

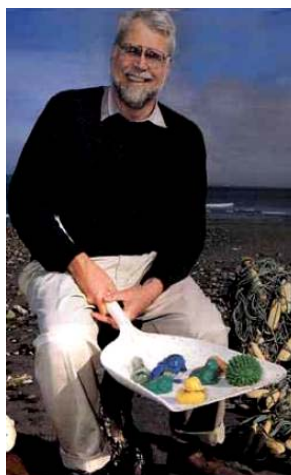
## 'Sole survivors' led Curtis Ebbesmeyer to new means of monitoring ocean currents: UWRA follows these current trends at fall meeting

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Curtis Ebbesmeyer (UW alumnus '73) says he owes it all to his late mother. His career, monitoring gyres (vast ocean currents) by dropping buoys and markers, took a new turn when she gave him a 1991 news article: Nike sports shoes were mysteriously washing up on northwest Pacific shores. The source? Nike's meticulous records indicated that they had lost 80,000 shoes when a container fell off of a cargo ship in a storm in 1990. The shoes had been treading water on surface ocean currents for six months or more.

**Curtis Ebbesmeyer will be guest speaker at the UWRA fall membership meeting on Monday, October 26 in the Walker Ames Room of Kane Hall. Reception begins at 1:30 PM, meeting at 2:00.**

Well, one shoe followed another. Eventually Ebbesmeyer developed a beachcomber network for shoe finds, then other flotsam from known cargo spills—everything from rubber ducks to hockey gloves. These reports helped verify the detailed accuracy of OSCURS, a computerized model of surface ocean currents, and eventually allowed Ebbesmeyer to calculate the orbits of great



Curtis Ebbesmeyer gleans meaning from the flotsam of the 20th Century.

oceanic gyres.

Ebbesmeyer documents his work with Eric Scigliano in *Flotsametrics and the Floating World: How One Man's Obsession with Runaway Sneakers and Rubber Ducks Revolutionized Ocean Science*. (Copies of his book will be available for sale at the meeting.) He is also the founding publisher of *Beachcombers' Alert*.

Ebbesmeyer's work is used to predict the movement of oil spills and sewage as they travel on ocean currents, to raise questions about the pollution of our seas and to monitor currents that may be altered by climate change.

Ebbesmeyer works as an

### ***UWRA update on new directions***

UWRA leaders are working on new directions for the association in response to the end of UW funding for the UW Retirement Center on December 31, 2009.

Please see the president's column on page 2 of this issue for an update. For ways you can help, see page 3.

independent oceanographer .

He also has worked with Charles Moore, a marine scientist who documented the ocean's plastic-to-plankton ratio at 6:1 in 1999, with indications of consequent harm to ocean life at the start of the food chain.

How does flotsam reveal some of the oceans' mysteries? Was flotsam a key to life's beginnings? How has it changed over time? How has it helped navigators?

Why are ocean currents important to us? How will temperature changes affect ocean currents?

Learn more at the meeting on Monday, October 26 and read all about it in Ebbesmeyer's and Scigliano's book, *Flotsametrics and the Floating World*.

## From the President

By the time this issue of *Retiree Report* will be in your mailboxes, the students will be back, classes will have started, and the UWRA will have resumed its programmatic activities including the announcement of an excellent speaker for the fall meeting. Business as usual? Not quite.

Once more let me give you an update on the future of your Association. During the summer, we have met several times with Connie Kravas, UW Vice President for University Advancement, and Paul Rucker, Executive Director of UWAA and UW Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations, in order to lay the foundations of an affiliation of the UWRA with University Advancement (UA). At its September meeting, the Board of Directors voted formally its "intent to re-align UWRA's connection with UW from the Office of the Provost to University Advancement, as of January 1, 2010." We expect a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed by the UWRA and UA before the end of the year. In some sense the UWRA will be in a position similar to that of the UW Alumni Association (UWAA): an independent non-profit organization affiliated with University Advancement. Of course, the closing of the UW Retirement Center and the accompanying loss of positions funded by the University still remain with, as a consequence, a potential reduction in programs and services for retirees.

Our Association is at what Andy Grove, former Intel CEO, called a strategic inflection point. "It is when its fundamentals are about to change.



**Jean-Loup Baer, President, UWRA**

That change can mean an opportunity to rise to new heights. But it may just as likely signal the beginning of the end." Let us not even consider this last alternative.

Our fundamental way of operating with much of the work done by staff must now evolve to more volunteer participation. To that effect, Tomilynn McManus and Carol Rush are working with staff to recruit and train more volunteers. We are also looking at streamlining some of our operations and at taking advantage of resources that could be provided by our sister organization, the UWAA. As importantly, we are in the process of developing common programs with UA and UWAA that should benefit all parties.

The warm welcome and the enthusiasm of the UA bode well for the success of our affiliation. This new partnership is indeed an opportunity to reach "new heights." As always we are eager to hear from you and we look forward to your suggestions, comments or questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Jean-Loup Baer".

## Nominees sought for Board of Directors

Do you know a member who can bring useful skills and knowledge to the work of the UWRA Board of Directors? Might that person be you?

During the fall the UWRA's Nominating Committee recruits board candidates who are interested in contributing to the future direction of UWRA. The committee seeks ethnic diversity and a range of other representation, with particular attention to relevant skills needed on the board. They seek women and men, current and retired staff and faculty, finance and administrative skills as well as university connections.

You are invited to suggest names for candidacy by contacting the UWRA office by October 30, 2009.

The committee proposes a slate of candidates to the board. The slate is approved by the board for member vote.

UWRA members may also nominate candidates directly from among the membership by sending the nominee's name, their written consent and a petition signed by 10 UWRA members. These materials must be received by February 6, 2010.

UWRA members vote on candidates in the spring. Board members serve three-year terms.

# How you can help: UWRA welcomes your support

UWRA board members are most appreciative of the concern voiced by members about the UWRA and its future. Many of you have asked how you can help.

The next six months, in particular, will be a time of significant transition. UWRA's faces serious budget constraints and cutbacks in staffing will be necessary, beginning January 1, 2010.

Members are asked to seriously consider significant support for the UWRA in one or more ways:

**Financial support:** This fall a fundraising letter for UWRA will be sent to all members. Please be as generous as you can in supporting UWRA's operating budget for the next six months: January to June 2010. Contact the UWRA office if you have questions for the board: (206) 543-8600.

**Dues:** The board has postponed a dues increase at this time, but will seriously consider this option for the next fiscal year (July 2010). Whenever dues increase, we hope you will see your way clear to con-

tinue your membership as another way of supporting UWRA's work and advocacy on behalf of all UW retirees. Also, consider a contribution in addition to your dues whenever you make your dues payment.

**New members:** UWRA welcomes new members. Consider recruiting your UW retiree friends. Retirees of other higher education institutions are also eligible for membership. Remember, current dues are just \$40 per year, per household. Pre-retiree dues (for current UW employees) are just \$30 per year per household. We are eager to keep retirees connected with higher education.

**Volunteer support:** The UWRA is recruiting capable volunteers to provide weekly office support (with time off as needed!) for computer-based membership maintenance, general office coordination, publications preparation and events planning. Invest your computer and office skills in support of the UWRA!

Can't make a regular volunteer commitment? Consider vol-

unteering for short-term projects. We seek a pool of retirees available to help with occasional events by doing things such as staffing booths, guiding tours and welcoming attendees. This is a developing service area that also increases UWRA's visibility on campus.

Your competent volunteer support is not only important; it can also be a lot of fun. Join our cadre of volunteers, learn together and build friendships at the same time! Orientation and training for office volunteers begins this fall. To see our volunteer job descriptions, go to the UWRA web site: [depts.washington.edu/retiremt/uwra](http://depts.washington.edu/retiremt/uwra) and click on "What's New." Questions? Call the UWRA office, (206) 543-8600.

**Thank you** for your support for UWRA and the role of retirees at UW. Your support is vital to UWRA's work. The board is confident that re-alignment to UW through University Advancement will generate new opportunities for UW retiree involvement and a strengthened UW Retirement Association.

The *Retiree Report* is a publication of the University of Washington Retirement Association (UWRA), a non-profit, member-based organization.

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## Solve the mysteries: View UW's Puzzling Film Clips Nov 18, UW Club

UWRA and UWAA members 'of a certain age' are invited to view some of the UW's archival film footage that has been saved, but without identifying records.

Come to the UW Club conference room at 4 PM, Nov. 18, prior to the dinner and Travelogue (see p.8). Challenge your memory and UW knowledge: help film archivist Hannah Palin solve the who, what, where and why of these. We're counting on your knowledge!



Photo: Mary Levin

## Passion of two UWRA members initiates a fund to help lower-paid UW workers with tuition costs . . .

### And you can contribute!

By Nancy Wick, UWRA member and editor, *University Week*

*The following article is reprinted by permission from the April 30 2009 issue of UWeek*

UW retirees have set up a fund that will benefit UW service employees and their families. The Service Employees Opportunity Scholarship Fund will provide money for custodians, food service workers, laundry workers and their families to attend the UW.

The fund was started from contributions by Helen Remick, retired vice provost for equal opportunity, and Jerri McCray, retired associate vice president for facilities services. And because the contributions were made during the Faculty-Staff-Retiree Campaign (see *related article, this issue of Retiree Report*), they were matched by the University. In the fall, \$750 will be available for disbursement.

McCray and Remick are both veteran UW employees. McCray worked here for 40 years and Remick for 30 years. They met a couple of years after Remick started and began having lunch together. Their retirements three years ago didn't interrupt their friendship or the lunches.

Both women had the opportunity to work with employees in the categories affected by their fund -- employees who generally make less than \$40,000 a year in a full-time job.

"Although their work is essential to the well-being of the University, these employees are often overlooked," Remick said. "This scholarship seemed to be a perfect way to recognize this group of employees and at the same time give something back to the University."

Once she got the idea, Remick wanted to optimize what her gift could do, so she turned to McCray. "I called Jerri and said, 'I'm obsessed with this. Do you want to join me?' And she said yes."

"I always found that the people I dealt with in these job categories were very proud that they worked at the UW," McCray said. "So if their children

could go to school here, they'd feel really good about that."

These three job categories were chosen because they are relatively large groups and are among the lowest paid at the University. Some employees may be enrolled in University courses and can use the scholarship to meet their expenses. Others may have family members who attend one of the campuses of the UW and can put the money to good use. As the scholarship fund grows, the job categories included may expand.

Any food service, custodial or laundry employee with at least five years' service at the University is eligible for the scholarship, as are members of their families. See below to view an on-line flyer detailing the requirements and other information about the scholarship and the application form. The deadline each year for fall applications is June 1. Selection of the scholarship recipients will be made by the Student Financial Aid Office with consideration given to criteria provided by Remick and McCray.

Remick and McCray are encouraging their friends, other retirees and current staff and faculty to contribute to the fund so that the number of scholarships available will increase. Contributions can be in any amount and can be given one time or over time. See the number or link below to contribute.

"We think of the scholarship as another way to help and perhaps make a difference in some folks' lives so they and their families will be able to advance further than they otherwise would have," Remick said. "It's a recognition of their efforts and aspirations."

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To contribute to this fund call **1-800-894-4387** or go online to <http://uwfoundation.org/news/Service.asp>

# 2005-08 Faculty-Staff-Retiree Campaign for Students a Big Success

By Bob Roseth, UWRA board member and director of UW News and Information

When the UW completed the highly successful Campaign UW: Creating Futures nearly a year ago and began analyzing the results, there were some big surprises in who gave and how much they contributed.

To the campaign's leadership, one big surprise was the level of contributions to the Faculty-Staff-Retiree Campaign for Students, which added more than \$13 million to scholarships, fellowships and other endowed support for students. Actual gifts totaled over \$6.8 million, with most of those gifts matched by the university.

A total of nearly 900 individuals created endowments averaging over \$15,000, including the gifts and matching funds. At least 135 of donors were retirees and an additional 17 were surviving spouses. The final report on the campaign for students doesn't include unmatched gifts or pledges made by friends, family and colleges to these endowed funds, so the circle of support and its impact are far, far greater than the report suggests.

The idea for the special campaign was the brainchild of Alvin Kwiram, professor emeritus of chemistry and vice provost for research emeritus. He was asked to serve on a committee that advised the Graduate School on fundraising opportunities, and he pitched the idea to Connie Kravas, vice president for university advancement, who responded enthusiastically.

The Faculty-Staff-Retiree Campaign for Students was designed so that it could benefit graduate, professional or undergraduate students. The UW had traditionally set a \$25,000 minimum for creating an endowed fund, but for this campaign the minimum was lowered to \$10,000 to broaden the pool of potential donors. A critical factor was that the Office of the President agreed to provide matching funds for donations of between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Although Kwiram's initial thought was to solicit donations only from current and former faculty, Kravas convinced him to broaden the appeal to include staff.

The final count showed 141 endowments that were staff-originated. "In hindsight, that makes sense," Kwiram says. "Many staff spend their entire careers at the UW and are as committed as faculty to the UW cause. They may have had fellowships themselves, or they had teachers at the UW that they admired. They have been outstanding in their support of this program."

The fund was announced in May 2005 but donations were initially slow to come in. However, the campaign finished with a flurry: one third of all donations occurred in the final six weeks of the campaign, which concluded in December 2008.

The campaign's approach resonated with many people. "It just seems like a nice way to give back a small portion of the good fortune we have enjoyed, thanks to those who made education possible for us," Kwiram says. "It is possible that this campaign is unique in higher education for its grass-roots approach to tapping employee dedication that supports students."



Photo: Mary Levin

## Haring Endow UW Experimental Education Unit

UWRA members Norris and Dorothy Haring have established an endowment for the UW Experimental Education Unit, which Dr. Haring founded and for which he served as the first director. The endowment, which will total up to \$4.7 million, will fund up to 15 graduate fellowships a year for students studying effective ways of dealing with students with a wide range of disabilities. The unit will be renamed the Norris and Dorothy Haring Center for Applied Research and Training in Education—the Haring Center.

## Do you audit UW classes? Join a UWRA interest group and share tips and experiences

UWRA member Laila Barr has been auditing classes as an ACCESS student on campus for the past four years and would like to meet other ACCESS students to form an ACCESS interest group-- get together for coffee or lunch occasionally and discuss this great educational program the UW offers state residents over 60.

During the summer quarter Laila was contacted by a number of UWRA members who are either taking classes or are interested in doing so. They plan to meet this fall. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact [lbarr@u.washington.edu](mailto:lbarr@u.washington.edu).

ACCESS is a program of the State of Washington that allows Washington residents age 60 or older to audit courses at state institutions for a nominal fee. For information about the ACCESS program, check this link: [www.washington.edu/students/reg/access.html](http://www.washington.edu/students/reg/access.html)

## Retiree Seminar offered twice at October 27 HUB Benefits Fair

A seminar for state retirees on state health care plans for 2010 will be offered twice at the October 27 Benefits Fair: at 10:30 AM and again at 1:30 PM in Room 106B in the UW Student Union (HUB).

UW Benefits Fairs for employees and retirees take place October 27, 28, and 29 from 10 AM to 3 PM at the following locations.

### **UW Benefits Fairs, 10-3 PM:**

Tuesday, October 27, UW Seattle  
Student Union Building (HUB) East Ballroom  
Retiree seminar: 10:30-11:30; 1:30-2:30  
Room 106B

Wednesday, October 28  
UW Medical Ctr & Health Sciences Lobbies  
1959 NE Pacific, Seattle

Thursday, October 29  
Harborview Research and Training Building  
300 Ninth Ave, Seattle

## In Memoriam

Franklin Badgley (Atmospheric Sci) April 28, 2009  
James H. Collins (Facilities Services) May 25, 2009  
Alden LaRue Crittenden (Chemistry) April 15, 2009  
Donald Davis (Spouse of Patricia) June 2, 2009  
Ruth Edwards (Spouse of John) June 24, 2009  
Samuel C. Fain (Physics) May 26, 2009  
Robert Furchgott (Pharmacology) May 19, 2009  
Marsha Jo Hanks (Graduate School) June 29, 2009  
Maria Highton (Pathology) July 26, 2009  
Peter Knoepfler (Psychiatry) May 4, 2009  
Deanna Mau (UW Medical Center) March 2, 2009  
Elaine McMillen (Continuing Ed) August 19, 2009  
Ralph Michaud (Spouse of Margaret) April 29, 2009  
Magdaline Nearn (Spouse of Bill) March 24, 2009  
Ethel Nelson (Financial Services) May 22, 2009  
August Rossano (Civil Engineering) August 16, 2009  
Walter C. Sands (Oceanography) August 5, 2009  
Clarence Schrag (Sociology) June 25, 2009  
Alice Louise Smith (HMC Radiology) April 29, 2009  
Mathilda Sreebny (Spouse of Leo) June 7, 2009

## First Thursdays Talks return for the 2009-10 year

Join the First Thursday (of the month) gatherings at University House at Wallingford, 4400 Stone Way North, Seattle. Gatherings begin at 10 AM.

Enjoy a wide range of presentations, camaraderie with other UW retirees and complimentary morning refreshments. Contact Jean Morishima at (206) 524-9242 or via email at [morishima@comcast.net](mailto:morishima@comcast.net).

Upcoming programs:

**November 5:** "A Train Trip to Grand Rapids," Professor Emeritus Rubens Sigelmann

**December 3:** "Electric vehicles as part of a sustainable way of life," Professor Larry Gales

**January 7:** "Religion and Politics," Professor David Domke

**February 4:** Talk by former Seattle mayor Norm Rice

# Polly Dyer still hanging in there to conserve wilderness beauty

By Nancy Wick

When Polly Dyer worked for the University of Washington, her official title was public outreach coordinator. “But I didn’t like that name so I gave myself the title ‘continuing environmental education director,’” Dyer said.

It’s a good way to summarize what has been the consuming passion of Dyer’s life. From an early age she has been learning about the environment and facilitating the learning of others.

It all started when Dyer was 19 and had just moved with her family to Ketchikan, Alaska. Her family, she says, wasn’t particularly outdoors-oriented, but there was Deer Mountain right outside the town, and a trail going up, so she took it.

“I wasn’t quite on top of the mountain, but I was looking out on this vast area of no settlement, no nothing — it was just beautiful,” Dyer said. “I still remember wanting to pull it all into myself. That was my introduction to conservationism, though I didn’t know that term then.”

She learned it from John Dyer, a chemical engineer and Sierra Club member whom she met on the mountain soon after. He was going skiing; she was with a date. But the next time she saw him, he was her date. The couple was engaged in four weeks and married in four months. Thus began a partnership that stretched more than 60 years, until John Dyer’s death in 2008.

The Dyers started married life in the San Francisco Bay area, where they were active in the Sierra Club. Then, when they moved to Auburn, Wash., they joined the Mountaineers. In their leisure time, they hiked and backpacked. Gradually, Polly Dyer went from outdoor enthusiast to active volunteer to political activist.

“John was busy working and earning our living,” Dyer said. “He made it possible for me to do what I did.”

And she did many things. For example, in 1953, Washington Governor Arthur Langlie appointed a committee to look into whether up to one-quarter of Olympic National Park should be transferred back to the Forest Service. Dyer became one of three conservationists on the panel, which was dominated by logging interests. When a majority report favored the transfer, Dyer and her colleagues rallied their supporters to lobby the governor, and he bowed to the pressure.

“So those of us who were in the minority on the committee were able to get enough input from the public that

we won our case,” she said. “If conservationists hang in there, they can defeat the opposition.”

Similarly, in 1958, business interests were promoting a highway along Olympic National Park’s coastal strip. Dyer organized a hike, led by Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas and attended by 72 conservation leaders, from Lake Ozette to Rialto Beach. The media covered the hike extensively, and the plan to pave died.

Dyer was also one of the founders of the North Cascades Conservation Council, a group formed to win national park status for that area. The park was created in



John and Polly Dyer

1968, but it took supporters another 20 years to win wilderness designation for the majority of its land. And just this year, Dyer and Patrick Goldsworthy kicked off a campaign to expand the park to protect scenic landscapes not included in the original designation.

In the middle of all this, Dyer found time to go back to school and earn a degree in geography. And in 1974, she started her job at the UW, in the old Institute for Environmental Studies. She worked there for 20 years, organizing dozens of conferences — something she had learned how to do through her volunteer efforts.

Now 89, Dyer belongs to the Mountaineers group the Retired Rovers, with whom she still hikes regularly. And she still sits on the boards of several environmental organizations. But she’s trying to step back, she says, to give younger people a chance.

Asked what her greatest success has been, Dyer demurs. “I never think of myself as being successful,” she said. “I just hang in there.”

# ***Travelogue kicks off another season at UW Club***

UWRA welcomes Joan Bowers, new coordinator of Travelogue. Mark your calendars for these free programs. All programs begin at 7:15 PM, UW Club conference room. Optional themed dinners precede programs. Call UW Club for reservations: (206) 543-0437.

**October 21, 2009**

## **NEW ZEALAND'S NORTH ISLAND**

**Bob Albrecht**

Bob and Mary explore the North Island by car in this action movie. See Guy Fawkes night, Maori ceremonies, rugby, soccer, racing, bowling and a wild episode known as "boobs on bikes." Other 'highlights': NZ's tallest building, longest beach, shortest, narrowest railroad, smelliest thermal site!

**November 14, 2009**

## **SAFARI! KENYA & TANZANIA**

**Charles Sleicher**

Photographer *par excellence*

Charles Sleicher travels through Samburu National Reserve, Lake Nakuru, the Masai Mara, the Serengeti, and Ngorongoro Center in search of wildlife. His collection includes photographs of twenty mammals and fifteen birds. For a hint of how good this program will be, see his African photos on display, lower level of Meany Theater.

**January 20, 2010**

## **GREAT RIVERS OF EUROPE**

**Ron and Barbara Hammond**

Join the Hammonds on a 120-passenger river boat from Vienna to

the ancient town of Regensburg, on to Nuremberg into the upper reaches of the Main, then down the Main into Koblenz, Koln and Amsterdam.

**February 17, 2010**

## **EXPLORE MACHU PICHU**

**Bill Saltzstein**

Since Hiram Bingham "discovered" Machu Pichu in 1911, it has been a mysterious and wondrous destination for travelers from around the world. Seattle traveler Bill Saltzstein will take us through Peru's Urubamba Valley and on a daybreak tour of the Lost City of the Incas. Join us for a dizzying look at this architectural treasure seen through Bill's superb photographic style.

## **You can still find out what's up at UW:**

### **Subscribe (for free) to *University Week* computer editions**

When you were an active employee, you regularly received a newspaper telling you about what was going on at the University. Now that you're retired, you can still receive that paper, though now it's not on paper.

*University Week* is still reporting on happenings at the University of Washington, but now we're all online, and we send out an e-mail each week to alert our readers that a new issue is up. If you want to be one of those readers, all you need is a UWNetId. Possibly you already have one; if so, you can confirm it and use it. If not, you can get one easily. In either case, go to <https://uwnetid.washington.edu/newid/> and follow the directions there.

*University Week* is an easy way to stay connected with the university. We write about research, teaching, and the UW's efforts to connect with the community. We also tell you what's new with campus buildings and grounds, and we introduce you to interesting people on the faculty and staff.

Beyond reading our stories, however, you can also participate in the discussion. Our stories now have a "comments" field at the end, inviting readers to have their say, but only those with a UWNetID are allowed

to join the conversation.

Another privilege allowed only to those with NetIDs is the placing of FREE classified ads. If you have a room to rent, a piece of furniture to sell or a service to offer, you can advertise those things and more to the 27,000 faculty and staff now on our mailing list.

You can also post your photos to our Community Photos page. These are all photos of the UW campus or University-related activities.

*University Week* will not stuff your mailbox with daily e-mails. We come out once a week during the academic year and every other week in the summer, and we don't publish during quarter breaks. There are 35 issues each year. And if you prefer to receive e-mail at an account outside the University, you can have your mail forwarded from the UW account to the outside one. However, you must use the University account to post comments, ads or photos.

We value retirees as part of the University community we serve, and we hope you choose to join us. To get a preview of what you'll receive, go to our homepage at [www.uweek.org](http://www.uweek.org).

—*University Week*