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***Images of student work are available.***

### **UW Freshmen to exhibit photos expressing transition to the University of Washington**

SEATTLE—On February 21, 2008, ten University of Washington freshmen will exhibit the results from the University of Washington's freshmen seminar "Develop: Production of a Photo Essay." The two-credit seminar, created and taught by Grant Kollet, director of First Year Programs, was piloted fall quarter and continues through the rest of the academic year. It is designed for freshmen to explore, capture, and share their transition to the University of Washington through the development of a photo journal. The show opens February 21, from 3:30-5:00 p.m. on the first floor of Odegaard Undergraduate Library and will be on view through winter quarter.

"The Develop course is a variation of a program started at the University of Minnesota," says Kollet.

"Bringing these students together in this course has been fantastic! Not only does the class encourage the students to think about what they are learning and how college is affecting them, it gives us a lens through which we can see the meaningful events in their lives that shape who they eventually become."

This winter quarter a new group of ten students is being asked to reflect on their college experience thus far, to contrast the myths and realities of their college experience, and to reflect on the degree to which they are "getting what they want" out of college.

The spring quarter seminar will reunite five students from the autumn class along with 5 students from the winter cohort and they will be asked to "add a second chapter" to their photo essay exploring issues as they grow, learn, and prepare for their sophomore year. The spring class will also be encouraged to become involved in an experiential learning project that can be incorporated into their final exhibit.

"Taking Develop was a really rewarding experience," says freshman Jennifer Revak, a pre-social sciences major from Snohomish whose work will be exhibited. "Along with getting to learn how to use a manual-focus camera and just generally sharpening my photography skills, I got to meet and work with

some great people who were in the same first-year boat as me. The camera was heavy, but it became natural lugging it around and taking pictures every place I went – although I can't say it was as natural for my friends!"

### **About First Year Programs**

First Year Programs, a unit within Undergraduate Academic Affairs, facilitates programs to assist new freshman, transfers, and families as they establish and enrich their relationship with the UW community throughout their first year of enrollment. First Year Programs is co-located with Undergraduate Advising in the Gateway Center.

### **About Undergraduate Academic Affairs**

Undergraduate Academic Affairs (UAA) shapes, advances, and stewards a world-class undergraduate academic experience for students at the University of Washington. We deepen and Enrich the learning experience for all undergraduates, recognizing and supporting the unique learning path of each individual student and the commitment of each academic program to excellence in teaching and learning.

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