



SEATTLE UNIVERSITY

MAGAZINE

GROUNDBREAKING ART GIFT

A GLOBAL VIEW

This vivid and candid image, photographed in Senegal by Hannah Sutherland, '24, titled "Boys of Dakar," earned first place honors at this year's Imagining the World photo competition. This annual competition, featuring photography by students and faculty/staff, captures moments at home and abroad depicting the wonders of the spaces, places and people that surround us.

[Read more about the competition](#)



SEATTLE UNIVERSITY

MAGAZINE

EDITOR

Tina Potterf

LEAD DESIGNER

Marissa Leitch

SENIOR WRITER

Andrew Binion

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Mike Allende, Mike Thee

CONTRIBUTING DESIGNER

Terry Lundmark, '82

UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHER

Yosef Kalinko

VICE PRESIDENT / UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

Scott McClellan

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

Mike Allende, Ellen Whitlock Baker, Julie Brady, Edgar Gonzalez,
Shane P. Martin, Scott McClellan, Robin Meeks,
Anne Moran, Eduardo Peñalver

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY: RISING TO THE CHALLENGES OF OUR TIME



Today, the challenges universities face can often seem daunting. Events this spring on campuses across the country could not have made that clearer. Those challenges include declining trust in higher education institutions, increasing political polarization and the deteriorating state of civil discourse on (and off) campus. More broadly, as a global society, we confront significant, seemingly existential, challenges. These include climate change and the imperative to create a sustainable future; widening economic inequality and a legacy of racial inequity and division; and, finally, rapid (and accelerating) technological change, which threatens to upend our social and political institutions, even as it creates both economic dynamism and opportunity.

At Seattle University, our mission to empower leaders for a just and humane world calls us to help our students (and by extension, our society) to understand and grapple with all these challenges. Deploying the Jesuit educational model to create transformational leaders who will become individuals for and with others, Seattle University offers a distinctive antidote, which has three key ingredients—the excellence of our academic program, our commitment to sustaining an inclusive academic community and our distinctively interdisciplinary and engaged approach to educating students, rooted in the 500-year-old Jesuit educational tradition.

This issue of the magazine includes examples of all three of these ingredients. From our groundbreaking effort to reimagine and revise our curriculum to our Ethics and Tech Conference and the new director of our broader ethics and tech effort, Associate Professor Onur Bakiner PhD, the academic excellence of Seattle University is on full display. So is our commitment to ensuring that our excellent education remains accessible to people of all backgrounds and means. Seattle University is the most economically diverse selective university in Washington state. And, in this issue, you can read about our recent designation by the federal

government as an Asian American Native American Pacific Island Serving Institution (AANAPISI), as well as the changes we are making to the Indigenous Peoples Institute under the new leadership of Senior Director Jill La Pointe.

Finally, in an increasingly digital world—a world of ubiquitous screens, where social media increasingly supplants genuine personal engagement—the Jesuit model of higher education calls us to foster true intellectual and personal encounters. In a world full of intellectual junk food, Seattle University offers the rich educational equivalent of the family dinner. For example, throughout our history, Jesuit universities have inspired students' minds and spirits by exposing them to the visual and performing arts. Seattle University is in the process of launching the Seattle University Museum of Art, which will house the remarkable Hedreen Art Collection. Spanning more than five centuries of art history, the new art museum will be a key teaching resource that will provide our students with access to the Hedreen collection, which contains some of the finest works of art produced over the same period of time the Jesuits have been in existence. In this issue, you can learn more about the Hedreen family's historic gift of art—the largest single gift ever to any university in the state.

In short, these are challenging but exciting times for Seattle University. Combining the three key ingredients in the "Seattle University antidote," we are hard at work in addressing the challenges of our time. With the combined efforts of our students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends and community partners, Seattle University is up to the task.

Eduardo Peñalver
President

ON THE COVER

Art featured in the Hedreen Art Collection, a transformative gift to Seattle University that will ultimately be showcased in an on-campus Museum of Art.

DID YOU KNOW...

SU EARNS AANAPISI DESIGNATION FROM U.S. DEPT. OF EDUCATION

The U.S. Department of Education has designated Seattle University an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI), recognizing not just demographics and support for AANAPI students but SU's Jesuit-inspired commitment to inclusive academic excellence.

This establishes the university as a Minority-Serving Institution, a federal designation recognizing when a school enrolls significant numbers of ethnic or racial minority students. The designation makes SU eligible for federal funding opportunities to further serve the AANAPI community.

One key eligibility requirement for the designation is having an enrollment of undergraduate students that is at least 10 percent Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander. In fall 2023, more than 36 percent of undergraduates identified as Asian and nearly 4 percent as Pacific Islander.

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

"Our AANAPISI designation will allow us to expand our resources to financially support additional educational and mentorship programs in furtherance of academic excellence that benefits the greater Seattle University community."

—President Eduardo Peñalver

[Read the full story](#)



Betty and Richard Hedreen

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

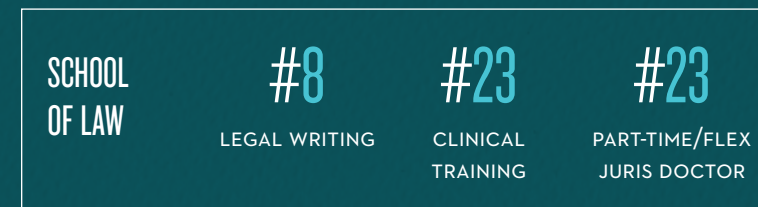
"Betty and I always felt that we were custodians of the artworks we acquired, holding them in trust for a larger purpose. The Jesuits place a special focus on the arts and humanities, including art history, and that has long been reflected in Seattle University's Jesuit education and its connections to the Seattle arts community."

—Richard "Dick" Hedreen, on the gift of the Hedreen Art Collection—with 200+ pieces and valued at \$300M—to Seattle University.

[Read the full story](#)

GRADUATE PROGRAMS EARN TOP MARKS

The Albers School of Business and Economics, the College of Nursing and the School of Law landed eight of their programs in the Top 25 of the latest *U.S. News & World Report* "Best Graduate School" rankings. In all, more than a dozen programs at SU were noted by *U.S. News* as among the best in the nation.



WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

"This year's ranking is a tremendous achievement for our college. We take pride in graduating not just competent clinicians who master practice standards, but also compassionate care providers inspired by Seattle University's Jesuit tradition."

—College of Nursing Dean Butch de Castro

[Read the full story](#)



NOBEL PEACE LAUREATE SPEAKS AT SU

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Kailash Satyarthi visited Seattle University this spring in a talk sponsored by the RoundGlass India Center.

Satyarthi spoke on global compassion as a transformative tool for justice, peace and sustainability.

"Mr. Satyarthi's life-long advocacy for inclusion and justice for the most vulnerable members of society has changed India and the world," says Sital Kalantry, JD, founder and director of RoundGlass India Center. "As a social reformer, he is one of India's greatest treasures."

Since 1980, Satyarthi's organization Bachpan Bachao Andolan has liberated more than 100,000 children from child labor, slavery and human trafficking. Satyarthi and his partners have given voice to the voiceless and developed a successful model for education, rehabilitation and reintegration for the children freed from the bonds of oppression.

MORE NOTABLE VISITORS TO CAMPUS

Erika Cheung, a key whistleblower in the Theranos case, was on campus to give the talk, "Ethical Leadership: Cautionary Tales from Theranos and Silicon Valley."



Presented by the Center for Business Ethics and partnering sponsors the Student Government of Seattle University and School of Law's Technology, Innovation Law and Ethics (TILE) program, Cheung shared her experience as a medical researcher and most notably her role in reporting the medical diagnostic company Theranos to health regulators.

Presidential Speaker Series on Free Speech on College Campuses

This academic year President Eduardo Peñalver launched his Presidential Speaker Series focused on freedom of speech and discourse on college campuses.

Guests have included Gretchen Ritter, vice chancellor and provost at Syracuse University, *New York Times* columnist and best-selling author David French and Erwin Chemerinsky, dean of the UC Berkeley School of Law.

The Role of AI in Health Care

The second annual Ethics and Technology Conference explores complex issues that may emerge from the use of artificial intelligence in the health industry.

BY TINA POTTERF

The tools of artificial intelligence offer the potential for health care to become more effective and equitable. But as we race to embrace these advances, are we as a society truly ensuring that we do no harm? Thought leaders from across disciplines discussed the complex issues that emerge as we harness AI for health.

This important conversation, grounded in Seattle University's Jesuit tradition of facing challenges with reflection and contemplation, took center stage at the second annual Ethics and Technology Conference on June 27, built around the theme, "Where AI Meets Humanity in Health Care: What's Next?"

The conference is an extension of the university's initiatives around ethics and technology. Issues around these subject matters often lead to productive discussions about the human impact of transformative technologies such as AI, the Internet of Things and cloud computing. These technologies can produce educational resources that contribute to a world in which everyone benefits from the opportunities these technologies make possible.

Conference Speakers



Christof Koch
Meritorious Investigator and Past President at the Allen Institute for Brain Science



Dr. Vin Gupta
Chief Medical Officer for Pharmacy, Amazon; part-time Critical Care Pulmonologist at Virginia Mason; Critical Care Air Transport Physician in the U.S. Army Reserve; Affiliate Assistant Professor at the Institute of Health Metrics and Economics at the UW; and a medical analyst for NBC



Blythe Adamson
Head of Outcomes Research and Evidence Generation, International at Flatiron Health, New York; Founder of Infectious Economics



Ty Kayam
Principal Corporate Counsel for Health and Life Sciences, Microsoft; Adjunct Professor of Law, Seattle University



Mjaye Mazwi
Seattle Children's Hospital: Division Head of Cardiac Critical Care Medicine, co-Executive Director of the Heart Center and Principal Investigator in Systems Biology; UW Professor



Alex John London
K&L Gates Professor of Ethics and Computational Technologies, Carnegie Mellon University



Stephanie Simmons
Expertise in law, regulatory compliance ethical thought and technology



Jay Naduri
CTO and Co-Founder of Truveta



Joanna Black
General counsel, Madrona Ventures Group

Ethics & Tech Expert Fr. Paolo Benanti is Returning to SU as a Visiting Professor

At Seattle University's first Ethics and Tech Conference in 2023, one of the presenters among thought leaders in tech and artificial intelligence—and their intersection with ethics—was Father Paolo Benanti, a professor in Rome and a Rome Call for AI Ethics Advisor to Pope Francis.

Father Benanti is returning to Seattle University this summer as a Distinguished Visiting Professor to support SU's Ethics and Technology initiative at the invitation of President Eduardo Peñalver and Provost Shane P. Martin. Fr. Benanti, who was recently nominated as the new president of the Artificial Intelligence Commission on Information in Italy and is a member of the United Nations Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence, will be on campus for a one-month stint beginning in late July.

"I am very excited to be able to engage with the academic community of Seattle U and to

undertake something that covers different disciplines," Fr. Benanti says. "I am convinced that it will be a truly valuable experience for me and I am ready to contribute to the educational mission of Seattle U."

As Distinguished Visiting Professor, Fr. Benanti will engage with students, faculty, staff and community members to enhance the university's work on ethics and AI and how SU can be a leading voice in this ever-evolving global conversation. Engagement with the campus and greater community will come by way of presentations, workshops, panels and more. Fr. Benanti also will support faculty who work at the intersection of ethics and tech.

"Seattle University is very fortunate to have one of the world's leading experts in ethics and technology join us as a Distinguished Visiting Professor," says Provost Martin. "From this position Fr. Benanti will have great influence for our students, faculty and the various tech industries with whom we partner in our region."



[Read more about Fr. Benanti and his work with AI and tech in Rome.](#)

[Learn more about the conference.](#)

Growing the Graduate (Student)

Seattle University enhances Graduate, Online and Professional Education to meet the needs of today's students with a nod to the future via expanded courses, state-of-the-art facilities and enhanced programming.

BY TINA POTTERF

Seattle University is ushering in a new era of graduate, online and professional education with a wave of advancements aimed at enriching the student experience—from specific programs to physical spaces for learning—while meeting evolving academic interests and career trends. The university's recent enhancements include state-of-the-art facilities for executive and hybrid education, strategic program expansions and a commitment to lifelong learning.

While Seattle University has always offered a range of graduate and professional level

options, including certificate programs, the university has made a greater commitment to amplifying graduate school with an emphasis on providing a high-quality academic experience for those who are in-person and online. To this end, Graduate, Online and Professional Education is a new unit that is multidisciplinary and meets students where they are professionally or where they want to go, says Trish Henley, PhD, Vice Provost for Graduate, Online and Professional Education and Dean of Graduate Education.

"The educational and upskilling needs of our

students and alumni continue to evolve well after they have completed their traditional degree programs," says Henley. "Seattle University is committed to building adult education programs that are responsive to changes in labor trends and technology skills, thus supporting the educational needs of our alumni and community partners throughout their careers."

While the needs of our students may not change, often their career paths do, notes Henley, citing that on average, people switch jobs five times within their working years.



Like our undergraduate students, Seattle University is committed to providing a tailored and fulsome experience for graduate and professional students, all underscored by a holistic Jesuit model of educating the whole person. It's part of the university's long-term vision for graduate and professional education.

"One of the things we are charged with is building an exceptional student experience," says Henley, and that includes meeting graduate and professional students where they are and offering flexibility with evening and weekend classes and online learning that is engaged and connected with peers who are in-person. And, post-pandemic, 80 percent of adult students want a hybrid or fully online experience, says Henley.

As of fall 2023, SU's graduate programs have 2,241 graduate students—and 748 law students—enrolled, with 22 percent being

international students. "Fifty percent of our students are Gen Z," she explains. "We are thinking about how we are building our graduate programs and what a younger generation expects and needs."

Seattle University's commitment to excellence extends beyond campus, with strong partnerships with industry leaders like Boeing, Expeditors, Costco and others. This collaboration enhances educational outcomes and job opportunities for students, aligning academic rigor with real-world demands.

Cutting-Edge Learning Environments

A major highlight of Seattle University's investment in graduate programs is the redesign of learning spaces within Hunthausen Hall. This overhaul was not merely cosmetic but focused on pedagogical innovation and inclusivity for both in-person and remote learners—it also reflects the focus on working in teams and

community building within a cohort. Henley emphasizes the importance of creating a cohesive experience regardless of the student's physical location. "We wanted to build a space where remote and hybrid learners can have the same experience, not a lesser one," says Henley.

The revamped spaces feature advanced technology, mobile amenities, breakout areas—u-shaped learning pods for in-person students, equipped with wall-mounted flat screen TVs and Alexa-like speakers—and a serene spot outside that features a meditation garden, which is a testament to the university's dedication to holistic education (it's also a perfect quiet spot for executive leaders, for example, to take a phone call.) Soon the building will be enhanced even more with the installation of an art wall.

In addition to infrastructural upgrades, staff were relocated strategically to reside

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in Hunthausen. Most of SU's Graduate, Online and Professional Education staff have moved into new offices in the building. This move also includes the Albers' Executive Leadership certificate program and Leadership Executive MBA to the modernized spaces tailored to foster leadership in its students.

Expanding Program Offerings

Beyond the dramatic changes to the physical spaces and building modifications are the notable additions to the courses and programs at the heart of graduate and professional learning. Recent additions include an Online Master of Mental Health Counseling, Online Master of School Counseling and Online Master of Criminal Justice. Looking ahead, the unit is currently accepting applications for four additional programs launching this summer and in the fall, including the Online Master of Science

in Cybersecurity Leadership, online options for the Executive Leadership Certificate program and the Sport and Entertainment MBA and the new Hybrid Master of Education in Transformational Teaching and Learning. The university also already offers an Online MBA and an Online MS in Business Analytics and online and hybrid programs in the School of Law. These offerings respond to industry demand and the preferences of a diverse student body, with an eye toward lifelong learning and career adaptability.

A Vision for Future Growth

The university's leadership is unwavering in its commitment to educational quality and accessibility. The renovation of Hunthausen underscores a commitment to creating student-centered environments that foster collaboration and innovation. As Seattle University expands its online platforms

and programs, it remains focused on preparing students for the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow's workforce. In the next academic year, the unit will also launch several non-credit certificates and workshops as well as a team to support bespoke leadership training and upskilling for our community and corporate partners.

"As we look to the remaining years of our strategic plan, our focus remains steadfast on enhancing educational quality, expanding access through online platforms and fostering an environment supporting academic and lifelong professional growth," says Henley. "The progress we have made thus far serves as a foundation for the continued transformation of Seattle University into a leading institution that not only meets but also anticipates the needs of future generations."



Championing Inclusivity and Empowerment for Graduate Students

Krishna Kanth Sriramagiri reflects on his experience as president of the Graduate Student Council.

BY TINA POTTERF

In 2022, when Krishna Kanth Sriramagiri arrived in Seattle from India—to attend graduate school at Seattle University—he knew that one of the best ways to really experience college life and meet new people was by getting involved in activities outside of his studies.

Sriramagiri, who graduated this year with his Professional MBA from the Albers School of Business and Economics, set his sights on the Graduate Student Council (GSC). And before long, he was a leader among peers helping to make the grad school experience meaningful for all graduate and professional

students, especially international students like himself. It started with his decision to run for a seat with the GSC.

"GSC was having elections for the new academic year and so I ran for Vice President in April 2022 and then for President the following year," Sriramagiri explains. "When I first came here, I never imagined getting so involved and attached to Seattle University."

Reflecting on his journey, Sriramagiri zeroes in on the transformative potential of the university. "I see Seattle University currently in the mix of major positive change," he says. "There is so much potential we could fulfill in enhancing the student experience."

As president, his priorities included initiatives that those who come after him can continue to build on. This includes advocacy for international students unable to work off-campus due to visa restrictions, fostering career engagement opportunities and promoting events and programming—such as a Valentine's Day gathering and a celebration for Hispanic Heritage Month—geared to the uniqueness of a graduate or executive student but open to all students.

Sriramagiri stresses the importance of inclusivity and community-building, especially for a diverse group of graduate students balancing various commitments from full-time jobs to family obligations. He encourages all graduate students to consider attending one of the GSC general assembly meetings, held every two weeks during the academic year, where they can discuss issues and dialogue with the council.

Regarding the GSC's influence within the university's governance, Sriramagiri highlights the president's seat on the Board of Trustees. "As president I met quarterly with top university leaders," he says, "where I represented graduate students who have distinct needs, especially concerning career opportunities, financial hardships and social connections."

Looking back on his role as president, what sticks with him the most is the real difference he was able to make. "The feeling of doing something for people, of giving back. It's a privilege and an honor of doing something where your actions can benefit others," he says. "And when you see some of the things you have worked on get implemented, it's very rewarding."



Knowledge of the Culture

The new senior director of the Seattle University Indigenous Peoples Institute, Jill “*tsi sqʷuxʷaʔl*” La Pointe, may be new to the role but her connections to campus run deep.

BY ANDREW BINION

Though Jill “*tsi sqʷuxʷaʔl*” La Pointe is just months into her role as senior director of the Seattle University Indigenous Peoples Institute (IPI), she and her family have long been intertwined with the university community.

And her roots run deeper still into the Indigenous communities of the Puget Sound region.

“There’s a unique opportunity to provide support to Indigenous students and faculty to really raise awareness on campus as a whole about Indigenous peoples and Indigenous knowledge and ways of being,” says La Pointe about her role and that of the IPI. “The culture is the First People and language of this land.”

As the institute’s senior director, La Pointe will work to educate both the tribal communities and the non-Native communities about the possibilities and opportunities available at Seattle University.

“The school’s mission and vision align so well with the cultural values that I was brought up with,” La Pointe says. “I just can’t imagine it not being appealing to the tribal communities.”

La Pointe’s grandmother is Upper Skagit elder Vi “*taqʷšəblu*” Hilbert (1918-2008), the renowned teacher and preservationist of the Lushootseed language. Lushootseed is a member of the Salish language family, spoken from northern Oregon to central British Columbia. Hilbert is the namesake for both Seattle University’s Vi Hilbert Ethnobotanical Garden as well as Vi Hilbert Hall.

Community for Native Students

Through student outreach and support, the Indigenous Peoples Institute, founded in the fall of 2016, provides a community for Indigenous students and raises awareness about issues important to Indigenous peoples.

“It was a nice spark of hope in an otherwise dismal time,” says Professor Christina Roberts, who co-founded the institute and served as director until La Pointe took over. In its third year on campus the institute moved into its current space in the Xavier Global House after being housed first in Roberts’ office and then the Matteo Ricci Institute. Roberts remains connected with IPI as its faculty director.

The IPI fosters mentorship and supports and elevates programming and activities for students and the campus as a whole to meet renowned artists, writers, scholars and elders from Native American,

Alaskan Native and First Nation communities. Past guests of the IPI include historian Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, author of *Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States* and Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg scholar Leanne Betasamosake Simpson.

Chief Seattle Club Executive Director Derrick Belgarde, ’13, ’15 MPA, says it is important to have resources on campus like the IPI for Indigenous and Native students.

“Natives tend to feel very isolated and alone in city settings,” says Belgarde. “There are not a lot of Native communities to make one feel connected and to give them a sense of belonging, especially in higher ed. Groups like IPI are crucial for well-being and retention.”

Connections to Campus

La Pointe is a member of the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe and is also a Nooksack descendent. In addition to her role at SU she is also the director of Lushootseed Research, a nonprofit founded by Hilbert, dedicated to continuing her work.

“With the background that I have in Lushootseed language and culture, and also my experience having been an Indigenous student at a university campus, I’ll understand some of the unique needs of students and be able to offer that support.”

La Pointe was first immersed in Seattle University in 2006 when her partner, John La Pointe, attended the School of Theology and Ministry, leading them to relocate from the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community. At the same time Pat Twohy, S.J., who has for decades worked extensively with tribal communities throughout the Northwest and Canada, relocated to Seattle University and the three spent time together learning about their new home.

“The longer I was around Seattle University, the more I grew to really appreciate and respect the core values and mission of the school,” she says.

Father Twohy says La Pointe is uniquely suited for the position not just because of her depth of cultural knowledge and leadership qualities, but also because she knows what it means to work herself through school.

“She knows what’s involved just from her own experience and her own effort to make it in academia and I think that’s very important, knowing it from the inside of what students might be feeling,” says Fr. Twohy.



To help support the endowments dedicated to the Indigenous Peoples Institute, both the Indigenous Peoples Institute Patrick Twohy, S.J. Endowment and the IPI Endowed Scholarship Fund, contact Katie Chapman in University Advancement, chapmank@seattleu.edu or (206) 398-4401.



From Volunteer to CEO

Niki McKay shares how she built one of the fastest-growing private businesses in the state with Blue Danube Productions.

BY MIKE THEE

“Tap into Seattle University’s network. If you know what you want to do, be specific in what you’re asking for. If you’re still figuring it out, try different things. It’s okay to explore.”

—NIKI MCKAY

Niki McKay didn’t set out to start her own company.

“Originally, when I left Seattle University, I had all these plans,” says McKay, who is a dual graduate—earning degrees in 1988 from Matteo Ricci College and in Business Management the following year. “I wanted to work for the World Bank or some big corporation. Eventually, I got involved with Seattle Children’s Hospital as a volunteer. We were producing events to raise money for the Uncompensated Care Fund and people would come up to me and say, ‘You’re really good at this. You should make money doing this.’ I thought about it and decided to give myself a weekend to come up with a business plan and a name. And so, here we are 17 years later.”

Here is the headquarters of Blue Danube Productions, which McKay (née Szablya, when she attended SU) founded in 2007 and leads as CEO. Today the production company—with its nearly 20 employees at its Seattle headquarters and an additional 120 contractors in offices throughout the country—works on about 400 events annually. Among other awards and accolades, Blue Danube was recognized as one of the fastest-growing woman-owned companies in the state and in 2022 the *Puget Sound Business Journal* ranked Blue Danube the second fastest-growing private company in the state.

In this Q&A, McKay talks about her time at Seattle University, her experience leading a successful company and most memorable event.

How did your academic journey unfold?

McKay: I started out as a mechanical engineering student—I come from a family of engineers. I was doing fine...ish. I was a super-awesome student except for my engineering classes. My advisors said, ‘Look, you’re clearly struggling in your engineering classes. Why don’t you take a break and spend a quarter taking classes that look interesting. Just do something fun.’ It was a game-changer. I switched to business and the world suddenly made sense.

What was the biggest takeaway from your time at Seattle University?

McKay: I tell this to anyone who asks me about SU: The Jesuits taught me how to think and question everything. My favorite professor was (History Professor) Dr. Dave Madsen. We got to know each other pretty well because I worked in Matteo Ricci as a work study. We used to get into these big discussions about philosophy and one of the things that it taught me was you can look at the same problem from different perspectives. I value how Jesuit education taught me to question things in a productive, healthy way, whether that be a process I’m doing here at work or with something going on in the world or even a conversation I’m having with a friend who’s looking for advice.

Why did you choose “Blue Danube” as the name of your company?

McKay: I’m Hungarian. Hungary’s capital city is Budapest and Buda and Pest used to be two different cities separated by the Danube River. Back in the day, the founding fathers built a bridge to bring the city together. The audio/video world and event planners don’t speak the same language. We are the bridge that brings people together to create flawless events.

How is Blue Danube different from other event production companies?

McKay: When I started the company, I said I wanted to be ‘The Nordstrom of A/V.’ When we sit down with our clients we ask what they want to get out of an event, rather than telling them we have this or that equipment. I want us to be a cut above, approachable. We don’t talk down to our clients. We educate them and involve them in the process.

What’s been the most memorable event you’ve been involved with so far?

McKay: We worked with the Pacific Science Center on a luminary series for two years and one of those years they brought in Stephen Hawking, Jack Horner and Leroy Hood. It was amazing, working with all these incredible minds. We work with celebrities a lot and people always ask if I got their autograph. Celebrities don’t get me excited. For me, it’s people who change the world.

What challenges have you confronted as woman in business?

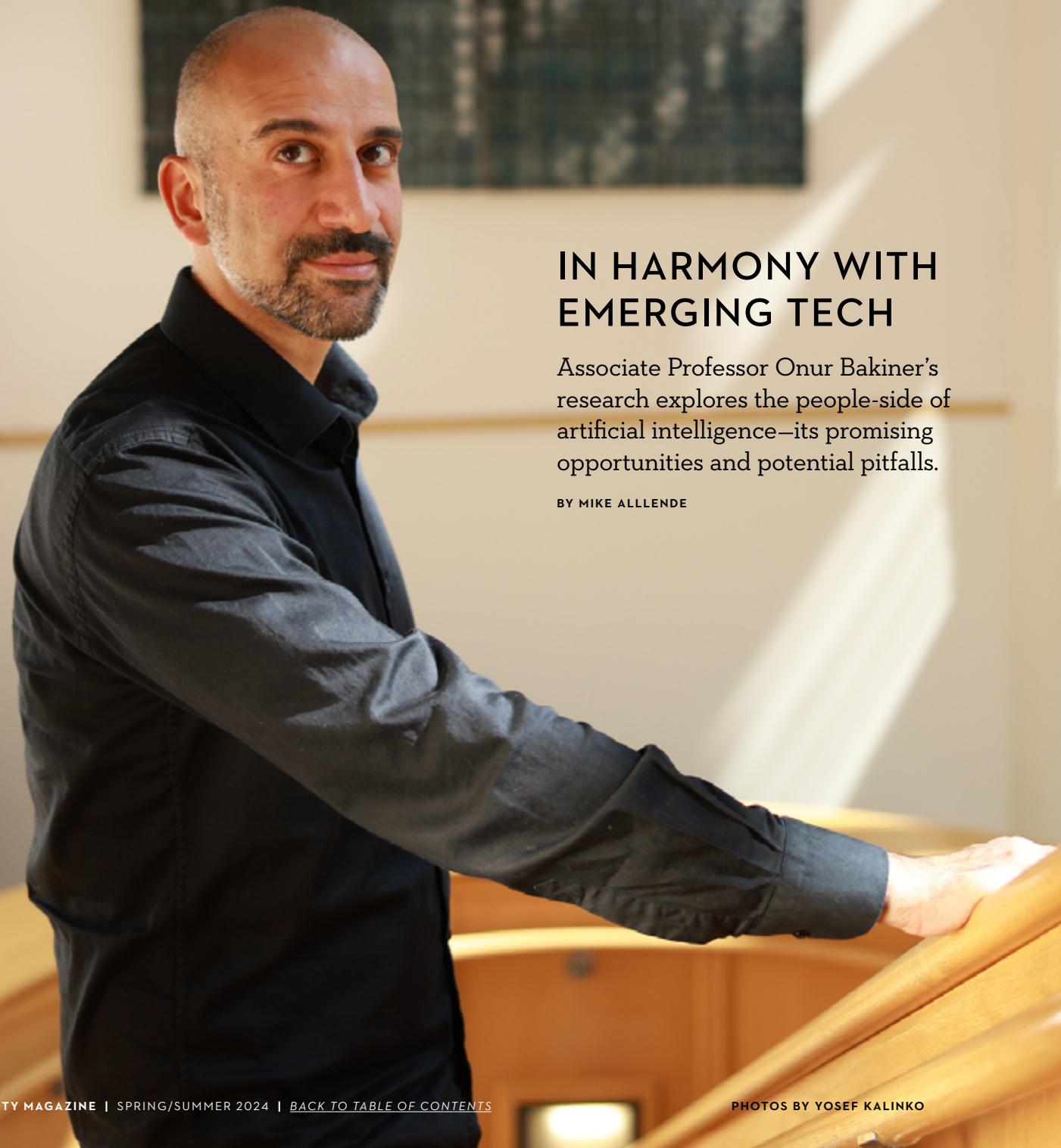
McKay: I’ve tried to not pull the woman-owned company card, but in the past couple years, I’ve increasingly been seeing how women are not treated equally in the business world. I had a recent experience with another company that was so shocking I stopped doing business with them. When I told them I would’ve been treated differently if I had been a man, they said, ‘You’re not wrong.’ But I love the fact that these sorts of issues are a conversation now and things are happening in the industry and world to change it. I don’t believe it’s going to stay this way. It can’t stay this way.

Any career advice for students?

McKay: Tap into Seattle University’s network. If you know what you want to do, be specific in what you’re asking for. If you’re still figuring it out, try different things. It’s okay to explore.

What do you like to do outside of work?

McKay: Travel, travel, travel. When I travel, I like to go to one country and stay there and immerse myself in the culture. I think it’s so important to see things in a different light and this is something I instilled in my children from the time they were very young.



IN HARMONY WITH EMERGING TECH

Associate Professor Onur Bakiner's research explores the people-side of artificial intelligence—its promising opportunities and potential pitfalls.

BY MIKE ALLENDE



PHOTO BY NODOKA KONDO

When Onur Bakiner was a young kid in Istanbul, he had dreams of growing up to be a professional soccer player. There was just one problem. Kicking? No. Running? Nah. Yes, singing.

"I was afraid I wouldn't be able to remember the words to the national anthem so I couldn't play for the national team," he says.

Ironic, then, that when Political Science Associate Professor Bakiner, PhD, isn't teaching or researching about human rights and emerging technologies, you may find him on stage making music. He plays classical guitar in two bands around the Seattle area. One, Kavak, plays Turkish/Greek music and the other, Samba de Renata, Brazilian/samba music.

There are similarities between music and teaching, says Dr. Bakiner.

"There's a balance to both, between advanced preparation and creativity," he says. "There is tedious work that is fundamental to both—in preparing for the music performance or teaching. And how you deliver the material both in music and to your class matters. It's performative."

Dr. Bakiner first began playing music at age 6 when his parents introduced him to the mandolin. He loves creating harmonies with others in music and says there are times when you can feel what the other musicians are doing.

It's those human harmonies that are part of the core of his research into emerging technologies—think artificial intelligence—and how we work to use them safely. While much focus about emerging technologies has been on the technology itself, Dr. Bakiner argues that the real focus should be on how humans use it.

"There's a technological component that needs to be addressed," he says. "But many of what we consider to be AI problems start at the level of social and political organizations. We have to educate ourselves better about the opportunities and risks. It comes down to an informed citizenry."

Moving on from his early dreams of soccer stardom, Dr. Bakiner considered being a genetic engineer and he says that may have happened if not for a teacher convincing him to give social sciences a try when he was in 11th grade. While much of the focus initially was military history, what really got his interest was understanding the social and political history that led to those events.

Again, as with his current interest in emerging technology and ethics, it was more about the role humans play than in the events themselves.

After getting a degree in political science from Bosphorus University in Istanbul, Dr. Bakiner came to the United States to earn his political science PhD at Yale (he later earned a Master of Science in Computer Science from Seattle University in 2021). After teaching at Yale and Simon Fraser University, he was hired as an assistant professor at Seattle University in 2014.

In 2017, his book *Truth Commissions: Memory, Power, and Legitimacy* was awarded the Best Book Award by the Human Rights Section of the American Political Science Association. His writing on transitional justice, human rights, civil war and conflict resolution and politics in the Middle East and Latin America have been regularly published and cited.

For the past decade, Dr. Bakiner's attention has turned toward the impact of emerging technologies on human rights

and ethics. It was a topic he touched on in a fall Red Talk event, one of many talks he's given on the subject. He recognizes that there is no shortage of concern, confusion and fear about the role technology plays in a world that feels increasingly divided. When trust in government and media is

"We don't have to be helpless in the face of technology. ... We are always going to be in a better position if we have a community of support."

already low, the ease in using technology to create and spread disinformation is a scary challenge that Dr. Bakiner says it's up to everyone to tackle.

Of course, that's easier said than done, especially with a subject that is already overwhelming and complex to many. Dr. Bakiner recommends people avoid the sensational headlines about technology and focus more on the facts. Also, keep in mind that for as many scary applications of technology, there is no shortage of positive uses—yes, including ChatGPT—that well-intentioned people are working on.

"We don't have to be helpless in the face of technology," he says. "I believe we can live harmoniously with technology. We can't do it with an eye to dominating one another and an eye to dominating nature. We can't do it if we allow ourselves to be passive recipients of technology. We need to reclaim our agency in the spirit of building a better world for all of us."

GROUNDBREAKING ART GIFT

In a truly transformative gift, philanthropist Richard Hedreen donates \$300M art collection to Seattle University, along with seed money to fund a Museum of Art.

BY TINA POTTERF

It would be hard to overstate what the Hedreen Art Collection—the largest gift of its kind ever made to a U.S. university—means for Seattle University, the student experience and the city as a whole.

It not only enhances the university's reputation in a substantial way but it also will be a vital component in students' learning across colleges and disciplines and with the creation of a Museum of Art—with seed money as part of the gift. This remarkable collection of art will serve as an extension of the classroom and be accessible to families, area schools and the community.

All of this is made possible because of the generosity of Richard "Dick" Hedreen and his family.

Dick and Elizabeth "Betty" Hedreen's interest in art started modestly with a desire to find a few pieces to outfit a new home they were decorating. That was 60 years ago. In the time since, they assembled an extraordinary collection of art—spanning the 15th and 16th centuries to modern and contemporary works—that is regarded as among the most prized and finely curated private collections in the U.S. And this stunning collection gifted to Seattle University is valued at more than \$300M and comprised of more than 200 works—with paintings, pottery, photography, etchings, sculptures and more.

This is a truly transformational gift from Hedreen, which includes \$25 million in seed funding to develop the Seattle University Museum of Art. Dick's late wife Betty went to school here and, with her husband, was a longtime supporter of many of the university's most vital artworks that are part of its existing permanent collection (the university also acknowledges the support of Dick and Betty's children: Guy M. Hedreen, Elizabeth H. Hill, Jane M. Hedreen and Carl W. Hedreen.) The donation is the largest gift of any kind to a university in

Washington state and the largest ever to Seattle University.

"My impression has always been that the Jesuits are great educators and that as such they provide a finer education because of their interest in literature, poetry, music and art. So that was attractive to me," says Hedreen on the decision to gift the collection to SU. "Betty went to Seattle University and I wouldn't have met her had she not attended school there. I always felt like I wanted to support Seattle University."

As noted, central to this overall gift is the creation of an on-campus museum. "In a single magnificent gesture, Dick Hedreen has provided Seattle University with the world-class holdings for a teaching museum that will span centuries of art history and spark learning and discussion across the entire curriculum," says President Eduardo Peñalver. "Just as important, this new museum will serve as a bridge between our campus and the city, expanding access to the arts for traditionally underserved communities and helping us realize our mission."

The Hedreen Art Collection features works by some of history's greatest artists. It's an impressive roster that includes Jacopo da Pontormo, Jan Lievens, Élisabeth Vigée Le Brun, Luis Egidio Meléndez, Thomas Gainsborough, Willem de Kooning, Robert Rauschenberg, Roy Lichtenstein and Robert Indiana. There are etchings by Lucian Freud that represent three decades of his career and photography by Berenice Abbott, Irving Penn, Louis Stettner and Andy Warhol, among others. Several prominent paintings by Cecily Brown are in the collection alongside works by Rashid Johnson, Vik Muniz, Amy Sherald and Anna Weyant.

Giving their art collection to Seattle University, says Dick, is a way to honor Betty, who passed away in 2022, and to acknowledge the

(continued on next page)



role of the Jesuits in the arts (Dick and Betty were inducted into the Jesuit Honor Society on April 30, 2024). The couple lovingly built this collection together, with Betty often leading Dick to unique pieces that he otherwise wouldn't know about.

"Betty and I always felt that we were custodians of the artworks we acquired, holding them in trust for a larger purpose. The Jesuits place a special focus on the arts and humanities, including art history, and that has long been reflected in Seattle University's Jesuit education and its connections to the Seattle arts community," he says. "My goal is to keep the collection together in the new Seattle University Museum of Art, which will have a profound and lasting impact on students and faculty."

[Go inside the collection with this photo gallery featuring some of the works in the collection.](#)

The museum's location, in one of Seattle's most vibrant neighborhoods, will provide access to world-class art for our neighbors, including serving as a teaching complement for area schools and other art and cultural organizations.

"The teaching museum will enhance the quality of our academic enterprise by integrating the transformational power of art into our curriculum," says Provost Shane P. Martin. "This will engage students who are studying art and in all academic majors for which art can be a window into a range of perspectives."

With art spanning several centuries, "the collection is a perfect fit for an academic museum. You can teach an art history course from just this collection," says President Peñalver.

In talking about the importance of art museums on university campuses, Hedreen points to the museums at Yale and Harvard. An on-campus art museum "gives the university the tools to teach art history and visitors experience art and how the art speaks to them."

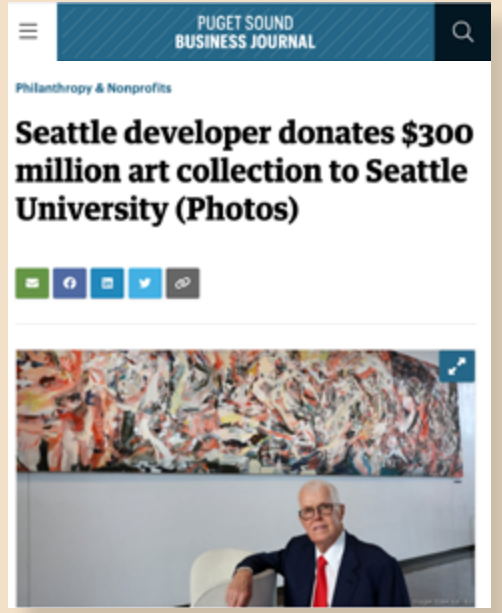
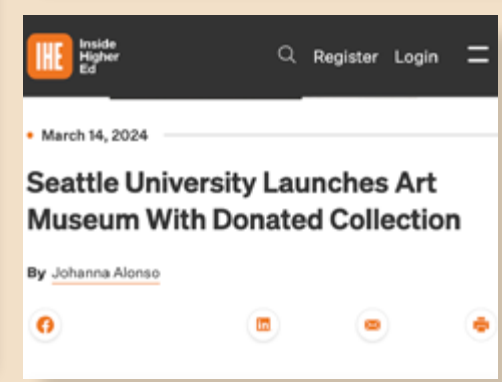
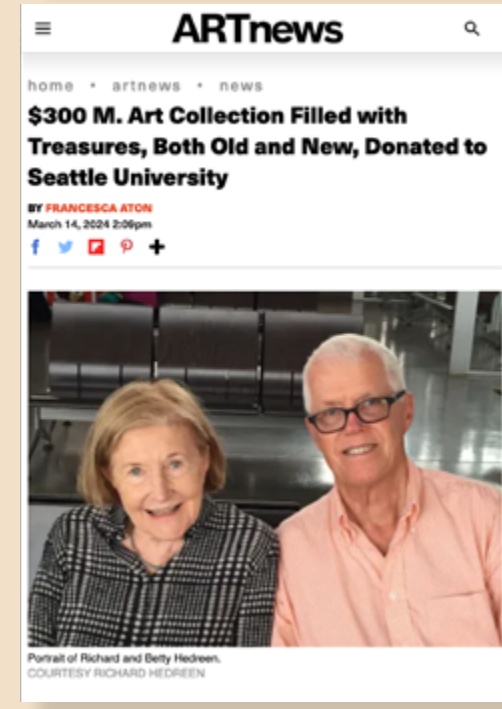
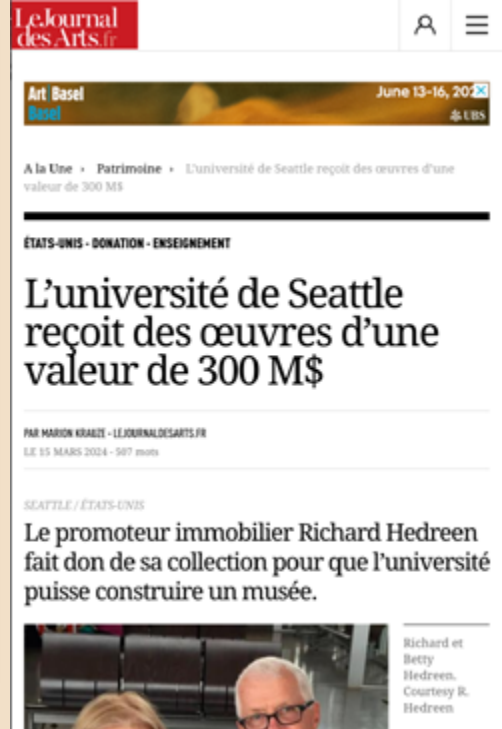
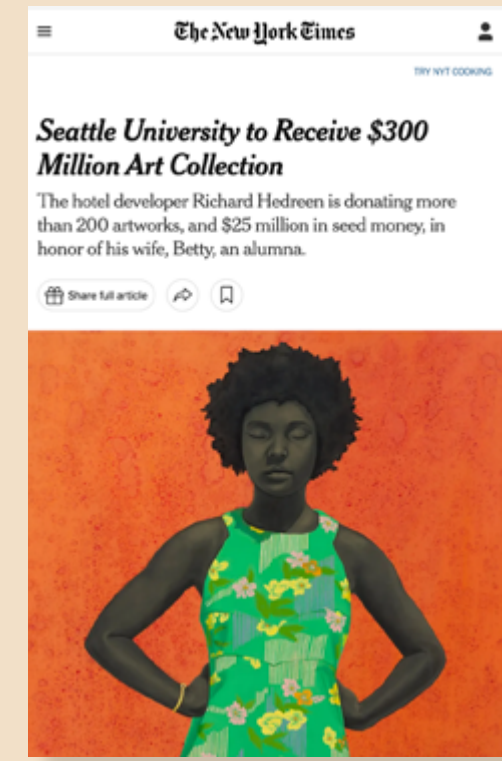
"I think the same people who go to the Seattle Art Museum will search out Seattle University's museum," Hedreen says. "It will have a better collection than some other museums and be an attractive place for people who already visit art galleries, for art collectors and people generally interested in art."

Adds President Peñalver, "This new museum will serve as a bridge between our campus and the city, expanding access to the arts."

[READ MORE ABOUT THIS GIFT IN THE NEWSROOM](#)

ART GIFT GRABS HEADLINES

News of the Hedreen Art Collection gift and SU's plans to create a Museum of Art generated major buzz and media coverage literally across the globe. Here's a sampling:



WELCOME TO THE ALUMNI FAMILY

Get to know two graduates of the Class of 2024 who share their experience at SU and how the support of donors via scholarships made their dream of higher education a reality.



LAUREN STURGILL, '24

The power of scholarships can make dreams come true. This was the case for Lauren Sturgill, '24, a nursing graduate and the recipient of the Joan S. Emerson Long Endowed Scholarship.

The scholarship's namesake Joan Emerson, '54, studied nursing at Seattle University and had a successful career filling many nursing roles. She established the scholarship to support caring and dedicated nursing students in reaching their educational goals.

At 8 years old, Sturgill was hospitalized in Seattle Children's Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. Inspired by the care she received, Sturgill decided that one day she was going to be a nurse.

In high school, she volunteered through Camp Promise, a program for people with neuromuscular disorders. During camp she acted as a caregiver for a young quadriplegic woman who was a student at Seattle University. This experience sparked Sturgill's interest in neurology—and in becoming a Redhawk.

"She taught me that no matter your physical disability, you can still achieve what you want to do," she says.

Sturgill knew that Seattle University's well-known nursing program and connections to local hospitals would help her reach her goal of working at Seattle Children's.

"Seattle University, coupled with their Jesuit-centered approach to academia and their extensive Core Curriculum, was the perfect university that offered the chance to become a well-rounded nurse and work at Seattle Children's upon graduation," says Sturgill.

While a student at Seattle University, she enriched herself with academics, extracurriculars and hands-on nursing

experiences. She completed a year-long research project with College of Nursing Professor Dr. Mo-Kyung Sin on nurse neglect in hospitalization of patients with Parkinson's disease. Their research was published in *The Journal for Nurse Practitioners*. Prior to graduating, Sturgill worked as a nurse technician at Seattle Children's. With all of her academic pursuits, she still found time to be a coxswain for the Men's Crew Team and compete in Irish step dancing.

"Receiving this scholarship made me feel very happy, but also rewarded for all the effort I put toward my education," she says. "I felt like I was recognized by the school; I wasn't just a number, but a person. That's what I love about Jesuit education."

After graduating, Sturgill is reaching her goal she set as a child. In August, she will begin her nursing residency in neurology and neurosurgery at Seattle Children's on the neural spinal rehabilitation floor.

"Thank you to the donors, because without them my college experience would have been a lot different," she says. "This scholarship, along with another I received through the College of Nursing, has allowed me to not have to take out any student loans and focus on my studies. I am incredibly grateful."

Sturgill is just one of many nursing students aspiring to make a difference in health care. Through scholarship support, she was able to pursue meaningful growth opportunities that enabled her to achieve her dream of becoming a nurse.

EXPERIENCE COMMENCEMENT

Check out a photo gallery featuring scenes from this year's undergraduate and graduate ceremonies.



DENISSE PERALTA CASTANEDA, '24

For Denisse Peralta Castaneda, '24, the journey of pursuing a degree at the Albers School of Business and Economics was both scary and exciting. A child of immigrant parents from Mexico and a first-generation college student, Castaneda faced the challenge of navigating the unfamiliar system of higher education alone. However, with the support of the Seattle University community and the Gregory Foxx Scholarship, she thrived as a student and gained important experience for her career.

The Gregory Foxx Scholarship was established by Banner Bank in 2021 in honor of the late Gregory Foxx, '72. Since Foxx was an Albers graduate, the scholarship was specified to support a junior Albers student. Peggy Foxx, '74, Gregory's wife and fellow alumna, is pleased to honor her husband by contributing to a scholarship. As students, the couple was only able to attend Seattle University while supporting their family with aid from scholarships and grants and Peggy is elated to pay it forward.

For Castaneda, receiving this financial

support meant she could leave her full-time job and focus on her studies and acquiring work experience relevant to her aspiring field of human resources.

Majoring in Management, she was able to work part-time in human resources for Neighborhood Health, a nonprofit focused on providing access to medical care. She also worked in Student Employment at SU, connecting students with job opportunities across campus.

"This scholarship allowed me to focus on accomplishing my family's and my dream of obtaining a higher education. From a professional standpoint, I know I bring a high level of resilience along with me and a high level of knowledge, which will allow me to succeed," Castaneda says. "Being a student at Seattle University prepared me to rely on my community, to advocate for myself and to look for opportunities all around me. I've had an education that makes me stand out in a room."

Far from her hometown in New Jersey, Castaneda found her community at SU. She was inspired by fellow first-

generation students who carried the same burdens and motivations and used their experiences to pave the way for others.

"First-gen students carry the burden and pressure of being advocates for themselves and for all their loved ones, often in a world so unfamiliar to them," Castaneda says. "Seattle University created a sense of community that reminded me that I wasn't alone in the journey, that others had undergone the same journey and came out on top, so if I kept pushing and working at it, I could too."

As Castaneda begins her career, she knows that the knowledge she gained at Seattle University has prepared her to be successful in her professional pursuits.

"SU embodied the very core of what a lot of first-gen students aspire to do and be for the world," she says. "We want to be the change, to better the world, create more fair and equitable chances for all people, ensure access to resources and to value the individual experiences and strengths each person brings along with them."

"This scholarship allowed me to focus on accomplishing my family's and my dream of obtaining a higher education. From a professional standpoint, I know I bring a high level of resilience along with me and a high level of knowledge, which will allow me to succeed."

[EXPLORE WAYS YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPACT THROUGH GIVING](#)

FINDING HIS PLACE, MAKING A MARK

Men's hoops star Cameron Tyson, '23, reflects on his memorable time at SU—on and off the court.

BY MIKE THEE

It took a little while for Cameron Tyson to find his collegiate home. Coming out of Bothell High School, the sharpshooting guard was lightly recruited. He landed at a university where he played well but the team struggled. He transferred to a successful program but felt his talents were not being utilized. His third destination—at Seattle University—proved to be just the right fit.

"I wanted to go somewhere they'd cherish me," he says. "As soon as I got on the phone with Coach Vic (Chris Victor, SU's head men's basketball coach), I felt nothing but that love and a belief in me not only as a basketball player but also as a person. He wanted me

to get outside my comfort zone and really take charge and be the leader and create a culture that's worth sustaining."

And Tyson responded. Among other accolades, Tyson was named to the National Association of Basketball Coaches Division I All-District Team twice and earned All-WAC honors three times. He broke a 32-year-old record to become SU's all-time leader in three-pointers made. And then on Feb. 24, 2024, Tyson entered SU lore when he joined SU legend Johnny O'Brien as the only other men's basketball player to surpass 2,000 career points. "It was unbelievable," he says, remembering the conversation he had with

O'Brien after the game. "He expressed that 2,000 points is a lot of points and it was about time somebody joined him in that category. It really meant a lot."

Tyson has brought the same commitment to his studies. "I came here because I knew it was a great education," he says. Twice named an Academic All-WAC honoree, Tyson earned a degree in Sociology in 2023 and is currently pursuing a Certificate in Leadership Formation at the Albers School of Business and Economics.

He's also found time to volunteer in the community, contributing his time and talents to St. Francis House, local youth AAU basketball teams and basketball camps. Being a role model and mentor to young people comes naturally for Tyson. "I feel like I'm a testament to hard work and dedication and so I'm able to share that with them."

This year Seattle University's Board of Trustees took the extraordinary step of passing a resolution to laud Tyson's contributions on and off the court. It's a sentiment that is echoed by his coach.

"In his three years in the program, Cam established himself as one of the best players to ever wear a Redhawk uniform," says Coach Victor. "He elevated the program to a level of success that this university hasn't seen in 70 years. Beyond his on-the-court accomplishments, his maturation as a leader and competitor was special to witness."

When asked what stands out as most memorable and rewarding from his time as a Redhawk, Tyson answers, "the championships," namely the team's WAC Championship in 2022 and the 2024 Ro College Basketball Invitational Championship that capped off his stellar career at SU. "I've always (believed) how much you win is the defining factor of who you are as a player."

One person who's literally had a front row seat for Tyson's success at SU is his brother D'Marques, who serves as an assistant coach for the team. "Being able to share the game you love with somebody you love like that and know that he's going to push you because he has your best interests at heart and sees more for you than you sometimes see for yourself is just a blessing," says Tyson. "I didn't take a day of that for granted."

Post-SU, Tyson is looking toward extending his basketball career and playing professionally. Asked what he'd like to do further down the road, he says, "Since high school, I've wanted to be a school counselor. Working with kids and being around kids is something I enjoy. It gives me a lot of happiness. Ultimately, I just want to be that voice in their lives and help steer them on a career path that they enjoy."

Tyson's presence and positive energy will be greatly missed on campus, says Victor, "but his impact will be seen for many years. He has great career ahead of him and we will all be cheering him on every step of the way from Seattle."

Reflecting on the totality of his SU experience, Tyson says, "I can't show enough appreciation and love for how much this institution has embraced me. I'll be forever grateful."

"I can't show enough appreciation and love for how much this institution has embraced me. I'll be forever grateful."

—CAMERON TYSON



Cameron Tyson signs a jersey at his pre-SU alma mater, Bothell High School.



A Path to Reimagining the Curriculum

Led by faculty with cross-campus support, Seattle University is embarking on an ambitious plan of wholly revising its curriculum.

BY TINA POTTERF AND ANDREW BINION

It's not hyperbole to put forth the notion that Jesuit education not only engages and enriches minds but also has the power to change the world. Seems lofty, perhaps, but this is at the heart of the truly transformative work that is being led and coordinated by faculty in all 75 departments and programs across campus in an ambitious process of fully reimagining and revising the curriculum.

"Reimagine and Revise Our Curriculum" (RRC) is listed as Goal 1 of the *Reigniting Our Strategic Directions 2022-2027*, which states that as a "comprehensive university in the humanistic and liberal arts tradition, we are preparing our students to respond to the great challenges facing our society, including sustainability and climate change, racial injustice and widening economic inequity and rapid technological change and its societal and economic impacts." This work also closely aligns with our Jesuit ethos and mission to form and care for the whole person.

Propelled by the expertise and experience of faculty, the work that began in 2022 is nearing the midway point, with the process undergirded by an objective to deeply embed practices and qualities that make an SU education more distinctively Jesuit and empowering into the curriculum, while addressing the most pressing challenges of today. Getting to this point involved countless hours, workshops, one-on-one sessions and ongoing dialogue with faculty across disciplines and departments. Creating buy-in was crucial to this process—faculty members' scholarly expertise, pedagogical experience and leadership are central to curriculum changes, the creation and revision of courses and the development of new programs.

What makes this ambitious effort all the more unique—and illustrates the magnitude of the work behind revamping all aspects of a curriculum—is really how extensive it is. While it's not uncommon for a college or university to revise a specific course or to make changes within a single department, this endeavor literally touches every program, every department, every school and college. Additionally, the work represents

an interdisciplinary approach that employs Ignatian pedagogy and responds to the changing needs of students, while ensuring and retaining high academic quality.

"What our Seattle University faculty members are doing to distinguish the education we provide our current and future students is remarkable," says Special Assistant to the Provost for Curriculum Charles Tung, PhD, who is also co-chair of Goal 1 with John Fleming, director of Curricular Policy and Programs with the Provost's Office. "Part of our Jesuit educational tradition focuses on the creation of a better world. And the priorities are significant because that is what faculty are asking of every major, every grad program, every part of the academic enterprise to engage in and improve."

Speaking on the importance of this work, Provost Shane P. Martin opened the 2024 Reimagine and Revise Our Curriculum Summit—the second summit of its kind specifically built around Goal 1—with these remarks:

"I view our academic curriculum as the center of who we are as a university. It's the clearest and best expression of our values, what our faculty prioritize in our courses, in our academic programs, in the Core Curriculum and the pathways we create for our students. This is how we walk with them, form them, prepare them for the various opportunities that they'll have in their lives."

Going into this work, faculty had to adopt a mindset that recognizes there is not one singular curriculum, per se, says co-chair Fleming. "A curriculum is an assertion of values and a commitment to developing knowledge, to thinking through how students can engage big questions and urgent issues. RRC has encouraged and cultivated this engagement in multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary ways. Our students will bring an interdisciplinary perspective to these issues, which will enable them to contribute more effective ways of addressing them."

The work of revising and reimagining the curriculum also includes an emphasis on professional formation. Advising one of the

Goal 1 working groups on this point is Carol Lwali, director of the Career Engagement Office. Though Lwali works more directly with Provost Fellows involved in Goal 2, "Strengthening Professional Formation for All," she has been involved in reimagining the curriculum because of her eye on industry and career preparation.

"If we are able to help students gain an area of expertise," says Lwali, "addressing environmental sustainability or addressing economic insecurity, that's very helpful for students to see the meaning behind the curriculum. Seattle University is definitely moving in the right direction by thinking about career readiness, preparing students for the future of work."

One of the Provost Fellows working groups for Goal 1 developed a comprehensive tool for faculty to self-assess integrating issues of racial and economic justice in classrooms, academic programs and departments. The team behind this held workshops and revised the tool, based on feedback from colleagues from across campus and sessions on utilizing the tool, including at the two summits. Members of this working group—History Professor and Department Chair Hazel Hahn, PhD, Associate Professor Maureen Feit, PhD, and Ret. Rev. Dr. Edward Donalson, III—presented the tool at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) annual meeting this April.

"Our working group is very mindful of seeking and supporting long-term, profound changes, rather than shallow, performative or short-term changes in curriculum," says Hahn.

New programs and courses are also being developed such as in cybersecurity, AI and sustainability in business.

The changes to the Core Curriculum will likely be implemented by the 2026-27 academic year, according to Fleming.

While this is an aggressive timeline to reimagine and revise an entire curriculum, Fleming says the relative swiftness is necessary.

"The reality is students know we don't

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have the luxury of time to grapple with and effectively address these issues that impact our world," says Fleming. "Seattle University's values—as a Jesuit Catholic institution—motivate our faculty to respond in educational terms to this reality."

A Closer Look at the Changes to the Core

At the heart of a Seattle University undergraduate education is the Core Curriculum, ensuring that students gain knowledge emphasizing the values of a Jesuit education while preparing students for the changing world.

For the 16 years Hilary Hawley, PhD, has been at Seattle University, she has been teaching Core classes and in light of her long-term engagement with the curriculum she was selected as one of eight Provost Fellows to focus on revising a curriculum that is foundational to an SU education. Hawley is a teaching professor in the English Department as well as director of First-Year Academic Engagement and facilitator of the University Core Curriculum Working Group, part of Goal 1.

As facilitator, she has been organizing and leading the group's revision work while consulting with the facilitators of the other Goal 1 working groups and leadership. For

the past two years, her group has researched and consulted widely with faculty, staff and students to ensure the work is as transparent and collaborative as possible.

"Our Core stands out for its developmental, outcomes-based curriculum and for helping students to ask big questions and to envision a more hopeful future," says Hawley. "Grounded in Jesuit and Catholic intellectual traditions, it invites students to engage with diverse modes of inquiry, expression, reflection and action."

Hawley's group has proposed a set of changes that build on the strengths of the existing Core and that highlight the work faculty are already doing in relation to the themes of the strategic directions. This includes the introduction of thematic pathways through the Core that give students the option to have these emphases noted on their transcript, she says.

Among the proposals are a new Signature Seminar, which would introduce all incoming students to SU's Jesuit model of education and Seattle itself. The working group has adjusted the sequence of the Core to emphasize a student's developmental journey and have also reimagined the third and final stage of the Core to allow for more flexibility, an emphasis on both global and

local engagement and the introduction of a Responsibility and Action requirement.

Changes in the Core are already taking place across campus, Hawley says.

"But there are also some real opportunities for professors to create new and exciting courses, such as the Signature Seminar and the Responsibility and Action courses that align with our university's commitment to community engagement," Hawley says, noting that the work has been as challenging as it is energizing, revealing the passion and dedication of faculty and staff.

"I love hearing colleagues exclaim that they wish they'd had a Core like this when they were undergrads," she says.

As for the process of approving the changes and full implementation, Hawley says that currently, the faculty is participating in an advisory survey. Hawley's working group will analyze the results of the survey and present a report to the provost with recommendations. That report will also be shared with the Academic Assembly, SU's faculty governance body, which will vote on the final curricular model this fall.

[Learn more about Goal 1 and all the working goals of the Reigniting Our Strategic Directions.](#)

Scenes from the 2024 Reimagine and Revise Our Curriculum Summit

BY THE NUMBERS

75

Undergraduate and Graduate academic departments/programs leading curricular revisions, representing nearly 100 different disciplines

60

Engagements with faculty and staff

900

Participants across all engagements

25

Offices, centers and institutes involved in the process

In Memoriam

1945

Maxine A. Newman (February 11, 2024)
Edna A. Woods (April 10, 2024)

1948

Evelyn V. Moss (December 8, 2023)

1951

Robert Hedequist (February 14, 2024)

1952

Aiko A. Okamoto (January 10, 2024)
Louis K. Whittaker (March 24, 2024)

1953

Suzanne M. Lowell (February 26, 2024)
Jeanne M. Lynch (December 28, 2023)
Maureen M. Cox (January 9, 2024)
Hugh R. McGough (December 15, 2023)

1955

Dona J. Ahern (February 4, 2024)
Geraldine A. Byrne (December 9, 2023)
Noreen M. Sivertson (December 9, 2023)

1956

Francis J. Piatz (February 27, 2024)
Ralph G. Turco (April 8, 2024)

1957

Patricia E. Mahan (January 8, 2024)

1958

Robert E. Bruck (December 11, 2023)

1959

Richard D. Foltz (February 25, 2024)
Ann E. Horne (December 11, 2023)
Michael J. Lemieux (January 31, 2024)

1960

Ping Chen (February 27, 2024)
William C. Dooris (February 25, 2024)
John S. Hill (December 22, 2023)
Patricia A. McWha (January 25, 2024)

1962

Lawrence J. McHugh (January 9, 2024)
Mary M. Toeckes (February 14, 2024)

1963

Helen Haigh (January 7, 2024)

1964

Henrietta F. Dill (February 11, 2024)

1965

Robert L. Hilling (December 26, 2023)

1966

Gerald F. Ciba (December 19, 2023)
Pamela L. Glenn (March 2, 2024)
John G. Menges (February 1, 2024)
Clarice M. Smith (February 8, 2024)

1967

Walter R. Fechtner (January 30, 2024)
Ronald J. Giuffre (February 17, 2024)

Mary E. Markert

(December 21, 2023)

Carole A. Meek

(February 21, 2024)

1968

David J. Diol (March 27, 2024)

1969

Gail M. Kriley (January 26, 2024)
Earle H. Nakagawa (March 13, 2024)

1970

Gary R. Bushman (May 2, 2024)
Kenneth W. Haydock (March 20, 2024)
Peggy J. Maxie (February 18, 2024)

1972

Mary F. Raptis-Nielsen (January 24, 2024)
Laura K. Schreck (December 28, 2023)

1973

Michael J. Crehan (March 12, 2024)
Gregory P. Segai (February 18, 2024)

1974

Judith A. Madigan (December 30, 2023)
Douglas C. Wagner (February 2, 2024)

1975

Mary N. Behan (April 9, 2024)
Gerva E. Sunneberg (February 19, 2024)

1976

Margaret J. Murphy (April 2024)

1977

Marilyn D. Clement (January 29, 2024)

Carolyn V. Lassek

(December 27, 2023)

1979

Phillip L. Sorensen (January 1, 2024)
Edward L. Sullivan (February 9, 2024)

1983

John W. Lotzgesell (April 4, 2024)

1984

Rita Haderer (December 15, 2023)

1985

Letha J. Owens (January 14, 2024)
Terry R. Phillips (January 22, 2024)

1986

Stephanie C. Dolyniuk (December 27, 2023)

1988

Sheila A. Umlauf (February 10, 2024)

1989

Steve R. Salisbury (January 3, 2024)

1996

Kathryn E. Corrigan (January 2024)
Jane L. Durrance (January 28, 2024)

2009

Lynne E. Russell (January 19, 2024)

2010

Kathryn C. Collins (January 19, 2024)

2014

Jeffrey L. Grice (January 19, 2024)

2022

Cole Morrill (March 14, 2024)

Faculty/Staff

Henry "Hank" McGee, Jr. (Professor Emeritus/Law)

Joseph Berton Monda (March 17, 2024) (Professor Emeritus/English)

Julie Shapiro (March 11, 2024) (Professor Emerita/Law)

Our Thoughts Are With You

Seattle University honors the memory of those in our community who we've lost.

Send notice of a loved one's passing, including an online or print obituary if available, to tinap@seattleu.edu.

“I’m in awe that I can become a member of the team. I love the university, the campus, the people. When I visited, I loved seeing students hustling around, looking for answers, solving problems. It’s uplifting.”

—BURKHARD ENGLERT, PHD

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES IN SU’S FASTEST-GROWING PROGRAM

New Department Chair and Amazon Endowed Chair of Computer Science Dr. Burkhard Englert will be integral in supporting and growing the department and student outcomes.

BY MIKE ALLENDE

Growing up near Heidelberg, Germany, Burkhard Englert, PhD, wasn’t sure what he wanted to do with his life, but he was encouraged to have an open mind, be flexible and not be afraid to face challenges. That led to much trial and error and when a mathematics advisor at the University of Connecticut suggested he consider getting a master’s in computer science, he gave it a shot. Three years later, he had his PhD in Mathematics (Theoretical Computer Science) from UConn.

“That’s how I grew up,” Dr. Englert says. “I chase something that isn’t easy. And that’s what I tell students now. Don’t be afraid, be proud of yourselves and what you can achieve.”

It’s that drive to challenge himself and try new things that has led Dr. Englert to the Pacific Northwest, where on July 1 he begins as Seattle University’s new Department Chair and Amazon Endowed Chair of Computer Science in the College of Science and Engineering (CSE).

Dr. Englert comes to Seattle after serving as the Department Chair of Computer Science at Norfolk State University, having held the same position at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. With an extensive research background in cybersecurity, he will be tasked with supporting faculty in one of SU’s fastest-growing programs, while also looking to expand opportunities for students. Among those is implementing new master’s programs, including in cybersecurity.

“Dr. Englert will be able to support the growth of our existing as well as new programs, both at the graduate and undergraduate levels,” says CSE Dean Amit Shukla, PhD. “He will help address persistent issues of equity and access in collaboration with the faculty and staff in the college. His vision for growth of computer science as a discipline as well as infusing computing around the campus is aligned with our strategic directions.”

Dr. Englert was drawn to Seattle University’s focus on making students successful in all facets of their lives by creating a sense

of support and belonging. He says the Department of Computer Science, while growing quickly, has a feeling of family with people who want to be sure they provide programs and ideas that lead to student success.

“What I really like is Seattle University is always looking forward and the leadership deeply understands the challenges and opportunities that we face,” he says. “I’m excited to be part of that commitment. The faculty is outstanding. They see what the problems are and they aren’t running away—they’re looking to see what has to happen next. It won’t be easy, but it’s exciting to be a part of. I think it’s a perfect fit.”

Two big focuses for Dr. Englert will be in supporting faculty as they navigate the challenges of growth in the department, as well as fostering relationships with industry to develop opportunities for the school and students. He says that while enrollment and growth are vital for a university, it puts pressure on faculty to keep up.

“You want students to feel close to the faculty and have a personal experience, but if you have too many students and more coming, that’s a big challenge. We have to be proactive and flexible. So much depends on the faculty and if they are uncomfortable, we have to find a way to solve immediately.”

Away from work, Dr. Englert enjoys hiking and running—he’s looking forward to the challenge of Seattle’s many hills. He also enjoys going to classical music concerts, appreciating how hard the musicians work. Travel is also important to him. Among his highlights were two trips to Namibia, Argentina and a stint as a high school teacher in Guatemala. And now he’s looking forward to his next trip to Seattle.

“I’m excited,” he says. “I’m in awe that I can become a member of the team. I love the university, the campus, the people. When I visited, I loved seeing students hustling around, looking for answers, solving problems. It’s uplifting.”

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