



# COMMUNITY Connections

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## Setting New Standards for Service

Five years ago, Seattle University President Stephen Sundborg, S.J., created a special office to bring students and the Seattle community together in the spirit of service. At the time, he predicted that the Center for Service and Community Engagement would, over the next 10 years, help double the number of SU courses with a service component.

It was enough to make Kent Koth, the center's director, gulp.

As it turns out Koth, several thousand students and scores of professors and community partners hit Father Sundborg's goal in half the time. This past year saw more than 100 faculty and nearly 4,000 students active in the community as part of their studies. They did this through 224 courses with a service-learning component—a 111 percent increase from when the center was created in 2004.

"It's an example of how you make an investment and it grows and further animates the ethos of an institution," says Koth.

Three out of four SU students now serve the community as part of their studies. That's a rate more than twice the national average, and a distinction in keeping with SU's mission to empower leaders for a just and humane world.

The center has formal arrangements built around the goals of 60 organizations, many of which are in the neighborhoods surrounding 12th Avenue. Students volunteer in numerous ways, from direct service work like tutoring students or feeding the homeless, to philanthropy, political participation, social entrepreneurship and community-based research.

With some partners, connections created by one course lead



Junior Lina Ma, an international business major, cuts away invasive blackberry bushes at Cheasty Greenspace during Serve Seattle, an annual day of service in the community.

Three out of four  
Seattle University students  
now serve the community  
as part of their studies.

to several others. At the Boys & Girls Clubs of King County Rotary Branch in the Central District, an effort to help students with homework after school led to a photography project with students, a design class making an exit plan and weekly basketball games with student athletes.

Jeri Chonle, volunteer coordinator for Northwest Harvest's Cherry Street Food Bank, says many students bring special interests and insights from the classroom to their service experience.

"We couldn't do our work without lots of energetic, caring volunteers," says Chonle, who has been at the food bank nearly 20 years, "and we've gotten lots of those from Seattle University."

# Commander's Community Ties Run Deep



Captain Jim Dermody, the new commander of Seattle's East Precinct.

When Captain Jim Dermody became commander of the Seattle Police Department's East Precinct last October, he was already deeply familiar with the community and the city.

Dermody grew up in northeast Seattle as the son of a Seattle police officer. The youngest of six siblings, he attended Bishop Blanchet High School and the University of

includes Capitol Hill, the Central District, Squire Park, First Hill, Judkins Park, Madison Park, Montlake, Leschi, Madison Valley, and the upper Pike/Pine neighborhood.

Dermody, 43, succeeds Paul McDonagh, who was reassigned following a promotion to Acting Assistant Chief of Police. McDonagh was widely praised for his professionalism and accessibility and Dermody is committed to maintaining strong relationships between his officers and the community they serve.

*"We have a great partnership with Seattle University that results in a safer campus and a safer neighborhood."*

*Jim Dermody, East Precinct Captain*

Washington. Two of his brothers graduated from Seattle University. Earlier with the police department, Dermody served in patrol, SWAT, the anti-crime unit and homicide.

As precinct commander, Dermody leads a staff of 145 people including patrol officers, a community police team, an anti-crime team, precinct detectives and support staff based at 1519 12th Avenue. The East Precinct serves an eight-square-mile area that

Dermody has made it a priority to connect with residents, businesses, schools and organizations. SU is one of those partners. Many officers in the police department are students at SU, especially the criminal justice program. Former Chief Gil Kerlikowske, now head of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, was a long-time adjunct professor at SU. On a daily basis, East Precinct officers work closely with SU's public safety and transportation department and its director, Mike Sletten.



## CONTACTS

Questions and comments for *Connections*:

**Katie Gilliam**, 206-296-6114  
gilliamk@seattleu.edu

Questions and comments concerning SU students:

**Darrell Goodwin**, 206-296-6060  
goodwin@seattleu.edu

Questions and comments concerning SU campus and facilities:

**Michael Kerns**, 206-296-5831  
kernsm@seattleu.edu

For information about the A&A Community Meeting Room:  
206-296-6999

## CONNECTIONS

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*Photos by Chris Joseph Taylor, university photographer*

# Q and A

with Christopher Persons ▶

Executive director | *Capitol Hill Housing*  
President | *Capitol Hill Chamber*  
of Commerce



“SU has been reemerging as a force in the community.”

▶ *You've been in Seattle two years now. What were you doing before you came here?*

▶ I worked at Inspiration Café in Chicago. We provided homeless services, including housing and food service training, and we operated cafés for homeless people.

▶ *What do you and Capitol Hill Housing do?*

▶ Capitol Hill Housing develops and manages affordable housing in a community context, largely in the Capitol Hill neighborhood. We've got 42 projects altogether—1,102 units, 1,600 people. The median household income is under \$17,000 a year. These are low-income folks who probably wouldn't be able to live in the city if it weren't for our housing or similar housing.

▶ *Are there ways in which you partner with Seattle University and other organizations?*

▶ We are working together with a number of groups that think about and make decisions about development along 12th Avenue—how to define that and have it meet decent standards for community, re-tail and livability. Betsy Hunter, who is our developer, is on SU's Citizens Advisory Committee. We're also exploring ways to partner more with SU.

A small step was the Monster Street Sweep we had on Halloween.

▶ *What excites you about 12th Avenue?*

▶ There is already some organic retail and housing development on 12th Avenue and SU has been reemerging as a force in the community, turning its front door away from Broadway and toward 12th Avenue. Having this vibrant economic engine so close to downtown helps create a viable economic retail center for the whole city.

▶ *What are your thoughts on the possibility of a streetcar on 12th?*

▶ Along 12th there isn't any public transportation so it would be just good public transportation. But also the current plan coming up from King Street Station to John on Broadway connects Capitol Hill, the Central District and the International District. So it would be a lot easier if you go down to the I.D. for dim sum, you can hop on the streetcar and be on Capitol Hill in moments. You don't have to worry about parking. You can hop off along the way and get back on. It makes human-scale transportation that much easier. It will continue the boom that we're seeing in retail and economic development in some of these areas.

WINTER

## CALENDAR

### JANUARY

**Lee Center for the Arts**  
presents *The Island of Slaves*

▶ Thursday 1/21 through  
Wednesday 2/17

*A celebrity finds herself stranded with her housekeeper on an island where they must switch roles. Music by composer Casey James.*

Information and tickets:  
206-296-2244

### FEBRUARY

**Pacific Northwest**  
**Spirituality Book Festival**

▶ Saturday, 2/13, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*The second annual festival will bring together the best regional authors and works on issues of spirituality, faith, church-state matters and theology. Featuring keynote speaker Kathleen Norris.*

Free, RSVP online: [SeattleU.edu/STM](http://SeattleU.edu/STM)

**SU Basketball @ KeyArena**

▶ Tuesday 2/16, Women @ 4:30 p.m.,  
Men @ 7:10 p.m.

*SU's only double-header at KeyArena this year features the women's basketball team facing North Dakota, and the men facing UC Davis.*

For tickets: [GoSeattleU.com](http://GoSeattleU.com)

### MARCH

**Wondrous Love**  
**Chapel of St. Ignatius**

▶ Saturday, 3/6 at 8 p.m.

*The Seattle University choirs present contemplative music rich in variety and feeling, including Antonio Lotti's Crucifixus and Wondrous Love arranged by Paul Christiansen.*

For more events, visit  
[www.seattleu.edu/events](http://www.seattleu.edu/events)



SEATTLE UNIVERSITY  
MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS  
901 12th Avenue  
PO Box 222000  
Seattle, WA 98122-1090

# Meet Your Neighbor

*Happy Salinas-Santos, nurse practitioner*

Garfield High School is celebrated for many benefits to the community including its academic programs, Bulldog sports and jazz band. Less widely known is its role in keeping young people healthy—a benefit of the health center that’s been at Garfield since 1995, and staffed by counselors and nurse practitioners including Seattle University nursing graduate Happy Salinas-Santos, ’04.

You can find Salinas-Santos at Garfield’s Teen Health Center. There, as a nurse practitioner, she provides free health counseling and medical services for 750 Garfield and NOVA students every year, in a program

**Salinas-Santos provides free health counseling and medical services for 750 students.**

operated by Seattle Children’s Hospital. Salinas-Santos is a warm, welcoming presence.

“We treat everything from headaches and wounds to STDs,” she says. “And sometimes we’re the only primary and mental health care these teens receive.”

It could have been much different.

Salinas-Santos began her professional career as a software developer. But after eight years in software, she had what she jokingly calls a “quarter-life crisis” and decided to pursue her dream of medicine. Attracted to Seattle University’s mission of social justice, in 2004 she enrolled in the College of Nursing graduate program, which this year is celebrating its 75th anniversary.

For her, SU was a great choice.



*Nurse practitioner Happy Salinas-Santos, '04, in the Teen Health Center at Garfield High School.*

“The College of Nursing did a great job of instilling a sense of service in all its students,” Salinas-Santos says. “We had the privilege to attend an institute of higher education and it’s our responsibility to give back to the people that need help.”

Salinas-Santos is living out her passion, and enjoys working with students every day. “I absolutely love my job,” she says.