

# SEATTLE UNIVERSITY

MAGAZINE



**ANA WHITE, '95**

# SEATTLE UNIVERSITY

MAGAZINE

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### STAY IN THE KNOW

## THE NEWSROOM



The Newsroom is Seattle University's one-stop hub for the latest news and happenings across campus and beyond. Here you can read a diverse mix of human-interest, feel-good stories, from the latest news coming out of our colleges and schools to profiles of students and alumni who are making a difference in the world.

Like the content you read on these pages? Visit *The Newsroom* for more in-depth magazine stories and special features.

[SEATTLEU.EDU/NEWSROOM](http://SEATTLEU.EDU/NEWSROOM)



Janae Theodore, '23, of Waipahu, HI, started her engagement with the Sundborg Center for Community Engagement (CCE) when she attended a lunch they sponsored her first year. "I was drawn to the importance of getting out of the comfortable bubble at SU and instead, finding ways to learn and apply social justice frameworks in hopes to better the Seattle community for the next generation."



## A Pledge for a Better Planet

The Center for Environmental Justice and Sustainability marks 10th anniversary with great strides in putting SU in the national conversation as a model for sustainability and environmental stewardship.

BY TINA POTTERF

Professor Phillip Thompson,  
PhD, director of the CEJS



Photograph by Yosef Kalinko

When it comes to issues around the environment, often climate change, conservation and sustainability are central to the conversation, importantly so. For Professor Phillip Thompson, PhD, director of the Center for Environmental Justice and Sustainability (CEJS), it goes even deeper.

“When a lot of us think of sustainability, we think about the environment,” says Thompson, who teaches Civil and Environmental Engineering. “But I like to consider three pillars of sustainability: social, environmental and economic.”

These elements are integral to the work—both locally and globally—of the CEJS, which this year marks its 10th anniversary leading environmental and sustainability work across the university.

“When we started the CEJS 10 years ago, our goal was to create a center that would be the clearinghouse of information for the environmental justice and sustainability work that our students, staff and faculty do every day,” explains Thompson. “We also wanted to support the research, scholarship and creative efforts of our students and faculty by offering fellowships and by hosting events where we could showcase that work to the broader community.”

On an international level, the center and its partners work on projects that provide access to safe water and food sources in places such as Haiti and Nigeria.

“I’m proud of Seattle University’s reputation for sustainability and the national accolades are a wonderful reflection of our campus community’s collective efforts that began more than 25 years ago,” Thompson says. “I’m perhaps most proud of our global service work. It’s great to say that thousands of people came to our events or read our conference papers, but it feels really good to say that thousands of people have safe water to drink because of our environmental justice efforts.”

Reflecting on the past decade, Thompson cites among the center’s markers of achievement the rise in SU’s national sustainability rankings; the creation of faculty research fellowships and scholarly work around environmental issues, along with student internships; conferences and events including Earth Day programming; and global environmental justice and social sustainability projects and initiatives. Here are highlights of each:

### NATIONAL RANKINGS

- The university rose from 109th in 2013 in Sierra Club’s “Cool

School” rankings to 8th in 2021.

- In 2016, SU jumped to 48th in the nation after its first STARS Report, which measures environmental and sustainability efforts at colleges and universities.

### RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

- In addition to faculty fellowships, the CEJS offers a pair of notable and impactful fellowships for students: the Gary L. Chamberlain Fellowship, which honors the legacy of Professor Chamberlain and his work with theology and its intersection with water justice; and the Francis Fellowship, honoring St. Francis of Assisi and Pope Francis and *Laudato Si’*. *Laudato Si’* is the second encyclical of Pope Francis, focused on the theme of “on care for our common home.”

“Our fellowships also provide faculty the time and seed money they needed to move their research forward. It’s been great to see many of our CEJS Faculty Fellows publish books and journal articles as well as receive external grants based on their fellowship work,” Thompson says. “We are working to establish new *Laudato Si’* faculty fellowships over the next year.”

### EVENTS & CONFERENCES

Throughout the year, the center presents a wide array of events and conferences, which have only grown exponentially over the past decade.

- Several events and special programming to commemorate Earth Day.
- Conferences such as “Just Sustainability,” which draws attendees from across the globe. The “Innovation for Sustainability Conference” is a partnership between the CEJS and the Albers School of Business and Economics, for the International Association of Jesuit Business Schools and the Colleagues in Jesuit Business Education.

During the start of the pandemic, Thompson says the CEJS pivoted to an online conference format and one of the outcomes of this came in 2020 with the creation of Earth Talks. “With the urgency of climate change, we can no longer have business as usual which, for us, means reducing the need for scholars to fly around the world to share their work.”

### GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

With global service projects, environmental justice and social sustainability coalesce with meaningful and lasting results.

- With the help of center donors and partners such as Rotary International, Professionals Without Borders and Engineers for a Sustainable World, the SU community has contributed to water, sanitation and food justice projects that have improved the lives of more than 16,000 in Haiti, Nigeria, Peru and Thailand.

“Beyond supporting students and faculty, the center also seeks to improve lives by engaging our local community but also people around the world who don’t, for example, have access to safe water and sustainable food sources,” says Thompson.

- Over the past year, the CEJS has partnered with Rotary District 5030 and the Low-Income Housing Institute to build tiny houses.
- Targeted social sustainability projects that support local and international educational programs.

Thompson explains what “social sustainability” is: “I define it as ‘ensuring the well-being of everyone in our community.’ Social sustainability may be more important than environmental sustainability. If we can’t get people to care for each other, how can we expect them to care for the environment?”

With so much accomplished in the first 10 years of the CEJS, what’s the next decade and beyond look like?

“There’s no doubt that current and future generations of students want to prioritize sustainability and climate action and I hope the CEJS will continue to provide support for those students to organize, promote and complete projects that contribute to the greater good,” says Thompson. “... I also think that the *Laudato Si’* Action Platform that was launched in 2021 is the beginning of the next phase for the university’s commitment to supporting environmental justice and sustainability work.”

Learn more about the Center for Environmental Justice and Sustainability at [www.seattleu.edu/cejs](http://www.seattleu.edu/cejs).

## Transformative Action

Provost Fellows are elevating Seattle University's Strategic Directions with a focus on reimagining and revising the curriculum of the future.

A university must foster an environment that inspires and promotes transformational change.

One way to do that is by empowering faculty to be key agents and drivers of that change. Seattle University is taking that approach through the Provost Fellows, a collective of professors who are doing critical work in support of the Reignited Strategic Directions.

"With the Provost Fellows, we are building on and mobilizing the immense wealth of scholarly expertise, experience and relationships our faculty have at Seattle University," says Provost Shane P. Martin, PhD. "Through this important work, they are elevating our Strategic Directions and developing the curriculum of the future and problem-solving critical issues of our times—climate change and environmental sustainability; racial injustice and widening economic inequity; and rapid technological change and its attendant social and economic impacts."

Led by Co-Directors Charles Tung, PhD, and John Fleming, the Provost Fellows is a multi-year initiative that initially grew out of the planning around Goal 1 of the Reignited Strategic Directions: *Reimagine and Revise the Curriculum*. In total, Provost Fellows are working across four goals that also include scholarship mission and culture, *LIFT SU* initiatives and enhancing the student experience.

"The launch of the Provost Fellows imbeds faculty leadership across our strategic plan for growth. Speaking just about *Reimagine and Revise the Curriculum*, the area in which I am co-chair with Professor Margit McGuire, PhD, the role of faculty leadership is crucial to the work of strengthening the education we provide to our students," says English Professor Tung, who is Special Assistant to the Provost for Curriculum.

After launching in early 2022, the Provost Fellows have worked to greatly increase faculty engagement within their areas of the Reignited Strategic Directions by leading workshops and forums, researching high-impact practices and creating tools to assist colleagues in reimagining their programs.

"The Provost Fellows working on *Reimagine and Revise the Curriculum* have researched existing educational pathways and internal models, as well as effective practices and strong models in a wide variety of disciplines at peer and aspirational institutions," Tung says. "Our goal is to support thoughtful and informed curriculum revision across all our programs for the sake of all students."

With an \$871,000 grant from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, faculty members in academic departments and programs will be able to apply to receive support to coordinate and facilitate

the work of *Reimagine and Revise the Curriculum* within their programs.

"With acknowledgment, support and resources—especially in the form of time and space—Provost Fellows can build on, nurture and encourage the creative and intellectual capacity of faculty colleagues across the university," says Fleming, director for Curricular Policy and Programs.

This spring, the Provost Fellows will co-host a summit that will bring together the resources they've developed for programs and departments and serve as a university-wide orientation to and dialogue around the curriculum revision work that will take place in Academic Year 23-24.

The summit will kick-off the next phase of work for many Provost Fellows, where they will produce scholarship on teaching and learning and share their findings and the results of their work with a broader audience across the higher education landscape.

"The Provost Fellows are doing transformative work that has the potential to be a national model around the country," says Provost Martin, "creating opportunities for universities to rethink how they acknowledge, understand and promote leadership and scholarly contributions of faculty."

—Tina Potterf and Tara Lee contributed to this story.

## Alumni Communities: Something for Everyone

Stay connected with Seattle University and fellow alums, no matter where you live.



"When I graduated from Seattle U, I started my professional career at Boeing and then at Amazon. While I felt fortunate to live and work in a community that meant so much to me, I missed the service and engagement opportunities that I loved as a student at Seattle U. That's when I discovered the Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) council and got hooked on our incredible alumni community."

—John Fulmer, '15, '18



Over the past year, an amazing network of volunteer alumni leaders has done significant work to reboot and expand the many alumni communities within the Seattle University Alumni Association (SUAA). With 26 active communities—nine of which were started or restarted this past fall—there's a lot going on. Let's get you up to speed.

**There are two types of SUAA alumni communities:**

**Regional chapters** span the globe and are organized by alumni who live and work outside of Seattle. These chapters are often established in areas with a high concentration of Seattle U graduates, including the Bay Area, Tokyo, Hawai'i, Portland and Eastern Washington.

**Affinity groups** are designed around supporting alumni with similar interests and identities. The SU Pride Alumni Chapter, Women of SU and the Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) are just a few examples of affinity groups building and connecting Seattle U's more than 86,000 alumni.

With both communities, alumni are given a broad range of in-person and virtual opportunities to stay connected to the university no matter what their interests are or where they live. This includes networking happy hours, book groups, student support rallies, life coaching seminars and spiritual retreats. In addition to fostering relationship-building and networking, these communities offer pathways for professional development, learning, volunteering, student mentoring and so much more.

Whether a regional chapter or affinity group, there's truly something for everyone.

If you're interested in joining an alumni community or even starting a new chapter, visit [seattleu.edu/alumnicommunities](https://seattleu.edu/alumnicommunities) or contact the SUAA at [alumni@seattleu.edu](mailto:alumni@seattleu.edu).



# DOUBLE DUTIES

Kelli Rodriguez Currie's love of sports perfectly intersects with a passion for law and business.

BY MIKE THEE

For Kelli Rodriguez Currie, Seattle University has always been something to experience in doubles. As a student, she earned two degrees, graduating in 2014 with a JD and a Master's in Sport Administration and Leadership (MSAL). These days, she has teaching and administrative roles in both the School of Law and the Albers School of Business and Economics.

In the law school, she serves as Director of the MLS & Sports Law Program and teaches sports law classes. In Albers, she is advisory board chair to the MBA in Sport and Entertainment Management, which evolved from the MSAL program, and teaches on legal issues. Oh, and she's also faculty advisor for the women's basketball team.

A career in academia with a focus on the legal and business dimensions of sport is not what Rodriguez Currie envisioned for herself as an undergraduate. Back then, she wanted to be a doctor.

"I learned very quickly that going to medical school was probably not in the cards for me," she says. "I could've done it, but it would've required a lot of effort. My brain is just not naturally inclined that way."

After an exhilarating few years working in tech during the rollicking dot-com boom, Rodriguez Currie again felt a pull toward science and medicine and decided to go back to school for physical therapy. She was taking some prerequisites when one particular course stopped her in her tracks.

"I took a sport law class and I literally fell in love with it. It took everything I love about sport and sport management and kinesiology and biological sciences and everything I learned in business and

leadership and smashed them all together."

The newfound passion did not immediately translate into a change in trajectory, however. "I tried to talk myself out of law school for six months," she says, but the option to pursue a joint degree at SU during the evening while taking care of two young children during the day helped seal the deal.

After earning her degrees, Rodriguez Currie was asked by Galen Trail, an emeritus faculty member who then led the MSAL program, to stick around and teach. "I've never left," she says, with a laugh.

"Love" is a word that Rodriguez Currie frequently uses when talking about SU, her professors-turned-colleagues and especially the students.

"I love that we're not afraid to have hard conversations. Sports bring people together in a way that few things do," she says. "There's so much power in that and there's so many cultural issues that we are continuously not dealing with. And how do we hold these two things as true?"

In case you were wondering, yes, Rodriguez Currie is an avid fan of both professional and collegiate sports. The Southern California native who has lived in Seattle for nearly two decades is "all in on the local teams," especially her beloved Redhawks. The only exception: Her rooting interest in the Sacramento Kings going back to the time she spent in the city in the late 90s. But that could change, she says, "if the Sonics return to Seattle ..."



**Most impactful book:** *And the Band Played On*. "I read it in high school. It was part of why I wanted to be a doctor."



**Recent TV show binge:** *Formula 1: Drive to Survive*. "I'm a car nut and my dad and I geek out over racing. Last summer, I spent a day racing BMWs on Indianapolis Motor Speedway. After I came back to work, a colleague said he had never seen me smile so much. It was amazing."



**Favorite place on campus:** The Redhawk Center's North Court. "I've told Athletics Director Shaney Fink that I want a desk there. I love that gym, the energy, our student athletes. There is nothing better than watching students pour themselves into what they love."

## Seattle University remembers those in our alumni family and university community we've lost.

### 1950

Michael E. Merrick (November 2, 2022)  
 Marirose Morris (October 30, 2022)  
 Donald S. Werlech (June 10, 2022)

### 1951

Charles E. Brown (August 26, 2022)  
 Donna (Navoni) Cheshier (December 2, 2021)

### 1952

Charles D. Lowman (November 8, 2022)  
 William T. O'Reilly (July 12, 2022)  
 Patricia D. Rogers (November 7, 2022)

### 1953

Francis T. Ivanovich (November 12, 2022)

### 1954

Thomas F. Carrick (October 26, 2022)  
 Dominic J. Rossetto (September 9, 2022)  
 Eugene A. Wiggins (September 7, 2022)

### 1956

Margaret H. Babb (September 1, 2022)

### 1958

Paul J. McKillop (June 10, 2022)

### 1959

Mary E. Davis (September 8, 2022)  
 Richard W. Caster (October 4, 2022)

### 1960

Katie M. Knight (October 31, 2022)  
 Sue E. Maurer (October 5, 2022)  
 William D. Stonecipher (October 31, 2022)

### 1962

Larry M. Maddock (July 16, 2022)  
 Frank T. McCormick (June 17, 2022)

### 1963

Michael C. Martin (July 2, 2022)

### 1964

James W. Miller (September 2, 2022)  
 Sidney L. Morton (June 19, 2022)

### 1965

Arlene A. Kimbell (July 8, 2022)

### 1966

Paul S. Heneghan (August 22, 2022)  
 Edward C. Rubatino (June 28, 2022)

### 1967

Patricia A. McAuliffe (October 18, 2022)  
 Michael E. Pryor (June 13, 2022)  
 Connie Rae Rogel (November 20, 2022)

### 1968

Regis Akitaya (September 22, 2022)  
 Elizabeth A. Bukrey Butler (October 27, 2022)  
 Barbara M. Frasier (November 2, 2022)  
 Eleanor M. Goligoski (September 4, 2022)  
 Ruth E. Jaynes (October 22, 2022)  
 Louise Wolfrom (July 15, 2022)

### 1969

William E. Bisom (September 15, 2022)  
 Dianne J. Braun (August 4, 2022)  
 John S. Fattorini (August 22, 2022)  
 Diane Rogers (November 7, 2022)

### 1970

Carol P. Anderson (June 15, 2022)  
 Patricia J. Dennehy Thenell (July 5, 2022)

### 1971

Margaret Hardy Babb (September 1, 2022)  
 Robert D. Ceccarelli (October 2, 2022)  
 Patrick D. Farris (October 25, 2022)  
 Nathan L. Geraths (July 18, 2022)

### 1972

Patricia L. Williams (August 22, 2022)

### 1973

Frances M. Rowley (June 22, 2022)

### 1974

William R. Hunt (November 12, 2022)

### 1976

Marilyn M. Dennehy (October 15, 2022)  
 Donald G. Dorres (August 1, 2022)

### 1977

John E. Cannon (August 17, 2022)

### 1978

Harold J. Dodeward (October 4, 2022)  
 Connie R. Rogel (November 20, 2022)

### 1979

George C. Gilday (October 29, 2021)

### 1980

Mary A. Hathaway (July 3, 2022)

### 1982

Paul E. Decumbe, '99 (September 18, 2022)

### 1983

Susan M. Elliott (July 26, 2022)

### 1984

Michael G. Gordie (July 7, 2022)

### 1985

William J. Probst (September 24, 2022)

### 1986

A. Llewellyn Matthews (June 16, 2022)

### 1987

Howard L. LeClair (October 7, 2022)

### 1989

Frank Tou (October 13, 2022)

### 1995

Mark Edward Hurdelbrink (February 28, 2022)

### 1996

John L. Reichmann (August 28, 2022)

### 1998

Paul J. Zech (October 13, 2022)

### 2014

D'Vonnie A. Pickett (October 19, 2022)

### 2017

Steven Jenkins (November 18, 2022)

### FACULTY/STAFF

Ronald R. Collins, '85 (October 12, 2022)  
 Gerald B. Hansen (November 4, 2022)  
 Bob Harmon (January 22, 2023)  
 Patrick O'Leary, S.J. (January 5, 2023)  
 Isabel Velez (January 4, 2023)

### 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 newspaper obituary if available, to tinap@seattleu.edu.

## ON THE CALL

Three former Redhawk standouts take the mic, broadcasting the games they once played.

BY MIKE THEE

(From top right):  
Olivia Crawford, '20,  
Stephanie Verdoia, '15,  
and Katie Favilla, '10

After starring as student athletes, three alumna recently returned as analysts on Seattle University's ESPN+ telecasts. Stephanie Verdoia, '15 (soccer), Olivia Crawford, '20 (basketball) and Katie (Antich) Favilla, '10 (softball) are now sharing insights on their sports as color commentators.

For each, the gigs came about through connections they've maintained with the teams for which they played and excelled. When they're not commentating, Verdoia is an attorney representing student athletes, Crawford works with youth who have been impacted by the justice system and on violence prevention programs and Favilla is a lead sonographer.

"Broadcasting has made me feel closer to the program," says Favilla, who made a name for herself on the diamond as a slap-hitting, base-stealing phenom. "I root for these women like they're my little sisters. I want this program to succeed because of how much it gave me and how much I enjoyed it."

Following graduation Verdoia played professionally before transitioning to coach with OL Reign Academy.

"One of my favorite things is to break soccer down for people who are learning, developing as players or like to watch the game and understand more of why certain things are happening," she says. "So I'm basically doing that for the Redhawks, a team I love watching."

Having played professional basketball and coached at Saint Martin's University, Crawford focuses on "what's going on in the athlete's mind and the coach's mind. I feel I can bring an informed opinion and lived experience to the broadcast."

All three appreciate the rapport they have with their respective play-by-play partners: Verdoia is paired with Andrew Harvey, Crawford with Russell Brown and Favilla with Greg Sexton. There's really no playbook for color commentary, but each has artfully negotiated a steep learning curve while carving out distinctive, complementary roles.

"I'm more of an analytical person and Russell is really good at the play-by-play, so we have a nice balance," says Crawford.

Verdoia says she's worked on finishing her thoughts and knowing when to contribute. "There has to be a purpose. I don't want there to be too much talking from me—even though I'm the color commentator—because when I watch soccer, I like when the game has its own rhythm and it's not filled."

Like Crawford and Verdoia, Favilla enjoys delving into the intricacies of the game she loves, often predicting what might come next (à la NFL-player-turned-analyst Tony Romo). "I like explaining to the audience, 'OK, you've got runners on first and second and you've got your six-hitter up. This is what I think coach is going to do.'"

And Favilla always keeps her primary audience in mind—the family and friends of the players. She recounts a time there was a knock at the door of the broadcast booth. Favilla thought it was just someone looking for the restroom, but it turned out to be the father of a player on an opposing team. He had watched one of Favilla's broadcasts and wanted to thank her for speaking about his daughter's game in glowing terms. "That solidified it for me," she says. "This is what I should bring to the broadcast."

## REDHAWK RÉSUMÉ

*STEPHANIE VERDOIA, '15, Political Science*

- Women's soccer all-time statistical leader in seven different categories, including scoring; recipient of numerous awards and recognitions; and newest inductee into the Athletics Hall of Fame
- The first female SU athlete to be drafted by a U.S. pro league when she was selected by the National Women's Soccer League's Boston Breakers in 2015

**Day job:** Represents student athletes as an attorney specializing in sports litigation with Hagens Berman in Seattle

**On time at SU:** "As team captain, I was often relied upon for using my voice. I think I was at a place in my life where I wasn't super comfortable with that just yet, but I was given a little nudge by the team and the coaches and I found my feet. And that's carried me forward into everything I've done in life."

*OLIVIA CRAWFORD, '20, Criminal Justice with a minor in Sociology*

- After transferring to SU as a junior, ranked second on the basketball team for assists and steals and often deployed to cover the opposition's top perimeter scorer
- Signed with Vestri, a professional team in Iceland, in 2020

**Day job:** Works at Choose 180, a nonprofit in Seattle that supports youth and young adults who have been impacted by the juvenile justice system, as well as with violence prevention programs with the YMCA

**On time at SU:** "Seattle U ... is definitely a place I call home. This is a one-of-a-kind experience."

*KATIE FAVILLA, '10, Diagnostic Ultrasound*

- Holds SU's all-time stolen base record and is in the Top 10 of five other all-time categories for softball
- Originally a walk-on, helped lead the program's transition from Division II to Division I

**Day job:** Lead sonographer at Virginia Mason in Seattle

**On time at SU:** "Wins, losses, games aside, my teammates are the greatest thing to come out of my four years at Seattle U (other than my husband). These are women who, through it all, will always be there for you."



ANA WHITE, '95

# GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND

Celebrating the professional, personal and profound accomplishments of Seattle University's Alumni Award winners.

BY TINA POTTERF

ROLITA FLORES EZEONU, '06 EDD



**"I AM STANDING ON GENERATIONS OF HOPES AND PRAYERS."**

—Archie Roundtree, Jr.



ARCHIE ROUNDTREE, JR., '18 JD

You could say that Ana White, '95, is a bona fide "people person." In fact, it's literally part of her job description as Chief People Officer for Seattle tech company F5.

In her role, White is a leader who spearheads a high-performance, human-first culture, one that reinforces the overall F5 vision of achieving what the company terms the "Global Good."

"Once I met with the F5's President and CEO François Locoh-Donou, I realized he was an exceptional CEO," explains White, who joined F5 in 2018 following 18 years working in HR for Microsoft in the U.S. and

United Kingdom. "François is human-first, bold, smart, innovative, kind and curious. He wanted to transform F5 from a people, business and technology perspective and the role he wanted me to do was my dream job—owning the people function as well as corporate social responsibility, which we call the Global Good."

For her outstanding professional achievements and for embodying the mission and Jesuit values of Seattle University, White, who graduated with a degree in Mathematics, is this year's Alumna of the Year—the highest honor bestowed

on an individual from the Seattle University Alumni Association.

White is one of five remarkable individuals selected as Alumni Award winners, lauded for their inspired leadership, a commitment to service and care, academic excellence, diversity and an alignment and engagement with SU.

And this year, for the first time, the new inductees to the Athletics Hall of Fame were honored at the formal awards ceremony in February. They are former SU women's soccer standout Stephanie Verdoia, '15, and men's soccer star Kyle Bjornethun, '21.

## ALUMNA OF THE YEAR

### ANA WHITE, '95

At F5, one of Ana White's first projects was to help develop and define the "BeF5 Behaviors." The project required working closely with employees, listening deeply and responding with a framework of behaviors that would come to define the company culture. This followed with more "people-first" programs, driven by White, that offered flexibility around remote work, along with quarterly wellness weekends and better access to mental health resources. Elevating and championing a strong work-life balance is fitting with her role as Chief People Officer.

"Overall, I spend my time trying to make F5 the best possible place to work for our employees," White says. Her work and that of F5 that extends into the community earned the 2022 Bestie Award from Benevity, which recognizes the company with the best-in-class approach to corporate purpose.

Giving back to her alma mater is an extension of the work that White does at F5—putting people first and working for the greater good. At SU she served on the Sinegal Center for Science and Innovation Task Force and created, in honor of her parents who are alums, the James and Donna Knight Endowed Scholarship for STEM students. Additionally, White has contributed to the university's STEM Diversity Fund and the Tiny Homes project.

Says White, "I received so much from SU. I loved my time there and wanted to give back in some way. It's important to me to support the university."

In his support of her nomination as Alumna of the Year, F5's Locoh-Donou noted White's commitment to service goes deeper than her work. "The spirit of giving back is simply who she is."

"Ana spends countless hours, often in the evenings and on weekends, helping others thrive—whether it's taking someone out to dinner to cheer them up, inviting an employee for a walk to help them find a new job inside or outside the company or coaching countless people, however junior they may be to the organization. Ana has been a new source of energy for F5 and her service is making an enormous difference to our company, the tech industry and people all around the world, especially women and girls of color."

For White, being named Alumna of the Year is humbling and a true honor. "I'm proud to be an SU alumna," she says.

## OUTSTANDING RECENT ALUMNUS

### ARCHIE ROUNDTREE, JR., '18 JD

To find a person who's deeply motivated to give back and improve the world around them, look no further than Archie Roundtree, Jr. An accomplished lawyer and gifted creative writer and speaker, Roundtree embodies the Jesuit ethos of service and care, serving selflessly as an advocate for the most vulnerable, a voice for those who often feel silenced.

Drawn to Seattle University School of Law because of its commitment to student success and its nationally ranked Legal Writing program, Roundtree cites the law school's Access Resource Center as an example of an impactful program that carves a pathway for historically disadvantaged and underrepresented students to earn a law degree.

"My success is forever tied to the support I received beginning with my first day of law school," he says. "I am the first attorney in my family and knew I wanted an environment where I felt supported through the process."

He also credits his family, who play an outsized role in his life and

who have nurtured his interests from an early age. When he was just 9 years old, Roundtree exclaimed to his paternal grandmother that he wanted to be a lawyer.

"I put my suit on for summer camp, she looked at me and said, 'You are destined to be great at anything you set your mind to. Keep going no matter what hardships may come, God and family will always be with you.'"

In his current role as an equity attorney at Justice in Aging in Los Angeles, Roundtree works to advance equity and institute systemic changes in law and policy for marginalized, low-income older adults, particularly women, people of color, LGBTQI+ individuals and those with limited English.

"For 50 years, Justice in Aging has used the power of law to fight senior poverty by securing access to affordable health care, economic security and the courts for older adults with limited resources," Roundtree explains. "Our mission is to secure the opportunity for older adults to live with dignity, regardless of financial circumstances—free from the worry, harm and injustice caused by lack of health care, food or a safe place to sleep."

Knowing firsthand the value of volunteerism and mentorship when he was a student at SU, he in turn mentors current law students.

"I think it is important for each of us to pay it forward—what you receive from one, you give to another. The mentors in my life changed my career trajectory. Everything I learned from my mentors I want to pass on to my mentees, so they can pass it on to those who follow," says Roundtree.

In being named the Outstanding Recent Alumnus, Roundtree says it's an honor but also "a manifestation of so many people who spoke into my life," from his grandparents and parents to his sibling, friends and colleagues alike.

"Yes, I might be the recipient of this award and I graciously accept," he says. "However, I will always remember this is also for the community that supports a young African American attorney who became the first lawyer in his family. This is only the beginning."

## COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

### TOM ROACH, '71

When Russia invaded Ukraine, Tom Roach was moved to do something. Guided by his values and propelled by the feeling that more could be done, he traveled to the Balkan countries bordering Ukraine. Once there he set out to provide assistance to refugees in whatever way he could. Before long, he was putting in countless hours, preparing bags of food for displaced families.

His humanitarian efforts didn't stop there. When Roach learned of Ukrainian children unable to go to school, he jumped into action once again, reaching out to friends and family and raising enough money in 24 hours to support two teachers for 51 students.

"Since I follow international events quite closely, I have been very interested in the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. Following the developments and the refugee situation that ensued after the invasion, it just seemed to me that I was the right person in the right place at the right time to help," Roach says.

For Roach, being in service to others was something that developed while a student at SU.

"You can learn reading and writing and arithmetic at any university. At SU, there has always been an effort to help students recognize the truly important aspects of life—helping out, giving back, giving thanks."

To say that Roach and his family have deep ties to the university doesn't truly capture the full picture. Over three generations, 24



TOM ROACH, '71

family members, including his mother, Patricia Sullivan Roach, '66, all eight of his siblings and two of his children attended school here. For more than two decades he served on the Board of Regents and helped create an endowed scholarship named for his parents, Jack and Patricia Roach.

Someone who was very impactful in his life is also who he names—without hesitation—as his favorite professor: Nick Damascus.

"Professor Damascus taught Art History and he was an absolute classic. He is a big reason that I fell in love with art and the world," recalls Roach, "and I have now visited 74 countries, to actually see in person the art and architecture he put up on the screen more than 50 years ago."

A love of travel and a desire to help those in need also enhanced his work as an immigration lawyer. For more than 40 years Roach profoundly affected the lives of countless Eastern Washington immigrants by helping them navigate the process to gain citizenship status and employment opportunities.

"I treated every one of my clients over all those years with respect, honesty and dignity. Whether that person was a medical doctor from Germany, an engineer from Australia, a cook at a Chinese restaurant from Hong Kong or farmworkers from old Mexico, I took their cases just as seriously and did the best I could for each of them," says Roach. "It gives me great satisfaction to know that I did my best for every client, no matter where they happened to fall on the socioeconomic ladder."

Though he is now retired, Roach has not stopped helping others.

"I think it's in the Gospel of Luke somewhere. It says something to the effect of, 'To those that much has been given, much is expected.' My parents taught me that and that message was reinforced by the nuns at Saint Patrick grade school in Pasco and the Jesuits at Seattle University."

## PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

### ROLITA FLORES EZEONU, '06 EDD

As the daughter of immigrants and a first-generation college student, Dr. Rolita Ezeonu's academic success was made possible with the support of community—family, friends and mentors who were unwavering in their belief in her. Recognizing how pivotal this was in her life meant that Dr. Ezeonu wanted to extend that to others. This led to a decades-long career transforming educational institutions to best serve marginalized communities and foster equity and inclusion.

The College of Education graduate came to Seattle University for its social justice mission and vision, alignment with her Catholic faith and flexible classes for a working parent.

Throughout her career, Ezeonu has served as a leading administrator for technical and community colleges in South King County. Additionally, she has partnered with local nonprofits to remove barriers of transportation, built relationships with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe to open stronger introductions into technical and transfer programs and help secure a \$1.5 million grant for Highline College.

For the past four years she's served as Vice President of Instruction at Green River College. During this time she has made transformative changes such as working with leadership and faculty to realize the college's equity-centered strategic plan. She is celebrated for her relationship-building and for leading with purpose, humility and faith.

"I'm most proud of being able to make a positive change for our South King County communities and making an impact on students'



lives,” she says.

Ezeonu says the Professional Achievement Alumni Award is meaningful for her as she is honored to join a distinguished group of past recipients and is humbled because it is an acknowledgment of all she’s accomplished, which includes her work on the Alumni Board of Governors.

### UNIVERSITY SERVICE AWARD

#### MARY ANN GOTO, '79

Since she was in high school, Mary Ann Goto was keenly aware of her calling—to become a counselor or social worker.

At the time a peer counselor in high school, when a recruiter from Seattle University visited her rural community in Hawaii and spoke of the personalized attention to learning with small class sizes and the Jesuit mission, it made perfect sense for the Catholic-raised Goto to follow her interest and study sociology at SU.

“I felt safe venturing off to the mainland knowing my surroundings would be similar to home,” she says.

And at SU, Goto immersed herself in enriching campus experiences, including opportunities to learn more about her Filipino American heritage through a true trailblazer and peers.

“My She-ro and role model has been Dr. Dorothy Cordova, '53, an SU alumna and matriarch of an SU Legacy Family. ‘Auntie Dorothy,’ as she is affectionately called, founded the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS) and her dedication to developing its archives over the last 40 years has been an inspiration,” Goto says. “... I reflect on the fact that my paternal grandparents immigrated from Cebu, Philippines, in 1910 and here I am today. It’s true when they say, ‘We are our ancestors’ greatest dreams.’”

The desire to serve is embedded in Goto’s character and goes well beyond her volunteer efforts. Professionally, she works for Asian Counseling and Referral Service, helping to support vulnerable members of the community.

As an alumna, Goto frequently volunteers at SU events and fundraisers. She helped plan a class reunion with Hawaiian alumni, served on the College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Council and for years was a key leader of the Filipino Alumni Chapter.

What is it about SU that compels Goto to stay engaged? It starts with the mission.

“The mission to strive for a just and humane world aligns with my own values. SU programs, panel presentations and seminars educate and bring to light many social justice issues still relevant today. I find it fulfilling to be involved serving as a resource for current students or volunteering at alumni events. On many occasions my volunteer work in the community intersects with SU resources and I enjoy being that liaison.”

It is a saying on a magnet on her fridge, “The universe will align itself to your song,” that best describes Goto’s feelings about being an alumni award recipient.

“To be recognized for doing what inspires you and fulfills your soul is everything.”



MARY ANN GOTO, '79



Read extended Q&As with this year’s Alumni Award winners and Athletics Hall of Fame inductees in *The Newsroom*.

## HALL OF FAMERS

At this year’s Alumni Awards ceremony, in addition to honoring this year’s winners it was also an opportunity to recognize the newest inductees to the Athletics Hall of Fame: Women’s soccer player Stephanie Verdoia, '15, and men’s soccer player Kyle Bjornethun, '21.



#### STEPHANIE VERDOIA, '15 (WOMEN'S SOCCER)

The most decorated player in program history, Stephanie Verdoia was an All-American, Academic All-American and the first female SU athlete drafted to go pro by the National Women’s Soccer League’s Boston Breakers.

A Cottonwood Heights, Utah, native, Verdoia was a four-year starter for the Redhawks from 2011-14. She scored a school record 51 goals and added 30 assists while leading the Redhawks to back-to-back Western Athletic Conference regular season and tournament championships in 2013 and 2014. In a career full of highlights, Verdoia says there is one game, one experience that stands above the rest.

#### What is your fondest memory of your time playing here?

“My fondest memory is winning in overtime against Washington State in the NCAA Tournament. It was the coldest and most exciting game I have ever played in!”

#### What does it mean to be selected to the Athletics Hall of Fame?

“It’s quite overwhelming in a wonderful way. I felt like I was given so many gifts during my time at Seattle University—wonderful administrators, coaches, teammates, professors. To be awarded this honor, among so many great athletes and humans, makes me want to share it with everyone who made me who I was during my experience. I’m very proud to think I contributed to Seattle University in any way.”

#### KYLE BJORNETHUN, '21 (MEN'S SOCCER)

Kyle Bjornethun was drafted by the Seattle Sounders FC following a Redhawk career that includes four conference titles, two NCAA Tournament wins, All-conference and All-American honors.

A Snohomish, Wash., native, Bjornethun was a standout defender for the Redhawks from 2013-16, leading SU to Western Athletic Conference regular season and tournament championships in 2013 and 2015. The team advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament both seasons, picking up wins over national powerhouses Creighton and UCLA. Bjornethun became the third player in program history to be picked in the MLS SuperDraft, selected by the Sounders FC in the fourth round in 2017.

#### What is your fondest memory of your time playing here?

“My fondest memory on the field was our snowy win against Creighton in the first round of the NCAA Tournament in 2013. It was absolutely freezing and the snow was accumulating as the game went on. We definitely came in as the underdog but we were able to weather the storm even after giving up something like 20 shots and advance to the next round.”

#### What does it mean to be selected to the Athletics Hall of Fame?

“Any former Seattle U soccer player has heard the stories of the teams with Hall of Famers like Jeremiah Doyle, Tom Hardy, Bobby McAllister and Cam Weaver, to name just a few. To be in the same conversation with all the legends in the entire Athletics Hall of Fame is the highest recognition I’ve ever received.”

# HISTORY BUFF

Alumnus James Nau, '01, is WA History Teacher of the Year.

BY TARA LEE

Before James Nau became enmeshed in studying history at Seattle University, he was drawing cartoons for student-run newspaper *The Spectator* as an undergrad.

In addition to affording opportunities to expand his artistic endeavors, SU provided Nau, '01, with an invaluable appreciation of scrutiny, challenging assumptions and the importance of evidence, all important when discussing and teaching history.

"As I tell my students, you must be able to build your argument. That is the foundation for what you are doing. If you can support it with evidence, then it is fair game for discussion," Nau explains. "My undergrad experience at SU also taught me the intrinsic value of work and appreciation that the work itself is worthy of time and attention. That is a huge part of teaching."

And his students at Seattle's Lakeside School are learning history from one of the best in the state and the country.

Nau was named the 2022 Washington History Teacher of the Year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute. The organization's mission is to promote the knowledge and understanding of American history through educational programs and resources.

In addition to that honor, Nau was one of 10 teachers across the U.S. who were finalists for the National History Teacher of the Year award.

He was nominated for the award by a colleague and the selection process was made by a panel that included staff from the Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Since 2016 Nau has taught at Lakeside, focusing his curriculum on the history of Seattle, specifically how geography and identity formed pockets of community.

"Positionality affects how history is written and understood. Take something like redlining in Seattle. A person's position, relative to its aims and consequences, would affect if and how they tell that story. That, in turn, shapes how history is recorded and understood," Nau explains. "I try to show my students that people across time are as complex as people in our own time and faced many of the same challenges. History can help us understand the lives that people have led and hopefully that carries forward as engagement with the larger world that results in empathy and consideration of others."

Teaching was not always in Nau's professional sights. But he enjoyed school and his Jesuit education inspired a love of learning.

After graduating from SU with a bachelor's degree in history, he received a Fulbright Fellowship to teach English in Wismar, Germany. It was there that Nau realized his true calling and then went on to complete a master's in secondary education from Loyola University in Chicago.

"I looked at my colleagues who imparted such respect and admiration for teaching," he says. "It helped to cement the value of the work and I really considered what it meant to be a teacher."

Nau also learned about teaching from his interactions with some of his SU professors. "They were highly supportive and accessible. They were authentic and really conveyed that we were in the work together. I have tried to carry that forward and provide that for my students."

For Nau, part of his success as a teacher is recognizing that his students experience with history is very different than his own.

"The world is more volatile now. It is not that there wasn't injustice then, there absolutely was, but the rapid rate of change is dizzying and the breadth of information available to them has changed how they experience history and leads them to ask tough questions," says Nau. "This generation of students is thoughtful, engaged and inclusive in a way that is very reassuring."

When he's not studying or teaching history, Nau spends time reading, drawing, playing board games, listening to the Mariners on the radio and, occasionally, fishing. He's also done a lot of DIY work in his house in Lake City and picked up hockey "at the ripe old age of 42." ... "All that being said, most of my available time goes into parenting."

“I try to show my students that people across time are as complex as people in our own time and faced many of the same challenges.”

—James Nau, '01

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