

CENTER  
FOR LEADERSHIP  
FORMATION

# Connections

## CLF Alumna Leads with Seattle Storm



NIGEL COOPER/NIGEL COOPER PHOTOGRAPHY

“**W**hat have I gotten myself into?” I wondered the morning of January 8th, 2008.

As one of the buyers of the Seattle Storm, the Northwest’s WNBA basketball team, I was scheduled to attend the press conference announcing that our group of four women, Force 10 Hoops, had secured an exclusive option to purchase the team. Never in my wildest dreams had I imagined owning a professional sports team. I couldn’t help but ponder my path to this announcement, shaking my head in near disbelief as I reflected on all that had unfolded over the past few decades.

When I was in high school Title IX was passed. I was a wheezy, asthmatic teenager, hailing from New York City, just learning about sports. When I

landed in college at Yale University in the fall of 1975, I was a young freshman, having skipped my last year of high school to matriculate. With eight years of education at all girls’ schools bolstering me, I sought the companionship of other females and found myself drawn to participate in something that I knew little about: women’s crew. There I found not only camaraderie, but I also discovered the challenge of competition and the added dimension that team sports offer, the synergy of several individual efforts combining to produce a superior outcome. I fell in love with the sport of rowing in particular, and women’s athletics in general.

In tandem with Title IX’s first years of life, I grew up and into myself as I developed a brand new identity as an

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GINNY GILDER, ALUMNA OF LEADING WITH DIGNITY: SIGNIFICANT LEGACY ('06) AND A MEMBER OF “FORCE 10 HOOPS,” WHO RECENTLY PURCHASED THE WNBA’S SEATTLE STORM, MODELS HER VERY OWN TEAM JERSEY.

*Corporate Responsibility Officer*  
magazine ranks ELP in Top 10.  
See page 3.



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ALBERS  
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS  
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# Celebrations of Spring

## A LETTER FROM THE CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP FORMATION

On March 20th, 2008, there were 12 hours of light and 12 hours of darkness as we celebrated the spring equinox. Since this day, the sun has continued to climb higher in the sky in the Northern Hemisphere, inching us ever closer towards summer. After the dark months of winter, many celebrate the budding tulips and cherry blossoms, the chirping robins and nuthatches, and the warm rays of sunshine. In this issue of "Connections", we celebrate much, much more.

In the Cover Story we celebrate Ginny Gilder and the Seattle Storm for their significant success in the WNBA, for their contributions to the Pacific Northwest community, and for their immeasurable positive influence on aspiring young athletes, both male and female, all over the world. Ginny's story celebrates her passion for women's sports and her lifelong commitment to widen the field of play for women.

We also celebrate the fact that the Executive Leadership Program has been recognized as one of the Top 10 training programs for executives in corporate responsibility by *Corporate Responsibility Officer* (CRO) magazine (see page 3). The Executive Leadership Program is in esteemed company as other top universities on the list include Harvard Business School, Columbia Business School, University of Michigan, Stanford Graduate School of Business and Boston College. Seattle University is the only educational institution in the Pacific Northwest included in the ranking.



STEVE SACK, MARKETING AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR

The celebration continues for three Executive Leadership Program (ELP) teams who were honored by DAWN, the Domestic Abuse Women's Network, for their positive impact in supporting survivors of domestic abuse and their families (see page 4) through their Social Justice Projects.

Finally, we celebrate the graduating LEMBA class of 2008. On Sunday,

June 15th, the inaugural Leadership Executive MBA cohort will walk at the Graduate Commencement ceremony at Qwest Field. Their accomplishment is no small task. In addition to the rigorous LEMBA coursework, each student has demanding professional responsibilities and full personal lives. Yet in a few short months they will reach the culmination of their journey and graduate.

Clearly there is much for us to celebrate. In addition to the accomplishments mentioned in this issue, each of you has your own reasons to celebrate. So the next time you are taking a walk outside, take a moment to pause. Rejoice the arrival of spring and reflect on the successes and challenges of the passing winter. Embrace the promise of the coming season, and celebrate. Celebrate yourself, your loved ones, and the entire CLF community.

Sincere congratulations,

Steve Sack  
*Recruiting and Alumni Coordinator  
Center for Leadership Formation*

# Executive Leadership Program among the best in the country

MARCH 17, 2008

*Corporate Responsibility Officer* magazine ranks Albers' business program in top 10

The Executive Leadership Program (ELP) in the Albers School of Business and Economics has been recognized as one of the top 10 training programs in corporate responsibility by *Corporate Responsibility Officer* (CRO) magazine. Seattle University is the only educational institution in the Pacific Northwest included in the ranking. "The Executive Leadership Program has a significant impact and is at the heart of the Seattle University mission," says Albers Dean Joseph Phillips. "It molds business leaders who inspire with high ethical standards and pursue social justice within their organizations and communities."

Albers' Executive Leadership Program is in esteemed company as other top universities on the list include Harvard Business School, Columbia Business School, University of Michigan, Stanford Graduate School of Business and Boston College. Special mention was given to the ELP's curriculum focus on "ethical leadership," "leadership for a just and humane world" and "building vision for a global commons."

"Many of the top business schools in the country have announced plans to move into the sustainability and/or corporate responsibility space with programs relevant to these emerging corporate trends," writes Danielle Lee,



editor-in-chief of *CRO Magazine* and TheCRO.com. "Schools on CRO's

Top 10 are ahead of the curve, having already integrated the fundamentals of this growing movement in their open enrollment programs, and offering the necessary resources to companies wishing to expand their knowledge in the subject through custom courses."

Established in 1998, Albers' ELP is an intensive, eight-month graduate-level certificate program that brings mid- and senior-level executives together to hone leadership skills to better serve their organizations and impact the greater good of their communities. In sync with the university's mission, ELP students work in teams within the cohort-based program to undertake service projects with an emphasis on social justice.

One team, for example, worked with foster care advocates in 2006 to pass state legislation to help foster youths have a greater chance of earning a college degree. Another group launched an intergenerational project where inner city youths interviewed senior citizens and produced a documentary. A team from this year's cohort provided business

training and funding to marginalized individuals living below minimum-income guidelines.

"We are honored to receive this recognition on the 10th anniversary of our Executive Leadership Program," said Dr. Marilyn Gist, executive director of the program. "The values of corporate responsibility and social justice have long been the foundation for educating business leaders at Seattle University. We are proud of the impact our alumni have on the community and the world as a result of this program."

Employers who participate in the ELP program include, among others, Boeing, Costco, Expeditors International, Pemco Insurance, Washington Dental Service and Weyerhaeuser.

*CRO magazine is published bi-monthly for executives faced with making corporate responsibility decisions for their organizations. To learn more about this year's Top 10, visit [www.thecro.com/node/634](http://www.thecro.com/node/634).*

# DAWN Awards Three ELP Social Justice Teams

**O**n March 26, 2008, Domestic Abuse Women’s Network (DAWN) honored local businesses and volunteers for their outstanding support. Three Seattle University Executive Leadership Program (ELP) teams were honored for their positive impact in supporting survivors of domestic abuse and their families. The first team was *Operation Safe Move*. It was started by a 2005-2006 ELP class social justice team, including Lindsay Anderson, Kathy Ardourel, Randy Brinson, Marilyn Johnson, Kathy Kearney and Jeff Thompson. *Operation Safe Moves* continues today and focuses on getting moving companies and storage units to provide free service for domestic abuse victims to relocate to a safe environment.

*Leaders Touching Lives*, the second team honored, is from the 2007-2008 ELP class and is comprised of Kip Boyle, Maria Nelson, Kristin Walsh, Chris McClincy and Nancy Edwards. This group created a series of training modules to assist survivors, who have moved to transitional and permanent housing, to achieve goals and maintain safety and stability. The modules include financial planning, basic computer skills, nutrition and other topics.

*The Seattle University ELP Alumni Team*, the final group honored, received the 1st Annual DAWN Local Hero Award. The team is comprised almost



WRITTEN BY: JEFFREY THOMPSON, ELP '06, DAWN BOARD MEMBER AND TREASURER

entirely of Seattle University ELP alumni, including Shannon Hughes (ELP '02), Marilyn Johnson (ELP '06), Chris Jahrman (ELP '04), Dan Wall (ELP '04/LEMBA '08) and Anthony Chavez (Weyerhaeuser). The primary goal of the team is to work with DAWN to educate teens on dynamics of dating violence and to empower teens to develop safe, healthy relationships. To date, the team has:

- Developed curriculum, taking various pieces from other programs and adapting into an interactive, engaging 6 week course (one hour per session), including:
  - Sharing statistics in a way teens can understand (1:4 female teens use tanning beds, same ratio for DV)
  - Discussing film clips that reinforce gender stereotypes

**“IT IS IMPORTANT NOT TO LOSE THE PASSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE.”**

- Bringing in domestic violence survivors and law enforcement officials
- Role playing so that a teen dealing with a tough issue has support and knows the resources and people who can help.
- Raised \$21,000 in funds, which allowed DAWN to hire an administrator/trainer for the classes.
- Worked as partners with DAWN to

secure a United Way grant for another program aimed at middle schools that was able to be combined with the high school program

- Piloted the program at 4 locations (Showalter Middle, Kent Youth & Family, Atlantic Street Center, McKnight Middle) and looking for more to expand.

“It is important not to lose the passion for social justice. Of all the things we learned during the Seattle University ELP program, the lessons in leadership and value of helping others from the social justice projects have the most lasting value,” stated Chris Jahrman, ELP '04, during the presentation of the award. Shannon Hughes, ELP '02, added, “Although we’ve made some progress, the rest of the team members would want me to emphasize we still have a lot of work to do.” The team is still committed to seeing the project through and to ensuring its long term visibility. There are three areas the team is focused on:

1. Continued fundraising
2. Securing places/programs to offer class
3. Identifying student participation for pilots.

Lee Drechsel, Executive Director of DAWN, thanked all three ELP teams for their support and was happy to honor the Teen Advocacy team with the Local Hero award.

DAWN has been providing services to survivors of domestic violence and their children since 1980. DAWN’s House, a 25-bed confidential emergency

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FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, SHANNON HUGHES (ELP '02), CARRIE MAHONEY (DAWN ADMINISTRATOR/TRAINER FOR TEEN ADVOCACY PROGRAM), AND CHRIS JAHRMAN (ELP '04) POSE WITH AWARDS FROM DAWN FOR THEIR ELP SOCIAL JUSTICE PROJECTS.

shelter was opened in 1992. In addition to DAWN's emergency confidential shelter, DAWN manages 10 transitional housing units. In 2007, DAWN began offering extended in-unit case management to families that are in permanent housing, for up to 2.5 years, to ensure that they maintain safe and stable housing.

DAWN's Community Programs include: 24-hour crisis line; Community Advocacy (both English and Spanish); Women's Support Groups (both English and Spanish); Legal Advocacy (civil legal matters and immigration issues); Court

Accompaniment; Community Education & Advocacy Training (both English and Spanish); Kids' Club; Middle and High School Education and Outreach Programs; Safe Nights, hotel program and Safe Moves, moving and storage services for survivors. To support DAWN or the three ELP teams, please contact DAWN through their website at [www.dawnonline.org](http://www.dawnonline.org).

Congratulations to all of the Seattle University ELP teams honored by DAWN. This proves social justice passion never graduates.

## Save the Dates!

**OCTOBER 6 & 7, 2008**

### Center for Leadership Formation's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference on Leadership

Featuring Keynote address by Peter Senge, author of the best-selling book *The Fifth Discipline* and the forthcoming book, *The Necessary Revolution*. Details available soon.

## Kudos

Do you have good news to share? Have you accepted a new position recently? Received a promotion? Please contact us and let us know! Email [sacks@seattleu.edu](mailto:sacks@seattleu.edu) or call 206-296-2529.

### PROMOTIONS/MOVES

**Dave Selga - ELP '05**

*Port Superintendent  
Chevron Shipping*

**Deborah Jacobs -**

**Leading with Dignity:  
Significant Legacy '06**

*Global Libraries Initiative*

*The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation*

**Sallie Bondy - ELP '02**

*Director, Program Management Office  
The Boeing Company*

**Dana Sullivan - ELP '07**

*Independent Artist  
Designs & Illustrations*



SALLY BONDY



DANA SULLIVAN



DAVID SELGA

# Leadership Impact Day: March 5, 2008

On Wednesday, March 5th, 2008, Executive Leadership Program (ELP) students presented their social justice projects to a panel of faculty, administrators, and corporate executives at *Leadership Impact Day*. The goal of Leadership Impact Day is two-fold: 1. to provide the community and organizational sponsors the opportunity to share in the success and impact of ELP students' meaningful and challenging work, 2. to provide ELP students with the opportunity to view one another's work and to build community around their collective work in leadership and social justice.

The Social Justice Projects are a major part of the Executive Leadership Program. Working in teams, participants lead a project that addresses social justice (root causes of a problem and not merely performing charity or giving aid) in the community. The project has three objectives:

- To serve as a learning laboratory, in which, removed from one's typical environment, students have the opportunity to contribute executive level skills while experiencing the effects of his/her skills in leadership and teamwork.
- To make a significant and sustainable contribution to the community.
- To learn about and serve a different "client" in order to clarify the role one may wish to play in the community beyond the program.

## SUMMARY OF 2007-2008 EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM SOCIAL JUSTICE PROJECTS

### Experiential Learning Component

*Scott Drebert, Karen Johnson, Cheryl Kilodavis, Andres Sanabria*

Experiential Learning Component (ELC) exposes socially and economically disadvantaged youth to academic institutions and business organizations in order to provide experiential learning opportunities and enhance their self-confidence.

### The Impressions of Life Project

*Limei Fan, Ashley Moser, Guy Silver, Katy Taylor, Joe Wong*

The Impressions of Life Project provides art therapy to elderly patients who do not have family, friends, or companions to support them as they approach the end of their lives. **Donations:** [www.impressionsoflife.org](http://www.impressionsoflife.org)

### Leaders Touching Lives

*Kip Boyle, Nancy Edwards, Chris McClincy, Maria Nelson, Kristin Walsh*

Leaders Touching Lives provides basic life skill coaching and mentorship to single mothers transitioning to independent living from domestic violence shelters.

### The Medical Mentors

*Blair Buchanan, Julia Collins, Andy Frank, Ron Inge, Judy Pickar*

The Medical Mentors provide access to and improved understanding of dental care options for the senior population.

### Operation Take Out

*Rhonda Brown, Adrienne Burns, Abraham Moukarzel, Steve Taylor, Ruth Verhoff*

Operation Take Out ensures sustainability of a Renton food delivery operation and expands the program to other geographic areas.

### Project RED – Realizing Everyday Dreams

*Sarah Finney, Anne Gregory, David Jackson, Nancy Phipps, Alan Wittman*

Project RED – Realizing Everyday Dreams provides resources, tools, and skills to single women with children who are reliant on transitional housing to enable them to take real steps toward independent living.

### Sherpas of Commerce

*Stephanie Bowman, Robert Michael, John Milne, Teresa Thompson*

Sherpas of Commerce provides business training and funding to marginalized individuals living beneath minimum income guidelines.

### Southern Comfort

*Brad Boyer, Kim Eckroth, Heidi de Laubenfels, Cesar Portillo*

Southern Comfort leads the development of employer-assisted housing programs in the city in order to increase access to affordable housing.

## Storm (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

athlete. From the moment of its passage in 1972, the federal legislation began to change the landscape of women's athletics, mandating that every educational institution receiving federal funds provide its students equitable access to sports, regardless of gender. By the time I was 26 years old I had climbed the pinnacle of women's rowing and learned enough lessons for a lifetime: dream big and don't be shy, however far-fetched the vision may seem to others; pursue what you love with consistent vigor; find trust-worthy partners who complement your talents, count on them and nurture those relationships; and champion access to opportunity—do what you can to pave the way for others. I had directly benefited from the passage of Title IX, as I had helped invoke its mandates at my own university and witnessed the early evidence of the changes instigated on campus. My involvement in sports adjusted my values and altered my future in profoundly positive ways. I remain deeply grateful for the opportunities that came my way thanks to a gradually leveling playing field.

My career has followed those lessons learned and values acquired. I started in the non-profit world working in direct service, edged into the world of philanthropy, establishing a family foundation dedicated to increasing access to opportunity, and entered the family business, investing. However, few of our investments have provided an opportunity to fuse my commitment to my adopted home city with my interest in business and my desire to work with savvy partners.

The winds of change stirred last summer with the appearance of a local business opportunity. That's when our group of four local women came together and agreed to pursue the purchase of the Storm to keep the team in Seattle. Lisa Brummel, Anne Levinson, Dawn

Trudeau and I had worked together in various ways on behalf of the Seattle community over the years and we shared similar values and goals. Although I had never contemplated combining my passion for women's sports with my business bent, in retrospect, the decision makes sense. I must've heard the 'click, click, click' of alignment as my values, dreams, and goals synchronized when this opportunity presented itself.

Buying the team posed a challenge many thought might be impossible, and indeed discussions went on for several months before we were able to announce that we had reached an agreement. At

"I WANT ALL GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN TO SEE THE POSSIBILITY AND RELEVANCE OF ATHLETICS IN THEIR OWN LIVES."

first glance, we may have been mistaken for eager fans who didn't want to lose their team, but our shared reasons for tackling the task of team ownership went much deeper: we share the same beliefs about the value of women's sports, commitment to community, business, and leadership.

I couldn't ignore the unbeatable opportunity to join a group of smart, successful women, not just the other three owners, but the team's CEO, Karen Bryant: women who are knowledgeable, experienced, direct, offering different strengths and interests, unstinting with praise, thoughtful with critique, funny, humble, compassionate. The chance to work together with such superb talent was simply impossible to reject.

Then, there's the challenge to develop a business model of a team independent of a larger NBA organization and build a flourishing entity, on the court and off. I love the thrill of competition, and I love to win. And I want to show that business can be successful not

only judged by the bottom line, but also by providing a top-notch experience with integrity and community purpose.

Finally, there's the matter of my passion for women's sports, my gratitude for the athletic opportunities I was granted, and a lifelong commitment to widen the field of play for women. The list is too long to enumerate how I was affected by my decade of dedicated pursuit of athletic excellence. I want all girls and young women to see the possibility and relevance of athletics in their own lives and have the chance to dream and live those dreams if they so desire. Investing in the most promising

women's professional sports league in the world, the WNBA, and the best team in the entire league, offers an unprecedented occasion to spread the word about women's sports. It will also increase awareness across our city, nation, and the world of the opportunities that should be available to girls everywhere, and support some of the world's finest athletes as they pursue their dreams to play at the highest echelon of their sport. My step into leadership provides a platform for the Seattle Storm's amazing athletes to join the owners as leaders and mentors of the next generation of girls, showing them what dedicated effort, persistent follow-through, and over-the-top success looks like in action.

Talk about leveraging assets. However I analyze this prospective opportunity I see a win — for fans, the Storm organization, the broader community, young girls and boys, and yes, for me too, in ways I would have never dreamed all those years ago.

# Upcoming Events

(CONTACT STEVE SACK AT SACKS@SEATTLEU.EDU TO RSVP)

## CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP FORMATION RELATED EVENTS

### CLF ALUMNI LITERARY CLUB

**Wednesday, April 16**

**5:30 – 7:00 PM**

*Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything* by Steven D. LEvitt and Stephen J. Dubner

**Faculty facilitator:** Fred Dekay, PhD.

### 6TH ANNUAL

### ALBERS ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

### GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Friday, July 18th**

**11:30 am – 7:30 PM**

**Location:** Trilogy Golf and Country Club, Redmond, WA

### CLF ALUMNI SUMMIT OF MOUNT RAINIER

**July 31st - August 3rd**

### Climb of Mt. Rainier

For more information or to start training, contact Patrick Moore (ELP '07) at [patrick@integralgis.com](mailto:patrick@integralgis.com)

### LEADERSHIP EXECUTIVE MBA

### Graduate Commencement Ceremony

**Sunday, June 15th, all day event**

**Location:** Qwest Field

[www.seattleu.edu/commencement](http://www.seattleu.edu/commencement)

## Save the Dates!

**OCTOBER 6 & 7, 2008**

### Center for Leadership Formation's 1st Annual Conference on Leadership

Featuring Keynote address by Peter Senge, author of the best-selling book *The Fifth Discipline* and the forthcoming book, *The Necessary Revolution*. Details available soon.

## ALBERS EXECUTIVE SPEAKER SERIES

(Free and open to the public)

**Time:** 5:30 to 6:30 PM

**Location:** Pigott Auditorium

- **Tuesday, May 6**

**Steve Reynolds**

Chairman/CEO, Puget Sound Energy

- **Thursday, May 22**

**Kevin Turner**

Chief Operating Officer at Microsoft

- **Thursday, July 31**

**Chris Lowney**

Managing Director, J.P. Morgan & Co.

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Go to the URL below to join:

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Please send your feedback and story ideas to Steve Sack at [sacks@seattleu.edu](mailto:sacks@seattleu.edu).



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