey. "They said, 'You're Black, and that's what you need to be respected and have a good living.'"

The most respected profession they could think of was a medical doctor. "But I hate hospitals," Howell says.

At WSU, he enjoyed learning for learning's sake: calculus, chemistry—especially biochemistry—music, English. "I wanted a career, not just a job. But if I wasn't going to medical school, what would I do?"

He tried pharmaceutical sales. Hated it.

He took a job with a paper seller. Went to training and was told, "I thought you were White."

He sold hospital supplies. Found he was wasting time driving over a huge area,

so bought himself a computer, learned programming, and figured out how to maximize sales. He carried his computer skills into an insurance company, where he served as the operations coordinator. His promotion kept being delayed.

"One day I was having lunch with a coworker and his wife, and she said WRF needs a technology transfer specialist. They wanted someone with a life-science degree and a sales background who knew how to program," says Howell, who lives in Seattle with his wife of 42 years, Darlene Howell ('80 Finance). "That kind of describes me."

Howell was hired in 1989, joining a new field. In 1981, Tom Cable, Bill Gates Sr., and Hunter Simpson started the foundation because they were frustrated that researchers would invent things in a lab but never see a return on their investments. "We wanted to ensure that [the University of Washington] would benefit from the commercialization of intellectual property resulting from UW research," Cable said in a news release about Howell's recent retirement.

A technology transfer specialist manages intellectual property to help researchers get licenses and patents so that their innovations can be commercialized. “I had to learn some of everything—grants, litigation, patent law, big data,” Howell says.

There were so many aspects to analyze, he explains. “Is this innovation worth paying for a patent application? Can it be turned into a useful product? Is there enough market for it? Will the technology last? Is it different enough from other innovations? If it’s a medical application, will it get through clinical trials and FDA approval before the patent expires?

“When you’re trying to guess the future, you ask, ‘Is this even going to be a problem that needs addressing in 10 years?’ It’s like building a tollbooth in the desert and betting there’ll be a road and businesses around it in the future.”

But “there was actually an advantage to being a nonexpert,” Howell told the WSU Foundation. “I didn’t have to prove how smart I was. Instead, it was, ‘Tell me about your technology. Why is your innovation important and what are its limitations?’”

Howell thrived on the challenges, becoming president and CEO of WRF in 1992. Under his leadership, the foundation grew from an intellectual property licensing organization with \$13 million in assets to one of the state’s largest private foundations with assets of \$300 million. It has paid out more than 1,000 individual grants worth more than \$136 million. The grants went to university and nonprofit researchers in the life sciences and supporting technologies, all based in Washington state.

During the 1993–1994 fiscal year, Howell started WRF Capital to invest in start-ups, and it has invested in 118 companies since 1996. The endowment to fund the investments got a huge shot in the arm from a patent portfolio WRF managed for UW genetics professor Benjamin Hall and his company, Genentech. Hall and his associates perfected and patented a method of growing engineered proteins in yeast.

Companies have applied the method to the development of hepatitis B, HPV, and other vaccines, as well as insulins manufactured by Novo Nordisk and diagnostic proteins used to evaluate the safety of blood products.

Companies backed by WRF Capital are bringing innovations to market, ranging from tailored cell therapies and body-worn diagnostic tests to opioid withdrawal treatments and cloud-based virtual labs. There’s even a company that produces a nano-laminated alloy stronger and lighter than steel that may eventually replace conventional metals and composites.

Georgina Lynch, an assistant professor at WSU’s Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine, is developing a tool to screen toddlers for autism with WRF funds.

The foundation also invests in young people. Five years ago, it began awarding fellowships to 10 postdoctoral scientists a year in natural science and engineering with three years of salary support. Recent WSU recipients include Ellie Armstrong, biological science; Molly Carney, anthropology; and Ian Richardson, mechanical and materials engineering.

Fellowships are also granted to UW and WSU graduate students in STEM fields, UW undergraduates, and WSU’s Team Mentoring Program.

Of his own time at WSU, Howell says, “I will be ever grateful for the beginning of my education at WSU. It was a necessary start to a lifetime of learning from the best and brightest, which is what I really love.”

Now in retirement, Howell enjoys motorcycle riding—he recently took a 10-day western US trip—playing saxophone, and spending time with family. He and his wife have three adult sons: Spencer, Brenden, and Darrin.

He says he hopes WRF’s continued investments in young people will help make the upper levels of research and start-up companies more diversified. “You see fewer and fewer Black people in the sciences as you go from undergraduate to graduate to postdoctoral levels,” he says. “As I did, young people make all the decisions for their older selves, often without enough guidance.” \*



Rolita Flores Ezeonu. Courtesy Aspen Institute

## The equity in equality

BY THOMAS EVANS

**When Rolita Flores Ezeonu speaks out about the future, she addresses events of the recent past. She recalls images of George Floyd with a police officer’s knee on his neck, the air choked out of him as he begged for mercy.**

Floyd’s May 2020 murder sparked protests and difficult conversations across the country, but it also renewed and strengthened Ezeonu’s lifelong fight for equity and social justice in higher education.

“I’m raising kids who identify as Black”—her husband is from Nigeria—as well as Asian Pacific Islanders,” Ezeonu says. “That really has informed my work personally and professionally.”

Ezeonu (‘92, ‘94 MA Comm.) has worked her way up to vice president for instruction at Green River College in Auburn. The events of 2020, including the widespread protests following Floyd’s killing, furthered work she had been fighting for her entire career. Her mission: eliminating systemic inequities and barriers, and creating culturally responsive curriculum, instruction, and programming for students.

In September 2022 that work was recognized when Ezeonu was named a 2022–2023 Aspen Rising Presidents Fellow by the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program. The honor allows Ezeonu to continue building on her mission for equity in education.

“I look forward to being in community with this awesome cohort, to continued self-growth and reflection, and learning from the Aspen teachers, mentors, and community,” says Ezeonu, who appreciates the opportunity to grow and learn.

She is the eldest child of two Filipino immigrants who ensured she understood the benefits of higher education. “My father was a Sakada,” she says with a touch of pride, “one of the first wave of single Filipino men who immigrated to Hawaii in the 1930s. He was 15 years old when he arrived and worked on a plantation, cutting sugarcane, pineapples, and such for 10 cents a day. My mother had once dreamed of a college education, but took a job in a chicken factory, plucking feathers and prepping (poultry) for sale.”

It was hard labor with limited opportunities, so her parents put a huge emphasis on Ezeonu obtaining a college education. When she got into university, her parents were thrilled. But, for her, the excitement really started when she began studying communication and realized how it could serve as a conduit for bettering not just her life but the lives of others being denied equitable opportunities.

“I went from the rolling waves of Hawaii to the rolling fields of Pullman,” she says. “It was quite a contrast. In those days, it wasn’t very diverse at WSU. I doubt that students of color were even 10 percent of the population.”

Ezeonu began to look and think more seriously about her identity, sense of justice, and growing love of communication. She would sit in a cubicle in the WSU library, watching historical film reels of civil rights leaders and studying them in depth.

“I poured myself into studying the works of the Reverend Dr. (Martin Luther) King and other icons of social justice—not just what they said, but how they said it. That research, that work at WSU, really formed my young adulthood. It helped me in thinking about myself as an Asian American Pacific Islander, a person of color, a student, and as myself.”

After finishing two degrees at WSU, Ezeonu taught communication at community colleges in Seattle and Hawaii. As a Fulbright-Hays Scholar, she traveled to South Africa and Namibia to learn about post-apartheid reconciliation. She was also a visiting professor in Nigeria. After receiving a doctorate in education from Seattle University, she was appointed dean of instruction for transfer and precollege education at Highline College in Des Moines, where she later served as interim vice president of academic affairs.

In 2018, Ezeonu came to Green River College, where she continues to ask a question that not only defines her as a person but speaks to her legacy as an educator.

“As we move towards equity, as we think about anti-racism, as we think about anti-Blackness, as we think about the deaths of our Black and Brown sisters and brothers, what does that mean for institutions of higher education?” \*

Wood says, “Maybe 20 years ago there were no treatments for any neuromuscular diseases, and in the past 12 years alone there were 15 new FDA-approved treatments.”

One example of improvement is in spinal muscular atrophy. When a certain form of it is developed at birth, a person used to not develop any muscle tone and usually didn’t survive beyond 18 to 24 months, Wood says. With a drug developed from the MDA’s support, he says, he’s now seeing children 5 years old and older who are at a very different level physically.

Wood has actually been involved with neuromuscular disease research and muscle research overall for roughly 50 years. “I was the first to be able to record the muscle strength of a single human muscle cell obtained from

## The progress of changing lives

BY ERIC BUTTERMAN

**Donald S. Wood**, president and CEO of the Muscular Dystrophy Association, has devoted much of his life to improving the lives of people with neuromuscular diseases. Even though there’s a long way to go, the positive results have changed lives.

One of Wood’s major roles was in the 1980s, serving as director of the MDA task force that led to finding the genetic cause of Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a disease which leads to muscle weakness and muscle loss. “I felt that we needed to focus on the genetics of it at a time when there really was almost no technology that was able to identify a human gene like that,” says Wood (‘73 PhD Physio.), who was born and raised in Seattle.



Donald S. Wood. Video frame courtesy NeurologyLive

boys with muscular dystrophy and adults with muscular dystrophy,” he says. “And that was the first time anybody had ever seen single muscle cells and how they were affected by the disorder and regulated.”

Research has only continued to grow, and Wood explains that the MDA today links two great fields of research: development of new therapies and treatments, and new therapies for genetic disease.

“Being the leader of MDA allows me to participate in the development of what I call genetic medicine,” Wood says. “We are seeing advances in research and science that

have never occurred before in human history. We are truly, truly changing the course of medicine. So much so that we have also been invited by the FDA to participate with many others in how to develop clinical trials in disorders where you don't have enough people affected by them to do the gold standard—the double-blind placebo role trial.

"Most neuromuscular disorders are progressive, so whenever they start they get worse over time. Because they're genetic, the question is at what point in time of the person's progression will a treatment work to stop the disease? And how do you make people better when, in fact, the disease has actually caused the loss of tissue and the loss of function?"

Wood also leads the MDA in making strides in its national network of more than 150 care centers serving more than 60,000 patients a year.

And the organization doesn't just serve people with muscular dystrophy. In fact, the first gene ever identified as contributing to a form of familial amyotrophic lateral sclerosis was discovered by MDA grantees as well as the first drug developed to slow the disease, Wood says. "We were never a single-disease organization. We went where the science took us in neuromuscular disease," he says. In fact, the MDA has spent more than \$1 billion in research in neuromuscular disease.

Wood credits WSU as crucial to his career and where he is today.

"I would say my success subsequently has been directly traceable to my time at Washington State University on several levels," he says.

Attending a prestigious summer physiology course, which brought together students from around the world in 1969, contributed to his realization by comparing notes of the strong value of Washington State's educational philosophy.

"What I got from Washington State University and what I brought to the table was a broad knowledge of biology, zoology, and physiology. That has helped me transition from physiology to genetics, from animal models to humans," Wood says. "I've always been able to see the bigger picture in areas of science and medicine, and I trace that back to the time I was at Washington State University with their approach." \*

## From simple acts—great things come

BY ADRIANA JANOVICH

**When a friend confided suicidal thoughts, Nam H. Nguyen understood the feeling all too well.**

As a teen—shortly after arriving in the United States, hardly knowing any English, and experiencing bullying, homelessness, and other difficulties—he also "was suffering from mental health issues and depression" and had contemplated taking his own life. "That's why I get involved in these things," says Nguyen ('20 Busi.), who recently won the prestigious Diana Award for his service, particularly in the area of supporting mental health. "I want to help other students and people who are experiencing similar situations as I did."

Today, he and his friend "are OK," says Nguyen, a trained volunteer crisis counselor with global nonprofit Crisis Text Line who's put in more than 300 hours to support people in pain. This—along with his myriad volunteer experiences since coming to this country nearly 10 years ago—won him global recognition in honor of the late Princess of Wales and her belief, according to the award's website, that "young people have the power to change the world." The Diana Award recognizes those ages 9 to 25 for humanitarian work and social action.

"It means a lot to me," Nguyen says. Princess Diana "really inspired me, and this award is motivating to me to continue to do the things I have been doing and go out there and be the change I want to see in the world. I do believe young people have the power to make changes and tackle the issues they are passionate about."

Nguyen came to the United States from Vietnam at 16 in 2013, took English as a second language classes, and graduated from Kentridge High School in Kent. In 2015, he started classes at Washington State University, where he discovered a passion for business



Courtesy Nam H. Nguyen

and travel. He studied abroad on all seven continents, the subject of his TED Talk in Hanoi in 2019.

After graduation, he went to work for the global energy company BP, moving from Kent to Chicago and now Bellingham for work. At each location, he continued to give his time and talents by tutoring immigrants and refugees in English and in preparation for their citizenship test, delivering meals and learning materials to students and seniors during the COVID-19 pandemic, and writing letters to US military members stationed overseas.

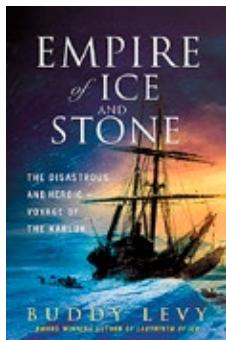
"I received tremendous support from people when I first came to this country and in school at WSU," Nguyen says. "I want to give back."

He encourages other young alumni to do the same. "It can be something very simple. But collectively these efforts make the world a better place."

In addition to working full-time and volunteering, he is pursuing a master's degree in educational technology online through Johns Hopkins University.

Christine Oakley, the retired director of Global Learning International Programs at WSU, nominated Nguyen for the award, which was presented virtually July 1, Diana's birthday. Oakley met Nguyen shortly after he arrived in Pullman. "I've watched him grow over the last 10 years—in confidence and from any setbacks that he may have had," she says. "He is a very persistent and talented and driven individual, but he's also a genuinely kind and thoughtful human being."

"He has a kind of inner sense of wanting to give back, and he has a remarkable story. It's an immigrant story, but it's also unique to him. When he sets out to do something, he does it." \*



## **Empire of Ice and Stone: The Disastrous and Heroic Voyage of the Karluk**

**BUDDY LEVY**

**ST. MARTIN'S PRESS: 2022**

A doomed polar voyage pulls modern readers to the early twentieth century in Buddy Levy's second historical adventure narrative set in the Arctic. Like the nonfiction writer's 2019 award-winning *Labyrinth of Ice*, this one, too, is a page-turner.

The saga starts in 1912 with Icelandic American explorer and ethnologist Vilhjalmur Stefansson disembarking a steamer in Seattle with spectacular tales of his most recent expedition. He's already scheming about his return to the Arctic and dreaming of the fame and fortune associated with discovering new lands.

Stefansson quickly organizes the Canadian Arctic Expedition, which launches in 1913 with three ships: *Mary Sachs*, *Alaska*, and *Karluk*. He sails aboard the *Karluk*, the flagship, which—from the outset—Captain Robert Bartlett worries isn't up to withstanding the ice, noting, the ship has "neither the strength to sustain ice pressure nor the engine power to force her way through loose ice."

Sure enough, just several weeks after departure, *Karluk* becomes icebound. And, while Stefansson and five other expedition members are out allegedly caribou hunting, the ship is carried away by floes. The 25 souls who remain aboard suspect Stefansson—whom Levy reveals has a secret common-law Inupiat wife and young son—deliberately abandons the ship, which is eventually crushed by ice.

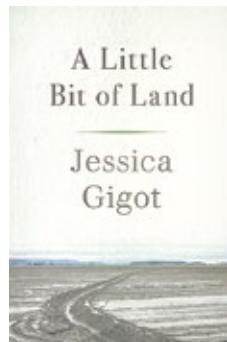
Now, crew members, their dogs, and a cat are stranded in subzero temperatures with limited supplies and makeshift shelters.

The castaways, including two young children, fend for themselves on the ice while Bartlett and Inuit hunter Kataktovik walk some 700 miles over frozen sea and coastal Siberia in an effort to instigate a rescue mission.

Levy, who's taught writing at WSU for more than 30 years, is a master storyteller whose latest thoroughly researched, spellbinding narrative is both profoundly horrifying and heroic. Like *Labyrinth of Ice*, which won the 2020 National Outdoor Book Award for history and the 2020 Banff Mountain Book Competition, *Empire of Ice and Stone* is an intense and riveting read.

Levy explores the leadership styles of both the self-sacrificing Bartlett and the self-serving Stefansson as well as what happens to the human psyche when terror and starvation set in against the backdrop of the harsh environment on the top of the world. His well-paced, captivating writing is chock-full of vivid imagery and description, making a gripping true tale all the more haunting, powerful, and hard to put down.

—Adriana Janovich



## **A Little Bit of Land**

**JESSICA GIGOT '06 MS PLANT PATH., '11 PHD HORT.**

**OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS:  
2022**

In this lovely and lyrical memoir, Skagit Valley sheep farmer Jessica Gigot ponders: "What does it mean to love a place? To know that you are in the right place?" She writes from a floodplain near sea level where, she notes, "winter is mud season," but the fertility of the soil "is ranked within the top 2 percent in the world."

An academic who understands both the biology and the beauty of the land upon which she lives and works, Gigot thoughtfully explores her ongoing journey into small-scale farming in the Pacific Northwest. Hers is a rare perspective, that of both poet and scientist. Her writing is welcoming and approachable, full of warmth and self-awareness.

In *A Little Bit of Land*, she effortlessly slips back and forth from describing the rhythms, challenges, and successes of small-farm life to the path she traveled to get there. While she reflects on finding her roots—from farm internships and failed relationships to higher education at a land-grant institution—she doesn't romanticize her experiences. She does the heavy lifting in the pasture as well as in her own story and soul. She isn't afraid to get down in the dirt.

As she comes of age, Gigot struggles to make connections and ponders her place among the animals and plants and people in the world. She is inspired by the writing of Wendell Berry, learns more about the importance of small-scale agriculture in sustainable food systems, and is among the first graduate students to live at the Olson Heritage Farm House at Washington State University's Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center in Mount Vernon.

After a stint in Oregon to start her doctoral degree, she feels called back to the Skagit Valley "like the scent of a riverbank to salmon that return to the same river every year." It's here that she eventually finds her sense of purpose and belonging.

Yet worries persist. Gigot grapples with "the paranoia that we're just too small to succeed" and wonders, in reference to Berry, whether she is "an exploiter or a nurturer." She writes, "Failure lurks around every corner: insect-ridden plants, a sick animal, the perpetually rising seed and feed costs."

Her pragmatic, heartfelt account of entry into contemporary agrarian life is well focused, immersive, and compelling. Gigot provides a sincere and eloquent contemplation that reads quickly but will also give people pause. There's much to consider in this slim volume. The importance of place. The meaning of home. The changing role and practices of the modern, female, small-scale farmer. The cultivation of contentedness. Finding footing. Family.

Her story offers inspiration and hope to other first-time farmers, particularly women, not only in Washington state but beyond the confines of the Pacific Northwest. Still, anyone with an interest in farming, locally grown and raised food, sustainable food systems, land stewardship, and the impact of land-grant universities would appreciate her testament, learning along as she does, “you own land, but you know it is not really yours,” and “pasture has its own grace.”

—Adriana Janovich

## **From Refugee to Consul: An American Adventure**

**HELEN SZABLYA '76 FOR. LANG.  
AND LIT., GERMAN 2021**

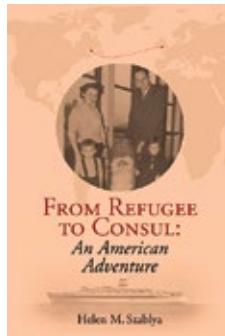
Helen Szablya is just 22 when she and her husband, John, their two toddlers, and newborn sneak out of Hungary, escaping Communism for Canada via Austria. It's December 1956, about a month after the revolution is crushed. Under the cover of night, they walk to freedom.

Helen's epic journey continues where her first volume, *My Only Choice* (2013), leaves off. *From Refugee to Consul* details the latter part of her extraordinary life—coming first to Canada, then Pullman, where John teaches electrical engineering at Washington State University for 19 years, and, finally, to Bellevue where Helen becomes an honorary consul of the country from which she escapes.

Helen recalls her life—raising seven children, earning a degree from WSU, working as a freelance writer, traveling back to Hungary—with warmth and gratitude, humor and charm. She recognizes her luck and privilege alongside her and her husband's hard work. It's a heartwarming read, punctuated with family photos, letters to and from family members, and nearly a lifetime of mostly rose-colored memories.

“I don't want you to think it was always milk and honey for us. We had our share of illnesses and worries, just like any other family, but I prefer to concentrate on the good news,” she writes.

The most detailed accounts are found in the first half, which features anecdotes of adjusting, as a young mother, to cultural dif-



ferences in Canada and America, particularly in Pullman in the 1960s and '70s.

From a unit in the Statesman Apartments (now condos) to an old farmhouse on Sunnyside Hill, the growing Szablya family builds a new life and makes many friends. The kids participate in Pullman's Summer Palace theater program. And Helen works toward her degree, often gaining credits at WSU by taking exams without taking the classes. She starts writing her memoirs and doing some freelance writing while her children are at school.

John's work takes the family on two year-long sabbaticals to Germany and Trinidad. Later, after moving to the west side, Helen serves as president of the Washington Press Association. As honorary consul, she works to build trade and cultural relations between the United States and Hungary. She wins awards for her writing and her work. In 2005, five days before John dies, the couple receives the Order of Merit from the president of the Republic of Hungary for their lives' work.

*From Refugee to Consul* spans nearly seven decades, and the last chapters bring readers right up to publication. Their overarching issues—refugees fleeing Russian invasion, women's history and leaders, Pacific Northwest immigrant history—remain relevant today.

—Adriana Janovich

## **Highest and Hardest: A Mountain Climber's Lifetime Odyssey to the Top of the World**

**CHRIS KOPCZYNSKI '71  
CONST. MGMT.  
FALCON: 2022**

He was 16 when he seared “Everest/Eiger” into the handle of his ice axe, articulating his

Helen Szablya in her own words (podcast): [magazine.wsu.edu/extra/Szablya](http://magazine.wsu.edu/extra/Szablya)

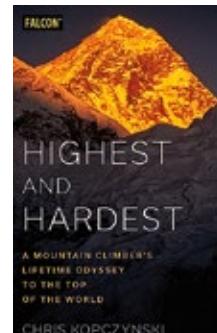
ultimate goals: summit Mount Everest and the north face of Eiger—the world's “highest and hardest” peaks.

Chris “Kop” Kopczynski recounts both adventures in his new memoir, which opens with a compelling description of life above 17,000 feet, where the brain numbs, heart rate accelerates, and digestion declines. “We were deep into the Death Zone, yet I've never felt more alive,” he writes in the introduction, recalling his Everest ascent. After that, he needed new goals. So he set out to complete the Seven Summits, scaling the tallest peaks on the seven continents—all milestones he reached within the next 10 years.

Reminiscent at times of Jim Whittaker's 1999 autobiography *A Life on the Edge: Memoirs of Everest and Beyond*, Kopczynski's memoir describes the allure of the mountains, human bonds that form while doing the difficult and dangerous, endeavoring to push himself to the limits, and persevering. He mixes personal history and philosophical musings with geography and geology, peppering pages with life lessons, words of wisdom “from the wild,” photos, sketches, and reminders that tragedy lurks on craggy peaks at high altitudes.

His autobiography offers some anecdotes about his Spokane childhood in the 1950s, but largely details his “marriage to the mountains” and numerous worldwide expeditions—from his first look at Mount Verendrye during a family vacation to British Columbia at 15 to climbing on weekends as a college student in Pullman, a post-graduation trip to scale the Matterhorn, and more.

It includes a foreword by friend and longtime climbing partner John Roskelley ('71 Geol.), who appears throughout the

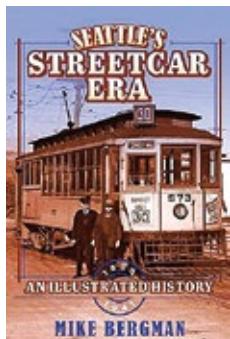


book. The last of the 26 chapters is “Into Thin Hair,” the volume’s original title when Kopczynski first had it self-published last year. It’s a humorous play on Jon Krakauer’s 1997 bestseller *Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster*.

Kopczynski’s words will resonate with seasoned and aspiring climbers and adventurers as well as armchair travelers who will discover that, for Kopczynski, a world-class climber who worked full-time as a general contractor in Spokane, mountaineering is more than a favorite sport. It’s a way of—and metaphor for—life.

“I believe that my brain was hardwired to climb in a way that often overrides feelings,” he writes. “Climbing to me is linear and intense. It’s similar to surfing, where you fix your eyes on the horizon while feeling the ocean. ... The higher and harder the mountain, the deeper my desire.”

—Adriana Janovich



## **Seattle's Streetcar Era: An Illustrated History, 1884–1941**

**MIKE BERGMAN**

**WSU PRESS: 2021**

Seats were made of wood or wicker, rides cost a nickel or dime, and Seattle’s population was booming. When cable cars and electric streetcars moved people around the city, the number of souls in Seattle nearly doubled in one decade (1890 to 1900), then tripled in the next (1900 to 1910).

Seattle’s population continued to grow into the 1930s. But by then, its streetcar era was beginning to decline. The story of Seattle’s streetcars is largely one of fi-

nancial hardship—employees of Seattle Municipal Street Railway were sometimes paid with promissory notes—as well as political and other challenges, including derailments and the city’s tumultuous takeover of the streetcar network in 1919.

Seattle native Mike Bergman’s well-researched account covers the rise of the city’s streetcar industry—13 companies provided streetcar service in Seattle in 1896—as well as its controversies, eventual collapse, and conversion to rubber-tired buses during World War II. Along the way, he offers glimpses into the growth of the city, its leadership, the way people lived, and, of course, how they got around. It’s a story of resourcefulness, perseverance, and adversity.

Bergman grew up on Queen Anne, where an underground counterbalance once propelled street cars up and down the hill’s 18 percent grade. It’s one of his favorite highlights. So is the self-proclaimed “Center of the Universe” that is Fremont, home of the old Fremont Trolley Barn, which now houses the production facility for Theo Chocolate.

Fremont was once a “grand union,” or junction where two double-track lines cross at a grade. Sixteen railroad switches allowed streetcars coming from any direction to go in any of the other three directions, making the neighborhood quite a bustling hub. Asphalt now covers the lines, but their influence remains. Seattle grew from downtown and the Central District through annexations of the “streetcar suburbs” of Ballard, West Seattle, and more. Routes influenced the city’s expansion and neighborhood development.

Bergman’s large-format, hardbound book also helps readers peer into the past through more than a dozen maps and a treasure trove of more than 100 archival images of old Seattle. He retired in 2016 after about 36 years as a transit planner for King County Metro and Sound Transit. He serves as president of the Tacoma Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society and volunteers at the Pacific Northwest Railroad Archive in Burien.

—Adriana Janovich

## **BRIEFLY NOTED**

### **The Washington Apple: Orchards and the Development of Industrial Agriculture**

**AMANDA L. VAN LANEN '04 MA, '09 PHD HISTORY**

**UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA PRESS: 2022**

Apples aren’t native to Washington. So how did the state become the leading producer of America’s most popular fruit? Amanda L. Van Lanen, professor of history at Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston, Idaho, traces the origins, evolution, and environmental consequences of Washington’s apple industry.

### **Tree Fruit Trade: An Agricultural Economist Reviews Fifty Years of Washington State’s Key Orchard Crops**

**DESMOND O'ROURKE**

**WSU PRESS: 2022**

Drawing from half a century at both Washington State University and through private consulting, O’Rourke pays tribute to the past and offers cautionary advice for the future of the state’s apple industry.

### **Jews in Contemporary Visual Entertainment: Raced, Sexed, and Erased**

**CAROL SIEGEL**

**INDIANA UNIVERSITY PRESS: 2022**

Carol Siegel, a professor of English, film, and women’s, gender, and sexuality studies at WSU Vancouver, explores the sexualization and racialization of American Jews in movies and television series from the 1970s onward, including *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*.

### **Nightmare on the Scottie: The Maiden Voyage of a Doomed King Crabber**

**STEPHEN D. ORSINI**

**BASALT BOOKS: 2022**

College buddies Steve and Jack kiss their girlfriends goodbye at Christmas 1969 for what they envision as a Caribbean adventure before classes start back up. What they encounter, instead, is a terrible passage fraught with delays, foul weather, fatigue, and failure. It’s one mishap after another

for the crew slated to deliver the *Scottie* to Seattle from Mobile, Alabama. "That's the trouble with a new boat," says the captain. "You just don't know what to trust."

## **Decolonising African Higher Education: Practitioner Perspectives from Across the Continent**

**EDITED BY CHRISTOPHER B. KNAUS  
'97 MA COMM., TAKAKO MINO,  
AND JOHANNES SEROTO**

**ROUTLEDGE: 2022**

In this scholarly work, professors and administrators challenge contemporary confines in higher education across Africa, examining strategies for applying Indigenous thought and methods to curricula, pedagogy, research, and other areas of academics.

## **Backwoods Railroads: Branchlines and Shortlines of Western Oregon,** updated edition

**D. C. JESSE BURKHARDT**

**WSU PRESS: 2022**

This volume has a fresh look and images as well as the full text of the first edition from 1994 and a new recap of the past nearly 30 years of rural railways in the Willamette Valley, Coast Range, Cascades, and Siskiyous.

## **Speech Sounds Adventures: Miss R** **KERI JONES '98, '00 MA SPEECH &** **HEARING SCI., ILLUSTRATED BY** **JESSICA JONES**

**2022**

Miss R takes a vacation from words in this choose-your-own-adventure-style book aimed at helping children ages 3 and older pronounce R sounds. Keri Jones is a speech language pathologist at Pullman Regional Hospital.

## **Spokane and Coeur d'Alene** **Freshwater Shark Attacks**

**JAMES P. JOHNSON '80 BUSI.**

**GRAY DOG PRESS: 2022**

This slim, spoof-tacular paperback lampoons 37 landmarks in the Inland Northwest, offering absurd histories of monuments such as the Garbage Goat sculpture in Spokane's Riverfront Park and places such as Vista House at Mount Spokane, Coeur d'Alene Resort, Tubbs Hill, and more.

# Happy

# ValenWines Day



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Helping students learn, especially abstract science concepts, brings joy to **JOHANNA BROWN** ('13 MIT Ed.). The desire to teach science led her to Washington State University for a master's in teaching, then across town to Pullman High School.

After several years of teaching chemistry and computer science, the National Science Teaching Association recognized Brown in 2022 for her achievement in science education, with the Robert E. Yager Exemplary Teaching Award. The award honors a teacher who makes science education accessible to students.

That award comes after Brown was one of six Washington state math and science teachers selected in 2021 as finalists for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching.

In addition to Advanced Placement chemistry and computer science classes, Brown coached the PHS Knowledge Bowl and Science Bowl teams.

"I once had a student in AP chemistry ask, 'Ms. Brown, don't you get bored just thinking about the same chemistry stuff every year?' I responded with, 'I'm not thinking about the chemistry, I'm thinking about you all learning the chemistry, and that always changes.'"



Brown's own latest change brought her to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) as science content lead for grades 6–12 in the state of Washington.

"Transitioning away from students has been incredibly hard," Brown says. "I miss their energy, ideas, and the immediacy of helping them. Being in a new role like I am with OSPI means that I get to influence the nature of many classrooms and hopefully help students in a very broad way."

Brown's new role keeps her focused on the big picture, but without losing sight of her goal of expanding equity in education and inspiring a love of science in students.

"Science is not memorizing the periodic table or knowing that the mitochondria are the powerhouse of the cell," Brown says. "It's making sense of the matter and energy around us and using our powers of explanation and expression to model and share human knowledge."

"To boil it down, the most important thing science education can do is to help students never lose the creativity and wonder to ask 'why?'"

BY LARRY CLARK

**70**

A novel by **PAUL R. PARADISE** ('75 Gen. Stu.) was a finalist for the 2022 Killer Nashville Claymore Award. His book, *Truth Is Always Changing*, was recognized in the "Best Investigator" category at a ceremony last summer in Franklin, Tennessee.

**80**

**RENEE LAEGREID** ('82 Int. Des.) was named the Andrew Allen Excellence Fellow in Western History at the University of Wyoming. Laegreid is a history professor specializing in the history of the American West with a focus on gender and culture.

**90**

**CELESTE MASTIN** ('90 Chem. Eng.) is president and CEO of H.B. Fuller, a manufacturing company. Previously, she was executive vice president and chief operating officer at the company. Mastin has more than 30 years of experience in manufacturing and distribution, and has held CEO roles at PetroChoice Lubrication

Solutions, Distribution International, and MMI Products. She serves on the board of directors of Granite Construction.

✖ **ROCHELLE L. HALLER** ('93 English) joined the Seattle office of law firm Fox Rothschild LLP as a partner in the taxation and wealth department. She represents clients in a wide variety of estate and tax planning matters as well as probate and trust administration. Active in several professional organizations, Haller is a fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, where she serves on the Digital Assets Committee. She is also a member of the American Bar Association, Washington State Bar Association, New York Bar Association, King County Bar Association, Estate Planning Counsel of Seattle, and the Uniform Law Commission. Before joining Fox, Haller was a principal at Foster Garvey. ✖ **NANCY KROOK** ('94 Soc. Stu.) is one of the first five members

inducted to the Society of Distinguished Alumni, a recognition created to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of WSU Global Campus. She has worked for 23 years as a lead administrative secretary for the Burlington-Edison School District and was recipient of Western Washington University's Outstanding Distinguished Education Award. She and her husband Frank currently live in the Skagit Valley area. Krook is the mother of two daughters, one of whom is also a WSU alumna. ✖

**ALICIA (OLFERT) HARVEY** ('96 Hotel & Rest. Admin.) has been appointed by the Montana governor to a second three-year term on the Montana Tourism Advisory Council. She was elected council chair in October and has worked in various leadership roles in the hotel and tourism industry since graduating from WSU. ✖ **JAMES MARTIN** ('97 Crim. Jus., Socio.) is branch manager at Herc Rental

in Des Moines. He's also building his own ProSolutions center and recently celebrated his twenty-fifth wedding anniversary with Sharon Martin. ✶ **SHARON (STREET) MARTIN** ('98 Bus. Ad.) is the director of regulatory operations at Delta Dental of Washington.

**00 JASON LEE** ('00 Busi. Admin.) is chief information security officer at Splunk, a leading data platform for security and observability. Lee has 20 years of experience in technology with a focus on information security and operating mission-critical services. Previously, he was the CISO at Zoom and senior vice president of security operations at Salesforce. He's also held various security operations roles at Microsoft. ✶

**BERNARD LAGAT** ('01 MIS) was inducted to the Inland Northwest Sports Hall of Fame, part of the first induction class since 2019. Lagat was a four-time NCAA champion as a WSU distance runner and helped his team set a collegiate record for the distance medley. He was also a 10-time All-American in track and cross-country and won five Pac-10 championships.

✶ **JAIME SHIMEK** ('01 Comm.) is the executive director of communications and external engagement at the Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Library in Richland, Washington. Shimek has more than 20 years of experience working with federal agencies and government bodies, including serving as the majority clerk for the House Appropriations Energy and Water Subcommittee in Washington, DC.

✶ **CANDACE BALTZ** ('02 Comm.) has opened Terracotta, a community pottery studio, in downtown Pullman. ✶ **BREA STARMER** ('05 Comm.) was named to *Puget Sound Business Journal's* "2022 40 Under 40." Starmer is the founder and CEO of Lions + Tigers, a business consulting firm focusing on building a culture of inclusion and enabling part-time and flexible work. Starmer founded the firm in 2015 after she was laid off while pregnant and sought to create the flexibility she wanted from

an employer. Teams members at Lions + Tigers are composed of 70 percent women and 33 percent Black, Indigenous, or people of color. Starmer is a member of the Carson College of Business's marketing advisory board and Women in Cloud.

✶ **SHELLEY BROADER** ('06 Soc. Sci.) is one of the first five members inducted to WSU Global Campus's Society of Distinguished Alumni. She has worked as a CEO, executive officer, or board member for Walmart, Michaels Stores and Chico's. She was named to *Fortune's* "Most Powerful Women International" list in 2015 and is a corporate board director for multiple companies, including Dutch Bros. Coffee.

✶ **LISA KING** ('08 Soc. Sci.) is one of the first five members inducted to WSU Global Campus's Society of Distinguished Alumni. King founded Hudson Bay Insulation with her husband, Jim King ('80 Busi., Const. Mgmt.), in 1990. She and her husband are benefactors and laureates of WSU. She is also president and chair of the board of directors of the WSU Foundation. ✶

**RICARDO RAMIREZ** ('08 PhD Entom.) was honored at a ceremony during Utah State University's 2022 Inaugural Professor Lecture Series, at which faculty who have been promoted to full professor highlight their accomplishments and academic journeys. The first person in his family to attend college, Ramirez is an entomology specialist and professor in USU's biology department.

**10 STACEE KRATOVIL** ('11 Busi.) is senior family advisor at Parcion Private Wealth. She previously served as a vice president at U.S. Bank Private Wealth Management and a senior portfolio manager for BMO Harris Bank. ✶ **MICHAEL HERSETH** ('13 Civ. Eng.) is a civil engineering manager at Ware Malcomb in Seattle. ✶ **KATEY KOEHN** ('14 Soc. Sci.) is one of the first five members inducted to WSU Global Campus's Society of Distinguished Alumni. She's the director of technical program management for Walmart Global Tech and has also worked for eBay, Yahoo, and

Verizon. Koehn is an active member of WSU's Alumni Association and serves as vice president of the board of directors. ✶

**TAG JACKLIN** ('14 MBA) joined the Coeur d'Alene Bancorp and bankcda board of directors. Jacklin is a board member and president of Jacklin Land Company and Riverbend Commerce Park in Post Falls, Idaho, and a partner in Bighorn Ventures. Jacklin is also the board director for the Post Falls Chamber of Commerce and board director and treasurer for the Coeur d'Alene Area Economic Development Corporation. ✶ **ISAIAH MCELROY** ('17 Arch.) is an architectural associate at the design firm BCRA. He supports BCRA's multifamily residential and retail markets at the Tacoma office.

**20 NAM NGUYEN** ('20 Busi.) was named to the 2022 Points of Light Inspiration Honor Roll. Founded by George H. W. Bush Sr., the recognition was created to honor acts of service, kindness, and civic engagements in communities around the world. ✶ **SARAH MOVIUS** ('21 MCER) received the WSU College of Education's Ferrucci Distinguished Educator Award for her work with educational escape rooms. Movius previously taught English as a foreign language to students in Mongolia through Peace Corps and has worked as a substitute teacher and paraeducator. ✶

**MADDIE COMES** ('22 DVM) is a staff veterinarian at Double Arrow Veterinary Clinic in Choteau, Montana. ✶ **GARY RUBENS** ('22 Soc. Sci.) is one of the first five members inducted to WSU Global Campus's Society of Distinguished Alumni. Rubens is an investor and philanthropist whose more than \$31 million in donations to the Washington State Opportunity Scholarship have benefited thousands of students who couldn't otherwise afford college. Rubens himself was originally accepted to WSU in 1981, but his family couldn't pay for him to go. Forty years later, he finally earned a WSU degree of his own.

# INmemoriam

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**SALLY JANET MUNN** ('47 Bacterio.), 96, October 3, 2022, Olympia. **JUNE M. BILLS** ('x'48 Lib. Arts), 95, July 2, 2022, Boulder, Colorado. **G. EDWARD ROBERTS** ('48 Ag., '54, '59 MA Ed.), 93, September 3, 2016, Wenatchee. **SUE L. SUTTER** ('48 Chem.), 95, October 14, 2022, West Richland. **WAYNE MARTIN FONDAHN** ('49 Busi., Phi Sigma Kappa), 95, June 25, 2022, Walla Walla.

50

**DONALD WARREN FOWLER** ('50 Econ.), 92, April 29, 2019, Beaverton, Oregon. **EDWARD CARL GAYDA** ('50 Econ.), 94, December 11, 2021, Spokane. **FRANCES C. KISSLER** ('50 Home Econ.), 93, November 2, 2022, Boise, Idaho. **WILLIAM D. NELSON** ('50 Forest & Range Mgmt.), 95, November 4, 2020, Augusta, Georgia. **PATRICIA M. SCHEIBEL** ('50 Int. Des.), 92, March 4, 2021, Seattle. **I. ROSEMARY SMITH** ('50 Busi.), 94,

September 5, 2022, Vancouver. **BEN LARS SWANSON** ('50 Accounting), 96, June 17, 2022, Hilton Head, South Carolina. **JANET W. BURKE** ('51 Home Econ., Kappa Kappa Gamma), 92, September 21, 2022, Clarkston. **EDWARD M. HANKS** ('51 Ag.), 95, September 8, 2022, Cashmere. **LORAN ALLEN CLARK** ('52 Busi., Pi Kappa Alpha), 94, October 9, 2022, Issaquah. **JOAN MARIE (DRUMHELLER) DILLON** ('52 Ed., Kappa Delta), 92, August 19, 2022, Kaneohe, Hawaii. **ALFRED E. SLINKARD** ('52, '54 MS Agro.), 91, November 24, 2022, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. **MICHAEL JOHN STONE** ('52 Ed.), 92, August 2, 2020, Eatontown. **HOWARD W. WHITE** ('52 Gen. Stu.), 91, December 17, 2021, Vandalia, Illinois. **NANCY VALAINE (SCOLE) MAGIOS** ('53 Music, Ed., Kappa Delta), 91, September 6, 2022, Silverdale. **HOWARD YANCEY RESER** ('53 Accounting), 89,

January 18, 2022, Walla Walla. **JAMES R. SHELVER** ('53 Civ. Eng.), 93, August 20, 2022, Langley. **MARGARET MARY CASSENS** ('54 For. Lang.), 89, August 25, 2022, Cottonwood, Arizona. **DONALD BARNETT KING** ('54 Psych.), 90, October 20, 2022, Washington, Missouri. **MARY R. LAMB** ('54 Comm.), 89, August 21, 2021, Olympia. **PHILIP J. BURKE** ('55 Busi.), 87, September 17, 2018, Phoenix, Arizona. **BETTY ARLENE GRIDLEY** ('55 Nursing), 85, October 30, 2019, Pueblo, Colorado. **BEVERLY JEAN NELSON** ('55 Home Econ., Child. Dev.), 87, April 6, 2021, Bothell. **THOMAS CHARLES WRIGHT** ('57 MA Kinesio.), 93, August 5, 2022, Victoria, British Columbia. **ANNETTE HENDRICKSON** ('59 Elem. Ed.), 85, August 30, 2022, Idaho Falls, Idaho. **RICHARD W. JENSEN** ('59 Econ.), 83, November 29, 2020, Santa Barbara, California. **JACK D. STEVENS** ('59 Busi.),



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87, January 23, 2020, Colville. **DELEE F. STRONG** ('59 Gen. Stu.), 86, May 27, 2022, Morton.

MS Comp. Sci.), 76, November 17, 2022, Kingman, Arizona. **WILLIAM D. HYSLOP** ('73 Poli. Sci.), 71, September 11, 2022, Spokane.

**JOHN WALTER WELCH** ('07 Soc. Sci.), 74, July 19, 2021, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. **SANDRA L. CABLE** ('08 Crim. Jus.), 58, October 25, 2022, Winnemucca, Nevada.

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**JUDY ELMQUIST** ('60 Ed.), 84, January 23, 2022, Spokane. **ERWIN CLAUDE LEWIS** ('60 Busi.), 84, October 21, 2021, Knoxville, Tennessee. **BRUCE D. BUCHANAN** ('61 Gen. Stu., Beta Theta Pi), 84, November 6, 2022, Anderson Island. **CAROL ELLEN DECHENNE** ('62 Elem. Ed.), 82, April 5, 2022, Bozeman, Montana. **GERALD DAN LARSON** ('62 MAT Music), 93, August 28, 2022, Plains, Montana. **CAROL ANN CHENEY CARLON**, ('63 Elem. Ed., Kappa Kappa Gamma), 80, Yakima, March 30, 2022. **LAWRENCE V. GRANT** ('64 Poli. Sci.), 76, June 28, 2019, Afton, Minnesota. **TERRENCE JOSEPH BALL** ('65 Zool.), 79, July 10, 2022, Mercer Island. **ANNE MARIE GENTRY** ('65 Speech & Hearing Sci.), 79, October 8, 2022, Kenai, Alaska. **RALPH KEM MCMILLAN** ('66 Busi.), 79, August 20, 2022, Van Nuys, California. **ELAINE THOM** ('66 Elem. Ed.), 77, September 29, 2020, Chehalis. **JAMES C. VANDENBERGE** ('66 PhD Zool.), 86, November 4, 2022, Naperville, Illinois. **MARLENE ANN FALLQUIST** ('67 Bacterio.), 76, September 3, 2022, Mercer Island. **JOHN A. SCHOEFF** ('68 Elec. Eng., Alpha Gamma Rho, Tau Beta Pi), 75, May 8, 2022, Spokane. **KENNETH M. MEYERS** ('69 PhD Vet. Sci.), 80, October 27, 2022, Sagle, Idaho. **DOUGLAS NESS** ('69 Busi.), 77, August 18, 2022, Vancouver. **RICK D. WILLIAMS** ('69 Accounting), 76, November 14, 2022, Newport Beach, California.

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**TERRY D. CAMPBELL** ('70 Music), 75, July 20, 2022, Lake Stevens. **LYNDA DIANNE MCCUALEY** ('70 Home Econ.), 73, April 15, 2022, Olympia. **ROXI VALLENE MOHONDRO** ('70, '73 MS Phys. Ed.), 74, July 6, 2022, Kennewick. **JUDIETH ELAINE SCOTT** ('70 Bacterio.), 70, January 16, 2019, East Wenatchee. **JOHN W. MURPHEY** ('71 Gen. Stu.), 74, November 6, 2022, Mount Vernon. **STEPHEN JOHN FILSINGER** ('72

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**JOHN PAUL FABIAN** ('80 PhD Ed.), 88, August 18, 2022, Richland.

**DAN VAUGHN** ('91 History), 54, October 30, 2022, San Jose, California. **TINA DANETTE ENGBRETSON** ('93 Elem. Ed.), 51, July 13, 2021, Yakima. **MISSY GAIL LEE** ('93 MA Anthro.), 63, October 9, 2022, Palouse. **PEGGY F. SPIELMAN** ('99 Soc. Sci.), 73, August 28, 2021, Vancouver.

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**MARIS MAREEN DIGIOVANNI JORDAN** ('14 Elem. Ed.), 30, October 6, 2022, Spokane.

## FACULTY AND STAFF

**JOHN J. BERNEY**, 69, Facilities Services, 1997-2020, October 14, 2022, Uniontown. **✖ BRUCE BRENDAN DAVITT**, 73, School of the Environment, 1978-2018, September 19, 2022, Pullman. **✖ EUGENE "GENE" W. GOURLEY**, 62, Facilities Services, 1987-2022, October 27, 2022, Moscow, Idaho. **✖ DEBORAH LYNN HILL**, 68, Facilities Services, 1985-2019, September 4, 2022, Viola, Idaho. **✖ MICHAEL LANDERS**, 64, Libraries, 1998-2022, September 24, 2022, Pullman. **✖ MELISSA "MISSY" LEE**, 63, University Advancement, 1994-2022, October 9, 2022, Palouse. **✖ JODEAN MOORE**, 87, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, 1984-2000, October 5, 2022, Lewiston, Idaho. **✖ HERBERT NAKATA**, Molecular Biosciences, 92, 1959-1993, September 7, 2022, Pullman. **✖ JERRY ALLISON NEIDIGER**, 74, Nuclear Science Center, 1974-2000, May 16, 2022, Milwaukie, Oregon. **✖ DWYLA F. NELSON**, 90, Housing, 1986-1997, April 5, 2022, Hayden, Idaho. **✖ RICHARD A. PARKER**, 91, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, 1956-1995, September 27, 2022, Moscow, Idaho. **✖ JAY RICHARDSON**, 65, Business, 2021-2022, November 12, 2022, Portland, Oregon. **✖ THOMAS P. RUFF**, 86, Education, 1968-2001, July 27, 2022, Seattle. **✖ PHYLLIS SHURTLEFF**, Nursing, 90, 1980-1996, November 5, 2021, Seattle. **✖ KA'IMI SINCLAIR**, 60, IREACH, 2015-2022, October 16, 2022, SeaTac. **✖ LYNN G. WHEATON**, 79, Veterinary Clinical Sciences, 1989-1998, June 10, 2022, Pullman.

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# The biggest reunion

**THE WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION** is gearing up for a record-breaking number of class reunions, many of which were postponed early in the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sixteen class reunions are scheduled for the first weekend in June. Hundreds of alumni are expected to return to WSU Pullman to reconnect with the campus and classmates, and celebrate their college years.

Honored will be the classes of 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1980, 1981, 1982, and 1983—marking 40 to 73 years since graduation.

"It's the most reunions we've ever held at the same time," says Kim Mueller, director of alumni engagement for WSUAA, noting the last round of reunions was held in 2019.

Four—Crimson, Golden, Diamond, and Platinum—are typically held each year.

This year's festivities, slated for June 1–4, feature four classes each of Crimson, Golden, Diamond, and Platinum alumni.

Crimson marks 40 years. Golden marks 50 years. Diamond marks 60 years. And Platinum marks 70 years.

Mueller has already received calls from members of the celebrated classes, asking for info.

Plans are still being finalized, but call for golfing at Palouse Ridge Golf Club on Thursday. Friday features a welcome from administrators as well

as opportunities to visit different colleges and departments, followed by happy hours by decade and by major or department. Saturday, there are more opportunities to visit colleges and departments, including lunch with WSU Athletics, as well as an optional motor-coach tour of Pullman or a campus walking tour.

"I don't want mobility concerns to keep anyone from coming," Mueller says. "We will guide them or drive them anywhere."

Families of alumni are also welcome. "We're working with WSU Housing to offer the option to stay in one of the residence halls as a less expensive way for people to bring their children or grandchildren."

Saturday night in the Compton Union Building's M.G. Carey Senior Ballroom is the grand finale: a three-course banquet with a keynote speaker and musical performances. Another gathering is planned Sunday morning before departure.

"My hopes are that everyone feels honored and special and treasured," Mueller says. "It's been a difficult three years of not having hosted the reunions. It recharges the staff; we get as much joy out of it as the alumni do. We look forward to hearing their stories."

Crimson, Golden, Diamond, and Platinum alumni who would like to share memories—of favorite classes, professors, places on campus, special moments—are invited to email anecdotes to [wsm@wsu.edu](mailto:wsm@wsu.edu).

For more information about the reunion weekend, visit [alumni.wsu.edu/reunions](http://alumni.wsu.edu/reunions).



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BY LARRY CLARK

## Volcano views

ONE OF THE AESTHETIC JOYS of Washington State University's Vancouver campus is the proximity to the Cascade Range. Campus planners more than 30 years ago took advantage of the vistas and aligned the central walking mall with a stunning view of Mount St. Helens. Look in another direction and you can see Oregon's Mount Hood.

On clear days, it almost feels like the campus's Salmon Creek location is throwing distance from the volcano.

The location of Mount St. Helens offers more than postcard beauty. WSU scientists take a closer view of the mountain since it offers a living laboratory of the effects of a volcanic eruption. The massive 1980 explosion covered the region in ash, but researchers have watched the return of life there.

Biology professor John Bishop at WSU Vancouver has studied the region since 1990. He returns often to the Pumice Plain to observe the plants and animals and monitor biodiversity on permanent survey plots for WSU.

The Cascades Volcano Observatory in Vancouver also keeps an eye on the mountain. "Mount St. Helens was important because it was so well observed, and it spurred investigations of volcanoes in the Cascades," volcanologist Don Swanson ('60 Geol.), who witnessed the 1980 eruption and worked at the observatory, told *Washington State Magazine* in 2020. \*

VIEW OF MOUNT ST. HELENS FROM THE WSU VANCOUVER CAMPUS QUAD (PHOTO LAURA DUTELLE)

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Highlights of Jason Hanson's football career; WSU research visualized



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Author Buddy Levy on writing historical adventures; Helen Szablya's amazing life, in her own words



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Photographs from WSU campuses and around the state