

Newsletter of the School of Aquatic & Fishery Sciences University of Washington

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# From the Director

FALL QUARTER always brings a new cohort of enthusiastic students to our academic programs, infusing us with new energy and catalyzing learning for the coming year. It is my good fortune to lead a graduate-level "hot topics" seminar series each fall that introduces incoming students to a cross section of research issues covered in our faculty programs. Faculty teams assign readings that students critique online, followed by lively discussions when we meet each Thursday. I am awed by the level of insight and critical thinking that students impart through wellcrafted written and spoken comments.

In November, the annual Graduate Student Symposium showcased our students' research and their ability to inspire all of us. And each quarter, our undergraduates present "Capstone" talks as a culmination of their research experience. We are always impressed by the sophistication of their work and presentations.

This fall, we held our annual awards and honors convocation—the "39th Fall Celebration"—where we acknowledged our endowment contributors and the students and faculty who benefit from these funds. Several highlights of this year's Celebration bear mention:

Several alumni spoke to the value of their education at SAFS, and we feature them in this issue. Their leadership, and that of others, was instrumental in ensuring success in ambitious endowment campaigns.

A slideshow was presented that featured the awards and recipients, with many photos of our students in the field and in the lab. We invite you to view this impressive display of donor generosity online: *http://fish.washington.edu/Celebration*.

http://fish.washington.edu

Last, but certainly not least, in August, we announced the results of our year-long Students First Campaign. Thanks to you, our alumni and friends, we had very good news, indeed.

### Students First Campaign The results are in

The results of our SAFS Students First Scholarship drive are in, and campaign co-chair John Williams (UW '69, '78) and I are very happy to report that, collectively, 81 alumni and friends of SAFS gave an amazing \$140,647. This impressive figure is enhanced thanks to the UW promise to provide a 1:2 match when total contributions exceed the \$100,000 threshold, yielding another \$70,324. This results in a grand total of \$210,971 or \$10,549 annually in scholarship distributions. This is a wonderful addition to the SAFS endowment base, which will enable us to support students with tuition and other resources.

We all know the value of student scholarships: The generosity of our contributors is key to perpetuating our highly successful graduate and undergraduate programs. John and I want to personally acknowledge everyone who contributed to this effort—including continuing and new donors—as well as our staff, faculty, and students, who all played key roles.

We would especially like to acknowledge the passionate efforts of Cara Mathison and Linda Maxson in the College of Ocean and Fishery Sciences Dean's Office, whose hard work contributed to the successful drive.

—David Armstrong

# Alumní Connections

Our alumni are an integral part of the SAFS family: They provide us a window on the "real world" as they pursue their careers; and they provide invaluable support in the form of experiential opportunities for our students and financial donations to our endowments. In addition, the ongoing dialogue we have with them about aquatic sciences is critical—from defining basic research opportunities to addressing topical problems, alumni help us ensure we are training our students to meet current and future needs.

We feature three alumni who share their memories of their UW days, their hopes for the School's future, and why they continue to stay connected.

a de la d

Alumni articles contributed by April Wilkinson

### Diane G. Elliott, BS '71, MS '76, PhD '85

Lynwood Smith, MS advisor Marsha Landolt, PhD advisor

In addition to her research position with the US Geological Survey, Diane is an affiliate faculty member of SAFS.

As a child, I was a pretty "fishy" person. I kept tropical fish as pets, loved to fish, and was an avid reader of Jacques Cousteau's books. I resolved early on that I wanted to be a marine biologist, with a specialty in finfish. SAFS (at that time, the College of Fisheries) offered a curriculum that would allow me to pursue that dream. I was surprised when I walked into my first Fisheries class in the late 1960s and was the only woman student there. It hadn't occurred to me that fishery science was, at that time, largely a male-only profession. However, as long as I studied hard and could hold up my end of a beach seine or handle the spawning Chinook and coho salmon that returned to the homing pond, I was considered an equal with the male students.

I have many warm memories of field trips and group study sessions with my classmates; the College of Fisheries community seemed like one big family. Those memories were brought back recently when I was at a local salmon hatchery, where volunteers were having difficulty handling the adult fish, which weighed up to 30 pounds. A part of me wanted to jump in the pond and show the volunteers some tips!

I was fortunate, as both an undergraduate and graduate student, to have access to relevant courses in other departments as well as those in Fisheries. My graduate research projects helped me hone abilities in formulating, conducting, and reporting research, and my experience as a teaching assistant helped me develop communication skills.

I chose to financially support SAFS for two principal reasons. First, I might not have been able to complete my PhD degree had I not received SAFS scholarships, and for that reason I feel indebted to the program. Second, I believe that financial support of SAFS represents an investment in the future. Students are the future educators, administrators, researchers, field biologists, and industry innovators who can help determine new directions in conservation and enhancement of aquatic and fishery resources worldwide. I am joined in my support of SAFS by my husband Richard, who also recognizes the importance of that support to the future of fishery resources.

l to r: Diane Elliott, Susan Wang, Don Weitkamp

### Susan Wang, MS '05

Dave Beauchamp/Glenn VanBlaricom, advisors

Susan works for NOAA Fisheries' Protected Resource Division in Long Beach, California.

I think one of SAFS' greatest strengths is its people. The staff are very supportive of students, professors are highly regarded experts in their respective fields, and students are hard working and excited about the studies they are pursuing. This combination creates a vibrant atmosphere for learning and is what makes SAFS such a great place and a successful program.

As a SAFS grad student, I had many opportunities to interact with NOAA scientists through seminars, conferences, field work, and other activities. I admired the work done by NOAA and the role it plays in bringing together researchers, resource managers, and resource users to discuss and develop strategies for managing and conserving aquatic resources.

At NOAA, we work to protect and conserve marine species and ecosystems. One of the biggest challenges we face is to base management decisions and policies on the best available data, which are often very limited. Being able to work closely with universities such as UW is a great benefit, enabling us to keep up to date on the latest research and work together with students, faculty, and staff to identify and address gaps in information.

Because of the work I did, the people I met and collaborated with, and the overall education I received at SAFS, my time there was one of the most memorable and rewarding experiences in my life. I'm constantly impressed by the level of research conducted by undergrad and grad students at SAFS, both from what I saw as a student and what I read about now in the newsletters. I know that this was made possible in part thanks to the financial support provided by donors. I want to give back by supporting SAFS so it can continue to provide high-quality educational opportunities for its students.

## Don Weitkamp, MS '71, PhD '77

Albert Sparks, MS advisor Ken Chew, PhD advisor

Don is a consultant with Parametrix, Inc. in Bellevue, Washington.

As a student at UW Fisheries, I was provided a sound technical education and an understanding of how to apply what I learned. Doctors Albert Sparks and Ken Chew, as well as other professors, motivated me to continuously learn and professionally apply my knowledge. I have many fond memories of those years, among the best of which were the intense discussions with my professors.

I began working as a consultant while still a graduate student because of necessity and the opportunity to work with many interesting people on a wide variety of projects.

While basic research can be limited in consulting, I have had sufficient opportunities to develop new information. My most professionally rewarding projects have involved habitat restoration. Twenty years ago I was fortunate enough to be a key player in the development, permitting, and construction of a new intertidal habitat at the mouth of the Puyallup River, located on a former Superfund site.

I would encourage students to take advantage of one of SAFS' greatest strengths: an environment that promotes a high degree of technical competence and a high level of professionalism. The foundation they receive will serve them well throughout their professional lives. I hope future students will have expanded options both in traditional fields as well as in emerging technologies.

Obviously, higher education needs to continue to play a leading role in research. Also, I think schools like SAFS need to equip students to deal honestly and effectively with their future roles as contributors to sound aquatic resource policies.

My gratitude for the professional opportunities I have had as a result of my experience

at the former College of Fisheries motivated me to support SAFS this year. I want to see that others receive similar opportunities.

# Degrees Awarded, 2007–2008

Each fall issue, we acknowledge students who earned degrees for the preceding academic year. Our students study a broad array of disciplines, including biology, statistics, ecology, disease, and genetics, as well as many interdisciplinary subjects that acknowledge the complex interactions between humans, our environment, and the resources we rely upon.

Students pursue diverse, numerous foci, with subjects including fishes, invertebrates, marine mammals, seabirds, insects, and the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems these organisms occupy; and issues including river ecology and rehabilitation, population and spatial dynamics, interspecies competition, pollution, and fisheries management, to name a few. Their work illustrates the breadth and scope of graduate research and highlights topical investigations at SAFS. (Advising professors for graduate students are indicated in parentheses.)

### **BS** Degrees

Zachary Baldwin Philip Campbell Jason Ching Benjamin Clemence Charles Cooper Devin Creek Lisa Crosson

17510

Julie Dodson Aaron Dufault Katie Fulkerson Heather Gibbs Jamey Hance Cary Hofmann

31-1-1

Eahn Holm Heather Hooper Bryan Ishida Daniel Levin\* Breck McCollum Melanie Null Aaron Park Sarah Peterson Carla Rothenbucher Adam Shimer Matthew Smith Matthew Strang

Cullen Taplin Abby Tillotson Sean Walters Chantell Wetzel Tushara Williamson Justin Willig

\* COFS honors

## MS Degrees

Charmane Ashbrook (Skalski) Selective Fishing and Its Impacts on Salmon: A Tale of Two Test Fisheries

Keith Denton (Quinn) The Utilization of a Salmon Subsidy by Resident Char (*Salvelinus* spp.)

Katy Doctor (Quinn) Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Homeward Migration and Population Structure in Sockeye Salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) in the Wood River system, Bristol Bay, Alaska

Cristiane Elfes (VanBlaricom) Persistent Organic Pollutant Levels in North Pacific and North Atlantic Humpback Whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*)

Michelle Havey (Quinn) Salmon Olfaction: Odor Detection and Imprinting in *Oncorhynchus* spp.

Neala Kendall (Quinn) Long-term Fishery Selection on Age and Size at Maturity of Bristol Bay, Alaska Sockeye Salmon

Roger Maney (Conquest) An Assessment of Surveyor Precision and Bias in Experimental Designs for Programmatic Stream Rehabilitation

Patrick Sean Nealson (Horne) Acoustic Sampling Effects on Chinook (*Onchorhynchus tshawytscha*) and Sockeye (*O. nerka*) Salmon Discrimination Using Time-based Echo Metrics

Caroline Paulsen (Essington) Evaluating Impacts of Hypoxia on Demersal and Benthic Marine Communities in Hood Canal, Washington

Paulson Ramirez (Simenstad) Emergent Aquatic Insects: Assemblage Structure and Patterns of Availability in Freshwater Wetlands of the Lower Columbia River Estuary

Kimberly Rand (Gallucci) Longitudinal Growth Differences in Atka Mackerel (*Pleurogrammus monopterygius*): Using a Bioenergetic Model to Identify Underlying Mechanisms

Erik R. Schoen (Beauchamp) Pelagic Trophic Interactions in Contrasting Basins of Lake Chelan

Sarah Spilseth (Simenstad) Short-term Competition Between Juvenile Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and Threespine Stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*) in Tidal Channels

Scott Stolnack (Wissmar) Patterns of Conifer Establishment and Vigor on Montane River Floodplains in Olympic National Park, Washington, USA





## PhD Degrees

Alexandre Aires daSilva (Gallucci) Population Dynamics of the Blue Shark, *Prionace glauca*, in the North Atlantic Ocean

Julian Burgos (Horne) Quantifying Walleye Pollock (*Theragra chalcogramma*) Spatial and Temporal Distribution Patterns in the Eastern Bering Sea

James C Bechtold (Naiman) Fluvial Sediment Influences on Floodplain Soil Biogeochemistry

Sage Chaiyapechara (Herwig/Friedman) Bacteria Associated with the Gastrointestinal Tract of Rockfish (*Sebastes* spp.) Larvae Reared in Aquaculture Settings

Mary Lander (VanBlaricom) Population Dynamics and Behaviors of Steller Sea Lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) with Respect to Environmental Heterogeneity: Finding the Links

Nicholas Lowry (Gunderson) Biology and Fisheries for the Spot Prawn (*Pandalus platyceros* Brandt 1851)

Stephani Zador (Parrish/Punt) Management Implications of Factors Influencing Seabird Populations

> Photographers: opposite page: Anne Beaudreau; this page: bird: Jonny Armstrong, fish: Dick Kocan

# 39th SAFS Fall Celebration

At our Fall Celebration each year, we acknowledge award-winning students and their benefactors. Thanks to the generosity of our alumni and friends, we have numerous endowments that help recruit outstanding students and support their education and research. They also fund student programs, like the annual Graduate Student Symposium, and equipment and facilities upgrades, and they help develop additional funding sources. This fall, we also acknowledged three recipients of endowed professorships, which enable our faculty to pursue unsupported research and other activities.

## Student Awards 2008-2009

Melvin G. Anderson Scholarship in Fisheries Judith Little

Achievement Rewards for College Scientists Eric Larson, Jessica Silver

**Donald E. Bevan Endowed Fund in Fisheries** This fund supports the annual Bevan Seminar Series on Sustainable Fisheries held each winter quarter.

Wilbert McLeod Chapman Memorial Scholarship Morgan Sternberg

John N. Cobb Scholarship in Fisheries Allison Linnell, Meryl Mims

Herbert T. Domenici Scholarship Audrey Djunaedi

Lauren R. Donaldson Scholarship Amanda Bruner

Claire L. and Evelyn S. Egtvedt Fellowship Christopher Eaton, Daniel Widener

Floyd E. Ellis Memorial Scholarship Ava Heston, Erika Pinney

James and Joy Ellis Scholarship in Fisheries Sophie Pierszalowski

Faculty Merit Award William Eldridge, Jason Cope, Keith Denton, Erin McClelland, Mary Ramirez, Alexandre Aires Silva, Sarah Spilseth, Gretchen Thuesen

Fisheries Memorial Award John Brandon

Jack D. Geil Memorial Award Schuyler Dunphy

#### Gilbert Ichthyology Research Fund

Rachel Arnold, Benjamin Frable, Chris Kenaley, Josh Kubo, Dawn Roje, Kimberly Sawyer

Graduate School Top Scholar Award Meryl Mims

Theodor Jacobsen, Jr. and Sr. Fisheries Scholarship Andrew Davison

Roy Jensen Research Fellowship Marine Brieuc, Larissa Felli, Carey McGilliard

H. Mason Keeler Endowment for Excellence Michael Ackerman, Anne Beaudreau, Nathalie Hamel, Maureen Hess, Michael Schrimpf

H. Mason Keeler Lake Washington Fund in Fisheries Gordon Holtgrieve

Marsha Landolt and Robert Busch Endowed Fund in Aquatic and Fishery Sciences Douglas Kinzey

Vincent Liguori Fellowship Joanna Smith

Shao-Wen Ling Memorial Scholarship Colleen Burge

Victor and Tamara Loosanoff Fellowship Jennifer Griffiths, Eric Larson,

Galen and Helen Maxfield Fisheries Scholarship Joanna Smith

Gilbert B. Pauley Award Amy Yahnke

Gerald J. Paulik Memorial Fund Douglas Kinzey

> right: students Michael Schrimpf and Anne Beaudreau in the field

John G. Peterson Scholarship Neala Kendall

William H. Pierre, Sr. Fellowship Colleen Burge, Mackenzie Gavery

Edward Allen Power Scholarship in Fisheries Billie Perez, Miguel West

Quistorff Fund in Fisheries Kimberly Sawyer

Robert E. Resoff Scholarship Benjamin Frable, Juliana Stephan

Samuel and Althea Stroum Scholarship Morgan Sternberg

W. F. Thompson Scholarship Jacqueline Schwartzstein

Richard Van Cleve Scholarship Douglas Kinzey

Richard T. Whiteleather Endowed Scholarship Charlotte Boyd, Susan Johnson

Walter Yonker Memorial Fund Kristy Forsgren We also recognize those endowments from which no award was made this year but which will continue to support our students, faculty, and staff in the future, including the following four funds:

#### DeWitt Gilbert Fisheries-Journalism Scholarship

John E. Halver Fellowship

H. Mason Keeler Endowed Scholarship in Fisheries

Oscar Skau Student Research Fund

In order to remain consistent with each donor's expressed intent, SAFS frequently designates a combination of endowments to create a single award package for select students, including tuition, research expenses, and stipends.

## Faculty Endowed Professorships

Lowell A. Wakefield Endowed Professorship in Ocean and Fishery Sciences Tim Essington

H. Mason Keeler Professorship in Fisheries: Daniel Schindler

Richard C. and Lois M. Worthington Professorship in Fisheries Management Dave Beauchamp

Photographers ( l to r): K. Mack, A. Dufault

# Awards & Honors

# Faculty

#### Naiman Named Doctor Honoris Causa

In October 2008, Bob Naiman was awarded the title of Doctor Honoris Causa of Paul Sabatier University. This honorary doctorate was approved by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was bestowed in a formal ceremony in mid October.

#### Conquest to Coordinate NSF Partnership Grant

Loveday Conquest has been appointed Faculty Coordinator for Seattle-area high schools in a partnership grant, funded by the National Science Foundation. The grant supports placing graduate students from UW SAFS, Biology, and Oceanography in Puget Sound high schools, where they will work with teachers to craft basic science lessons and projects that promote understanding of the interdisciplinary science of oceanography and marine research. Graduate student Amanda Bruner is the SAFS Teaching Fellow for the first year.

#### Endowed Professorships

Endowed professorships help attract and retain top scholars. These endowments enable our faculty to attract outstanding graduate students, purchase critical equipment, and explore new research directions for which funding might not otherwise be available. Five SAFS faculty were recently awarded endowed professorships:

#### SAFS Professorships

- Tim Essington, Lowell Wakefield Endowed Professorship in Ocean & Fishery Sciences
- David Beauchamp, Richard C. and Lois M. Worthington Professorship in Fisheries Management
- Daniel Schindler, H. Mason Keeler Professorship in Fisheries

#### **COFS** Professorships

- Julia Parrish, Lowell A. and Frankie L. Wakefield Endowed Professor in the College of Ocean and Fishery Sciences
- Ted Pietsch, Gilbert Professor of Ocean and Fishery Sciences

l to r: Kristi Straus and Anne Baxter in the field



Mary Hunsicker with her faculty advisor, Tim Essington, receiving the W. F. Thompson Award

## Students

*Grad Students Sweep Awards at PCSGA Annual Meeting* In Autumn 2008, SAFS graduate students swept all three student awards at the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association. Lisa Crosson (MS student of Carolyn Friedman) won the Best Student Paper award. And Anne Baxter (MS student of Russ Herwig) and Kristi Straus (PhD student of Carolyn Friedman) won the student scholarship award competition.

#### Hunsicker Nets W. F. Thompson Award

Last September, SAFS graduate student Mary Hunsicker (Tim Essington, advisor) learned that she won the W. F. Thompson Award for Best Student Paper of 2006. The award, granted by the American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists, is based on a highly competitive review process of papers submitted by students across the country.

#### Undergrad Selected for First Non-University PhD Program

Last spring, undergraduate Zach Baldwin (Ted Pietsch, mentor) became one of 12 students selected nationwide to be accepted to the Gilder Graduate School. He will be part of an all-new program in comparative biology at the American Museum of Natural History, the first non-university PhD granting program in the world.

#### Graduate Awarded Fulbright Fellowship

Katy Doctor (Tom Quinn, advisor) was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to study in Las Cruces, Chile. She will be working with SAFS alumna Miriam Fernandez on the efficacy and success of Management Areas (marine areas managed by local fishers' unions) as a community-based conservation tool to ensure sustainable management of target species.

# In Memoríam Warren S. Wooster, 1921–2008

Warren Wooster passed away on 29 October 2008. During his latter career, he held faculty positions in both the School of Marine Affairs and the School of Aquatic & Fishery Sciences (1976–1991). During 1979–1982, he served as Director of the School of Marine Affairs. Wooster was also very involved in the deliberations that led to the formation of these two schools' parent unit, the College of Ocean and Fishery Sciences. He retired from both institutions as Emeritus Professor, yet he returned to campus almost daily—by bicycle—to mentor students.

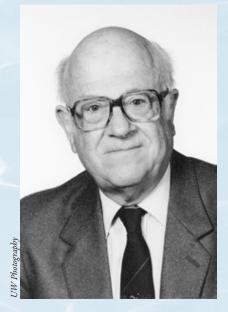
Wooster was a chemical, physical, and fisheries oceanographer who earned his advanced degrees at California Institute of Technology (MS 1947) and Scripps Institution of Oceanography (PhD 1953). He was fluent or familiar with several languages (Spanish, French, German, Russian), having lived at various times in South America and Europe.

Wooster was especially known for his national and international efforts to bring the fields of oceanography and fisheries closer together. He was an efficient but tactful, persuasive, and patient negotiator on many planes, not easily discouraged by adversity, and trusted by students and colleagues at home and abroad.

He held numerous distinguished offices, including the first Secretary of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Office of Oceanography (1961–1963); chairman of the Graduate Department of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography (1967–1969); Chairman of the Ocean Sciences Board of the US National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council (1978–1981); and President of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES, 1982–1985). He is especially known for founding the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES, for Pacific ICES). He is widely recognized as the father of PICES and served as its first chairman (1992–1996).

While he served in many important scientific offices, Wooster recognized the limitations of organizations that have no management responsibilities. He sought to bridge the gap "between academic studies...and the practical and political problems of determining and establishing allowable catch rates." Crossing this bridge was "more salient than ever with recognition of the need for ecosystem management and growing awareness of the influence of environmental variations on the abundance and distribution of fish stocks" (*http:// sma.washington.edu/faculty/w\_wooster.html*).

The scope and breadth of Wooster's contributions to aquatic sciences were summed up in a 1976 letter by National Science Foundation head, Feenan D. Jennings: "He is one of the few people I know of who really fit the term, 'a man for all seasons."



At SAFS, Wooster worked with faculty and students on fisheries– oceanography issues, and supervised several graduate students who went on to establish successful careers in fisheries management working for NOAA Fisheries.

SAFS professors emeritus Don Gunderson and Bob Francis reflected on their impressions of Wooster: Gunderson noted, "Warren saw the need to get oceanographers and fisheries researchers to work together more closely long before other scientists of his time, and worked hard and creatively to forge alliances across these two disciplines." Francis expanded: "Not only was Warren a mentor in the area of fisheries oceanography for me and many others, he was a mentor to me in dealing with university politics when I came in as the Fisheries Research Institute director. His office door was always open and he always greeted me with a warm smile and friendly voice. Warren was a real catalyst for developing an awareness of the overall marine environment when dealing with ocean policy, in particular fisheries, issues. I feel fortunate to have known and worked with him—a real scholar and gentleman."

Wooster was a also long-time amateur photographer, working mainly with black-and-white film in his own darkroom and holding several exhibits at the University of Washington.

Contributions in Wooster's name may be made to the Clarissa and Warren Wooster Endowed Fund at the University of Washington: https://secure.gifts.washington.edu/common/gift. asp?source\_typ=3&source=MCKERN.

To learn more about Warren Wooster, please see his webpage: http://www.sma.washington.edu/faculty/w\_wooster.html.

—Sources: Karl Banse, Tom Leschine, John Knauss (PICES)

# Gífts, 2007–2008

The many alumni and friends of our school play an important role in supporting our programs through their generous financial gifts. During 2007–2008, our donors continued their longstanding charitable contributions to our School. We acknowledge and thank our many benefactors for their sustained support.

## up to \$1,000

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## http://fish.washington.edu/fund

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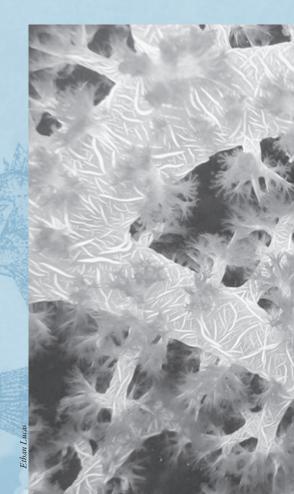
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