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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS
IN A TIME OF NEED

DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

When the editorial team behind UW Bothell Magazine first began planning this Summer/Fall 2020 issue, it was just as the coronavirus pandemic started spreading in the Puget Sound region, and they wanted to put together a special issue that would reflect some of the extraordinary experiences people in the UW Bothell community were having.

Of course, it is impossible in a single magazine to capture what is currently happening on the ground. Not only is it a matter of space (although we expanded this issue to share more stories than we normally can), but magazines take several months to plan, produce and publish.

That said, I am moved by the collection of stories you will read in this issue — and inspired by the people whose different experiences are shared on these pages.

The pandemic has wreaked havoc on people and communities here and around the world, affecting not just their physical health but also their sense of mental well-being and stability. Being isolated in quarantine or living and working within state-mandated restrictions has changed our day-to-day realities.

The effects of the pandemic on our economy and on people’s financial well-being are still unfolding as I write this column.

We are also grappling with the killing of George Floyd in late May and the many shock ripples it is causing across our society as we try to take account of the inherent racism and injustices of our institutions — including the health-care equity issues starkly revealed by the disparate impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

What I take away from this issue are not ready-made solutions to the many challenges we face, although some ideas and actions are included in the stories told in these pages.

Rather, what I find is an important and reassuring reminder that, despite all our flaws as humans, we are resilient, we are committed to making the world better, and we are in this together as a human community.

I invite you to take some time with the news and stories in this issue. Please share them with others who might be encouraged in this difficult time to learn more about what is happening within the UW Bothell community.

As chancellor, I also want to take this opportunity to commit again to you that, despite any obstacles we encounter along the way, we remain firmly committed to our educational mission. The University of Washington motto is Lux Sit, or Let there Be Light.

Through research and teaching, through our community engagement and through the lenses of equity and inclusion, UW Bothell strives to empower its students, faculty, alumni, staff, donors, partners and friends to be clear-eyed and courageous as they live and lead in our various communities.

And with the new strategic plan we unveiled earlier this year, called Expanding Access, Achieving Excellence, I know we will find new ways to continue this work together in this most crucial time of change.

Wolf Yeigh, Chancellor
UW Bothell is committed to increasing access to an excellent UW education. The faculty and staff have been recognized for innovations in academic programming and support services designed to help students graduate on time and debt-free.

UW Bothell is also known for providing a participatory student experience grounded in hands-on learning; close relationships with faculty as researchers, teachers and mentors; and the personalized support of staff who are dedicated to student success.

As part of its commitment to excellence, UW Bothell places particular value on diversity, community engagement and sustainability. The campus is also distinguished by its focus on connected learning and cross-disciplinary research, scholarship and creative practice.

CHANCELLOR: Wolf Yeigh

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The Alumni Council gives its time, talent and treasure to support the University because of the remarkable change members believe it inspires. Join the Alumni Council!

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SPECIAL FEATURE

Coronavirus Pandemic:
A Chronicle of Human Experiences

In this issue, members of the UW Bothell community — students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors and community partners — share how they are living and working through the unprecedented impacts of COVID-19.

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EXPANDING ACCESS, ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE

The University of Washington Bothell’s 30th anniversary this year also marked the successful completion of its 21st Century Campus Initiative that launched in 2008. It’s been a period of strong growth that now will continue under a new strategic plan — Expanding Access, Achieving Excellence — focused on expanding access to a University of Washington education and supporting excellence and achievement.

The plan was drafted with contributions from across the UW Bothell community, including students, faculty, staff, alumni, community partners and other stakeholders. It sets three strategic priorities:

- Strengthen diversity and equity
- Enhance community and campus engagement
- Advance cross-disciplinary teaching and scholarship

The three priorities create a framework that will guide the work of UW Bothell’s five schools and other academic and support units across campus, said Chancellor Wolf Yeigh.

“As we look to the future,” he said, “UW Bothell will continue to be known for offering a diverse student population greater access to an excellent UW education — an educational experience that moves across multiple disciplines, connects with partners in the region and prepares our students to be leaders in their families, communities and careers.”

RECOGNITION FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Carnegie Foundation has recognized UW Bothell for its community engagement — collaborations with outside partners that lead to the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources.

UW Bothell, along with UW Tacoma and UW’s campus in Seattle, was among 119 universities and colleges to receive the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification from the Swearer Center for Public Engagement at Brown University, which administers the designation.

In its decision letter, the foundation cited UW Bothell’s “excellent alignment among campus mission, culture, leadership, resources and practices that support dynamic and noteworthy community engagement.”

Through the Carnegie application process, the campus also outlined engagement work for the next five to 10 years, said Kara Adams, director of community engagement. “There’s more we can do to support our region and be a good partner.”

Only 40% of the first-time applicants received the classification for 2020. That’s fewer than 10% of approximately 4,000 higher education institutions in the United States.
WELCOME TO NEW STEM DEAN

UW Bothell has named Leslie Cornick as its new dean of the School of STEM effective July 1.

Cornick had served as the associate dean of the College of STEM at Eastern Washington University since 2017 and served in various capacities at Alaska Pacific University from 2004 to 2017, including as dean of Research and Sponsored Programs and as department chair of Marine and Environmental Sciences.

At UW Bothell, Cornick succeeded Marc Servetnick, professor and chair of the STEM Division of Biological Sciences, who had been serving as interim dean since September 2019, following the departure of founding dean Elaine Scott.

“I spent the majority of my faculty years at a small liberal arts university with a very strong commitment to experiential learning,” said Cornick. “UW Bothell understands how important that is for undergraduate education and exemplifies the intersection between cutting-edge research and teaching. Translating research to the classroom is the most meaningful form of teaching in the STEM disciplines, and the faculty really understand how to do that.”

Cornick received a doctorate from Texas A&M University, a master’s in Biology from San Francisco State University and a bachelor’s in Biological Anthropology from UC San Diego.

FIRST-EVER VIRTUAL COMMENCEMENT

Perhaps more than any other graduating class at UW Bothell, the Class of 2020 can feel a sense of accomplishment for just making it to graduation.

After mid-March, the coronavirus pandemic forced students, faculty and staff into remote operations. The 29th annual Commencement was a virtual ceremony that participants attended through the screens of their computers and mobile devices.

More than 900 graduates took part in the June 13 ceremony. And nearly 2,100 students in all had their degrees conferred — 1,908 bachelor’s and 182 master’s. Before the ceremony, each registered graduate received a celebration box that, among other gifts, included an offer for a free, one-year membership to the UW Alumni Association. The physical diplomas are arriving in the mail this summer.

All 2020 graduates are invited to come back together next June in a combined Commencement with the Class of 2021 at T-Mobile Park. If they can’t make it, they’ll be welcome to participate in 2022, 2023 or 2024.

RECORD 13 STUDENTS NAMED IN HUSKY 100

Each year the University of Washington recognizes 100 students from all three campuses who are making the most of their Husky experience. This year, 13 of the Husky 100 are from UW Bothell — the most yet. That’s three more in the elite group than last year and up from five in 2016, the inaugural year. There were seven each in 2017 and 2018.

UW Provost Mark A. Richards said there is one thing all Husky 100 share: They are leaders and innovators. “Through their coursework, research, volunteer and leadership efforts, internships and jobs, they have created their own Husky experience.”

Learn more about these 13 recipients on UW Bothell’s Husky 100 webpage and see all 100 on UW’s Husky 100 webpage.

UW BOTHELL: 30 YEARS IN THE MAKING

On July 10, 1990, the 13 founding faculty of the University of Washington Bothell cut the ceremonial ribbon that opened the doors to the academic excellence of a University of Washington education for residents of north Puget Sound. UW Bothell offered a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies, and 126 students enrolled in the first classes. In 1991, three local students became the first-ever graduates.

After its humble beginning at a Canyon Park Business Center, the University broke ground in 1998 on 132 acres at the intersection of Interstate 405 and Highway 522. In 2000, the transformation of the former Truly cattle ranch to the shared UW Bothell and Cascadia College campus was complete.

Now, as UW Bothell celebrates its 30th year, it has about 55 degree programs in five schools: Business, Educational Studies, Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences, Nursing & Health Studies and STEM. It also has approximately 6,000 students, more than 700 faculty and staff, and 25,000 alumni.

For more news, go to www.uwb.edu/news.

Find alumni stories at www.uwb.edu/alumni-news.

See recent points of pride at www.uwb.edu/about/points-of-pride.
Coronavirus Pandemic: A CHRONICLE OF HUMAN EXPERIENCES

JUST ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO, word of a novel coronavirus was just starting to make headlines in the United States.

Since then, the pandemic has affected millions around the world including right here in the Puget Sound region, epicenter of what was then the first known outbreak in the United States.

In this special feature, we asked members of the UW Bothell community to share their experiences.

A pandemics course in the time of COVID-19

When Dan Bustillos saw a pandemic coming this last winter, he decided on a new course to offer students at UW Bothell. The assistant professor in the School of Nursing & Health Studies designed what turned out to be a timely spring quarter course — Coronavirus Pandemic: The ethical and legal implications of pandemic preparedness and response.

In two course sections, 39 students had the chance to learn in the moment through Covid Capsule, a news and media aggregator. Students on the project collected and curated articles, videos and podcasts for each day of the pandemic. They also created a database to serve as a time capsule for others to use. Click on a date and you can see statistics and graphs as well as headlines and media that put the numbers in the context of what was happening in the world that day.

The Washington State Public Health Association has looked at using Covid Capsule, with Bustillos meeting Executive Director Jeff Ketchel (Master of Arts in Policy Studies ’08) to discuss a possible collaboration with future pandemics classes.

Public health officials thought they had learned from previous pandemics and prepared ways to mitigate and alleviate mistakes, Bustillos says. “And, it turns out we were pretty much wrong. We made all the same mistakes, and in some cases, we made them worse than we did 100 years ago.”

Among the outcomes Bustillos sees from COVID-19 may be improving preparations for the next time a pathogen comes along, including a better stockpile of personal protective equipment for health care workers.
“I’m proud I’m at the University of Washington because there are so many people doing such great work on this pandemic.”

Dan Bustillos
Assistant Professor in UW Bothell’s School of Nursing & Health Studies

“We cannot make these mistakes again, especially if we have something that is far deadlier than this,” Bustillos says.

There has been heroic work by places such as the UW Medicine Virology Lab, which is testing coronavirus for the city of Seattle, the state of Washington and beyond, he says. “I’m proud I’m at the University of Washington because there are so many people doing such great work on this pandemic.”

Academic advisers still available

Eva Navarijo, advising director in UW Bothell’s School of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences, says a lot of students, aware of how stressed everyone is because of the coronavirus pandemic, have taken to beginning conversations apologetically, “I’m sorry to bother you…”

Navarijo understands that concern.

“All of us have a lot on our plates. All of our schools are building things, creating new documents, and developing new virtual tools to help facilitate online learning,” says Navarijo, one of three advisers who normally would be found in the IAS office in Founders Hall (UW1).

But Navarijo and her colleagues also want to remove that concern because all of UW Bothell’s academic advisers are still a resource that students can turn to — remotely.

“It’s certainly a disruption to normal operations,” Navarijo says, “but it’s not a stop.”

Norm Wright, assistant director of advising for pre-major students, normally works with five other professional advisers, plus five student peer advisers, in the Student Success Center. Now, they work by videoconferencing.

“We’re still here. We want to see students. This is what we do,” Wright says. “I know for me and my team, this is what brings us joy — to be able to interact with students. We want to be able to support them as they pursue their education.”

Some advising sessions that normally took 30 minutes now take an hour, Wright says, as students deal with stress from losing jobs or moving back home or feeling alone.

And advisers want to be the people who students turn to, Navarijo says. “We want to know our students’ stories. We want to become the one person on campus where a student can be completely authentic and share concerns about their ability to succeed.

“Certainly, we have webpages with lists of resources,” Navarijo says. “We have links we can share, PDF documents that might be useful. But those are really just the tools. The academic adviser is the resource here.”

Q&A with Stephanie Lê,
pre-major adviser

Q. What would you normally be doing now — and where? How about now?
A. I would normally be in the office, either working on projects or advising students. Instead, I am working from home. Today I have a meeting with our subcommittee on diversity, equity and inclusion for our Undergraduate Learning Team. I also am meeting by Zoom with a student.

Q. What are you doing to care for yourself or for others?
A. I am definitely struggling a little bit with my own mental health. And trying to navigate that for others has been difficult because I know each experience is unique. What does working remotely look like for students? How is it affecting us as faculty and staff members? And what ways do they intersect?

I also want to recognize the students who are having to find spaces to continue learning remotely. Equitable access is something that is constantly on my mind, especially as students are sharing their experiences with me during our advising appointments.

Q. Do you have a change of perspective to share?
A. I feel like I’ve undergone a lot of change. This time of restricted operations has allowed me to look within and reflect about the things that I’m doing, about the things that do and don’t matter. I’ve been finding ways to really find that inner peace.

I also want to work on being more personal, which is a little more difficult with technology. I want to create that personal relationship because students are not physically here on campus and don’t feel connected to our resources.
Makerspace 3D printers making face shields

The UW Bothell’s Makerspace may not be open for business as usual these days given restrictions due to the pandemic, but that does not mean all activity has stopped in the Discovery Hall workshop. Students can submit online requests for Makerspace staff to help fabricate their projects. The staff has also been turning out parts for face shields to help protect doctors and nurses at the UW School of Medicine, Harborview Medical Center and other facilities in the UW Medicine system.

When it became apparent that COVID-19 was causing a shortage of personal protective equipment for health care workers, faculty started thinking about how UW Bothell could help.

Initially it was the shortage of N-95 masks that prompted Jody Early, associate professor in the School of Nursing & Health Studies, and Pierre Mourad, professor in the School of STEM at UW Bothell and neurological surgery professor at UW’s Seattle campus, to engage a number of colleagues in the effort. This included Rafael Silva, the Makerspace operations manager; Troy Dunmire, the mechanical engineering lab manager; and Cinnamon Hillyard, then associate vice chancellor for undergraduate learning.

Quickly, the effort began pulling in more interested faculty and staff across the University and at other organizations.

As it appeared the state of Washington had better options to get more N-95 masks, the team decided to switch to making face shields or visors that cover the entire face. Mourad turned for help to Design that Matters, a Redmond-based nonprofit that typically applies rapid prototyping and human-centered design to medical devices in low-resource settings.

The goal was an easy-to-fabricate design that could be used to make face shields that would help protect health care workers until manufacturers caught up with growing demand. “It was designed so that someone with access to a 3D printer and office supplies can build it,” Mourad says.

“IT was a positive experience to participate in the initiatives to help address the shortage of medical supplies,” says Silva, adding it was “eye-opening” to see the complex logistics required to produce a reliable piece of medical equipment during a pandemic.

Meeting the access-to-technology challenge

As the UW moved to remote operations, people all across the UW Bothell campus rose to the challenge of providing students the technology they needed to continue their spring quarter studies. While some students simply needed computers, others needed access to WI-FI hotspots or specialized software to do their assignments.

To meet their needs, UW Bothell’s Information Technologies in March and April redeployed existing resources — 15 laptops from classrooms and 27 from the Makerspace — and made some emergency equipment purchases.

The Student Technology Fee Committee also approved the purchase of 50 laptops and 50 hotspots. The Associated Students of UW Bothell then revised its bylaws to allow the STF committee to purchase more laptops and hotspots as needed. The University also received a donation from Microsoft of 100 gently used laptops.

“It has been amazing to see all of this come together,” says Christy Long, assistant vice chancellor for information technologies and chief information officer. “The care and generosity our community has expressed, especially student government organizations and Microsoft, in support of our students has been inspiring.”

Adds Aaron Jacobson, chair of the STF committee, “While many students have personal laptops they can take with them throughout the day, not every student does. Many families also don’t have enough computers for every person in their household to have their own computer for work, college or K-12, or anything else,” he says.

“The committee also strongly believed that we had to ensure that students had enough internet bandwidth to participate in classes because a laptop without internet isn’t useful,” said Jacobson, who graduated in the spring with a degree in Computer Science & Software Engineering.

“While I personally don’t need one of the laptops, one of the things I’ve learned from being a student at UW Bothell is that not everyone is like me. There are many different reasons why a student may not have a laptop and high bandwidth internet connection right now,” he says.
“The loanable laptops at the library have been very successful and are always in demand in normal times with in-person classes,” Jacobson says. “The need for them has only increased because of the shift to online classes.”

**Faculty create impact while flattening the curve**

– excerpts from Associate Professor Karam Dana’s essay in the June edition of University of Washington Magazine

“The unprecedented urgency of the COVID-19 pandemic and health crisis has led to major adjustments in everyday life. Society will continue to transform in ways yet to be fully understood as the list of coronavirus victims continues to grow. It is during crises like these that we need to come up with the most effective solutions. “The faculty and staff of the University of Washington have been able to switch to an entirely online teaching platform for the three campuses. In fact, UW was the first institution in the U.S. to switch the mode of teaching away from face-to-face instruction as a result of the sobering recognition that doing so would save thousands of lives. Although online education and distance learning have been proven to be effective, not all classes can easily be switched into an online mode. Moreover, online courses require pedagogical depth, an engaged process of extensive planning, thoughtful reflection on the best approach to present course materials, student engagement, participation and evaluation.

“Impactful education requires adapting to unanticipated situations. “[UW professors] ‘flatten-the-curve’ while still producing and disseminating knowledge. It might not be perfect or ideal, but desperate times call for desperate measures … and fortunately our reactive measures ended up far from desperate. UW faculty have exceeded all expectations!”

**Q&A with Marc Studer, campus photographer**

**Q. What would you normally be doing now and where?**

**A.** I would normally be in my office on campus, answering emails and planning for shoots. Pre-pandemic, I was averaging three photo or video shoots per day. Once a shoot is finished, the job is only one-third done. There is a lot of post-shoot editing and archiving. As a campus photographer, I'm responsible for pictures taken today but also 20 years ago.

**Q. How about now?**

**A.** I'm up at 7 a.m. to check emails. Before I left campus in March, I pulled all the hard drives from my office. I now have five hard drives connected to my home computer – more than 18 terabytes of images. I am missing the UW bandwidth. When you try to work with large images or video in the cloud, it slows down your internet. And that means no Netflix for anyone.

**Q. What adjustments have you made to do your work?**

**A.** I've made myself a Zoom fort (Fort Awesome). I made the fort when I realized I would be spending lots of time here. I started moving things, and moving one thing led to five. Everything I need is in arms reach, and my lighting is optimized for video.

I am an essential employee, so I am still making trips to campus. I have been filming some of the STEM faculty doing experiments so they can conduct their labs remotely. Today, I'm producing a video to teach faculty how to make their own Zoom fort (a space set up for video teaching). It will include tips on how to improvise lighting and sound.

**Q. What are you doing to care for yourself or for others?**

**A.** I own a one-wheel scooter. I'm out on it every day. I hang a camera around my neck, and I'm ready to take a picture. The scooter allows me to explore so many nooks and crannies that I never knew existed.

I always have little side projects going. Without a daily commute, I have more time. Early on, I made face masks. I rebuilt my workspace. I went through my library and was shocked at the size of the paranormal section! I'm binging some Netflix (“Westworld”). Also, I'm drinking coffee like a fish.

**Q. Do you have a change of perspective to share?**

**A.** The status quo is a fragile thing. I've had a lot of anxiety about this. The other lesson we will all learn the hard way is, we will adapt. You need to take care of yourself. It’s important to take a break from the news.
Q&A with Avery Montes De Oca, RN to BSN alumna

Q. Do you have a change of perspective to share?
A. As far as nursing, it does remind me you work with what you have. There were times where resources and time were so short you had to adapt to the situation. You do your best to care for your patients — and to care for your fellow coworkers. There are a lot of nurses, techs and doctors who struggle through this situation.

And we’re all in it together. It’s not just the health care workers, it’s everyone else, too. We’re all just trying to get through the world and support each other in the best way we can.

Q. Any other thoughts to share?
A. I really hope we don’t have a second wave. Things may not get back to normal-normal, but we can start getting outside and going back to our normal lives. We’ll see.

I’m very pro-science. I hope we can get that vaccine. It does make me wonder: Even if we get a vaccine for the coronavirus, are we at risk for another pandemic like this? More than anything, I would hope we prepare ourselves better. There were supply shortages because a lot of our PPE came from overseas. I hope we can create more of it here so that when something like this does happen — because I believe, in a way, this might be inevitable — we should prepare for the worst.

But while we were unprepared, I feel like our staff adapted to the situation and effectively took care of our patients with warmth and compassion to the best of our abilities.

A tale of two coronavirus epicenters

An emergency room nurse, UW Bothell alumna Avery Montes De Oca has been at the epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic — twice.

She works at EvergreenHealth, the Kirkland hospital where nursing home patients were taken during the outbreak in March that alarmed the nation about the threat of COVID-19.

“We were hit hard initially with a lot of COVID patients,” she says.

But after the initial surge, the emergency room was not as busy as usual because many people were staying away, even if they could have used medical attention. Meanwhile, the coronavirus was spiking in other areas, particularly New York City, so Montes De Oca replied to a call for travel nurses put out by Elmhurst Hospital in Queens.

Responding to the call

“Seeing that job posting, all of a sudden it became reality — I could do this job,” she says. “I had the skill set. I was a healthy person who could go and help out when I knew a lot of the nurses at Elmhurst were struggling, and all the other hospitals in New York for that matter.”

Taking a leave from Evergreen, Montes De Oca was away from her home, husband and second-grade son from early April to late May.
“It was overwhelming at first,” she says. “There were a lot of patients and not enough critical care beds. My first day was spending 12 hours with patients who normally would be in a critical care environment, but they were stuck in the emergency department waiting for a bed to open up.”

Montes De Oca has been an RN for a little more than a year, yet she saw things many veteran nurses had not seen in decades. “It was hard for families who can’t speak English to understand they can’t be in the emergency department when their loved one is close to death,” she says.

Although the majority of patients were older with health conditions that made them vulnerable, she also saw patients in their 40s hit hard. “That was difficult to watch, too, because these were people who should normally bounce back.”

Montes De Oca is certain she must have been exposed to the coronavirus, but her only test, for antibodies, was negative. She was around a doctor who became sick and a nurse who died.

“That was a heavy cloud on the nurses. A lot of them were struggling with what they saw there and what happened,” she said. “There’s a lot of pain and a lot of grief for the nurses who feel they couldn’t do enough for their patients. Then seeing their fellow nurses and doctors pass away or get deathly ill is a terrifying thing.”

**While still a student**

Throughout her stressful work, Montes De Oca was a UW Bothell student in the School of Nursing & Health Studies’ RN to BSN program. A hybrid of in-person and online classes, it is designed for working nurses. They were required to be at school only one day every other week.

When the pandemic hit, the program went 100% remote. So even when Montes De Oca was working 12-hour shifts four days a week in New York, she could schedule a teleconference school day.

Back home and back to work at Evergreen, Montes De Oca hopes to become a nurse practitioner and plans to apply to a DNP program at the UW campus in Seattle. She graduated in June from UW Bothell where her husband, Norman Montes De Oca, also graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

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“We were able to deliver a lot of different content, and people seemed pretty pleased,” says David VanDeusen, assistant director of admissions for campus visits.

And the feedback from students was highly positive, he says. Most were happy they could talk to people, noting that there were not many other colleges with a similar program.

The high school seniors had many questions that showed how worried they were about graduating and going to college during a pandemic. To allay their concerns as much as possible, the campaign intentionally took a compassionate tone, says Lindsey Burns, assistant director of admissions for marketing and communications.

The main message: “We understand this is a tough time. We’re going to do as much as we can to help you.”

Hopefully, Admitted Student Days and tours will resume next year — but parts of Dawgs at a Distance may continue as well, says VanDeusen.

“It’s really opened our eyes about providing virtual experiences moving forward, regardless of whether it’s required or not,” he says. “This shows us we can deliver quite a bit virtually.”
UW Bothell engineers respond to COVID-19

Ventec Life Systems is a medical device company in Bothell, Washington, that makes ventilators — the machines that support life for people who lose the ability to breathe on their own due to injury or disease. When the coronavirus pandemic hit, demand rocketed.

And several mechanical engineering graduates and an intern from UW Bothell, with partner GM, increase production from 200 machines a month to 10,000.

Andy Chapman (STEM ’17), Luke Johnson (STEM ’16) and Christopher Sohlberg (STEM ’17) all have worked long hours at partner GM’s plant in Kokomo, Indiana, helping autoworkers make ventilators. Still at UW Bothell, intern Caleb Taing has been supporting the work at Ventec in Bothell.

While nothing could really prepare anyone adequately for such a crisis, they say the college experiences they found most useful were the hands-on projects and capstone courses they had in the School of STEM working with Professor Pierre Mourad, Associate Professor Steven Collins, Associate Professor John Bridge and former staff member Ivan Owen, who managed UW Bothell’s Makerspace lab.

Johnson says his undergraduate research with Mourad, particularly a capstone project in which his team built a 3D printer that used chocolate, turned out to be invaluable. “Obviously a much smaller scale, but it prepared me for that level of thinking — how to coordinate between people of different disciplines — a cross-functional approach to a complex problem.”

And ramping up ventilator production to address the pandemic was a complex problem. “We knew the demand for ventilators was going to well exceed what any individual manufacturer could make,” says Chris Brooks, Ventec chief strategy officer, noting that it was not only doctors and respiratory therapists calling but governors and ministers of health, too.

GM called Ventec in mid-March to say it could help with the supply chain for Ventec’s 700-part ventilator. By mid-April, the partnership was in place, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded them a contract to build 30,000 ventilators by the end of August at the Kokomo plant.

Back in Bothell, the city’s biotechnology innovation zone and the UW Bothell campus are key advantages for the company.

“Where do I look’ or ‘How do I present myself or my space?’ Our hope is to help guide students through these questions.”

Career Services tracks online

As UW Bothell shifted to a remote learning environment last spring, the Career Services team also shifted to a virtual platform — and started closer tracking of evolving employment trends so it could get the latest information and advice to students.

“We understand that a lot of students are nervous about the job search looks like post COVID-19,” says Rafael Delgado, assistant director of career services. “We are here to help calm some of those fears and give students the confidence to find the opportunities that are out there.

“When we started remote operations, our primary goal was to create a platform for students to access our services,” says Delgado. “Since our remote transition, we also offered a career exploration course that I teach with Kim Wilson, the director of Career Services.”

Driving all these services is the goal of helping students hone their skills in interviews and networking online. “With many companies doing Zoom interviews, our students have had a lot of questions,” says Delgado. “Where do I look’ or ‘How do I present myself or my space?’ Our hope is to help guide students through these questions.”
data literacy is more important than ever. Who has control over data and for what purposes matters more than ever. I have always worked at the intersection of equity and science education. But the current pandemic and uprisings against racial injustice and anti-Blackness have made painfully clear that our systems, including our educational systems, have been built on foundations of white supremacy and, correspondingly, racist and anti-Black systems of oppression.

“The need for scientific and data literacy is more important than ever. Who has control over data and for what purposes matters more than ever. In our work, we have taken this time to think hard about how we can re-imagine relationships between schools and families to work toward just, equitable and thriving futures for communities and families. We have been working toward strengthening families’ relationships with science in their communities through what we call a ‘family field-based seasonal storyline,’ where families ask questions, consider ethical dilemmas and do field-based investigations about their communities.

While are working on a professional development learning summit this summer (that will be completely online now), we are re-examining our data and tools to highlight how educators can explicitly incorporate anti-racist pedagogies and refuse anti-Blackness in their teaching and in their learning environments. We are designing tools, to be used both at home and in the classroom, that explicitly center family and community voices in learning.

“This is especially important because our work is called Learning in Places, and we are developing equity-focused outdoor learning experiences for students grades K-3 and their families. As Christian Cooper, #birdingwhileblack, and countless others have shown, being BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) outdoors can be a harrowing experience. We need to diversify our images of who is allowed to be outdoors, do science outdoors and learn outdoors — and what it means to teach outdoors. We are hoping Learning in Places can do that.

“We have also realized that the online learning space, while not ideal for learning together outdoors, gives us a chance to have a greater reach nationally than we would otherwise be able to have. It also gives us an opportunity to design an online learning space for educators and families that can live beyond the summer and can be repeated or taken up throughout the year.

“At home, I'm trying to incorporate a daily workout before I sit in front of a Zoom screen all day! I do lots of knitting and baking, and our family tries to incorporate a set dinner time every night so we can all get together in one space at least once a day.

“We also are trying to be involved in the Black Lives Matter protests and volunteer opportunities and to think about actions that we can all take in our everyday lives and our work to combat racism and anti-Blackness.”
Q&A with David Ryder, alumnus of the year

Seattle photographer and filmmaker

David Ryder says he brings a theoretical approach to his practice with an interest in equity and justice.

“The program during my time at UW Bothell really did help me get to where I am today, and that was thanks to the professors, staff and other students,” says Ryder, a 2011 Master of Arts in Cultural Studies alumnus and a 2020 Alumni of the Year Award recipient.

The program gave him space to “think about what I was doing and reflect on doing it in a more meaningful and ethical way,” he says, “thinking about all the different ways power intersects with journalism, photography and using someone's image.”

In the highly competitive realm of freelance photojournalism, Ryder’s skill and hard work over the last 15-plus years also earned him recognition and commercial success with an impressive list of media outlets. Ryder’s news portfolio includes images captured for The New York Times, Getty Images and Bloomberg News. A notable assignment was a March 19 coronavirus cover for Time Magazine showing the hard-hit Life Care Center in Kirkland, Washington.

Q. What would you normally be doing now and where?
A. I’m a freelancer so I already work from home. What has changed is usually I spend half my time on assignment and half my time editing video. Now, I’m out every day or every other day.

Q. What are you working on today?
A. Today I’m editing my work from the weekend at the Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone/Capitol Hill Occupied Protest and Westlake Park.

Q. What are you doing to care for yourself or for others?
A. Like everyone else, I’m doing all I can to stay healthy and safe, which has become even more of a challenge given the density of the demonstrations. I maniacally wash my hands. I wear a mask at all times. In fact, I wear a washable mask over my N-95 or KN-95 mask so I can get extended use out of them. I clean my equipment thoroughly because I don't know what it’s brushed up against. I clean my car. I come into the house and go straight to the shower. I use two pairs of shoes: one to go downstairs and out the door, and one when I return. All new procedures.

Q. Do you have a change of perspective to share?
A. This has been an exhausting time for me. I’m out and about in the thick of things, so I’m more exposed. The possibility of getting sick is mentally exhausting. The new procedures to protect my health and my equipment are physically exhausting. I have encountered people who have lost their jobs, are sick and, in the most extreme cases, are dying. That is emotionally exhausting. I understand that I have a lot of privilege, and I really try to keep that in check. I have a lot more gratitude for what I already have. I am even more grateful for the people in my life, especially now that I can’t be around them.

Q. Any other thoughts to share?
A. Acknowledge that it’s okay to not be okay. “Sit in the funk,” as Cornell West would say. Know that you’re not alone and that you will get through. That’s what I tell myself every day.
Improving nurse and patient safety

As senior vice president and chief quality, safety and nursing officer for MultiCare Health System, June Altaras had a big role even before the coronavirus pandemic hit. She leads 7,000 clinicians at six hospitals in the Puget Sound region, plus two in Spokane and other health care facilities in the state.

In response to COVID-19, the Tacoma-based not-for-profit organization stood up an incident command center. Altaras was operations chief. This was at the time Washington hospitals were told they needed to find 5,000 more beds, figure out how to care for the patients and protect the staff.

Altaras oversaw the surge planning, updating evolving guidance for clinicians amid conflicting media reports and a fearful public. “When you added the scarcity of N-95 masks, they were feeling very vulnerable, so it set up a challenging dynamic for all,” she says.

It was her role to secure personal protective equipment and ensure it was used appropriately. Then there were new guidelines for screening staff and visitors. She had to find hotel rooms for clinicians worried about bringing the coronavirus home to families. And she had to find child care for their children.

Eventually, as the situation stabilizes, Altaras says she will refocus on the culture, structures and processes to execute on this vision,” she says.

Throughout a career in which she also was chief executive of acute care services for Swedish Health Services in Seattle, Altaras says she has drawn on the education she received from UW Bothell, with a BSN in 1998 and an MSN in 2007.

“It helped me have a framework for thinking through strategy, vision and decision making,” she says. “It taught me how to go to the literature, evaluate it and use evidence in decision making. It helped me to be an integrative thinker, to deal with ambiguity and to understand how diversity impacts organizations.”

COVID-19 has put many things into a new perspective, she says. “I have learned a lot about how there is a point where clinicians become so fearful and anxious, they cease to function as they normally do. The lack of knowledge of this virus is the root cause.

“It emphasized to me how important the relentless pursuit of knowledge is,” she says, “and, with the lack of that, we can have highly detrimental impacts.”

Altaras remains involved with UW Bothell as affiliate faculty and a member of the School of Nursing & Health Studies Advisory Board. She says UW Bothell is the best place to receive an undergraduate or graduate degree because of the professors, who conduct research and love teaching.

“While going through my BSN,” she adds, “I was a single mom with four kids at home and working full time. The support at UW Bothell got me through, and I came back.”

“"It emphasized to me how important the relentless pursuit of knowledge is."”

June Altaras
Senior Vice President and Chief Quality, Safety and Nursing Officer for MultiCare Health System

Yasmin Guzman
A 2020 Health Studies graduate, says she’s been able to accomplish things that at one point seemed to be a dream. As the first in her immediate family to receive a four-year college degree, Guzman never imagined being able to study abroad in Europe. Guzman also worked in UW Bothell’s Admissions Office for four years, was active in the Latinx Student Union and did research with Associate Professor Janelle Silva that led to an internship and then to her “dream” job working at Seattle Children’s Research Institute on a long-term study of child health and development.

Q. What would you normally be doing now and where? How about now?

A. While at UW Bothell this spring, I would be either in class or working in the admissions office. Right now, I’m home in the living room, working from home like a lot of other people.

Q. What are you doing to care for yourself or for others?

A. Going on walks and bringing my family along with me, too. This pandemic has taken a toll on our mental health. Just dragging people outside for walks has been a form of self-care, and it’s been helping us get our heads out of thinking nonsense sometimes.

Q. Do you have a change of perspective to share?

A. I’ve learned what it is to have patience — with life, with people, with everything. Patience is one of those things I’ve been learning along with valuing the people around me — my family — the people who are always there.

Q. Any other thoughts to share?

A. I want to share the hope for a better future. Maybe this whole pandemic, this situation we’re living in, is for a better cause, and hopefully things get better in the long run for all of us.
**My Story: Mabel Ezeonwu**

– associate professor in the School of Nursing & Health Studies and recipient of UW Bothell’s 2020 Distinguished Teaching Award

“Winding down the end of winter quarter with remote classes and uncertain about what spring quarter would look like was stressful. While my winter quarter students were already in the field doing internships and working with the community, the very real possibility of a quarantine meant they could no longer interact with people in person. One of the biggest issues we had to deal with quickly was how the spring quarter students were going to get the experience they needed to graduate in three months.

“I was teaching two classes in the spring, both of which relied heavily on fieldwork. Community health projects with partners for my Bachelor of Science in Nursing students were set, as well as internship sites and opportunities for my Health Studies students. All of a sudden, I — and so many other faculty — had to start all over again.

“Spring break was spent preparing 24/7 to revamped my courses and transition to remote instruction. I put out calls to multiple partners about designing projects that students could work on from the safety of their remote environment. It was remarkable how they came through within a week.

“I am so grateful to our campus partners. Rosemary Simmons and Lillian Chen in the Counseling Center, Jo Blue in the Health & Wellness Resource Center and Alexa Russo in the Sustainability Office were instrumental in helping create meaningful assignments for our Health Studies students and in giving them an opportunity to present their public health education projects during the campus Wellness Fest in May.

“Our BSN students also benefited from strong partnerships mostly coordinated by Senior Lecturer Annie Bruck, all having to do with effects of the coronavirus pandemic. The instructors did an extraordinary job with students who in turn did fantastic remote projects.

“Beyond the projects, the BSN students themselves were steeped in the pandemic. Each is a practicing nurse working in acute care, which means they were nursing COVID-19 patients. They were mentally and emotionally taxed. To address this, I spent the first part of our remote weekly meeting doing a general check-in on their health.

“As for my own well-being, now is not the time for me. Finalizing spring and preparing for summer quarter in the midst of the pandemic was already mentally exhausting to be honest, and it has since been compounded by what

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**Q&A with Midia De Souza, 2020 Chancellor’s Medal recipient**

**Midia De Souza** is a 2020 graduate with majors in Law, Economics & Public Policy and in Media & Communication Studies with a minor in Human Rights. Next, she’d like to become a lawyer working in immigration or similar public service. Also recognized as one of the Husky 100, De Souza says she was humbled and honored to receive the Chancellor’s Medal, especially as the first one in her family to receive a degree from a four-year college.

**Q. What changed about school when UW Bothell was in remote operations?**

A. In spring, I would normally have been on campus taking classes and working as a research assistant with Professor Dan Jacoby on labor issues. Now I’m living at home in Renton with my family but was able to still do the same work.

**Q. What are you doing to care for yourself or for others?**

A. Daily walks have become important to me because they disconnect me from screens. I like to go on these trails in Renton and be close to nature. I’ve also been baking as a creative outlet.

**Q. Do you have a change of perspective to share?**

A. The virus has shown me the disparity in health care in the U.S. and also how one person can impact another. It’s reinforced how important it is to think of others. If I wear a mask, I’m not necessarily wearing it for myself, I’m wearing it to prevent the virus from spreading to vulnerable people who would have a harder time than me. It’s about respecting others and valuing them, too.

**Q. Any other thoughts to share?**

A. I remember thinking of days when I wouldn’t be able to go to school, days when I couldn’t afford it. There were institutional barriers. I was very frustrated. It took me a while to be at this place, where I found this great UW community for academics and support.

Even when you don’t see it, you have to keep going. It’s hard. I was cleaning houses and frustrated because all I wanted was to go to school. Then it was like, wow, there I was, doing all these things. My work is valued.

As long as you don’t give up, it will happen. Don’t give up because you don’t know what opportunity is coming.
is going on in our streets. As a Black woman, I ache over the vicious things that are happening, watching everyone feel frustrated and feeling the futility of it all.

“I do go on a walk for an hour every morning. It helps me through the day and gets me away from the gloom. Focusing on my students has also helped me and, I would venture to guess, has helped other faculty. I believe the difficult transition to remote instruction brought out the best in all of us. By thinking critically, we gained clarity, and the outcome has been wonderful.”

Locked up during lockdown

— excerpts from Associate Professor Dan Berger’s interview in the June edition of the University of Washington Magazine

When the coronavirus pandemic hit Washington state, Dan Berger thought immediately of prisons. As co-curator of the

Washington Prison History Project, he joined a chorus of calls for the release of many of the 19,000 people incarcerated in the state’s prisons and jails. Crowded and unsanitary conditions could lead to large numbers of inmate deaths and pose a high risk of spreading the virus beyond prison walls, they argued.

The virus also reveals in the starkest terms, Berger says, the injustice of America’s system of mass incarceration.

“The physical conditions themselves are conducive to the spread of illness. You have cramped quarters with, in many cases, two to three people in a cell. In some facilities, there are dorms instead of cells, with people sleeping next to each other on cots. At jails and detention centers, there’s a constant churn of people — the vast majority of whom come from communities that are already underserved by society. These are already people who tend not to have health insurance or ready access to medical care. When you add a communicable disease to this equation, you have the potential to exacerbate a major public health problem.

“About 38% of the state’s prison population is in a high-risk group for developing serious complications from the virus just by virtue of their age and sentence length. Incarceration also creates or worsens a variety of health conditions that put people of all age groups at risk.

“In any given day, a combined 2.3 million people are incarcerated in this country. Those in jail mostly haven’t been convicted of anything but are there because they can’t afford to pay bail. Because of the way race and class intersect in this country, we are also talking about a (prison and jail) population that is disproportionately Black, brown and Indigenous.”

Q&A

Q&A with Brittany Caldwell (BUS ’07), executive director of the Bothell Kenmore Chamber of Commerce & Bothell Visitor Center, one of UW Bothell’s community partners

Q. What have you been doing the same — and differently — at the chamber since the pandemic?

A. We want to make sure we provide all the services that we were providing before as much as we can. We are also launching new platforms on our website — such as job postings and local discount deals — to give people as much value as we can.

We’ve been focusing on remote access to resources, too. We’ve been spending a lot of energy making sure businesses know about the changes to the payroll protection program, federal funding, the CARES act or SBA relief.

Navigating the unknown, the uncertainty, has been by far the most challenging thing.

Q. Since the pandemic, what has the chamber lost — and perhaps gained?

A. Some of the larger community gatherings like the Fourth of July Parade or the Bothell Block Party & BrewFest we do with UW Bothell are things we miss greatly.

The larger events are not only getting people together and raising money for the chamber, but there are also many trickle down effects that you don’t necessarily see. We pay caterers and musicians and breweries and food trucks. Events are huge economic drivers.

Filling the businesses with people, creating the economic vitality — that has been a much greater loss and will be a hard gap to fill. It’s hard to plan a business when you don’t know days in advance how your business model will be restricted.

Q. How is remote work going for you personally?

A. I have two small children and a husband at home. We’ve been doing virtual learning/homeschooling so that’s an added challenge. Finding a balance with the four of us at home all day has been an experience.

Q. What are you doing to take care of yourself?

A. We are using FaceTime a lot with the grandparents because they need it and the kids need it. We set up appointments and do one kid at a time so they can really talk.

We also go on bike rides in the neighborhood or just plant chairs on the front lawn to watch the kids ride.

Q. Do you have any new perspective to share?

A. Be kind to yourself. Be kind to others. And it’s okay to slow down. Life goes so fast, and we have to make sure we take advantage of the moments.

I was also inspired by my husband. For the first month or so, he would sit down every night and write a letter to a friend or a family member just to say thank you and show appreciation. That was incredible to see.
Making a difference in disinfection

Dan Terry regrets being right about the pandemic. For the past decade, Terry and his wife, Cindi Varela, have worked to develop a powerful disinfectant that also is safe for people to use as an antiseptic. He felt like Noah, building the ark and telling doubters, “You don’t understand, the rains are coming. Disease X is on its way.”

Terry didn’t know X would be COVID-19, but he felt the need for the world to prepare for the rise of viruses where the next one could be worse.

“A rising pandemic makes us right,” he says, “but we don’t want to be right.”

Sanitizer sales

At a time when many people would be thinking about retirement, Terry took his experience as an engineer and manufacturing specialist and with Varela founded a business in Woodinville called Briotech. It produces a pure form of hypochlorous acid (HOCl), long known to science as a sanitizer, by running a voltage through salt water. HOCl’s biggest drawback is that it soon loses its electrical germ-busting properties.

Terry says it is the purity of Briotech’s HOCl that makes it more stable over time. Currently sold in 45 countries as a disinfectant and in the United States as a soothing sanitizing spray for skin irritation, Briotech’s HOCl is undergoing testing for additional Environmental Protection Agency and Food and Drug Administration emergency use certifications.

He and Varela have also been working long hours seven days a week, filling sanitizer orders from all over the world. “We spent the past 10 years preparing for the ‘next pandemics’ and are now scaling, hiring and doing our maximal good. We are launching partnerships and distribution centers across the world,” he says.

Power partnerships

Terry has long been a supporter of STEM education for students from grade school to college. His development company, DANTERRY Inc., has mentored interns, and he’s had a relationship with the University of Washington, particularly the Bothell campus which is just a few minutes from Briotech headquarters.

Briotech has hired UW Bothell students as interns, and Terry serves on the School of STEM Advisory Board. Briotech’s chief science officer, Jeff Williams, has also worked with Associate Professor Lori Robins and her students on biochemistry research.

Terry’s family has a history of giving to UW Bothell scholarships and so was quick to give to the COVID-19 Emergency Student Fund that was established once the pandemic hit.

“I’ve been a poor student,” he says. “I know a tiny bit of money can make a big difference.”

Q&A with Rosario Reyes, founder and CEO of the Latino Educational Training Institute, one of UW Bothell’s community partners

Q. What have you been doing the same — and differently — at LETI since the pandemic?
A. This is the kind of time to prove that you can lead with what you intended — your mission. Our mission at LETI is training and education, and I know we need to continue to do that.

We also realized that we had three big issues that we were going to be facing. One was the fact that immigrants are going to be looking for trusted people that they can go to. At a moment like this, we couldn’t quit supporting people because they desperately need us. It was a matter of how we are going to do it, but it has to get done. After 22 years, quitting is not an option.

The second issue was that we were committed to two grants that we got: one for our program on wellness for Latino women and the other for census outreach. We had to go virtual with both programs.

The other big thing we had was a new program for a bookkeeping certificate. It took us over three years to get a license from the Washington state board, it is immensely important to the sustainability of LETI. We had to submit an application to the school board to give us the authorization to do the program virtually — and then to talk to every one of the students to assure them we could do it.

Q. What was your learning curve like going virtual?
A. It helps when you know you have some fire under your feet and you know things need to get done. We had issues but are happy we jumped in and now are doing almost all our work virtually. It also helped me a lot that I was working with Marisol Bejarano, a 2020 Health Studies graduate.

Bejarano, a 2020 Health Studies graduate, worked with Associate Professor Lori Robins and her students on biochemistry research.

Terry’s family has a history of giving to UW Bothell scholarships and so was quick to give to the COVID-19 Emergency Student Fund that was established once the pandemic hit.

“I’ve been a poor student,” he says. “I know a tiny bit of money can make a big difference.”

Q. What are you doing to take care of yourself?
A. I know that I need to walk daily — and it is not my second nature to do that. Now, if I get a phone call, I leave whatever I am doing and start walking. And if I don’t get a call, I get my tennis shoes and go walk to make my calls.
Priya Frank says the separations during the coronavirus pandemic have forced her to think creatively about how she can continue to be a connector. As associate director of equity, diversity and inclusion at Seattle Art Museum, she’s looking at community building with a new awareness of vulnerability and risk-taking but with the same goals of being a resource and building relationships she learned with a 2011 Master of Arts in Cultural Studies degree from UW Bothell. “So much of the way I do my work came from the program,” she says, “thinking about how the arts can connect to different communities and be used as a tool for change, resistance and resilience.”

In recognition of her career and dedication to arts communities, Frank received a 2020 Alumna of the Year Award. Receiving the award from UW Bothell at this time was very meaningful, she says. “I have been questioning myself and purpose. To receive the award now was validating. It said to me, ‘My work still matters. My community believes in me.’”

Frank, who received degrees in Communications and American Ethnic Studies from the UW in Seattle in 2004, was working full time while pursuing her master’s degree. She has been with the Seattle Art Museum since 2016. Her community work involves partnerships and collaborations on exhibitions and programs. She also leads the museum’s equity team, working to shift the internal culture to center racial equity within partnerships, programs and everyday practices.

“I think of the MACS program as a pivotal turning point for me to be able to delve into power dynamics within institutional frameworks. It allowed me to further develop my equity lens,” she says.

Now Frank, a Seattle native, wants to keep building connections that help the city and her creative friends thrive. “Arts and culture are what keep people centered. That’s what builds community.”

**Q.** What would you normally be doing and where? How about now?

A. I typically would be at work and might be meeting with folks from the community. I also put together a weekly email for the SAM equity team. Now, I’m taking life day by day. So much of my work is about connection, checking in with people and staying in touch. So much of what I do is also being present and supporting other people’s programming. How do I do this authentically and remotely?

**Q.** What are you doing to care for yourself or for others?

A. I have been taking an online Zumba class. It’s something I look forward to now. I volunteer with an organization called FEEST, which advocates for food justice and provides groceries for families in South Seattle. I think it’s important to still show up in person, even if we’re social distancing. I’m also making art — postcards, collages and chalk art. It helps me feel like I am doing something. It’s there, and it feels joyful.

**Q.** What’s the role of art in a pandemic?

A. Art is everything. It’s how we get through our days. It gives us an outlet. It allows us to find joy and connectivity. Art helps us to reflect: What are our values? What is important?

The arts community is still going and creating — and it is paving the way for everyone else.

**Q.** Do you have a change of perspective to share?

A. The ability to be still and be at home has helped me. It’s like my brain is working again. I am tapping into the power of art — not to advocate for it but to experience it myself. Now I’m the one making it. It’s been so important for me.
Q&A with Rana San, artistic director of Northwest Film Forum, one of UW Bothell’s community partners

**Q. What have you been doing the same — and differently — at NWFF since the pandemic?**

**A.** When we wrote our mission statement — to incite public dialogue and creative action through collective cinematic experiences — it was not with the expectation that we might also be doing online virtual programming, but it certainly fits.

The mission remains the same. It is the medium that has changed, as now we are asking our community to meet us online to engage in meaningful content from the comfort of their homes.

When we closed our theater back in March, we moved our programs online with the clear intention of continuing to serve our community through access to media arts and access to education, despite being unable to gather in our physical space.

But a lot of the main things at our core — programming, partnerships with community organizations — those are still key tenets of our ethos and our operations.

**Q. Did you have a big learning curve going fully online?**

**A.** There was no time to assess the mountain we knew we were facing. We just knew we were going to run it no matter what.

We had not ever actively pursued virtual programs, and when we had to close, it was just a few days before our 20th annual ByDesign Festival. But within five days of our closure, we had launched an online festival.

Now, we are hosting more concurrent programs than ever before. Our calendar is busier because we are not limited by the physical space of two theaters.

**Q. What else has NWFF gained — or perhaps lost — since the pandemic?**

**A.** I think we are probably getting a similar amount of interest locally which is great because it could have dropped significantly.

I definitely feel a loss around the camaraderie and connection that comes from gathering in a physical space. But, I do feel that we have to look for the silver linings as humans because that is what keeps us moving forward.

If we’re looking for a silver lining, it’s that not just regionally but nationally and internationally our organization is becoming recognized for the tremendous heart-driven art house theater it is. People have been tuning in and donating from all over the world. That to me is the most miraculous part of this.

We don’t know how long the pandemic will last. We don’t know what the next phase of our existence looks like. When people ask me about the future, I say it looks like the present. We are in it right now. That’s as far ahead as we can get, shaping it day by day.

**Q. Have you still been working with UW Bothell?**

**A.** One project this spring was a collaboration with a Global Health Practice class on the screening of “the AMERICAN dream” by Paolo Patruno. The documentary centers women of color and their families who are considering home birth as a viable option. The goal is to demystify the work of midwives and make it accessible in the minds and the realities of women who need to make that decision right now for the well-being of their babies and their families.

We had been in conversation with faculty member Michelle Kleisath, anticipating that we wanted to collaborate around this particular course in some capacity. When we closed, Michelle reached back out and had this proposal to team up with three of her students.

The students put such heart and passion into this project and did an incredible job getting the resources together and driving the discussion we recorded with the panel featuring practicing doulas and midwives.

This particular project also reminds me that we are on the right path. It is relevant, speaks to the community and hopefully will reach people who are in need of this information.

**Q. What are you doing to take care of yourself or others?**

**A.** It is really about the little things, I’ve found. Spending time outside and with the earth. I am spending a lot of time in my garden and harvesting my herbs and making sage bundles.

In terms of caring for others right now, I’m staying away physically, which is a strange thing. It’s been challenging to explain to my Turkish parents that I am caring for them by not visiting or not hugging them when we do gather in the backyard.

**Q. Do you have any change of perspective to share?**

**A.** I keep coming back to UW Professor Valerie Curtis-Newton’s “Fear and the Creative Process: A manifesto for Creative Survival.” It is a lot to take in all at once, and I have it posted on my fridge. One phrase that has stuck with me through the last several months is “Practice healthy detachment. Lower the stakes — not the bar.”

This was especially helpful in the first weeks when we were trying to get everything moving. I kept thinking okay, we’re keeping the bar where it is — we just have to lower the stakes a little bit so we can make it manageable and survive.
Pivoting from sport gloves to PPE

Dustin Goss, president of the Makota Co., an alumnus of UW Bothell (BUS ’02) and a member of the School of Business Advisory Board, has been manufacturing winter sports gloves and headwear in China and Indonesia for two decades. When the coronavirus pandemic hit, a friend asked Goss if he could find a source for nitrile gloves. Face masks, gowns and face shields soon followed.

They are different products, but they move through similar supply chains, export processes and logistics.

“I’ve been negotiating and facilitating sales every single day for weeks,” says Goss, who lives and works in Edmonds, Washington.

And while the shift to personal protective equipment wasn’t anything he could have expected, there’s a high-volume need in the medical world, and he expects this business might continue for a decade or two.

The pivot to PPE is also offsetting some of the business uncertainty for Makota, which makes products such as ski gloves for big brands and retailers including Helly Hansen and REI. As of the end of February, Makota had more sales than all of 2019. “But now with COVID-19 on our doorstep and the realities of order cancelations, shipment delays and retailer fears, we are hopeful and living with a prayer that we can just be equal to last year.”

The PPE business is also a way Goss says he can give back during the pandemic.

“There were so many things taken away that I was looking forward to. But just taking a step back and finding some things to be thankful for will really get you far in life. That’s one of the biggest lessons I’ve learned. No matter what is thrown at us, if we take it one step at a time we will be able to handle it, and we are strong enough to be able to do it.”

Q&A with Shugla Kakar, 2020 Chancellor’s Medal recipient

As a pre-med double-major and 2019-20 president of the Associated Students of UW Bothell, Shugla Kakar was always on the go. Her normal calendar would keep her away from home from morning until midnight with classes, meetings and activities. She graduated with degrees in Gender, Women & Sexuality Studies and in Health Studies. Recognized as one of the Husky 100, Kakar plans to go to medical school.

Q. What changed about school when UW Bothell was in remote operations?
A. If COVID-19 wasn’t here, I would have been on campus. I was on campus 24/7. I would literally go there at 8 in the morning and come back at midnight. With the pandemic, I didn’t see my friends on campus. If it wasn’t for COVID, I’d have been surrounded by my friends.

Q. What are you doing to care for yourself or for others?
A. Lately, I’ve been trying to focus on working out and taking care of my body and what I eat. I’ve been using this time to spend quality time with my family. That’s what I’ve been doing for myself.

For others, I check in on all of my friends because I know everyone is struggling. We FaceTime a lot, and if I can, I show my appreciation by giving gifts.

Q. Do you have a change of perspective to share?
A. No matter what life throws at us — it might be so big, so bizarre — we have the ability and the tools to deal with it. I think that is the biggest takeaway that I have. When this situation started, I was overwhelmed.

Q. Any other thoughts to share?
A. I’m just so proud to be part of UW Bothell and to have chosen it for my university experience. Everyone at UW Bothell is like family to each other. I see UW Bothell as my second home. I’m just so grateful to be part of this community. We’re all here to support each other, to help each other. I just love seeing the unity that we have within UW Bothell and how willing everyone is to work with each other.

I hope we continue in this way and never lose that sense of community, that sense of belonging, that sense that UW Bothell is a home for everyone. I also hope there are many other Shuglas who come along to UW Bothell and make the same impact I was able to make.
Running a virtual Husky 5k

Each spring, the UW Bothell Alumni Council’s Husky 5k raises scholarship money for students. It also serves as an event that brings the broader UW Bothell community back to campus. In addition to the 5K run, there is a 1K, facepainting and Kids Zone complete with bouncy house and carnival games. Holly the Husky mingles with participants and spectators. There are food and drinks and music and sponsor information booths with giveaways — opportunities to connect.

This year, as the May 16 run was turned into a virtual event because of the coronavirus pandemic, organizers found ways to maintain a sense of connection even at a distance.

The result was an unexpected success. A record-breaking total of 830 runners participated remotely, raising $14,800 for the COVID-19 Emergency Student Fund. This adds to the more than $175,000 in support of students that the Alumni Council has raised since the event’s inception 15 years ago.

“We were so proud of all the work we accomplished this year with the Husky 5K,” says Tiffany Kirk, interim director of alumni engagement. “We pushed through adversity and change, and ultimately, we ended up succeeding.”

I was supposed to do my field work for Health Studies at Volunteers of America in Sultan, and when the coronavirus ramped up, I asked if there was any way I could help them. So I volunteered at the food bank for four to eight hours a week. We had to transition the food bank from a walk through to 100% drive-through, contact-less pickup. A typical week we would see 110-120 people, but then we saw close to 200 — a big spike.

Even at a distance.

Q&A with Casey Cummins, 2020 President’s Medalist recipient

Casey Cummins says it makes his head spin to think he was honored with the 2020 President’s Medal, which recognizes the UW Bothell graduating senior with the most distinguished academic record. Realizing that he was capable of this kind of achievement was a slow progression from barely graduating from high school, entering community college then transferring to UW Bothell and majoring in Health Studies and minoring in Biology and Chemistry. Going into the final days of spring quarter, he had a 3.96 GPA. Cummins plans to work before attending medical school in 2022. He became a certified nursing assistant early this year so that he could apply for a hospital job, preferably at UW Medicine, to learn more about his own strengths and weaknesses — and “see where I can make the most impact.”

Q. What changed about school when UW Bothell was in remote operations?

A. I would be doing the same thing — except for working and maybe more extracurricular activities.

I really like working collaboratively with people, so it was difficult with the online transition. Outside of class, I started training for a marathon. That kept me busy, along with typical schoolwork and the never-ending job search.

Q. What are you doing to care for yourself or for others?

A. Definitely getting outside a lot, whether it’s going for a run or a walk. I love hiking so I’ve been trying to get out hiking as much as I can.

Even as they decided to hold the run as a virtual event, Kirk and her co-organizers Mary Howisey, fundraising and events chair of the Alumni Council, and Brandon Washington, manager of philanthropy and annual giving, wanted to recreate the experience and fun of an in-person event.

“The excitement people responded with was contagious,” says Kirk. “Posts poured in, with hundreds of people pumped to show they were passionate about contributing to the cause.”

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Even my family down in Tacoma was able to join for the first year,” says Howisey. “Because of the measures we took to include people, we ended up having registrants from 24 states.”

Runners this year included students, faculty and alumni from well beyond
Giving to the COVID-19 Emergency Student Fund

Because of the pandemic, many UW Bothell students have lost jobs or support they need to pay education and living expenses. Some also face food, housing and/or family health crises.

And while students have long been able to apply for aid from an emergency fund, in the 2020 spring quarter alone, the need exceeded $150,000 — nearly four times the amount of emergency aid distributed in all of 2019. In response, UW Bothell set up a COVID-19 Emergency Student Fund to help cover parts of tuition, books, technology, housing, child care or medical costs.

The fund has been supported by the annual Husky 5K and the 2020 Senior Class Gift as well as the Huskies Helping Huskies Challenge, which in just one month’s time raised more than $53,000 to support students.

The support that alumni, donors, faculty, staff and students have provided for students has been incredible, says Sean Marsh, acting vice chancellor for advancement and external relations. “Each and every donation is helping to make the difference in the lives of our amazing students and their ability to remain focused on their education and stay in school.”

Uncertainty — the new normal

As an alumnus (IAS ’04), a member of the Alumni Council and now a career development program adviser in UW Bothell’s Career Services, Curtis Takahashi has a good idea of what students are going through: uncertainty.

Takahashi is particularly concerned about those who will be a first in their immediate families to earn a four-year degree and those who are eligible for Pell grants, a federal financial aid for low-income students.

“They know higher education can transform where they’re coming from,” Takahashi says, adding that’s why he, too, has donated to the COVID-19 Emergency Student Fund. “If I can do my little part to help keep those dreams alive, then I want to do what I can do,” he says. “I see the hopes. I see the dreams. I don’t want to see this pandemic, catastrophic as it is, squelch those dreams.”

A doer and a donor

As a first-generation American, Maureen A. O’Hara says she resonates with UW Bothell students on many levels.

Her father, born in Turkey while the family was fleeing Bolsheviks in 1920’s Crimea, was the only child the large family was able to send to college. Growing up in Brooklyn, New York, O’Hara went to a city university, lived at home and worked her way through graduate school. She had a successful tech career and taught project management at the UW in Seattle, connecting with UW Bothell when one of her sons enrolled.

“I appreciate how hard it is for first-generation and immigrant families, and for people working their way through school,” she says.

O’Hara serves on the Chancellor’s Advisory Board. She and her husband, Robert, also provided some of the Huskies Helping Huskies Challenge money. “It’s important for us to invest in people who are investing in themselves,” she says. “I don’t want their education to be hampered any more in the current situation because they or someone in their family can’t work.”

Committed to education

Rabia Ramzan (BUS ’19) has friends who are still students. She also has the perspective of having worked for UW Bothell in a supplier diversity program and with event planning. She now works at the UW in Seattle, supporting alumni relations.

Many students were already struggling to keep things going before the pandemic hit, Ramzan says, noting the large number of students at UW Bothell who are first-generation college students.

She knows students who have been furloughed or laid off from jobs and don’t know how they’re going to support themselves moving forward. That’s why Ramzan donated to the COVID-19 Emergency Student Fund.

“It’s critical for us to take into account what we’re all going through collectively at this time. This isn’t something we’re each going through alone,” Ramzan says. “We’re all going through this together, and it’s important for us to find ways to support one another.”

“It’s important for us to invest in people who are investing in themselves.”

Maureen A. O’Hara
Member of the UW Bothell Chancellor’s Advisory Board
MEET WITH US AT BOTHELL HUSKY LANDING (VIRTUALLY)

UW Bothell alumni and students are invited to connect through Bothell Husky Landing

THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
BOTHELL’S Office of Alumni Engagement and the UW Alumni Association are proud to announce the launch of Bothell Husky Landing.

A new online platform for alumni engagement and student mentoring, Bothell Husky Landing saw hundreds of alumni complete their profiles in the first few days after going live, and that number is steadily growing.

To date, more than 400 participants have joined Bothell Husky Landing — most are alumni but a number of faculty, staff and students also joined during the platform’s testing phase in May.

The Class of 2020 was invited to join Bothell Husky Landing after the UW’s first-ever virtual Commencement in June, allowing the graduates to grow their UW community and make valuable connections as the newest alumni in the Husky family.

In August, the entire UW Bothell student body will also be invited to participate.

STAYING CONNECTED

Bothell Husky Landing is already a space where UW Bothell alumni can engage with one another and with current students through video chats, alumni produced content and an interactive map to find fellow alumni.

Soon, these networking capabilities will grow exponentially. The UW Alumni Association is expanding the platform later this summer when they create a hub that is open to all UW alumni from the tri-campus community. UW Bothell alumni will still have this unique space to connect but will be able to toggle between both UW alumni communities with the simple click of a button.

We all look forward to Bothell alumni virtually connecting with those who share an affinity for our campus while also engaging with the larger Husky community.

WHAT CAN I DO AT BOTHELL HUSKY LANDING?

- connect with fellow alumni to create community and find support
- become a mentor to students or fellow alumni
- find a mentor
- access discounts and exclusive virtual events
- explore popular content created by UW Bothell alumni
- get career services and support
- see where alumni are across the country

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

It takes just a few minutes to enroll. Because Bothell Husky Landing is a UW Bothell platform, we’ve already entered alumni names and email addresses — all you need to do is claim your account.

After you sign up, you can share on the discussion board, make connections with fellow UW Bothell alumni or seek out a mentor while you wait for mentees to join and contact you.

Ready to find your spot and build community at Bothell Husky Landing? Go to huskylanding.uw.edu/hub/uwbothell to complete your Bothell profile and start connecting today.

A GROWING NETWORK

Who is online at Bothell Husky Landing?

Enrolled alumni have careers ranging from software engineering and nonprofit management to bioengineering, teaching, academic advising, counseling, video production, fashion, graphic design, accounting, executive management and human resources.

| 92  | participants identify as first-generation college students |
| 62  | identify as transfer students |
| 52  | as parents |
| 20  | as international students |
| 17  | as military veterans |
| 17  | users identify as people with disabilities |
| 5   | identify as Dreamers in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival program |
| 10  | countries and 13 U.S. states represented |

All told, Bothell Husky Landing participants have taken more than 10,000 actions online, from reading posts and watching videos to live chatting and engaging in the more than 80 message-thread discussions that have already begun.
Caring for others during the coronavirus pandemic

We are so inspired by the many ways UW Bothell alumni and friends have come together to support our students.

In times like these, the collective impact of our community is on full display.

On May 16, the UW Bothell Alumni Council raised $14,800 for the COVID-19 Emergency Student Fund through the virtual Husky 5K which attracted more than 830 participants from across the country and world.

We are proud to announce that a small group of generous donors – Jan and Dick Hunter, Maureen and Robert O’Hara, WSECU and and one anonymous UW Bothell staff member – together provided $30,000 to launch the Huskies Helping Huskies Challenge. Encouraged by this generosity, more than 300 other alumni and friends met the challenge by donating to the COVID-19 Emergency Student Fund.

Each and every gift helps make the difference for students facing immediate and unprecedented financial need. Learn how you can support these students and prevent the disruption of their education at www.uwb.edu/give.

WE HAVE EXCEEDED OUR GOAL

$40.5 MILLION

GOAL: $35 MILLION

More than 5,600 supporters have come together through the Campaign for UW Bothell to surpass our ambitious $35 million fundraising goal.

As of June 1, 2020, we officially exceeded a total of $40 million raised for scholarships, research and programs. Final campaign totals will be announced this autumn.

To our alumni, students, faculty, staff, volunteers, friends and community partners – THANK YOU for all of the ways you support UW Bothell.

Check out our new campaign stories website to revisit inspirational highlights from the past 10 years.
Welcome to Husky Highlights, where you’ll find news about fellow alumni. Are you still getting our emails? If not, update your information today at www.washington.edu/alumni/services/update.

CLASS NOTES

Karan Chainani (BUS ’10) is vice president at Equitable Advisors in Scottsdale, Arizona.

William Frankhouser (STEM ’06) is associate director of information technology – infrastructure and applications at Everett Community College. Frankhouser began his journey with EvCC when he built the school’s intranet during his UW Bothell capstone project.

Stephanie Chavez (IAS ’14) is director of legal clinics for the Latino/a Bar Association of Washington.

Leah Mindemann (BUS ’12) is account manager at FLTR Inc., a company whose mission is to make personal protective equipment available and accessible.

Mandy Johnson (IAS ’12, MAPS ’14) is a risk manager in Human Resources Risk and Compliance at Microsoft.

Robbie Christmas (IAS ’11) hosts a weekly music livestream called Work From Home Seattle.

Mina Hooshangi (IAS ’11) was accepted into Boeing’s highly competitive Leadership Rotational Program. She will begin her rotations in finance.

Brianna Nguyen (SNHS ’17) is a recruiting project coordinator at Amazon.

Mary Genis (BUS ’20) is a financial adviser at Chaney Capital Management.

Devi Sandhu (M.Ed ’16) is interim human resources operations manager for Snohomish County.

Brianna Mueller (BUS’19) is business operations coordinator at Simplicity Consulting.

Nicole Wilson (IAS ’11, MACS ’14) graduated from Seattle University with a master of science in marriage and family therapy.

Holli Nolan (SES ’18) moved from Washington state to Cross Junction, Virginia, where she is manager of operations for partners and alliances for Americas at Blue Prism. She also serves as U.S. ambassador for inclusivity in Blue Prism’s nonprofit branch, Blue Prism for Good.

Janelle Chamberlin (SNHS ’18) is a nurse at Providence Regional Medical Center in Everett, Washington. She was on the team that cared for the first diagnosed COVID-19 patient in the country and helped convert three units at Providence into COVID care units. She has trained other nurses in personal protective equipment procedures and worked to adapt policies to better respond to the pandemic. Janelle also is actively pursuing a doctoral degree to become a nurse practitioner.

Julie Nguyen (SNHS ’19) is a cardiac nurse at UW Medical Center Northwest Hospital and is currently studying for her PCRN.

Justin Gill (BSN ‘13) is telemedicine nurse practitioner at hims & hers, a wellness company. He also works as a lecturer in UW Bothell’s School of Nursing & Health Studies, is an NP at Providence Health & Services and is both the chair of the Legislative/Health Policy Council and a member of the board of directors at the Washington State Nurses Association. He also is a member of the ARNP’s United of Washington State’s Legislative/Health Policy Committee. Justin returned to serve on the faculty at UW Bothell after completing his doctor of nursing practice at Yale University. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Justin has seen and continues to see patients with potential COVID and non-COVID concerns, while offering COVID testing services.

New job, honor, award or other milestone in your life? Send your news to Class Notes at uwbalumn@uw.edu.
**FLAGS in PLACE**

**IN THIS SPECIAL EDITION**, Faces in Places and Flags in Places have been replaced by Flags in Place as alumni across the region have been asked to shelter in place as much as possible during the coronavirus pandemic.

1. Deanna Hathaway (IAS ’99, M.Ed ’09) at her home on Lake Ketchum in Stanwood, Washington
2. Jana Chieu (SNHS ’18) working from her living room home office in Seattle, Washington
3. Maedeh Pirjamli (SNHS ’20) with a brand new UW Bothell flag just a week before celebrating her graduation
4. Serena Tseng (SES ’19) in her virtual classroom where she’s completing her first year as a third-grade art teacher
5. Colton Lindelof (IAS ’09) riding out the pandemic with his pal, Lily, in Vancouver, Washington
6. Dale Fukura (SNHS ’04, MN ’06) and her husband hard at work on a remodel of their home bar in Bothell, Washington

Want to see yourself in our Flags in Place section?
Email your high-res photo to Flags in Place at uwbalumn@uw.edu.

**HUSKY 5K**

**THIS YEAR’S HUSKY 5K** went virtual, allowing alumni to participate while still social distancing.

1. Grace Martinez (IAS ’04) stopping for a photo at the Langus Riverfront Park
2. Samantha Penparaenwatana (IAS ’15) posing her pup with a hard-earned medal at her backyard finish line
3. Jason Kamb (IAS ’10) proudly supporting UW Bothell students by participating in this year’s virtual Husky 5K and becoming a UW Alumni Association member
4. Ismaila Maidadi (IAS ’12, MAPS ’15) and his family taking to the trails near their home to support the COVID-19 Emergency Student Fund
Join UW Bothell alumni and friends for this virtual event! This isn't your average livestream. We are excited to offer an artist-curated playlist, assembled by a reunion of Black and allied artists who have played at the Bothell Block Party and BrewFest in the past.

Registration includes a Block Party Box packed with a 32-oz. growler that earns discounts at participating breweries, a tube-style face mask, a koozie, sponsor perks and a wireless Bluetooth speaker (for upgraded packages).

Registrants are also invited to participate in a social media challenge, sure to enhance the sense of community.

Get more information and register at uwb.edu/blockparty.