Juvenile restorative justice (RJ) programs in King County and the broader United States have been expanding for decades. These programs demonstrate promising results in terms of improving victim satisfaction, reducing recidivism, saving costs, and reducing reliance on mass incarceration. Despite the growing body of evidence showing positive impacts for juvenile victims, offenders, and their communities, RJ is seldom offered outside of these contexts – namely, for adults, serious/violent crimes, or in prisons. Citing local, national and international examples of RJ in these latter contexts, Douglas’ thesis challenges these limits of RJ. Indeed, the emerging body of research highlighted in his paper suggests that the mechanisms of RJ may in fact be best suited to repair harm and transform the lives of the very victims and offenders who are currently excluded from RJ. Douglas’ research demonstrates how expanding RJ to adults, serious/violent crimes, and in prisons can measurably and positively impact the administration of justice for King County’s diverse communities. As King County builds upon its track record as a national leader in justice reform, implementing Douglas’ policy recommendations has the potential to result in more satisfied victims, lower recidivism rates for offenders, decreased reliance on mass incarceration, and cost savings.
Miranda Lahman
SHE/HER
School of Medicine, Ph.D. candidate in Molecular Medicine & Mechanisms of Disease

PRESENTATION TITLE>
“Learning From Failure: Understanding How Cancer Escapes Cutting-Edge Immunotherapy”

Miranda is a Ph.D. candidate in the M3D program. She has always loved biology. Even as a little kid she would explore her surroundings examining pinecones in the middle of the ski slope or studying creatures in the local pond. While her research is now a little more complex, she approaches the science with the same enthusiasm.

FELLOWSHIPS/FUNDING>
- Molecular Medicine T32 (2018)
- Interdisciplinary Training Grant T32 (2020, 2021)

Apichai Yavirach (Yao)
HE/HIM/HIS
School of Dentistry, Ph.D. candidate in Oral Health Sciences

PRESENTATION TITLE>
“Engineered Cells — Resorb to Restore”

With a background in both clinical and research fields, Apichai’s interests lie in applying basic sciences to dental research since understanding the oral diseases from a microbiology perspective can provide useful information regarding efficient treatments. To further those interests, he applied for a Fulbright graduate scholarship, and subsequently decided to join the Oral Health Sciences PhD program at the University of Washington in 2017. He joined Giachelli lab in the Department of Bioengineering and worked on a project about medication-related osteonecrosis of the jaw (MRONJ). This disease may cause severe pain due to the accumulation of dead bone at the jaw in patients receiving antiresorptive drugs. Most importantly, the mechanism of this disease has remained elusive, hence, there is currently no effective treatment. As these drugs are prescribed to more than 10 million people worldwide, this is a growing clinical problem. He and his lab engineered the bone resorbing cells which are resistant to these drugs and utilized them to resorb the dead bone and alleviate the disease in mice. This project establishes an impactful study tool and paves the way for a cell therapy approach for this disease which may potentially help more than 10 million people.

FELLOWSHIPS/FUNDING>
- Fulbright scholarship
- Magnuson scholarship
Laura Nelson's research is interdisciplinary and centers on how fishing communities on the West coast of the US are affected by and adapting to climate change. She works to further the inclusion of social factors like perceptions of adaptive capacity and food security into our understanding of climate change vulnerability. The objective of this work is to demonstrate the value of this type of information for vulnerability assessment and how it can contribute to more effective and equitable adaptation plans. Laura recently defended her PhD in the School of Environment and Forest Sciences; she also holds a Masters from the School of Marine and Environmental Affairs at UW, and received a B.A. in Biology from Dartmouth College. Between her time at SMEA and her PhD she worked for several years for the Makah Tribe, work that directly inspired some of her doctoral research. She is originally from outside of Chicago and though her work now focuses on the ocean, she is still very fond of the lakes of the northern Midwest.

FELLOWSHIPS/FUNDING:
- Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center Graduate Fellow
- Additional project funding from the Lenfest Ocean Program and The Nature Conservancy

Gladys Pearl Hitt

Information School, Master’s candidate in Library & Information Science

“Philippine Public Libraries: Barriers to Access and Development”

Public libraries are a powerful vehicle through which communities access information for their enrichment and empowerment. However, the Philippines’ geopolitical structure as a developing country poses various obstacles to the development and standardization of its public libraries. As a graduating Library and Information Science (LIS) student with deep roots in the Philippines, Gladys’ Capstone research uses interview data from Filipino LIS professionals in order to tackle the research question: “What are the barriers to access and development of Philippine public libraries?”

Existing quantitative data tells of the understaffing and underfunding these libraries receive, but qualitative data from interviews provides crucial context to broader issues surrounding infrastructure development, political support, and the overall status of the LIS field within the country. As the legislation and standards surrounding Philippine public libraries begin to undergo revision, interview data not only validates but elevates the perspectives of Filipino LIS professionals who experience the everyday successes and shortcomings of their libraries. We must listen to the voices of our stakeholders and their professional expertise in order to implement change with long lasting impact — only then can we develop and improve access to Philippine public libraries for underserved communities.
Nicole Casanova is a Master of Public Health candidate focused on designing community-driven solutions to improve health services and outcomes, particularly for young people. Nicole’s Capstone experience integrates her work in participatory methods, trauma-informed approaches, and implementation and improvement science. In partnership with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, middle school teachers, and a Youth Oversight Board, she designed a training toolkit to support teachers who want to champion sexual violence prevention strategies in their school communities. By addressing the ways in which sexualized violence is normalized in schools’ social environments, and equipping teachers with the skills to be safe and trustworthy upstanders, teachers can co-create protective school cultures that promote safety and prevent violence.

Fellowships/Funding:
- Northwest Center for Public Health Practice Field Placement Grant

Enrique M. Saldarriaga is a Ph.D. candidate in Health Economics at The CHOICE Institute, University of Washington. He holds a Master’s in Science in Epidemiology and a Bachelor’s in Economics. His dissertation combines statistical methods and mathematical modeling of infectious diseases to quantify the economic and health value of using local estimates of disease frequency to inform resources allocation for HIV prevention and care. As a health economist, Enrique has spent most of his professional career generating evidence to inform decision-making processes in healthcare adoption of interventions and strategies that seek to improve both population’s health and the efficiency in the utilization of resources. Enrique’s career goal is to leverage his quantitative skills to design and evaluate policies and interventions to improve healthcare access barriers among historically underserved demographic groups in both developed and developing countries.
Michelle Emerson
SHE/HER
School of Public Health, MPH candidate in Community-Oriented Public Health Practice

PRESENTATION TITLE >
“Stakeholder Engagement in Furthering Universal Newborn and Early Childhood Hearing Screening Efforts in Kenya”

Michelle Emerson is a second-year master of public health student. Her previous work as a Peace Corps Mozambique health volunteer and a developmental specialist for children with developmental delays, as well as her participation in genetics research pertaining to hearing loss, and her undergraduate education in Human Development and Family Studies led Michelle to a deep and informed interest in child ear and hearing health, specifically in low- and middle-income countries.

Michelle’s capstone project centered around gathering key players in ear and hearing care in Kenya to unite with the goal of positively impacting the developmental outcomes of children with hearing loss by increasing available screenings and services. As a result of these gatherings, a Kenyan Technical Working Group was formed and is now creating a new ear and hearing care program to propose for national adoption. Additionally, Michelle is collaborating with leaders in the field, both in Kenya and internationally, to increase the impact of this project on worldwide ear and hearing health by disseminating best practice recommendations in a paper that will benefit countries without universal newborn hearing screening. Following graduation this spring, Michelle intends to continue working in the area of global health and child development.

FELLOWSHIPS/FUNDING >
• GO Health Fellowship

Lando Tosaya
SHE/THEY
College of Arts & Sciences, M.A./Ph.D. candidate in Communication

PRESENTATION TITLE >
“Race Through Technology: The Impact of Digital Blackface”

Lando is a second year M.A./Ph.D. student in the Department of Communication at UW. Lando received a Bachelor’s degree in liberal studies with a concentration in Interdisciplinary Studies in Culture & Society from California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA). Lando later received their first Master’s degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with a focus on the Emergence of Afrofuturism from California State University, Los Angeles. Lando is currently working on a second Master’s in which she is delving into the phenomena of Digital Blackface including its origins in minstrelsy, rise, and permeation through society. The impact that Lando wishes to make through their research, is to bring attention to the effects of negative stereotypes within the media and how quickly society will accept the stereotyped depictions of bodies of color, for the sake of humor. Lando’s research covers the history of American minstrelsy and how it has now evolved into what we now define as Digital Blackface. By referencing the historical representation of Black Americans, Lando shows how historic oppression progresses with technology.

FELLOWSHIPS/FUNDING >
• 2020-2021 RA with CCDE
Gina Rome is a graduate student in the UW Information School, about to receive her Masters Degree in Library and Information Science. During the MLIS program, Gina has found the words to describe her lifelong interest in how information is collected, manipulated, accessed, and shared: knowledge organization and management. From standardizing spreadsheets to creating data visualizations, she finds deep satisfaction in neat, concise, and easy-to-understand information. This project is a small piece of tracking responses to health and environmental crises, which is important to make available as climate change rages on. For data users, it is key to have access to reliable, reputable data sources. For data scientists, evaluating accessibility, privacy, and sovereignty in the world of open data is a delicate but crucial balancing act. Passionate about sharing knowledge and creating community, Gina has enjoyed being a reader-grader for multiple LIS courses. When the weather permits, she enjoys hiking and enjoying all the natural beauty that the PNW has to offer. She also enjoys sewing and mending, cooking, and playing roller derby. Gina and her wife Dana live in Seattle with their cats, Oberon and Cordelia.

Milad Ashtiani

HE/HIM/HIS

College of Engineering, Ph.D. candidate in Civil & Environmental Engineering

PRESENTATION TITLE >
“Benchmarking Sustainable Roadway Infrastructure”

Emphasis on sustainable development and climate change has pushed most infrastructure sectors to implement and manage sustainability efforts. For the $100 billion per year road construction industry, effective sustainability management can be difficult because there are few industry-wide sustainable performance benchmarks with which to judge the most impactful practices. In his research, Milad Ashtiani collects, classifies, and analyzes data from 33 construction projects with a total value of $2.3 billion to develop twelve roadway sustainability benchmarks, many of which directly or indirectly impact local communities; for example, green space enhancement, stormwater treatment, roadway lighting, regional material supplies, pedestrian and bicycle-friendly facilities, and carbon dioxide emissions. Achieving any or a combination of these performance benchmarks helps address the impacts of roadways on the natural environment, human well-being, and economic viability. Milad’s dissertation further proposes a lifecycle assessment framework that can help integrate the environmental impacts of roadway construction projects, mainly in the form of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, into their financial evaluation process to reinforce decision making in response to soon to be legislated sustainability-driven policies such as the Buy Clean and Buy Fair Washington Act.

FELLOWSHIPS/FUNDING >
• Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)
• National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP)
• Washington Asphalt Pavement Association (WAPA)
• Two internships at the Sustainable Transport Council (formerly, Greenroads International)