



GRADUATION CELEBRATION

JUNE 7, 2024



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

Jessica Pineda

SAFS Undergraduate Student

Marta Gómez-Buckley

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. Jay Orr

SAFS Affiliate Professor

Affiliate Curator, The Burke Museum

Research Fishery Biologist (retired)

NOAA Alaska Fisheries Science Center

CLOSING REMARKS

Professor Tim Essington

RECESSIONAL

Faculty

GROUP TOAST

Professor Tim Essington

AWARDS & HONORS

UW AWARDS

UW Distinguished Teaching Award for Teams

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

Husky 100

Chris Mantegna, PhD student

Professional Staff Organization Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Excellence Award

Michael Martínez

2024 COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AWARDS

College of the Environment 2023–2024 Award for Outstanding Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, and Accessibility (DEIJA)

Markus Min

2024 SAFS AWARDS

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEIJ) and Community Service Recognition Award

Julia Indivero

Claire Vaage

Outstanding Staff Award

Kenyon Foxworthy

Taylor Draper

2024 SAFS AWARDS (CONTINUED)

Faculty Merit Awards

Bachelor of Science Program

Kat Rogers (*Luke Tornabene, Capstone Adviser*)

Master of Science Program

Nicole Doran (*Mark Scheuerell, Graduate Adviser*)

Jezella Peraza (*John Horne, Graduate Adviser*)

Doctor of Philosophy Program

Jeremy Axworthy (*Jackie Padilla-Gamiño, Graduate Adviser*)

Marta Gómez-Buckley (*Luke Tornabene, Graduate Adviser*)

Marie Zahn (*Kristin Laidre, Graduate Adviser*)



GRADUATION GIFTS

COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

In appreciation of the 2024 College of the Environment graduating class, the College is partnering with the Campus Sustainability Fund to fund the Wapato Pond project for the UW Farm, a student powered urban farm that provides locally grown produce to UW students, staff, faculty and the greater community. This gift will help fund the development of Wapato Pond, a new growing space for the cultivation of aquatic, freshwater Indigenous food crops such as wapato, increasing the Farm's food production and diversity of produce. We are excited to support this project and the increased sustainability of our Husky community.

SAFS

In honor of the 2024 graduating class, SAFS will make a donation to Washington MESA. The Washington Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) program is an educational pathway program administered by the University of Washington and established by the Washington State legislature. MESA provides enrichment and access opportunities to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) programs for grades 6–12 and college students across the state with the goal of increasing representation of historically underrepresented students of color and women in STEM fields. They provide students with tutoring, specialized courses, mentorship, and supportive networks. In addition, MESA offers training to teachers and parents so that everyone in a student's orbit is better equipped to guide them through their educational journey.

DEGREES AWARDED

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Keegan Bach
Emma Bell
Tyler Martin Cordova
Hailey Dockery
Baxter Givans
Kip Howell
William Le
Jessica Pineda
Yajaira Ponce Moran
Katherine Bond Rogers
Cristian Swift
Eric Wang

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Nicole Doran
Emily Jameson
Liam Pendleton
Jezella Ileana Peraza
Emily Sellinger (QERM)
Kali Stone
Grant Woodard
Joshua Zahner

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Grant Adams
Jeremy B Axworthy
Eileen H. Bates
Thomas Buehrens
Marta Cristina Gómez-Buckley
Melissa Krigbaum Merscher
Maria Kuruvilla (QERM)
Jessica Lindsay
Anne Polyakov (QERM)
Brielle Kwarta Thompson (QERM)
Marie Zahn



PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO.COM/SROMANKHOMLYAK

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Jay Orr

Affiliate Professor, SAFS

Affiliate Curator, The Burke Museum

Research Fishery Biologist,

Alaska Fisheries Science Center, NOAA (retired)

Dr. Jay Orr retired after 30 years as a research fishery biologist with the Resource Assessment and Conservation Engineering Division at NOAA's Alaska Fisheries Science Center in Seattle. As senior ichthyologist with the Division's Groundfish Assessment group, Jay participated in over 30 legs of fisheries surveys from Alaska to California. His focus was on training staff research biologists to identify fishes and invertebrates captured with bottom trawl nets and included identifying specimens returned from sea. Over 18,000 fish specimens from these surveys have been archived here at SAFS in the UW Fish Collection of the Burke Museum. The specimens he and his colleagues collected informed and provided the material for Jay's studies on the systematic taxonomy and evolution of North Pacific fishes. In addition to his other publications, Jay has named and described over 30 new species and has co-authored four books, including *The Fishes of the Salish Sea*, which documents and illustrates in color all of the Salish Sea's 260 species. Three new species and a new fossil genus have been named in his honor. In 2022, Jay received the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Distinguished Career Award for his scientific work and contributions. Following his retirement from NOAA, he has continued conducting research in his affiliate positions; among his projects, Jay has published descriptions of at least eight new species of fishes from Alaska and Canada.



COURTESY OF JAY ORR

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SPEAKER

Jessica Pineda

Bachelor of Science

Jessica Pineda is graduating with majors in Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, Oceanography, and Marine Biology. She grew up in the Pacific Northwest, where most of her early interactions with natural systems began at the shore. Spending her time poking at sea stars during low tide and venturing on coastal forest hikes with her family fueled Jessica's fascination for these environments, leading her to pursue these interests at the UW. Jessica chose the SAFS program to further her understanding of aquatic systems and biota, with a particular interest in learning through fieldwork and research. During her time here, Jessica has performed skillful crab-cracking (aka tissue dissections) with the Washington Sea Grant Crab Team, followed by an independent research project on European Green Crab, and eventually leading to an opportunity to develop her SAFS capstone using Crab Team collections. Off the mainland, Jessica had a five-month stint at Friday Harbor Laboratories where she studied intertidal environments and conducted research on sea star larvae while in the Zoo-Bot Program, which was followed by a mentored research experience studying mussels through field experimentation. Outside of classes, with an interest in supporting the undergraduate community, Jessica served as a representative on the Associated Students of the University of Washington (ASUW) Transfer Student Advocacy Committee, in the SAFS Equity and Inclusion Committee, and as a peer mentor in the MPFS program. After graduating, Jessica will continue in her current role as a research assistant in the fisheries department, conducting shoreline monitoring and performing subaquatic surveys in near-shore and kelp communities.



COURTESY OF JESSICA PINEDA

GRADUATE STUDENT SPEAKER

Marta Gómez-Buckley

Doctor of Philosophy Candidate

Marta Gómez-Buckley is a PhD candidate in the Fish Systematics and Biodiversity Lab, working with Dr. Luke Tornabene. Her dissertation focus was on unraveling the hidden biodiversity of tropical cryptobenthic reef fishes while working with local Pacific Islander communities. Marta was born in Madrid and got her undergraduate degree in Marine Sciences in 1988 from the Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain. She is a proud non-traditional student who came back to SAFS after getting her MS here back in 2000. Between her MS and PhD, she raised her daughter Adriana, became a naturalized US citizen, and taught Science and Spanish at two public high schools in Washington. Marta always kept her focus on returning for her PhD. During her time at SAFS since 2017, she has enjoyed 13 TA positions, which grounded her love for teaching at the university level. Marta enjoyed all the interactions with undergraduates and helping them succeed in the classes and with their future career endeavors. She has had cross-departmental experiences, including in Biology and Oceanography. Marta has participated in multiple outreach activities organized by FINS, SEAS, and the Burke Museum. During her PhD journey, she has had incredible experiences, including becoming a certified scientific diver at SAFS and SCUBA diving in Tonga and in American Samoa as part of the National Science Foundation PaclIsles Study Abroad Program. After earning her PhD, Marta will continue to work on descriptions of the seven new species of dwarfgobies she has discovered so far. She will also continue working with a local nongovernmental organization in Tonga, the Vava'u Environmental and Protection Association.



COURTESY OF M. GÓMEZ-BUCKLEY



PHOTO: CATHY SCHWARTZ

Congratulations Class of 2023–2024!



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