

front porch

a newsletter for our neighbors

Partners for Our Children

When it comes to child welfare and all of its sometimes competing elements – courts, the private sector, legislature and universities — bringing together multiple sources of knowledge to improve the lives of children and families can be a substantial challenge. For Ben de Haan and the rest of the staff at Partners for Our Children, however, that challenge is one worth tackling. As executive director, Ben oversees a team of University of Washington researchers that are working to change the way child welfare operates.

Partners for Our Children focuses on producing high quality research in order to inform and influence policies and practices in social work. Current projects include developing a fully integrated workforce development program based out of the UW School of Social Work that will benefit social workers throughout the state by providing them with much-needed preparation for their work.

“It’s not easy to bridge the gap between practitioners, public agencies, policy makers and academics,” Ben said. “We’re a boundary organization; we operate between the big systems, and we’ve done a good job of translating our direction regarding what needs to happen with some very diverse groups.”

Four years ago the UW became home to Partners for Our Children, a unique and unprecedented organization that works collaboratively with the University of Washington’s School of Social Work, the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services and private philanthropies to achieve a common goal of improving the lives of children in Washington state. The program was jump-started by a generous donation from Connie Ballmer and her husband, Microsoft Chief Executive Steve Ballmer. Since then, the organization continues to be funded by the University, private grants and gifts and through partnerships with state agencies.

The organization’s position as a bridge connecting various entities allows it to engage in unique and impactful research. Ben adds, “We’re producing information that nobody else has.”

To learn more about Partners for Our Children, visit partnersforourchildren.org.



Welcome Michael K. Young, the 31st UW President

President Young’s first official day at the UW was July 1, 2011 and he has been touring the campus, the city and the state to learn more about our community. He shares a lot of things in common with the UW including a birthday on November 4th, a penchant for tackling big challenges and a commitment to the betterment of the community. Visit uw.edu/discover/leadership/president to learn more about your new neighbor.





Moving Together in Faith and Health

University of Washington School of Nursing professor Dr. Doris Boutain, RN, knew that for many people, church not only provides spiritual guidance, but also serves as a valued source for modeling positive and healthy environments.

In 2010, with a grant from the Seattle King County Department of Public Health, Doris worked with six Central and Southeast Seattle churches—located in neighborhoods with disproportionately higher rates of chronic diseases related to obesity—to collaboratively create Moving Together in Faith and Health. This initiative partners churches with local businesses to combat and prevent childhood obesity.

The churches are charged with developing and implementing health policies to ensure that they model healthy environments. This includes serving healthier foods at events, eliminating vending machines and using a healthy recipe guidebook compiled by a student at the School of Nursing for church cooks.

“The churches are changing environments, not just people,” Doris said. “They’re teaching people to eat better by changing their environments to make that happen.”

While Doris worked with the churches, Nursing students Steven Lim and Jemma Nonog worked at a Red Apple Market in the Central District. Using current marketing, business and health research they reviewed the store’s layout and flow, and made suggestions to improve access to healthy foods. “We had to understand what would keep a business alive but also make modified changes to promote health within that kind of structure,” Jemma said.

As a result, the store will be adding a refrigerator with healthy food choices near their deli section, and will also be installing floor decals of cartoon food and vegetable characters meant to keep children and their families in the produce section longer.

Jemma adds, “To promote health and make changes, it has to be outside of the hospital, and you have to catch it upstream.”

Learn more about the UW School of Nursing promoting health in the community at nursing.uw.edu/departments/pch/psychosocial-community-health.html.



TO PROMOTE HEALTHY EATING, NURSING STUDENTS STEVEN AND JEMMA CAME UP WITH THE IDEA OF DESIGNING FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CARTOON CHARACTERS, INCLUDING ABBY APPLE (PICTURED ABOVE).

HUSKY FOOTBALL HOME GAME SCHEDULE 2011*

Interested in learning more about the renovation of Husky Stadium? Visit huskystadium.com to take a virtual tour, learn more about ticket pricing and how the game day experience in 2013 will be enhanced for every Husky fan. And remember, the last game at the “old” Husky Stadium will be against Oregon on Nov 5. Husky Football games will then move to CenturyLink Field for this year’s Apple Cup and the entire 2012 season. Go Dawgs!

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
09/24/11	UCLA	Husky Stadium	TBA
10/15/11	COLORADO	Husky Stadium	TBA
10/29/11	ARIZONA	Husky Stadium	TBA
11/05/11	OREGON	Husky Stadium	TBA
11/26/11	WASHINGTON STATE	CenturyLink Field	TBA

* Visit gohuskies.com for the most up-to-date football schedule.



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Celebrating *our* 150th Anniversary

150 YEARS AT THE UW. The UW and the region have grown up together, a partnership that has resulted in one of the most innovative, entrepreneurial, creative and “green thinking” areas in the nation.

Here are just a few things you might not know about the UW:

- Asa Shinn Mercer, the first UW president, helped to construct the first building that housed the Territorial University.
- The first UW graduate was Clara McCarty in 1876.
- In 1895, the UW moved to its current Seattle campus location from downtown Seattle at what is currently the Fairmont Olympic Hotel.
- The Sylvan Theater contains four white columns from the original Territorial University building. The columns were given the names “Loyalty,” “Industry,” “Faith,” and “Efficiency,” the first letters spelling “LIFE.”
- UW athletic teams used to be called the Sun Dodgers. An attempt to adopt the nickname Vikings in 1921 was met with protests by students and a joint committee was formed to propose new names. The Huskies nickname was officially adopted on February 3, 1922.
- After seeing couples “spooning” in the shadows of the Columns one spring evening in 1929, UW President Matthew Lyle Spencer banned kissing on campus. There were no reports that any couples violated the ban.
- Since 2006, a UW Common Book has been chosen each year and read by all freshmen. Read along this year with the book *The Meaning of It All: Thoughts of a Citizen-Scientist* by Dr. Richard Feynman. Find out more at uw.edu/uaa/commonbook



Visit uw.edu/150 to find out about the many ways to join in on the excitement!

Did you know?

UW IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD A new interactive online map allows you to search by your address or neighborhood and see how the UW’s people, programs and services benefit your neighborhood. Visit uw.edu/community/map.

Meet your neighbors

David Hendry and Jill Palzkill Woelfer

Jill Palzkill Woelfer, a Ph.D. student at the University of Washington Information School, has lived in the University District since 1995. Since that time she has noticed a disconnect—despite the prevalence of digital technology, the homeless youth in the area don’t have the skills needed to utilize it.

While many can claim that computers have assisted them in their interactions with employers and schools, homeless youth (of which there are an estimated 200 to 300 in the University District on any given night) may be less prepared to use these tools, creating a barrier for getting a job. “The world has changed,” Jill said. “You don’t even have an opportunity in lots of employment situations to meet someone in person and give them your résumé anymore.”

In 2008, Jill and colleague David Hendry, an associate professor at The Information School, co-created a community technology center through a partnership with Street Youth Ministries and a \$35,000 state grant. The center offered computer-related life skills classes designed to engage and educate street youth about using technology to help them find a job.

The classes helped the youth develop their résumés, search for jobs and manage their online identities. “Each step was done with consideration of what it means to have to do these things through computer mediation,” Jill said. In the course of 14 months, over 100 youth went through the class, which met twice a week for six to eight sessions.



Now, David and Jill are working on research that will lead to the creation of a web application to help youth find local employment. Funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation, the project was launched in 2010 and will run through 2013.

Speaking of the impact of the community technology center, David adds, “The kind of dialogue and the kind of communication that the class was able to create among young people — our partner sees as a really terrific sign.”

Box 359520, Seattle, WA 98195-9520

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Permit No. 62In your backyard *community calendar***September 27**

DANZ LECTURE SERIES*

Gro Harlem BrundtlandOur Common Future:
Sustainable Development
in a Deteriorating World

6:30 p.m., Kane Hall, Room 130

grad.washington.edu/lectures**September 27-January 8****¡Carnaval!**Explore the history of carnival
celebrations around the world.

Burke Museum

[burkemuseum.org/exhibits/
browse/carnaval](http://burkemuseum.org/exhibits/browse/carnaval)**October 23****Dawg Dash**Join the UW community for
a 10K run and 5K walk/run
through the UW campus to benefit
student scholarship programs.

9:30 a.m., Husky Stadium

dawgdash.com**October 26**

ENGINEERING FALL LECTURE SERIES*

**Mary Armstrong ,
The Boeing Company**Innovative Solutions: Aerospace
and the Environment

7:00 p.m., Kane Hall, Room 130

enr.uw.edu**November 1**

DANZ LECTURE SERIES*

General Barry McCaffreyInternational and Domestic
Security Challenges Facing the
United States

6:30 p.m., Kane Hall, Room 130

grad.washington.edu/lectures**November 4****W Day**Celebrate the UW's 150th
anniversary – wear your purple,
take advantage of discounts
in local stores, look for events
happening on campus and
participate virtually on the UW's
facebook page ([facebook.com/
UofWA](http://facebook.com/UofWA)) and Twitter (@UW).uw.edu/150**November 11****Veteran's Day Observance**10:30 a.m., UW Medal of
Honor Memorial (south end
of Memorial Way)uw.edu/discover/visit/valor**January 12**

MANGELS LECTURE SERIES*

Amy TanCreative Minds
Do Not Think Alike

6:30 p.m., Kane Hall, Room 130

grad.washington.edu/lectures

*Lectures are free and registration is required.

To keep up with the latest local news and information between Front Porch issues, send your e-mail address to regional@uw.edu. UW policy ensures that e-mail addresses will remain confidential and used only for activities related to UW research, education or administration. Visit uw.edu/community for an electronic version of the current issue.

FRONT PORCH IS PRODUCED BY THE UW OFFICE OF REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS: DIRECTOR THERESA DOHERTY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR AARON HOARD AND PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER KATHLEEN DANNENHOLD.