SAFS GRADUATION CELEBRATION

JUNE 13, 2025

W 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	Jasper Nevis *SAFS Undergraduate Student*
	Kristin Privitera-Johnson *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. Eli Holmes *SAFS Affiliate Professor* *Statistician, NOAA Fisheries*
CLOSING REMARKS	Professor Tim Essington
RECESSIONAL	Faculty
GROUP TOAST	Professor Tim Essington

AWARDS & HONORS

UW AWARDS

Husky 100
Callum Backstrom, PhD Student

COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AWARDS

Graduate Dean's Medal for the College of the Environment
Zoe Rand, PhD Student (QERM)

2025 SAFS AWARDS

Outstanding Staff Award
Lisa Cantore

Faculty Merit Awards

Bachelor of Science Program	Emma Meyer (*Luke Tornabene, Capstone Adviser*)
Master of Science Program	Elizabeth Allyn (*Tim Essington, Graduate Adviser*)
Doctor of Philosophy Program	Amelia DuVall (*Sarah Converse, Graduate Adviser*)
	Kristin Privitera-Johnson (*André Punt, Graduate Adviser*)

GRADUATION GIFT

SAFS

In honor of the 2025 graduating class, SAFS will make a donation to the Center for American Indian & Indigenous Studies. CAIIS is a premier research center for teaching, research, and service in the field of American Indian and Indigenous Studies at the University of Washington. Their mission is to support American Indian, Alaska Native, and Indigenous students, faculty, staff, and communities through scholarship, research, teaching, learning, and mentorship that strengthens and builds relationships among the UW and Tribes, First Nations, and other Indigenous peoples.

PHOTO: CIRQUE GAMMELIN

DEGREES AWARDED

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Liam Aston

Henry Berg

Genevieve Elise Buchanan

El Califf

Nicole J. Fila

Andy Gardner

Iris Haley

Coby Klein

Anna Grace Kleven

Emma Meyer

Jasper Rowan Nevis

Stevan Pekich

Naomi Prahl

Jason Ray

Jacob Stickler

Larkin Ann Stodolnic

Jolee Thirtyacre

Jianing Xu

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Elizabeth Marina Allyn

Liz Boggs

Nick Chambers

Aspen Coyle

Cirque Gammelin

Grace Henry

Claire Joan Vaage

Sarah Yerrace

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Bryan Antonio Briones Ortiz

Jessica Diallo

Amelia Jade DuVall

Elizabeth Elmstrom

Rachel Fricke

Julia Indivero

Juliette Jacquemont

Helena Isabelle Jane McMonagle

Kristin Privitera-Johnson

Jennifer Stern

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Eli Holmes
Affiliate Professor, SAFS
Statistician, NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center

COURTESY OF ELI HOLMES

Eli Holmes joined NOAA Fisheries in 2000 as a research fisheries biologist specializing in population modeling and statistical analyses. Her work focused on the analysis of large noisy datasets from such populations and communities of conservation concern. Her analyses were used to assist status assessments for declining aquatic species and communities in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, such as Steller sea lions, PNW salmon, rockfish, Southern Resident Killer Whales, herring, and other species and populations of conservation concern. Prior to joining NOAA, she was an NRC postdoctoral fellow at NOAA's National Marine Mammal Laboratory where she studied Steller sea lion declines. She also held a postdoctoral fellowship at Colorado State University where she worked on metapopulation dynamics using mosquitoes. Eli received a PhD in Zoology from the University of Washington where she researched spatial population dynamics and woodrat–parasite dynamics. She holds a BS in biology and mechanical engineering from Stanford University.

Eli has been Affiliate Faculty at UW SAFS since 2005 and teaches bi-annually on time series analysis for environmental data. She has been heavily involved in teaching in statistical science, modeling, and coding throughout her career, through teaching at UW, running workshops, and leading training courses at NOAA. Currently, she leads the NOAA Fisheries Open Science initiative. The overarching vision of NMFS Open Science is to support scientists, developers, resource managers and policy analysts within NOAA Fisheries in fulfilling NOAA's Open Science and Open Data mandates. In addition, Eli supports training in programming, statistical analysis, data science, and data modernization efforts.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SPEAKER

Jasper Nevis
Bachelor of Science

Jasper Nevis is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Aquatic and Fishery Sciences and Marine Biology. Raised in Massachusetts, Jasper grew up exploring tidepools and reading field guides, cultivating a fascination with sea life and the natural world. He was drawn to the SAFS program by its emphasis on field research and hands-on experience. During his time at SAFS, Jasper embraced a range of opportunities for hands-on learning, from identifying salmon stomach contents with the Wet Lab, to studying marine

COURTESY OF JASPER NEVIS

mammal parasites in the Wood Lab, where he focused on acanthocephalans, a group of thorny-headed worms found in the intestines of several species from the Puget Sound. His capstone project switched it up from gastrointestinal to gastropod, using the Burke Museum's shell collection to examine historic snail populations in the Bering Sea. As part of the Marine Subtidal Ecology course at Friday Harbor Laboratories, Jasper trained as a scientific diver, studying subtidal communities through underwater fieldwork. Beyond academics and research, Jasper is passionate about science communication and education. He has volunteered at SAFS's Orca Bowl – an annual ocean science bowl - and participated in outreach efforts to introduce local youth to marine biology. After graduation, Jasper will present his marine mammal parasite research at the Wildlife Disease Association conference. He hopes to continue working on invertebrate and parasite taxonomy, combining fieldwork and museum collection to better understand marine ecosystems.

GRADUATE STUDENT SPEAKER

Kristin Privitera-Johnson
Doctor of Philosophy Degree

Kristin Privitera-Johnson is a fellow in the National Marine
Fisheries Service and Sea Grant Joint Fellowship Program
in Population and Ecosystem Dynamics, working with
Dr. André Punt. Her dissertation explored how uncertainty
affects the production of scientific advice for fisheries
management and investigated strategies to better
understand, communicate, and reduce its consequences
in decision-making. She considers her PhD an invaluable
apprenticeship in the production of rigorous science and
its role in public service. After graduation, she will join the Commonwealth Scientific and
Industrial Research Organisation in Australia as a quantitative fisheries scientist. Kristin
earned her BS in Marine Biology from California State University, Long Beach, and her MS
in Aquatic and Fishery Sciences from UW SAFS. Before her master's, she taught high school
science in San Francisco. Her passion for teaching deepened at SAFS, where she led five
unique courses over eight quarters and served on curriculum committees for SAFS and
the College of the Environment. In 2022, she received the UW Excellence in Teaching Award,
the highest recognition a graduate student can receive for teaching. Some of her most
meaningful PhD memories come from connecting with students in her classes. When she's
not tinkering with code or in the classroom, Kristin enjoys fiber arts, fantasy novels, and
video games—ideally surrounded by family and friends.

COURTESY OF KRISTIN PRIVITERA-JOHNSON

CONGRATULATIONS
CLASS OF 2024–2025!

PHOTO: JENNIFER STERN

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