

front porch

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WINTER 2012

a newsletter for our neighbors

OneBusAway

Catching the bus made easier by two former UW graduate students

When Brian Ferris moved to Seattle in 2004, he didn't have a car and needed public transportation to get around. Like many bus riders, however, Brian quickly realized that doing so left him with somewhat limited control over his travel plans.

"Waiting for buses in Seattle isn't pleasant," Brian said. "They don't always run on time."

This prompted Brian, a graduate student in computer science and engineering, to create a service that provided riders with real-time information on when their bus would be arriving.

Launched in 2008, OneBusAway now services over 50,000 users a week. Riders are able to acquire information for any bus stop in the King County area through calling, text messaging, accessing the OneBusAway website or using the mobile applications for iPhone and Android.

"Without OneBusAway, it was difficult to know when the bus would be coming, especially on cold, rainy nights, or if it was late," Rachel Solomon, a Green Lake resident who uses the service every day to get to work in the U-District, said. "Now I can time my arrivals and departures so that I don't have to wait outside for nearly as long."

Brian worked alongside Kari Watkins, a graduate student in civil engineering, who reached out to several transit agencies to incorporate them into the service, including King County Metro and Sound Transit. Kari also looked into how the application was impacting rider habits, with some eye-opening results.

"What we found was that people who don't have real-time transit information feel like they're waiting a lot longer than they really are," Kari explained, "whereas those that did have the information felt less impatient and frustrated."

Though Brian and Kari have since graduated from the UW, both are still involved in OneBusAway through maintaining the service and doing further research on riders' habits. Brian also now works on transit technology for Google in Zurich, Switzerland, while Kari is an assistant professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology. In October of this year, the UW reached an agreement with the transit agencies to continue funding and managing the application.

Brian has already seen the impact the service has had on riders. "I've literally overheard two people talking about it at a bus stop and how it has made their commute so much easier. It's kind of surreal to be there listening to two people you don't know talking about the project you've worked on."

To connect with OneBusAway, visit onebusaway.com.



Did you know?

UW MEDICINE'S NEW CLINIC IN RAVENNA The UW Neighborhood Ravenna Clinic opened in October and offers a wide array of primary care services for the entire family, including child immunizations, women's health care and travel medicine services. The clinic also offers ancillary services including on-site laboratory, digital X-ray facilities, and nutrition services. Learn more at uwmedicine.org/uwvnpn.

Orca Bowl

High school students compete to test their knowledge of the ocean

Since 1997, the University of Washington has played host to the Orca Bowl, a statewide competition where high school teams compete to test their knowledge of the world's oceans and marine life.

Maile Sullivan, the Education Coordinator at Washington Sea Grant, helps plan the event that draws over a dozen teams across the state, some of which are from areas of Washington that don't typically get as much exposure to marine life.

"Our mission is to foster ocean literacy in young people," Maile said. "Because some students don't have access to the coast, they're using this event as a tool to learn more about it."

The format of the competition consists of rapid-fire multiple-choice, short-answer and team challenge questions that prompt the teams to use critical thinking and problem-solving. In addition to the competition, the students were also given the opportunity to meet with professors and researchers in the marine sciences, as well as receive a tour of the Seattle Aquarium.

Alyssa Elridge, a senior at Garfield High School, participated in last year's Orca Bowl, and will serve as captain of the school's senior team for the forthcoming competition.

"It definitely gave me a direction in which to maintain the enthusiasm I had picked up for marine science," Alyssa, who now plans on pursuing a science-related major in college, said. "If I hadn't had a competition to prepare for, I probably would have forgotten a lot of it."

Over 1,200 students and 100 teachers have participated in Washington's Orca Bowl, with over 80 volunteers contributing each year. This year's competition will be held on March 3, 2012 at the University of Washington Seattle campus.

To find out more about the Washington Sea Grant or to volunteer for the Orca Bowl, visit wsg.washington.edu.



THE ORCA BOWL GIVES WASHINGTON STATE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS A FUN INTERACTIVE WAY TO LEARN ABOUT MARINE LIFE.



Did you know?

THE BURKE MUSEUM OUTSIDE THE WALLS

Did you know you can borrow mastodon teeth, crocodile toe bones, and insects in amber from the Burke Museum's prehistoric collections? Or bring a Burke educator to your child's classroom to share animal specimens and explore ecosystems? The Burke Boxes and Burkemobile programs bring the fun you have inside the Burke Museum right to you – wherever you are!

Visit burkemuseum.org for details and to schedule a program.

HuskyFest April 19-21, 2012 Come to the Seattle campus for a multi-day free festival celebrating 150 years at the UW and highlighting the impact and role the University has had in shaping our community. The campus and Red Square will come alive with a tented Pavilion featuring music, arts activities, displays, food, speakers and more. On Saturday, the UW welcomes our neighbors to campus-wide activities showcasing the University and its people. Discover what's next! Visit uw.edu/150 to find out what's going on.

150 Years of Community Involvement

The UW has a history of working with the community—take a look at what your University has done over the years to build a vibrant community:



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON LIBRARIES, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, UW21023Z

1904: "Campus Day" was instituted to accomplish practical physical work on the new campus like clearing brush and improving paths and trails.

1927: The Henry Art Gallery was the first art museum built in the state. Now it attracts more than 75,000 visitors a year. www.henryart.org

1972: The Union Bay Natural Area, a public wildlife area currently managed by UW Botanical Gardens, was acquired by the UW who managed its ecological restoration. <http://depts.washington.edu/uwbg/research/ubna.shtml>

1990: The "Fremont Troll" was designed by UW Architecture Professor Steve Badanes and two former architecture students as a solution to a neighborhood dumping problem. The artwork was selected by a public vote and community volunteers helped build it. king5.com/on-tv/evening-magazine/Fremont-Troll-119283229.html

1992: The Carlson Leadership & Public Service Center was established with the mission of facilitating opportunities for students to engage in their community. Last year it placed 2,752 undergraduates in volunteer positions in our community. <http://depts.washington.edu/leader/>

Visit uw.edu/150 to learn more about the UW's 150 year history or visit uw.edu/community/map to see what the UW is doing in your community now.

Meet your neighbor

Jessica Wallach

Developing local food sustainability

For UW Honors student Jessica Wallach, food sustainability has always been important to her. When Jessica and a group of over a dozen other students had the opportunity to spend their spring break visiting local farms and food organizations through the UW Honors Program, it proved to be a rewarding experience.

"I've always been interested in food systems and how we can use food to talk about the political, social and economic forces that are defining our lives, and the health implications of all those things," Jessica said. "This was a great way to learn more about that."

The Honors Experiential Spring Break, organized by the UW Honors Program, has provided undergraduates with opportunities to enrich their learning through hands-on education.

"I think it's pretty important for undergraduates to see that expertise doesn't just lie within the university," Aley Willis, UW Honors Program Director of Student Services, said. "It lies everywhere in the community, and students really appreciate that perspective."

This year's spring break was spent visiting and learning more about food sustainability-based groups, including Seattle Tilth, Marra Farm, Seattle P-Patch, Pike Place Market, the Oxbow Center and the UW Farm. Students in the program got hands-on experience with the daily operations of these organizations, and a deeper understanding as to how food efforts can be further progressed.



Jessica expressed her desire for all people to have the opportunity to spend a day on a farm to gain a better appreciation for how food is grown. "It's a long and intensive process, and most people aren't aware of the level of work that goes into it," she said.

An active member of the UW Student Food Cooperative, Jessica hopes to educate students and the surrounding community about how their personal food practices can be improved. She adds, "There's a lot of excitement around food issues right now, and there's a need for people who can help guide that conversation."

To find out more about how UW students are getting involved in the community, visit the UW Honors Program at <http://depts.washington.edu/uwhonors>.

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Seattle, WA
Permit No. 62In your backyard *community calendar***January 25, February 8
and 22, March 6**Visions of America:
Presidential Election
David Domke7:00 p.m., Kane Hall, Room 130
lectures.org/season/sal_u.php?id=309**January 28 – June 10****Hungry Planet:****What the World Eats**Explore how families around the
world shop, cook and eat.*Burke Museum*
[burkemuseum.org/exhibits/browse/
hungry_planet](http://burkemuseum.org/exhibits/browse/hungry_planet)**February 8 – 26****Jane Austen's "Emma"***Jones Playhouse*
meany.org/tickets/?prod=5155**March 1-3****Limón Dance Company**8:00 p.m., Meany Hall
for the Performing Arts
uworldseries.org/world-dance/limon/**March 30 - April 1****Paws on Science**Bring the whole family as UW
scientists share their work through
hands-on activities.*Pacific Science Center*
[www.pacsci.org/Research-Weekends/
paws-on-science](http://www.pacsci.org/Research-Weekends/paws-on-science)**April 11****MANGELS LECTURE SERIES*****Juan Enriquez**As the Future Catches You – the
Impact of Genetic, Digital and
Knowledge Innovations6:30 p.m., Kane Hall, Room 130
grad.washington.edu/lectures/**April 17****DANZ LECTURE SERIES*****Chris Lintott**What to Do With 500,000
Scientists6:30 p.m., Kane Hall, Room 130
grad.washington.edu/lectures/**April 19-21****HuskyFest**A multi-day festival celebrating
150 years at the UW.*Red Square and other
campus locations*
uw.edu/150**April 20-21****Engineering Discovery Days**Explore engineering and science
through exhibits, demonstrations
and games.*April 20 from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.*
April 21 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
at various locations on campus
[enr.uw.edu/alumcomm/
openhouse.html](http://enr.uw.edu/alumcomm/openhouse.html)**Lectures are free and open to the
public; registration is recommended.*