Our Future Begins Now: Introducing President-Elect Eduardo Peñalver

Dean of Cornell Law and Puyallup native is Seattle U’s next President
Senior Malia Nakamura captured this vibrant and playful moment on a street in Frankfurt, Germany. The image—titled “The Heart of Frankfurt”—earned Nakamura 1st Place in the Study Abroad category of the Imagining the World photo competition.
Puget Sound Business Journal (PSBJ) released its list of powerful and influential leaders who have been leading Washington state businesses through the economic difficulties of 2020. Along with well-known names in tech, PSBJ made a point to include coalitions, nonprofits and foundations that have also been weathering financial hardships. Seattle U President Stephen V. Sundborg, S.J., is included among the list of 100 distinguished individuals.

During Father Sundborg’s 24 years leading the university, enrollment grew 78 percent to 7,200 students during his tenure. More than half a billion dollars in philanthropic support has been raised to strengthen Seattle U. Among his many awards over the years, he most recently received the 2019 Seattle-King County First Citizen award for community engagement and civic leadership.

Two alumni also made the list: Chad Mackay, ’84, owner of El Gaucho and CEO of Fire & Vine Hospitality, and Gordon McHenry, Jr., ’79, CEO and President of the United Way of King County, former president & CEO of Seattle-based nonprofit Solid Ground and executive director of Rainier Scholars.

Seattle University was ranked in the Top 16 percent of national universities in the Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education College Rankings 2021. The university also received high marks in the latest U.S. News & World Report rankings for academics and service learning. In U.S. News & World Report, Seattle U moved up 15 spots to #124 out of nearly 400 universities in the “Best National Universities” category. This is the second year the university ranked in the national category after 18 years of being ranked among the “Top 10 Western Regional Universities.”
DR. QUINTON MORRIS WILL SERVE AS THE FIRST ARTIST-SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE FOR CLASSICAL KING FM

Associate Professor Dr. Quinton Morris, director of chamber and instrumental music and founder of the music education organization Key to Change, will serve as the first Artist-Scholar-in-Residence for Classical KING FM 98.1 for a two-year term. In this new role, he will create 10-12 radio programs and video podcasts featuring the music of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) composers and performers that will be distributed nationally to classical radio stations across the country. He will also start a composer residency program, selecting two living BIPOC composers to write or arrange new pieces for his Key to Change Studio.

“I have literally grown up listening to KING FM. As a kid, I remember listening to the radio as I would get ready for school and it’s been wonderful to continue my partnership with them in this new capacity,” says Dr. Morris.
This past fall, leadership representing Seattle University and Rainier Scholars signed a memorandum of understanding ensuring Seattle U will meet the full demonstrated financial need for every Rainier Scholar newly admitted to the university.

“This increased financial commitment makes a crucial difference in the college access landscape for our scholars, who have the ability, but not always the financial means, to thrive in challenging higher education settings,” says Derek Rogers, Rainier Scholars director of college counseling.

Effective in fall 2021, the scholarship will cover four years of tuition and fees, room and board and educational expenses—minus the student’s estimated family contribution as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

“Rainier Scholars is recognized as a proven educational program of high quality in Seattle, closely mentoring and supporting deserving students over the course of their education,” says President Stephen Sundborg, S.J. “Seattle University is excited to partner with Rainier Scholars, helping these students succeed through their university experience.”

The students will continue to receive ongoing support from Rainier Scholars staff to ensure they remain connected and aware of available resources to enhance their success while pursuing their collegiate studies.
How do you put on stage performance—replicating as close to possible a real theatre experience—in light of COVID-19?

Seattle University’s Theatre department has done just that. Abiding with social distancing measures, the department coordinated a virtual production of Anton Chekhov’s *Three Sisters*.

“This show was selected before COVID-19 happened,” says Ki Gottberg, director and theatre professor. “I love the play, never tire of listening to the ideas and adore how truly funny it is … and how poignant.”

*Three Sisters* streamed its four performances Oct. 29-Nov. 1, 2020, with tickets supporting the Theatre Program Scholarship Fund.

Mounting a theatrical show virtually required new outlooks and strategies for the program. It starts with a production team comprised of professional designers, their student mentees and Gottberg to go over the script and ideas for props, costumes and how to create a theatre experience online. Known as the “Stream Team,” students and their mentors then began strategizing how to share the production virtually.

“There are not many ways to enter or exit a Zoom square. There can’t be ‘furniture’ or a naturalistic space,” explains Gottberg. “Actors are not feeling each other’s energy in the room together. But the play itself is so wonderful and rich and the student’s desire to fully inhabit these complex characters is powerful.”

Talia Rossi, ’21, a double major in theatre and psychology, says “… after getting used to the set up and going in-depth with character analysis and action, it felt like this was a new and interesting way to perform.”

“Overall, this was a very rewarding process because I was able to see the immense fortitude theatre makers have,” continues Rossi, who plays the character of Masha. “Theatre as an art form will never die out because so many people are so passionate about it and are willing to adapt and change to keep the art alive.”

She considers the upside to a virtual performance: It “can become … more accessible to people…a source of entertainment to enjoy in their own homes, while keeping the live action aspects of theatre alive. As an actor who hopes to pursue this as a career path, I am inspired by what the landscape of theatre is going to look like in the next few years.”

“It’s amazing to me that I get to be in one of the first virtual plays ever as an actor,” says Keanu Armitage, ’24, a double major in theatre and kinesiology, who plays the character of Solyony. “I can work on my facial expressions, visual learning skills and acting versatility with others using nothing more than virtual communication.”
While most Seattle U courses are held online due to the pandemic, campus is still open for essential work, classes and other needs. To safeguard those individuals, the new Safe Start Welcome Center serves as the first stop for anyone visiting campus who has not already received approval through the online Safe Start Health Check. It’s also a site for the yearlong Population Health Internship (PHI), a required part of the College of Nursing undergraduate Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

Located in the Bannan Building, the center mimics a streamlined clinical setting outfitted with a computer station, temperature reader and personal safety supplies. It is “providing a very rare opportunity for nursing students, during their education program, to learn about and respond to a population health emergency,” says Assistant Professor and PHI Coordinator Jennifer Fricas, PhD, MPH, RN.

Over the summer, Tara Hicks, ARNP, director of the Student Health Center, and Kristen Swanson, PhD, RN, dean of the College of Nursing discussed the possibility of involving nursing students in ongoing COVID-19 planning.

“Dean Swanson included me in the conversations she was having with various groups...to see how we might involve the PHI students...in meeting the health needs of our own campus community,” says Dr. Fricas, who supervises seven interns.

As part of their preparation for the internship, students have taken COVID-19 Contact Tracing, an online Johns Hopkins/ Coursera course and received an orientation from Chris Wilcoxen in Public Safety about center setup and operations. Interns gain experience in engaging with individuals by answering questions about COVID-19. When it comes to controlling an infectious disease outbreak, the importance of symptom and temperature checks and consistent reporting/updating is emphasized.

Each campus visitor is directed to the center for screening, where they’ll begin by completing a Safe Start Health survey on Seattle U’s website in order to rule out any symptoms of COVID-19. Next, interns take their temperature, provide a sticker with the date along with hand sanitizer, education about signs and symptoms of what to watch for and a disposable face mask for those without one.

Interns are also “seeing all the details of how a large organization like Seattle U has to methodically plan for ... a community-wide event such as this, which requires coordination among many departments, regular communication and the ability to be adaptable and incorporate new and changing information on a regular basis,” says Dr. Fricas.

The work of the nursing program and the Safe Start Welcome Center are emblematic of a population health model.

“Population health nursing differs from what we typically think of a nurse doing in a couple of ways,” says Dr. Fricas. “First, the nurse is caring for populations or communities, not only individuals and families. Second, the focus is on health promotion and disease prevention, rather than on caring for someone who is already ill.”

The focus on population health has been especially illuminating for CON student Carolann Rein, ’21.

“Population health nurses disseminate information to everyone. I have talked to students who do not need to be screened but want to be because they felt feverish, spoken with and educated visitors and students’ families, as well as construction workers on-site working at the university,” Rein says. “Education comes in all sizes.”
Since 2018, 10 female students enrolled in Seattle University’s Computer Science Program have received scholarships to attend the Grace Hopper Celebration (GHC), an annual conference described as the world’s largest gathering of women technologists from around the world. Due to the pandemic, this year’s conference was virtual and thanks to Seattle U donor contributions, 45 students were able to take part in this unique opportunity, representing Computer Science and Electrical & Computer Engineering programs.

“What’s unique about this event is that representation matters ... having some of the most renowned female-identifying tech and tech-adjacent leaders speaking and sharing their journeys into this realm helps attendees feel less alone in the tech field,” says Sheila Oh, director of Seattle U’s Computer Science Fundamentals (CSF) Certificate Program.

Several events were held prior to the five-day conference to help prepare students. With 33,000 attendees from more than 115 countries, hundreds of sessions, numerous keynotes, an open source day and networking opportunities, “... it can be an overwhelming experience, particularly for those attending a conference for the first time,” Oh says.

According to the National Center for Women & Information Technology, women represented 57 percent of all professional occupations, yet hold only 26 percent of computing and mathematical occupations as of 2019. “Inclusivity in a business sense helps the bottom line. Having women in the entire pipeline ... there also are allies and potential allies that need to be brought into this conversation because just like with women’s issues, this is not something that only women should be working on,” Oh says. “This is a systemic issue that needs to be addressed on the student, departmental, college and university levels and making sure everyone is on board with this type of support is necessary to make sure everyone’s voice is heard.”

Ana Carolina De Souza Mendes, ’21, CSF certificate student, says the scholarship made a huge impact on her life. “I keep working hard every single day to carve my path into the tech field. If that’s your passion, keep in mind it will be hard, but you’ll have a support system by connecting with other women in the field.”

The College of Science and Engineering reports 42 percent of its faculty are female and with the CSF certificate program, the female population ranges between a third to 40 percent, which is a big feeder into the Master of Science in Computer Science program.

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NURTURING FUTURE TECH LEADERS
Donor support opens doors for underrepresented female students in industry

By Allison Nitch
An article by Professor Marc Cohen, PhD, and Professor Matt Isaac, PhD (pictured), “Trust does beget trustworthiness, and also begets trust in others,” has been accepted for publication in Social Psychology Quarterly. Also for Professor Isaac: The article, “The Round-Number Advantage in Consumer Debt Payoff,” co-authored with Yantao Wang (Microsoft) and Robert M. Schindler (Rutgers University-Camden), has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Consumer Psychology.

A paper by Chips Chipilkatti, PhD, professor and chair of accounting, “Loan Fair Values and the Financial Crisis,” co-authored with Carl Luft and Massimo DiPierro (DePaul University) and John Plamondon (Envestnet PMC), has been accepted for publication by the Journal of Risk Finance.

A paper by Associate Professor Jun Duanmu, PhD, CFA, “Active Factor Investing: Hedge Funds vs. the Rest of Us,” coauthored with Yongjia Li (Boise State) and Alexey Malakhov (University of Arkansas), has been accepted for publication at the Review of Financial Economics.

An article by Professor Ben Kim, PhD, “Using Machine Learning Algorithms to Analyze Impact of Crime on Property Values,” coauthored with Preslav Angelov, Huy Le and Evin Tolentino—all graduates of Albers’ MSBA program—has been published by Issues in Information Systems.

An article by Professor Nick Huntington-Klein’s, PhD, “Instruments with Heterogeneous Effects: Bias, Monotonicity, and Localness,” has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Causal Inference. He is chair of the economics department.

An article by Associate Professor Rubina Mahsud, PhD, “Strategies for Establishing a Competitive Advantage and Improved Financial Outcomes through Exemplary Customer Service,” with Mary Copeland (Palm Beach Atlantic University), has been accepted for publication in the Graziadio Business Review.

Photos by Yosef Chaim Kalinko

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES


Therese Huston, PhD, faculty development consultant in the Center for Faculty Development, has a new book out this January. The book, Let’s Talk, is for “managers on how to give feedback so the other person can actually hear you.”

Jasmine Mahmoud, PhD, assistant professor of performing arts and arts leadership, was appointed a Washington State Arts Commissioner by Gov. Jay Inslee. In her career as a performance historian, Mahmoud focuses on the intersection of racial equity and cultural policy in the Pacific Northwest arts sector. Mahmoud is an active member of the Seattle arts community, working both as a TeenTix mentor and teaching artist, as well as sitting on the boards of the Intiman Theatre and On the Boards.

CENTER FOR JESUIT EDUCATION

Director Jen Tilghman-Havens published an article in the most recent issue of Jesuit Higher Education: A Journal, titled “The Ignatian Leader as Global Citizen.” The article “highlights the various elements of the Ignatian worldview, as outlined by Superior General Peter-Hans Kolvenbach in his 1989 address. Drawing upon contemporary social science theorists, it illustrates the relevance of his remarks for today’s Jesuit institutions of higher education, especially as they undertake a critical consideration of race, gender and class in shaping Ignatian leaders for a more just, humane and sustainable world.”

SUBMIT YOUR NEWS

Have a new book or published work? An award or scholarly honor to share? Send your professional achievements for inclusion in News & Notes to tinap@seattleu.edu.
Teresa J. Rothausen, PhD, serves as executive director for the Center for Leadership Formation (CLF) and professor in the Management Department at Albers School of Business and Economics. With nearly three decades of experience as a member of professional and academic business organizations, she has brought a new perspective and appreciation for all Seattle University has to offer since joining the campus community last June.

“I think it is safe to say that it is rare, if not unique, to find a social justice-oriented leadership program within a business school,” she says. “I truly believe it is a program that other business schools need to emulate.”

Too often, the power of business is used to forward the interests of the already rich and powerful, but it has the potential to instead powerfully transform society toward the truly good.”

As a faculty member, “…the most rewarding thing for me is to witness the increasing sense of freedom and hope arising in leaders as they learn more deeply about themselves, the world and their roles…” says Rothausen.

“Meaning-Based Job-Related Well-being: Exploring a Meaningful Work Conceptualization of Job Satisfaction,” an article she wrote along with a colleague, was recognized as one of 12 “most notable” contributions by the editorial board of the Journal of Business and Psychology in 2019. Considering that body of research during these times of crises, Rothausen notes that new opportunities can emerge.

“…We are able to give to others in a way that is even more meaningful because it’s needed more than ever. And we can use the opportunity of the ‘moment’ caused by COVID-19, increased racial unrest and the impact of climate degradation to rethink where you want to spend your life and leadership energy. What work, even within your current job, is most meaningful and life affirming for you? What contributes most to the common good and how can you get more of that?”

She goes on to say “leaders help others make meaning of crises such as these. Where there is fear, leadership can reassure, calm and pull us together.” Or it “can exacerbate and direct the fear outward, dividing us … Similarly, where there is compassion, leaders can either make that feel naïve or unite it toward extraordinary achievements of human spirit.”

The mother of three adult children finds joy in family, friends, reading and staying active outdoors. As a Midwest transplant, the former season ticket holder of the Minnesota Opera and member of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts is “eager to explore all these activities in Seattle once we are back in physical community!”
Community engagement is the cornerstone of The Campaign for the Uncommon Good. As Seattle University heads into the final year of its $275 million campaign, Aly Vander Stoep, associate vice president of Development, and Jonathan Brown, assistant vice president of Alumni Engagement talk about the heightened level of engagement spurred by the campaign, how each gift truly makes a difference and how to keep momentum and fundraising up during a pandemic.

How will the Seattle U community be engaged in this final year of The Campaign for the Uncommon Good?

Jonathan Brown (JB): The final year of The Campaign for the Uncommon Good will be marked by a special effort to reconnect alumni to the university, providing a final push across our finish line. One example of this is Our Moment for Mission: The President’s Challenge, which seeks to engage 10,000 alumni this year through connecting, volunteering or giving to Seattle U. Many in the Seattle U community regularly connect with alumni and we are seeking their help in highlighting the stories and journeys of our amazing alumni.

What is the most vital aspect of fundraising in this home stretch?

JB: The final year is a little like the end of a record-setting sprint. We want to meet our goals at full speed, at our best and with a cheering community that recognizes the significance of the moment. Raising more than $275M for Seattle U is a huge achievement that could only have been done with everyone doing their part. The eight years of the campaign have been like the training needed to achieve at the finish line.

Aly Vander Stoep (AVS): Moving into the public phase of the campaign is our invitation for Seattle U alumni to join us in this campaign in uncommon ways. Your time is now to invest in areas across campus that you care most deeply about. (President) Father Steve often says, ‘You can judge a university by the success of its alumni.’

What unique challenges have you faced fundraising amid a pandemic?

AVS: First, I’d like to say that we have kept our Seattle U community in our thoughts and prayers during these uncertain times. The pandemic has impacted everyone and every business, fundraising included. One of the biggest challenges was not being able to meet with our alumni and donors in person. The foundation of what we do in University Advancement is built on relationships. We are learning how to engage with our alumni and donors in a virtual world. We are becoming experts in building relationships and creating inspiring events from a distance. We long for the day we can be together again in person.

Seattle U is in a period of a presidential transition. What will the expectations be for Father Steve as he completes his final year as Seattle U’s president?

AVS: Father Steve’s final year will be spent celebrating his 24 years of service, leadership and legacy. A key fundraising initiative is the Stephen V. Sundborg, S.J., Endowment for the Jesuit Presence. This endowed fund will secure Fr. Sundborg’s vision for years to come, ensuring that Seattle University can always recruit, welcome and employ Jesuits whenever they are available to join us. It will help to secure the legacy of a Jesuit presence. Our hope for the next president is that they will take the baton from Fr. Steve and continue building relationships with our alumni and friends that last a lifetime. We are excited for our next president to join us on the frontlines as we raise support for Seattle U.

Learn more about The Campaign for the Uncommon Good and how you can contribute at seattleu.edu/uncommongood/campaign/.
WELCOME TO THE
JIM AND JANET SINEGAL
CENTER FOR SCIENCE
AND INNOVATION
The Seattle University Board of Trustees has named the Center for Science and Innovation (CSI), currently under construction, after Jim and Janet Sinegal whose relationship with the university spans more than a quarter century.

The Jim and Janet Sinegal Center for Science and Innovation is scheduled for completion in May and will open for the start of fall quarter.

Jim Sinegal is the co-founder of Costco and has been involved with Seattle U for the past 27 years. He served as chair of the Board of Trustees, co-chaired the last capital campaign, is honorary co-chair for The Campaign for the Uncommon Good, is a co-founder of the Seattle University Youth Initiative and a co-founder of the Costco Scholarship Fund, which benefits underrepresented students at Seattle University and the University of Washington. Together, Jim and Janet have served as Seattle U Gala chairs and have supported the university’s College of Nursing, including the Clinical Performance Laboratory.

“Together they have been some of the most generous and involved citizens of our region,” says President Stephen Sundborg, S.J. “We are thrilled the Sinegals have accepted that our university bears their family name.”

“I am delighted that the names of Jim and Janet Sinegal will be on our new building. They are pillars of our community and great friends to Seattle University,” says Michael J. Quinn, dean of the College of Science and Engineering.

When completed, the Jim and Janet Sinegal Center for Science and Innovation will become the exciting new gateway to campus. In state-of-the-art laboratories, biology and chemistry students will learn by doing and engage in research projects under the mentorship of their professors. Computer science students will complete industry-sponsored design projects. Co-locating these departments in the Sinegal Center will create new opportunities for interdisciplinary collaborations.

Named spaces, including the Amazon Computer Science Project Center, the Microsoft Café and the Art and Dorothy Oberto Commons, are also part of the new building. Additionally, a campus makerspace, the Center for Community Engagement and student radio station KXSU-FM will be housed here.

The Jim and Janet Sinegal Center for Science and Innovation is part of The Campaign for the Uncommon Good, a $275 million fundraising effort. Funding for the center is $100 million of the total goal, of which $96 million has been raised to date.

Stay up to date with the progress at www.seattleu.edu/science-innovation/.
BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE AT THE INTERSECTION OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND HUMANITY

Seattle University scientists, engineers and computer scientists are game changers. Our graduates enter the workforce prepared to lead interdisciplinary teams and manage complex projects. They are skilled communicators. They know how to approach tough problems and collaborate to get the best results. While they focus on the technical aspects of a problem, they never lose sight of the broader implications of the solutions.

The Jim and Janet Sinegal Center for Science and Innovation is more than stone, steel and glass. It’s the new heart of Seattle University. A place to shape the world’s next generation of leaders. A place where students will gain the skills and knowledge to solve the most pressing problems of today and tomorrow.

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

• Five stories
• 111,000 sq. ft.
• LEED GOLD
• Home to Biology, Chemistry & Computer Science

WHAT IT OFFERS

• Partnerships with industry leaders
• A new program in Data Science
• Multi-investigator research and teaching labs
• Project Center spaces
• Public makerspace

The Center for Science and Innovation project includes some important renovations to the Bannan Science and Bannan Engineering buildings, such as:

• New university classrooms and updated engineering labs
• New PACCAR Engineering Innovation Center
• New spaces and interactive opportunities for Electrical and Computer Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Mathematics and Physics

Photos by Yosef Chaim Kalinko (top left and middle) and Lara Branigan (top right and bottom)
A greater world starts with a greater purpose

Join us to lead the charge for positive lasting change

**Campaign Progress Report**

$273,290,289
(as of November 30, 2020)

- **$101,050,930** Mission & Programs
- **$76,082,892** Scholarships
- **$96,156,467** Center for Science & Innovation

99.4% of $275m goal

- 88,188 Gifts to the campaign
- 13,516 New donors since the start of the campaign
- 22,560 Total campaign donors

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**February 25, 2021**

Join us to celebrate the uncommon generosity of our Seattle U community and help us reach 2,800 gifts in 24 hours.

**Seattle U Gives**

1. Mark your calendar // 2. Explore the causes you care about // 3. Sign up to be a social ambassador

[seattleugives.seattleu.edu](http://seattleugives.seattleu.edu) #seattleugives
**TAKE THE CHALLENGE**

*Our Moment for Mission: The President’s Challenge* encourages 10,000 alumni to get involved with the university to ensure that current and future students have the same meaningful education and experiences that you did. Participation is easy with dozens of ways to connect, volunteer and give. Be one of the already 3,901 alumni who have accepted this challenge.

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**CONNeCT**

“Being involved in the Seattle University Alumni Association has helped me stay connected to my friends, while also meeting new people who I didn’t know as a student,” says Eashudee (Hanna-Marie Lucero), ’20, about starting the Indigenous Alumni group.

**VOLUNTEER**

“As a mentor, I always encourage my mentees to participate in the decision-making at every level,” says Ann McCormack, ’67, of her mentorship of Jonathan Choe, ’20, during which they started Six Arts Academy in China.

**GIVE**

“I’m thankful to know that there are people out there who will donate and care for students like me. Just knowing that warms my heart,” says Saymirah Cornelius-McClam, ’21, an accounting major, reflecting on the impact of scholarships.

Read these stories and learn more at www.seattleu.edu/alumni/presidentschallenge.

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**STORIES OF UNCOMMON IMPACT**

**CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION**

Moved by a deep affection for Seattle U, Redhawk parents Corky Chew and Nancy Gilbert created a new endowment to foster student exposure to leaders and innovators in science and engineering.

**CLINICAL PERFORMANCE LAB**

Donor generosity powered the College of Nursing’s quick pivot to turn the Clinical Performance Lab into a virtual learning environment where students continue to thrive.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

*We’ve met our scholarship goal!*

Thanks to your support, deserving students will have increased access to education and, like Aerica Shimizu Banks, ’10, change the world as SU alumni.

Read these and more stories of impact at www.seattleu.edu/uncommongood.
Collaboration and Conversation Will Guide New President-Elect
Eduardo Peñalver

Dean of Cornell Law and Puyallup native is Seattle U’s 22nd President

By Tina Potterf
For Seattle U’s President-Elect Eduardo Peñalver, his return to the Pacific Northwest is 30 years in the making.

Peñalver was raised in Puyallup, the city his family moved to when he was just 2 years old for his father’s pediatric residency at the University of Washington Medical School. In the intervening years since he left, he has amassed an impressive legal career, from a clerk to former U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens to his current work as professor of law and dean at Cornell University Law School—with a Rhodes Scholarship in the mix, too.

“It’s been like a romantic comedy trying to get back to Seattle,” Peñalver says. “Everything just fell into place.”

And now, he is Seattle U’s 22nd president, beginning his official duties July 1, 2021. He is the university’s first Latino president and the first layperson to take the helm since the university was founded in 1891. President Stephen V. Sundborg, S.J., previously announced he will step down in June after 24 years leading the university. (The Board of Trustees formally launched a national search for the new president in February.)

Transitioning from the role of law professor and dean to the presidency of a Jesuit Catholic university was a natural move for Peñalver, who was drawn to the mission and commitment to social justice and educating the whole person.

“I am so grateful to join Seattle University, excited about its future and looking forward to working with all of the faculty, staff, students and alumni of Seattle University to bring that future into being,” says Peñalver. “It is an honor to follow Father Steve, who has expertly steered the university these past two-plus decades and for the opportunity to build upon the solid foundation he has laid.”

In late October, the campus was officially introduced to the new president-elect at a socially distanced event where Peñalver shared his thoughts on what it means to take over the presidency.

“University leadership is not for the faint of heart. To serve as a university president for 23 years is an achievement that fills me with awe. But it is all the more impressive in this case, because during his tenure, Father Steve has expertly steered Seattle University through many rough waters—through the great recession and now, over the past nine months, COVID. And that was just in his second decade,” Peñalver remarked. “I look forward to working with him on a smooth transition as he completes the final year of an extraordinary presidency. And, over the coming years, I look forward to working with all of the faculty, staff, students and alumni of Seattle University.”

Peñalver, 47, grew up in a deeply Catholic family. He received his primary education at his parish school, All Saints, before attending Henry Foss High School in Tacoma. His parents and four siblings all live in Puyallup and Tacoma.

As president, Peñalver says he views leadership as a “service job” and in his first months plans to spend a lot of time meeting with and listening to members of the campus and greater community, including business and industry partners and leaders.

“Eduardo is an innovative thinker who understands the impact of partnerships and collaboration,” says Nicole Piasecki, chair of the Seattle University Board of Trustees. “He is passionate about the power of Seattle University to make the world a better place. His leadership qualities, background and experience make him uniquely well-suited to lead Seattle University into the future. The board’s decision was as enthusiastic as it was unanimous.”

Peñalver’s seven years as a law school dean has prepared him well for this next step into university leadership. The interdisciplinary nature of most legal research means that successful law schools function as intellectual crossroads for their universities, with faculty in a range of academic disciplines and joint appointments. Under Peñalver’s lead, Cornell Law School faculty have been principal investigators on federal grants and have secured millions of dollars in grants from private foundations.

The presidency presents a unique opportunity to help guide the university during challenging times to even higher levels of achievement and impact.

“As a Jesuit Catholic university, Seattle University takes the foundational value of a liberal education and adds to it by embedding it within a value system rooted in the Jesuit commitment of caring for and educating the whole person, ‘mind, body and spirit,’” he says.

He continues, “Seattle University aims to produce students who are knowledgeable, who have superb critical thinking skills, who have learned to engage with a wide diversity of people and ideas. But it also goes farther and aspires to imbue them with a sense of purpose and a desire to put their education to work in the service of others, especially the most vulnerable among us. All of which speaks to why Seattle U students are well prepared to be..."
difference makers and are highly valued by top employers across the private, public and nonprofit sectors.

On the challenges today’s students face, Peñalver says they are manifold—from the pandemic and economic anxiety to racial injustice, climate change and student debt—and require attention and avenues of support.

On the topic of racial justice, Peñalver says “universities must be leaders in addressing issues of systemic racism and doing so in meaningful ways.”

He says he will connect and listen to students’ concerns by making himself available to them and organizing town hall-style discussions, something he’s done in his work at Cornell.

“It’s remarkable how resilient our students have been the last nine months,” he says, offering a bright spot of optimism. “I have no doubt that they will come through all of this even stronger.”

Among the opportunities for the university to take on in the coming years, Peñalver says it should bring its sense of mission and engagement to bear on the study of the so-called “fourth industrial revolution.”

“As our society digitizes and as the pace of technological change accelerates, we risk becoming—in the words of Pope Francis—a people characterized by ‘information without wisdom.’ Our efforts to counter this risk will benefit from Seattle University’s distinctive voice and from its Jesuit approach to providing an education that can bridge the gap between technology and humanity,” he says. “Seattle University’s location on the doorstep of one of the world’s great tech hubs positions it perfectly to both observe and engage with those working in that industry, an industry that includes many of the university’s own distinguished alumni.”

Alumni engagement will be an important part of Peñalver’s first weeks and months as president. This will start with one-on-one listening sessions and other outreach opportunities such as attending alumni-focused events, including athletics.

“There are so many ways to engage and sustain that connection with the university for alumni and that connection is so important to the success of our current students. I’ll look for ways to engage those who are already involved and engage those who aren’t.”

In his free time, the married father of two is a pilot and scuba diver—he’s says he’s looking forward to more opportunities to explore the waters and skies of the region—and hoping to watch his hometown team, the Seahawks, not from a TV screen across the country but in person at Lumen Field (formerly CenturyLink).
When he was appointed to his current role in 2014, Eduardo Peñalver became the first Latino dean of an Ivy League law school. He is in his second five-year term as dean.

At Cornell Law, Peñalver helped guide the school through one of the most turbulent periods for American law schools in living memory. Through successful fundraising and an openness to experimentation, Cornell Law School thrived. Since 2014, the law school has raised more than $100 million in new gifts and commitments, with more than $25 million of that dedicated to financial aid. During the same period, the school improved the credentials of its incoming classes while increasing the diversity of the student body. It also launched new clinical and academic programs in Ithaca, NY, New York City and online.

Peñalver also holds leadership roles outside the law school. He served on the Board of Directors of eCornell, Cornell University’s platform for online education, and led successful searches for Cornell’s university counsel and the new dean of the Engineering College. Peñalver spearheaded university task forces on campus speech, as well as the use of race in undergraduate and professional school admissions and was a key administrator for producing campus programming focusing on the intersection of free speech and an inclusive campus environment.

Peñalver received his bachelor’s from Cornell’s College of Arts and Sciences in 1994 and his law degree from Yale Law School in 1999, where he wrote his law review note on the constitutional definition of religion. He joined the Cornell faculty in 2006 and the University of Chicago Law School faculty in 2013. He taught at Fordham Law School from 2003 to 2006 and has been a visiting professor at Harvard and Yale law schools.

Upon completing law school, he clerked for Judge Guido Calabresi of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. He was also a clerk to former U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens. Between college and law school, Peñalver studied philosophy and theology as a Rhodes Scholar at the University of Oxford.

Peñalver’s work on property law has been published in scholarly law journals at Yale University, the University of Michigan, Cornell and the University of Pennsylvania. He is considered a leading voice in the “progressive property” movement, deriving many of his insights from Catholic social teaching.

His book, Property Outlaws (co-authored with Sonia Katyal), published by Yale University Press in February 2010, explores the vital role of disobedience within the evolution of property law. His most recent book, An Introduction to Property Theory (co-authored with Gregory Alexander), was published by Cambridge University Press in 2011.
With Eduardo Peñalver named as Seattle U’s 22nd president, here’s a look at some of his predecessors who led the university during pivotal times in its history and helped shape the university of today.

Our Presidents

New President-Elect Joins a Distinguished List of Past Leaders

With Eduardo Peñalver named as Seattle U’s 22nd president, here’s a look at some of his predecessors who led the university during pivotal times in its history and helped shape the university of today.
1. VICTOR GARRAND, S.J., 1891-96

- First president of the Jesuit parish school that would become Seattle University. Assisted by Father Adrian Sweere, S.J.
- Opened two structures on the Broadway campus to establish Immaculate Conception School.
- Designed the Garrand building—the first on campus.

7. JOSEPH TOMKIN, S.J., 1914-21

- Preserved Seattle College during exodus of all college-level students during World War I.
- Accepted generous offer by T.C. McHugh to purchase the defunct Adelphia College and relocate Seattle College.
- Oversaw reopening on Interlaken Boulevard and accreditation of the college and preparatory high school.

11. JOHN A. MCHUGH, S.J., 1931-34

- Oversaw return to and restoration of neglected Broadway campus.
- Supported Father James B. McGoldrick, S.J., in establishing an extension school that admitted women, effectively making Seattle College co-ed.
- Broadened campus offerings to include a bookstore, a debate society, a basketball team and a student newspaper, The Spectator.

15. ALBERT A. LEMIEUX, S.J., 1948-65

- Directed expansion of the university from a small sectarian college to a modern institution of higher learning.
- Inherited six buildings on six acres. When he left: 26 buildings covering 40 acres.
- Doubled the student population to more than 4,000.

18. LOUIS B. GAFFNEY, S.J., 1970-75

- Inspired collective efforts among faculty, staff, students, board members and the community to rebuild university coffers.
- Trimmed budget by 10 percent, placed a moratorium on federal loan payments, sold/leased properties and led a stabilization drive with Bill Boeing, supported by lead benefactors Marguerite Casey and Eva Albers.
- Established a Board of Trustees with men and women.


- Reset Seattle University’s financial course by relieving operating shortfalls and loan debt.
- Led two capital campaigns that added Chapel of St. Ignatius, Casey and Bannan buildings and School of Law.
- Built $90 million endowment and increased enrollment by 70 percent.

21. STEPHEN V. SUNDBORG, S.J., 1997-PRESENT

- Established Seattle U as consistently among Top 10 universities in the West.
- Led successful capital campaign for modern library.
- Broadened Seattle U’s social justice work through nationally recognized Seattle University Youth Initiative.
- Other notable achievements: Developed mission statement, created Center for Community Engagement (CCE) and grew enrollment by 78 percent—to 7,200 students—during his tenure.

Fun Fact: Presidential terms were shorter in the early years. In those days, Jesuits favored the practice of moving priests as a way to avoid “inordinate attachment.” Sources: Seattle University, A Century of Jesuit Education by Walt Crowley; Seattle University website; and historylink.org.

—Information compiled by Allison Nitch
ATHLETICS

WAC ANNOUNCES UPCOMING SCHEDULE

In an effort to minimize both travel and exposure, the Western Athletic Conference Board of Directors approved updated schedule formats for men’s and women’s basketball. Additionally, the board approved new conference schedule formats for men’s and women’s soccer, women’s volleyball and men’s and women’s cross country to compete in the spring.

For basketball, the conference portion of the schedule began Jan. 7 and features back-to-back games against the same opponent at the same site. Each team will host four opponents and travel to four opponents over the course of nine weeks. The WAC Basketball Tournaments are set for March 10-13 at Orleans Arena in Las Vegas.

It was also decided that the WAC will not hold an Indoor Track and Field Championship in 2021. The meet was scheduled at the same time as the rescheduled WAC Cross Country Championship, which will take place Feb. 27 at Jefferson Park Golf Course in Seattle. Indoor Track and Field student-athletes will still be allowed to compete during the scheduled season at institutional discretion.

Volleyball is expected to begin the nine-week conference schedule in the last week of January. The schedule will be a double round-robin with back-to-back matches between the same two teams at the same site. The six-team WAC Volleyball Tournament is set for April 1-3 at Pan American Center in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Men’s soccer will open the rescheduled WAC season Feb. 6. The schedule will consist of a single round-robin leading up to a six-team WAC Tournament April 14-18 at Johann Memorial Field in Las Vegas.

Women’s soccer is expected to begin Feb. 18 and will feature a double round-robin with back-to-back matches against the same opponent at the same site. The schedule also features two single-match weeks for all teams. The eight-week regular season schedule will be followed by the WAC Women’s Soccer Tournament April 14-18 at GCU Stadium in Phoenix.

Get more information about SU Athletics at GoSeattleU.com.

ACCOLADES FOR MEN’S & WOMEN’S SOCCER

Seattle University men’s and women’s soccer teams earned 2019-20 United Soccer Coaches Team Academic Awards.

For the women, this marks its ninth such honor in the past 10 years. The team members excelled in the classroom this past school year, compiling a collective 3.456 grade point average. The men earned a 3.328 grade point average for the academic year, marking its fifth time in the last seven years with a team GPA above 3.0.

Award recipients are active members of the United Soccer Coaches College Services Program, with a composite GPA of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale for all players on the roster for the 2019-20 academic year.

In the 2019 season, Seattle U women won their fifth WAC Tournament Championship and advanced to its fifth NCAA Tournament since 2013. The Redhawk men won the 2019 WAC Tournament Championship and beat Loyola Marymount in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. The team is the lone Division I program to win at least 11 games in each of the last seven seasons and own the longest active unbeaten streak in the nation (16).
The NCAA Division I Board of Directors approved a plan that allows Seattle U cross country, soccer and volleyball teams to conduct a regular season and move fall championships to the spring. The competition schedule adjustments are being made due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The potential new schedule for Redhawk fall quarter teams would be:

- Men’s & Women’s Cross Country: Jan. 30-March 6; championships March 15
- Men’s & Women’s Soccer: Feb. 3-April 24; championships May 13-17
- Volleyball: Jan. 22-April 10; championships April 23-25

In an effort to support health and safety, one of the changes approved was the reduction of the championship brackets with persevered automatic qualification for conferences. As a result, the championship field for each sport will be scaled back to 75 percent of its usual capacity, meaning women’s soccer and volleyball drops from 64 to 48 teams, respectively, while men’s soccer will now consist of 36 teams as opposed to its normal field of 48. For now, the cross country final site is set to host 255 runners for each gender.

Read more at GoSeattleU.com.

SEATTLE U LANDS D-I WOMEN’S HOOPS REGIONALS

In partnership with the Seattle Sports Commission and Climate Pledge Arena, Seattle University has been awarded the 2023 NCAA Division I Women’s Basketball Regionals.

“Seattle University is thrilled to partner with the Seattle Sports Commission and Climate Pledge Arena to host the 2023 NCAA Division I Women’s Basketball Regionals,” says Director of Athletics Shaney Fink. “There is tremendous energy and passion for women’s basketball in Seattle and this announcement, days after the Seattle Storm claimed another WNBA Championship, feels like a wonderful reward for our community.”

“This is a tremendous opportunity for the state of Washington, the city of Seattle and Seattle U,” says women’s basketball Coach Suzy Barcomb. “We love the Seattle Storm and college basketball, so I would expect this to be a sell-out event and every visitor, fan and those programs lucky enough to be in the Final Four will walk away from the event and say, ‘job well done.’”

The city and the Climate Pledge Arena—formerly KeyArena—were also awarded the NCAA Division I Men’s Basketball First and Second Rounds in 2025.

This is the third time for this specific NCAA championship bid process, which created the largest host site announcement ever, spanning 86 championships across a four-year cycle. Previously, selection announcements varied by sport.
**1983**  
Dino Alfano was recently promoted to vice president and general manager at Thermo Fisher Scientific, a global life sciences and health care company. Alfano leads the company’s Ion Chromatography and Sample Preparation business, based in the San Francisco Bay Area, whose products are used in the environmental, food and beverage, pharma/biotech and semiconductor industries. Alfano transitioned from his previous leadership role within a diagnostics division, where over the past several months he led a team supplying critical COVID-19 testing, sample collection and PPE products to hospitals and reference laboratories battling the coronavirus pandemic.

**1987**  
On June 1, 2020, Barbara (Bonine) Holcomb retired from the U.S. Army after 33 years. Major Gen. Holcomb’s last assignment was as Commanding General, Medical Research and Materiel Command and the 25th Chief of the Army Nurse Corps. She retired in San Antonio, Texas.

**1998**  
The Honorable Judge G. Helen Whitener, a School of Law graduate and Pierce County Superior Court judge, was appointed to the Washington Supreme Court by Gov. Jay Inslee. Prior to becoming a judge Whitener was a prosecutor and defense attorney and served as a judge on the Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals.

**2007**  
Bryce Rassilyer, ’08, who earned three degrees from Seattle University, is among those selected for the Puget Sound Business Journal’s “40 Under 40” list. As a CPA, Rassilyer is a principal at CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP. He has a master’s in professional accounting and bachelor’s degrees in business administration and humanities. In addition to his work, Rassilyer volunteers on the boards of Children’s Therapy Center, Washington Autism Alliance & Advocacy, The Madrone School and Kennedy Catholic High School.

**2017**  
Gregory Pittman, JD, joined Helsell Fetterman, a Seattle-based law firm serving businesses, organizations and individuals. Pittman will work in the firm’s estate planning and taxation groups. He advised clients on an array of estate planning matters, including wills, trusts, charitable planning and more. At Seattle University School of Law, Pittman served as an editor for Law Review.

**2020**  
Nolan Jekich, IDLS, wrote “1 Step to Reducing Health Disparities that Life Science Washington Says All Can Take” for Cambia Grove.

**2022**  
Casey Davis, ’22, a student in Seattle U’s Master of Nonprofit Leadership program and executive director of the Edmonds Food Bank, received the 2020 Edmonds Citizen of the Year award, along with the food bank volunteers who staff it. As reported by MyEdmondsNews.com, “It was another tough decision,” said Edmonds Kiwanis Club’s Frannie Cohen about the 2020 Citizen of the Year award. “We had more than 15 nominations. But as we sorted through them and discussed, the Edmonds Food Bank and Casey Davis’s name kept rising to the top.”
Seattle University remembers those in our alumni family and university community we’ve lost.

1947
Lorraine J. Mulholland (June 28, 2020)
1948
John D. Dwyer (September 11, 2020)
1949
Virginia A. Donley (July 31, 2020)
1951
Donald L. Veith (July 20, 2020)
1953
Bernadine T. Carr (September 2020)
1954
Eugenia McMahon (August 26, 2020)
1955
John A. Augustavo (July 1, 2020)
Constance M. Hevly (September 21, 2020)
1956
Wilma J. Freeman (September 24, 2020)
Nancy A. Roberts (August 5, 2020)
1958
LaRue S. Keller (September 11, 2020)
1959
Mary Jo Alexander (August 24, 2020)
Nancy Monahan (September 8, 2020)
1960
Patricia J. Geraghty, ’63 (August 22, 2020)
1961
Rock E. Caley (September 2020)
Elizabeth A. Stiene-Martin (August 28, 2020)
1964
Robert C. Hadeen (July 31, 2020)
1965
Robert M. Braukus (July 2, 2020)
1966
James W. Rice (July 28, 2020)
1968
John R. Kerschner (August 2020)
1969
Sharon L. Green (August 2020)
1970
David F. Boyle (July 15, 2020)
1975
Carolyn E. Graves (July 2020)
1979
John K. Mayeski (August 29, 2020)
1980
John A. Heil (August 19, 2020)
1982
Jeanette M. Coleman, ’85 (August 3, 2020)
1983
Kenneth M. Denby (August 2020)
1986
Tamara M. Chin, ’93 (July 12, 2020)
1988
Regina A. Green (July 13, 2020)
1989
Mary K. Fualaau (July 6, 2020)
Virginia “Ginger” Klingman (October 2020)
1993
Chris K. Kirkendall (July 8, 2020)
Mary J. Nicholls (July 25, 2020)
1995
Richard W. Hively (September 11, 2020)
1997
Margaret T. Frazer (September 20, 2020)
1999
Kenneth E. Berninger (June 20, 2020)
Mary K. Costello (July 5, 2020)
2000
Neil L. Callahan (September 2020)
2001
Valerie A. Koehler (September 16, 2020)
2006
Sarah Leyrer (August 29, 2020)

Our Thoughts are With You

Seattle University honors the memory of those in our community who we’ve lost.

Send notice of a loved one’s passing, including an online or newspaper obituary if available, to tinap@seattleu.edu.
HEALTH AND SAFETY MATTERS
Ahead of the start of the fall quarter in September, the President’s Reopening Task Force announced the creation of the COVID-19 Containment and Prevention Working Group (C-CAP). Among this group are Joshua Halbert, assistant director for Public Safety, and Tara Hicks, ARNP, director of the Student Health Center and a nurse practitioner. They offer insights as C-CAP co-chairs, along with key points about staying healthy and grounded as the pandemic continues into the winter months.

**What was your role in establishing best practices for the Safe Start Plan (SSP)?**

**Halbert:** The development of the SSP was one of the most complex projects that I have ever been a part of. So many outstanding colleagues from all over the university worked incredibly hard to get us to where we are today. … My primary contributions were in the development and implementation of the Safe Start Health Check, case investigation and contact tracing processes, quarantine/isolation processes and the online dashboard that reports those figures.

**Hicks:** Seattle U formed multidisciplinary groups to work on every aspect of the SSP and my primary focus was the Public Health group. We established best practice based on public health guidelines and recommendations, as well as working with an infectious disease physician consultant. In addition, we reviewed recommendations from professional organizations for health care and higher education.

**What happens if someone doesn’t pass the required screening?**

**Hicks:** The Safe Start Health Check is an effective tool created by Joshua. By SU creating our own screening questionnaire, we can adjust and modify the questions and logic to reflect current practices and guidelines. If someone doesn’t pass the required screening, they will receive an email that directs them to not come to campus, as well as provide recommendations such as seeking medical care and/or COVID-19 testing.

**As the world continues to deal with COVID-19 and SU begins winter quarter, what main points do you want to drive home for the campus community?**

**Halbert:** Take the Safe Start Health Check daily and follow the guidance it provides. … Don’t wait to report symptoms. This is key to keeping the campus community safe and healthy. It is important to remember that we have higher-risk populations in our campus community. If you are asked to stay home, please do so out of care for yourself and others.

**Hicks:** Winter means we spend more time indoors, which increases the risk of COVID transmission. We need to continue following health and safety recommendations that we know have been effective: face coverings, physical distancing and good hand washing. In addition, I strongly recommend flu shots for everyone this year.

**While many colleges and universities decided to open campuses this fall, Seattle U opted primarily for online instruction to proactively limit the spread of COVID-19. In your opinion, how does this approach reflect our Jesuit values?**

**Halbert:** … The university demonstrated that it could deliver a world-class education in a virtual format. Keeping with this model for now and the near future prioritizes the well-being of our community and our families without sacrificing quality of education.

**Hicks:** Throughout all of the return to campus decisions I have been a part of, cura personalis, or care for the whole person, has been at the core. To look after the physical well-being of our campus community, we needed to decrease risk of infection with COVID-19. And the best way to decrease risk of infection is to decrease the amount of face-to-face interactions on campus.

**As a health professional, how do you handle the uncertainty that comes with existing during a pandemic?**

**Hicks:** I focus on what I do know in this moment and what I can do. The more grounded I keep myself, the easier it is to manage what is happening and plan for a response in the future instead of worrying about it.

If you develop symptoms of COVID-19, take the Safe Start Health Check at seattleu.edu/coronavirus/screening/ and email covid-19-report@seattleu.edu as soon as possible.
WE’RE CHALLENGING 10,000 ALUMNI TO TAKE ACTION!

Ensure students continue to receive a Seattle U education that forms leaders of purpose and impact. Join us in building a better future for all.

**Connect**
Register for one of four SU Communities
Connect virtual regional events with President Sundborg at seattleu.edu/alumni/events.

**Volunteer**
Sign up as a mentor on Redhawk Landing at redhawklanding.seattleu.edu.

**Give**

FIND MORE WAYS TO CONNECT, VOLUNTEER OR GIVE AT WWW.SEATTLEU.EDU/PRESIDENTSCHALLENGE.