



# COMMUNITY Connections

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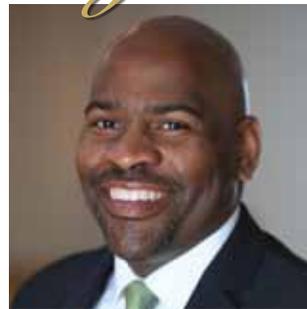
### *Spirit of Community Celebration*



Susan Huntley



Claire Garoutte



Alvin Sturdivant



Joyce Keeley

**A**s volunteer coordinator at Washington Middle School, Susan Huntley enriches the shared experiences of Seattle University and middle school students. For excelling at fostering this partnership, Huntley received the 2013 community partner award from the university's Center for Service and Community Engagement at its ninth annual Spirit of Community Celebration in April.

In the words of one of her nominators, "Susan gives her best and makes you fall in love with middle school again ... or for the first time."

The event, which drew 200 community leaders and partners, neighborhood youth, SU faculty, staff, students and donors, opened with the rhythmic and spirited beat of the Garfield High School Drumline. The awards celebration honors the connections between campus and community and the collective commitment to community support.

SU President Stephen Sundborg, S.J., described how the Seattle University Youth Initiative is at the heart of efforts to educate students both in the classroom and throughout the city. The Youth Initiative—which engages the university with local organizations and families to offer a pipeline of support to neighborhood children from cradle through college—is the true legacy of SU, he said.

Keynote speakers Senait Gebregiorgis, an SU senior completing a bachelor's degree in economics, and Phillip Angelo Bruan, a senior political science major, both grew up within the neighborhood encompassed by the Youth Initiative and are now emerging leaders for social change.

"It's not how far you have to go, but how far you have come," Bruan said.



Amy Tower



Emily Wolfkiel

Added Gebregiorgis, "You are only as weak as your thoughts."

Claire Garoutte, associate professor in SU's Fine Arts department, accepted the faculty award for leading efforts to bring students into deeper engagement with the community. Last summer her students worked alongside teens and volunteers in documenting the rich history of Yesler Terrace through photos and video. Garoutte said more than 25 community partners opened doors for the project, which she hopes to continue until the Yesler Terrace redevelopment is complete.

Serving as a mentor for young men of color, helping with enrichment programs at Garfield and coaching football and basketball at Yesler Terrace are among the reasons Alvin Sturdivant, assistant vice president for Student Development, received the SU staff award.

"It is my responsibility as a black man with power and opportunity to assist them in finding direction, definition and destiny," Sturdivant said, "and to help find their voice and to launch them feverishly in the direction of their hopes and dreams. It was done for me and it is my responsibility to pay it forward."

# Writing Behind Bars

SU faculty member brings literacy to incarcerated teens

They peek out the slim windows of their individual cells with curiosity. The heavy metal doors unlock simultaneously and eight girls at the King County Juvenile Detention Center walk to a common area for their literacy and writing class.

The average age is 15. There's a look of vulnerability among most. Drug charges, first-degree assault and domestic violence are typical reasons they're incarcerated here.

Within minutes, Stephanie Guerra has a captivating effect on the girls.

It was a passion for literacy that drew Guerra to work with incarcerated girls and women. As a Seattle University adjunct professor in the College of Education's Literacy for Special Needs program, Guerra volunteered for seven years as a creative writing teacher for women at the King County Jail when she felt she also wanted to teach literacy to teenage girls at the county's juvenile detention center, just south of the campus.

She says her real motivation is twofold: a higher religious calling to serve and a kinship with these teens.

"Writing has been a tool for me professionally, emotionally and socially and I want them to have this tool, too," she says. "I want them to write for joy and healing."

Guerra discovered healing is the number one reason the incarcerated choose to write.

"In many cases, they've had terrible educational experiences in the past so I try to show how there can be magic and fun in writing.

... I just step back and let it happen," says Guerra, author of *Torn*, a young adult novel



The College of Education's Stephanie Guerra listens to girls read aloud what they're inspired to write while incarcerated at the King County Juvenile Detention Center.

about teen girls who encounter bullying, an abusive relationship, drug use and other gritty issues.

She starts her weekly class at the juvenile detention center by reading aloud. Typically she selects young adult street literature with tales of caution or redemption.

Unna Kim, the detention center's recreational coordinator who supervises Guerra's efforts, says the girls frequently are mesmerized by Guerra's readings.

"These are really talented, intelligent girls in unfortunate circumstances. Stephanie is

like a ray of sunshine," says Kim.

After her reading, Guerra talks about the craft of writing before the girls take about 20 minutes to write a few pages of their own, either fiction or nonfiction. Then they read aloud and discuss their work. (To see samples of their writing, visit [www.seattleu.edu/magazine/](http://www.seattleu.edu/magazine/).)

At the detention center, Kim says she's blessed to have as much help as she does from community partners for recreational programming, Seattle University among them.

"It's all about empowering these girls to share and heal," Kim says.



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## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

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Photos by Chris Joseph Taylor, university photographer, and Gordon Inouye

## Lakeisha Jackson

### *Coordinator of off-campus student life*

Landlords with properties near Seattle University, who are in search of new tenants, listen up. And neighborhood residents take note if you have concerns about SU students living nearby. The university's Lakeisha Jackson builds partnerships with off-campus landlords and addresses issues residents may have with neighbors who are students. She looks out for students as well by collaborating with organizations that provide training on tenant rights.

► *Your work sounds as though it covers plenty of territory.*

► I'm very much a generalist. My role includes collaboration with public safety, commuter and transfer students, housing and residential life for students who live off campus and helping them as they develop independence and integrity. Last fall we invited 50 off-campus landlord partners to campus to tell us more about their properties. In April, we had a housing fair on campus for landlords to present their rentals to students looking to live off campus and about 100 people attended.

► *What does developing independence and integrity involve?*

► I assist students so they appreciate their roles and responsibilities as residents of the community. I help them understand that a beer can on a neighbor's lawn may have an impact on SU's reputation in the community. There's a great need for this as the university

expands into the community and more students live off campus. I help by negotiating conflicts that arise.

► *Can you give an example?*

► There was a student who hosted a party that got out of hand. There were 100 people on her front lawn and she didn't know how to handle the situation. When noise and alcohol prompted neighbors to call Public Safety and Seattle Police, my office was alerted as well. In the end, the whole experience had a positive effect for the student. She wasn't a bad person, yet she was responsible. As a consequence, she had to take part in a Good Neighbors' Workshop, write and hand deliver letters of apology to all her neighbors and complete five hours of volunteer time. Ultimately, learning how to be responsible is a lifelong process. I do my part to build a better awareness of what that involves.

► *How did you come to play this role?*

► Before coming to SU, I spent 5½ years working for the College Success Foundation, a college access pipeline for underserved, low-income students. I'm now working on a master's degree in the Student Development Administration program in the College of Education. After that, I hope to get my doctorate in sociology. I have a diverse group of mentors who are encouraging me with my professional goal: to become a university president.

To contact Lakeisha Jackson, call (206) 220-8440 or e-mail [jacks039@seattleu.edu](mailto:jacks039@seattleu.edu).



*Lakeisha Jackson is a neighborhood liaison.*

#### Honors for Civic Engagement *continued from front page*

Joyce Keeley, an international studies student, spent a year in Tanzania and Zanzibar learning Swahili before she returned to put her language skills to use at the Refugee Women's Alliance and OneAmerica, where she has helped refugees and immigrants navigate complex government systems.

"Going abroad and returning helped in pushing me on issues of justice and diversity," said Keeley, who was honored with a student award.

Amy Tower, a philosophy student, was described as a community engagement superstar. She said service is what helps ground her. "Service and the people of service have taught me that engaging ethically is working actively for justice and against oppression," said Tower, also a recipient of a student award.

Through research and practice, Emily Wolfkiel, a graduate student in the Student Development Administration Program, aims to uncover

issues of privilege and power in schools. She was named the graduate student award winner.

Kent Koth, who directs both the Center for Service and Community Engagement and the Youth Initiative, brought the Garfield Drumline back for a finale and closed the event with a fitting quote from Martin Luther King, Jr.:

"Yes, if you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice; say that I was a drum major for peace; I was a drum major for righteousness. And all of the other shallow things will not matter. I won't have any money to leave behind. I won't have the fine and luxurious things of life to leave behind. But I just want to leave a committed life behind."

Koth added: "Let us all be drum majors for justice, peace and righteousness."

# You're Invited

SU's neighbors and community partners are encouraged to attend these public events (free unless otherwise noted).

## MAY

### ► **Fefu and her Friends** by Marie Irene Fornes

LEE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Through May 19

Directed by Fine Arts Professor Ki Gottberg and set in a 1930s summer house, this play tells of a gathering of women who make plans to solve the social ills of the day and looks at the fears and yearnings of women grappling with a world they don't control. Student designers created rooms of the house for the audience to experience. Tickets: \$10 general, \$8 faculty/staff and \$6 students. Information and tickets: Lee Center Box Office, (206) 296-2244, 1:30 to 6 p.m., Wed.–Sat.

### ► **International Photo Competition** 2013 Exhibit

KINSEY GALLERY

Through May 24

Selected student photography from education abroad programs and SU international students. Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mon.–Fri.

### ► **Graphic Design Exhibit**

VACHON GALLERY

Through May 24

Digital design students showcase print-based design work. Curated By Fine Arts Professor Naomi Kasumi. Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mon.–Fri.

### ► **Scratch**

LEE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

May 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Improvisation, movement, poetry, music, dance, singing, spoken word, staged readings and more. Scratch is staged every quarter and is curated, produced and performed by students.

### ► **Lunchtime Scholar Series**

HUNTHAUSEN HALL, ROOM 100

May 24, 12:15 to 1:30 p.m.



Janiece DeSocio, associate dean of the College of Nursing, presents her research on eating disorders. Those who attend are encouraged to bring their lunch. Light refreshments will be served.

### ► **Earth Gala: "The Future of Environmental Sustainability: Coexisting with Nature"**

STUDENT CENTER 160

May 24, 6:15 p.m.

Kevin Wilhelm, CEO of Sustainable Business Consulting, is keynote speaker for this event sponsored by Environmental Brigades of Seattle University. It's a celebration filled with food, speakers, networking and activities. Contact Pauline at [corporal@seattleu.edu](mailto:corporal@seattleu.edu) to reserve a ticket: \$15 general and faculty/staff, \$10 students.

### ► **Albers Executive Speaker Series**

PIGOTT AUDITORIUM

May 28, 5:30 p.m.

Leo Hindery, SU alumnus and founder of InterMedia Partners, a private equity investment fund focusing on the media industry, speaks on "Better Educating Future Managers."

## JUNE

### ► **Student Chamber Music** Spring Concert

PIGOTT AUDITORIUM

June 6, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Students from Fine Arts' solo and chamber music classes perform. Tickets: \$12 general, \$8 faculty/staff and \$5 students. Contact Sharon Talley, [talleys@seattleu.edu](mailto:talleys@seattleu.edu) or (206) 296-5360.

### ► **Projects Day**

SULLIVAN HALL

June 7, noon to 5 p.m.

Student teams from the College of Science and Engineering and Albers School of Business and Economics present projects in computer science, engineering, marketing, management and more. Light refreshments will be served.

### ► **Day of Learning: An On-campus Experience for Older Adults**

PIGOTT BUILDING

June 19, 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sponsored jointly by the Northwest Center for Creative Aging and Seattle University, this event offers a choice of classes in the morning followed by lunch on campus with SU faculty instructors. Topics include Social Media: What It's All About; From Page to Stage; Health Care Ethics; and Imagining the Livable City. Cost for a class and lunch: \$35. Information: [info@nwcca.org](mailto:info@nwcca.org) or (206) 382-3789.



Photo by Maddison Treadwell

### ► **BFA Photo Exhibition**

VACHON GALLERY

May 30-June 16;  
reception May 30, 5 to 8 p.m.

Works by graduating students in the bachelor of fine arts program curated by Fine Arts Professor Claire Garoutte. Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mon.–Fri.