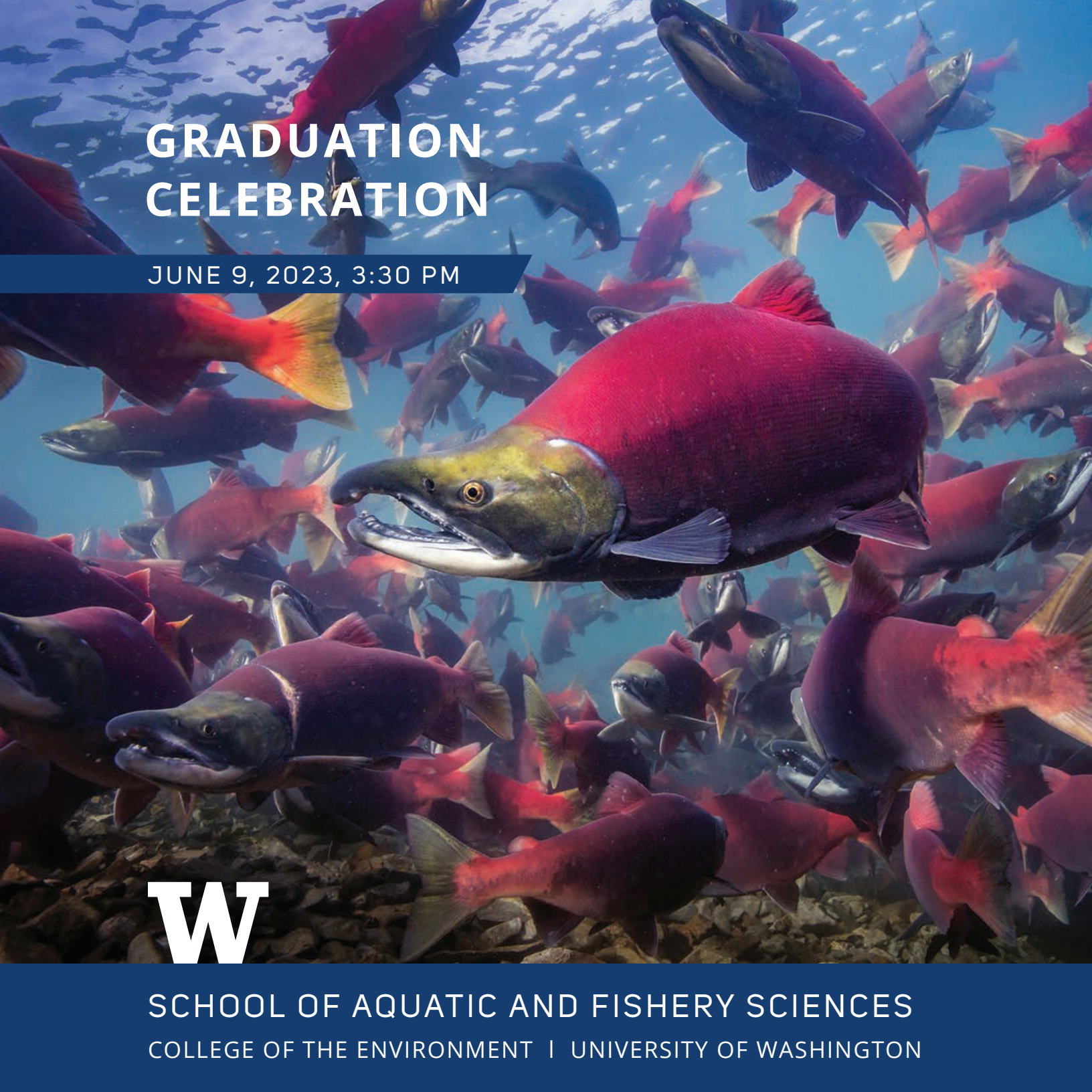


A large school of salmon swimming underwater, with a large salmon in the foreground. The fish are silvery with a pinkish-red hue, and the water is clear blue.

GRADUATION CELEBRATION

JUNE 9, 2023, 3:30 PM



SCHOOL OF AQUATIC AND FISHERY SCIENCES
COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT | UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON



PROGRAM

PROCESSIONAL

Faculty

WELCOME BY THE DIRECTOR

Professor Tim Essington

WELCOMING REMARKS FROM THE DEAN

Dean Maya Tolstoy

FACULTY MERIT AWARDS

Professor Tim Essington

STUDENT SPEAKERS

Jada Rasmussen
SAFS Undergraduate Student

Katie McElroy
SAFS Graduate Student

PRESENTATION OF THE
GRADUATING BS AND MS STUDENTS

Professor Christopher Anderson
and Professor Sarah Converse

PRESENTATION OF THE PHD GRADUATES

Faculty Advisers

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Kirstin Holsman
Research Fishery Biologist
Resource Ecology and Ecosystem Modeling
NOAA Alaska Fisheries Science Center

CLOSING REMARKS

Professor Tim Essington

RECESSIONAL

Faculty

GROUP TOAST

Professor Tim Essington

AWARDS

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY AWARDS

2023 USGS Cooperative Research Unit's
Excellence in Science Award
Dr. Sarah Converse

2023 SAFS AWARDS

SAFS Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and
Justice (DEIJ) and Community Service
Recognition Award
Emily Bishop & Markus Min
Jezella Peraza
Samantha Scherer
Honorable Mention: Michael Martínez

SAFS Distinguished Staff Award
Administration Verna Blackhurst
Research Sam White

2023 COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AWARDS

Outstanding Diversity Commitment
College of Environment GEODUC Team
(including Dr. José Guzmán and Dr. Kerry Naish)

2023 FACULTY MERIT AWARDS

Bachelor of Science Program
Ana Olsen (*P. Sean McDonald, Capstone Adviser*)

Master of Science Program
Anita Wray (*Lorenz Hauser, Graduate Adviser*)

Doctor of Philosophy Program
Maia Kapur (*André Punt, Graduate Adviser*)
Natalie Mastick (*Kristin Laidre, Graduate Adviser*)





PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO.COM/ ROMANKHOMLYAK

GRADUATION GIFTS

COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

In appreciation of the 2023 College of the Environment graduating class, the College is partnering with the Campus Sustainability Fund to help fund the Resiliency Tunnel Project for the UW Farm, a student-powered urban farm that provides locally grown produce to UW and the greater community through local partners and the UW Food Pantry. This gift will help fund the construction of a high tunnel, a USDA-approved method for season extension, to protect crops and extend the production season by multiple months. This project will incorporate small-scale solar and rainwater catchment systems and provide an educational space for the community. We are excited to support this project and the increased sustainability of our Husky community.

SAFS

In honor of the 2023 graduating class, SAFS will make a donation to the Indigenous Wellness Research Institute (IWRI). The IWRI's mission is to marshal community, tribal, academic, and governmental resources toward innovative, culture-centered interdisciplinary, collaborative social and behavioral research and education. The IWRI collaborates with Indigenous people in three areas: research, tribal capacity building, and knowledge sharing. The SAFS donation may be used for student support, capacity building, creating and maintaining collaborative relationships, and supporting culturally mandated protocol, such as gift giving and traditional feasts.



PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO.COM/HAILSHADOW

DEGREES AWARDED

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Max Cohen
Vahid Hosoda
Abigail Katharine Joy Huber
David Jones
Adam Nguyen
Juno Noel O'Neill
Ana Olsen * °
Jada Marie Rasmussen
Levi Rucka
Souta Bill Saechao
Henry Stier
Liz Voytas

* cum laude ° Departmental Honors

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Olivia Cattau
Aidan Coyle
Kimi Hiwitari
Karl Bjorndahl Veggerby
Anita Elliott Wray

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Erica Escajeda
Shelley Johnson
Maia Sosa Kapur
Natalie Claire Mastick
Katie McElroy
Connie Okasaki (QERM)

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

DR. KIRSTIN HOLSMAN

Research Fishery Biologist
Resource Ecology and Ecosystem Modeling
NOAA Alaska Fisheries Science Center

Dr. Kirstin Holsman's research is focused on the development of quantitative methods to support climate-ready Ecosystem Based Management for North Pacific and Arctic marine systems. Her work involves multidisciplinary collaborations aimed at providing information, advice, and tools to support effective adaptation responses to climate change and shocks.

Kirstin is lead investigator of the Alaska Climate Integrated Modeling Project, co-chair of the North Pacific Marine Fisheries Council Climate Change Task Force, regional and national representative for



PHOTO: COURTESY OF KIRSTIN HOLSMAN

the NOAA Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Program, and a member of multiple national and international climate change strategic initiatives. She has also co-authored regional, national, and international climate change assessments, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group II (PCC WGII) 6th Assessment Report and the 5th US National Climate Assessment.



PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO.COM/STEVE_IS_ON_HOLIDAY

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SPEAKER

JADA RASMUSSEN
Bachelor of Science

Jada Rasmussen is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Aquatic and Fishery Sciences. Jada grew up on the Spokane Indian Reservation with the opportunity to work at the Tribal Fisheries Department during the summers through a youth program.

As a summer technician, Jada decided she wanted to help solve the issue that the upper Columbia faces: lack of ocean-going salmon due to no fish ladder on two major dams. After being denied entry to the Engineering program at UW (because dam problems = engineering, right?), she pivoted, determined to find a way. She took classes like FISH 250 (Marine Biology) with José Guzmán and FISH 101 (Water and Society) with Daniel Schindler and Julien Olden, and it clicked. The SAFS program (because SAFS = fish, right?); who knew it was so simple... By spring quarter of her first year, Jada declared her major in Aquatic and Fishery Sciences with Adviser Sam Scherer and still has the same goal of getting fish over dams (especially on the Columbia River).

If you ask her today, she will say the best choice she made was declaring her major with SAFS.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF JADA RASMUSSEN

During her time here, Jada went to Bristol Bay, Alaska, with the AERA (American Educational Research Association) Program for a summer class that she will never forget and which helped her get a job with a consulting firm in Redmond. They plan to send her back to Alaska for fieldwork because of that class experience. She eventually plans to get her master's degree but will cross that bridge when it comes.

GRADUATE STUDENT SPEAKER

KATIE MCELROY

Doctor of Philosophy Student

Katie McElroy is a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow, working with the Alaska Salmon Program. She is advised by Dr. Ray Hilborn and Dr. Tom Quinn. For her dissertation research, Katie investigated how two predators on sockeye salmon—commercial fishers and grizzly bears—in Bristol Bay, Alaska, made decisions about when and where to fish.

Before coming to SAFS, Katie received her BS in Marine Biology and Master's in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of California Santa Cruz. She worked on Chinook salmon restoration and dabbled in kelp forest ecology and the long-term monitoring of elephant seals. While at SAFS, Katie describes the five summers she spent at the Alaska Salmon Program's remote field station on Lake Aleknagik, collecting data on salmon, bears, plankton, and everything in between as a highlight of her time at SAFS.

Katie is an active member of the SAFS community. She served as the treasurer of the Fisheries Interdisciplinary Network of Students (FINS) for two years and participated in the Peer Mentorship Program. Katie also was a founding member of the School's community engagement organization, Students Explore Aquatic Sciences (SEAS), along with Dr. Isadora Jimenez-Hidalgo and other graduate students.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF KATIE MCELROY

In addition to her research and community development work, Katie is passionate about teaching. She has TA'ed nine courses and mentored many incredible SAFS and Marine Biology students. Katie also co-designed and taught a graduate student seminar course, Outreach in Aquatic and Fishery Sciences to Diverse Audiences. And, this spring while finishing her dissertation, she taught her first course as a professor—Fisheries Ecology.

A proud banana slug and husky, Katie aspires to continue working with diverse stakeholders on conservation and management problems, while focusing on efforts to increase diversity in the natural sciences.



*Congratulations
class of 2023!*





PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO.COM/GORSH13

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