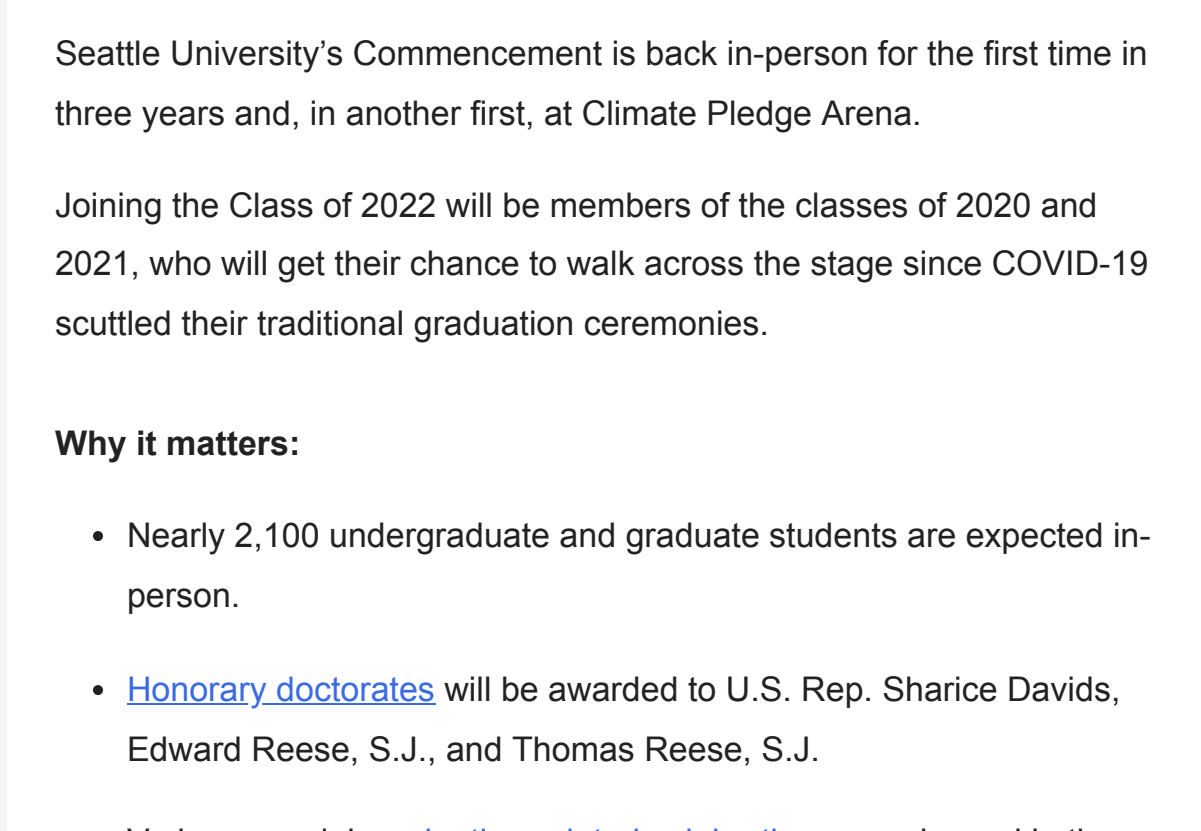


Inside Seattle U

By Seattle University Newsroom • May 31, 2022
Smart Brevity® count: 3.5 mins... 936 words

Top news from Seattle University, a staple of Seattle's economic, social and cultural fabric—offering students unparalleled access to leading businesses, nonprofits and professional networks.

1 Big Thing: Climate Pledge Arena will Host '22 Commencement June 12



Seattle University's Commencement is back in-person for the first time in three years and, in another first, at Climate Pledge Arena.

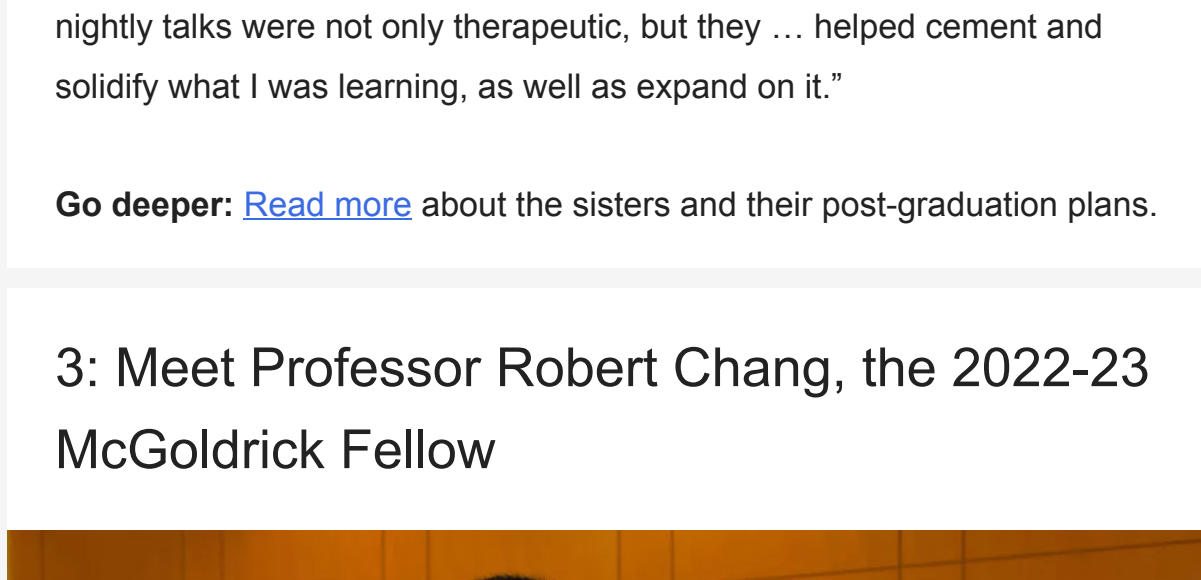
Joining the Class of 2022 will be members of the classes of 2020 and 2021, who will get their chance to walk across the stage since COVID-19 scuttled their traditional graduation ceremonies.

Why it matters:

- Nearly 2,100 undergraduate and graduate students are expected in-person.
- [Honorary doctorates](#) will be awarded to U.S. Rep. Sharice Davids, Edward Reese, S.J., and Thomas Reese, S.J.
- Various special [graduation-related celebrations](#) are planned in the days leading up to commencement, including events for veterans, LGBTQIA+ students, ROTC, Alfie Scholars and more.

Go deeper: [Learn more](#) about this year's commencement.

2. Commencement Spotlight: Sibling Support Enhances Success



(L) Eva Rodriguez, College of Arts and Sciences and Amber Rodriguez-Munoz, College of Nursing, will walk together at commencement June 12 at Climate Pledge Arena.

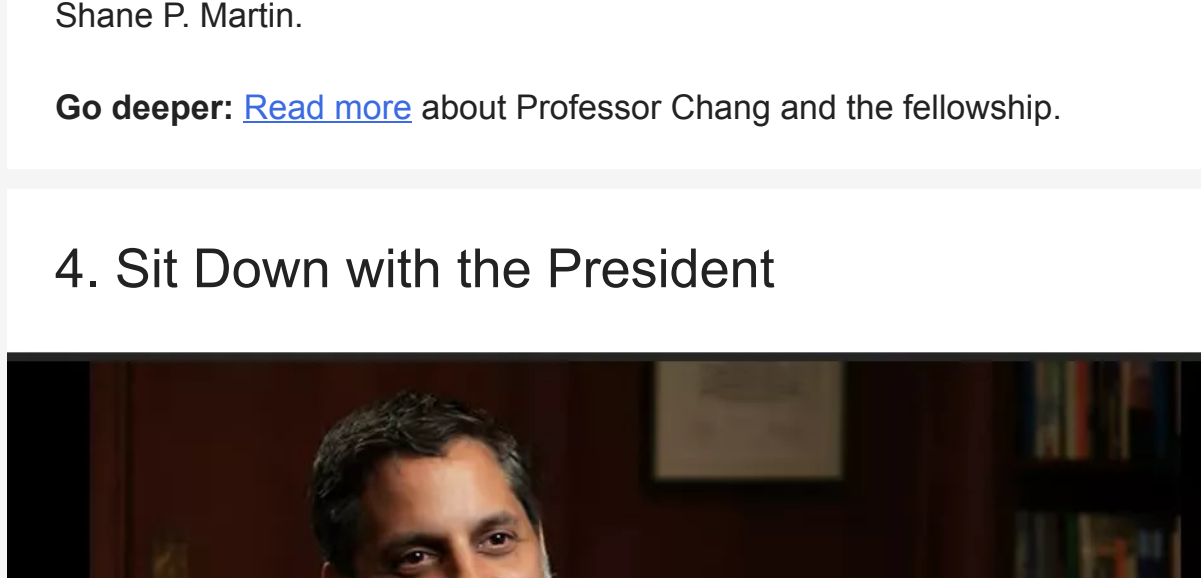
Commencement is a major milestone for family and friends to gather and celebrate the graduate in their lives. For Amber Rodriguez-Munoz and Eva Rodriguez, they'll have the unique experience as members of the Class of 2022—graduating magna cum laude side by side as sisters.

What they're saying: As SU students, the sisters have shared ideas about school and life itself that "generated a lot of growth in understanding life as it was happening ... and how it's applicable to our degrees," says Amber.

Psychology major Eva says, "I don't know how I would have figured out my degree had I been doing it alone. Having my sister's support and our nightly talks were not only therapeutic, but they ... helped cement and solidify what I was learning, as well as expand on it."

Go deeper: [Read more](#) about the sisters and their post-graduation plans.

3: Meet Professor Robert Chang, the 2022-23 McGoldrick Fellow



School of Law Professor Robert Chang, an outstanding and nationally recognized teacher, scholar, lawyer and civil rights advocate, is the 2022-23 McGoldrick Fellow—the university's most prestigious faculty honor. Chang is executive director of the Fred T. Korematsu Center at the law school.

Why it matters:

Named for Father McGoldrick, the fellowship is given to faculty who exemplify Fr. McGoldrick's commitment to students and the values of the Jesuit educational tradition.

What they're saying: "Join me in congratulating and thanking Professor Chang for representing our university at its very best," says Provost Shane P. Martin.

Go deeper: [Read more](#) about Professor Chang and the fellowship.

4. Sit Down with the President



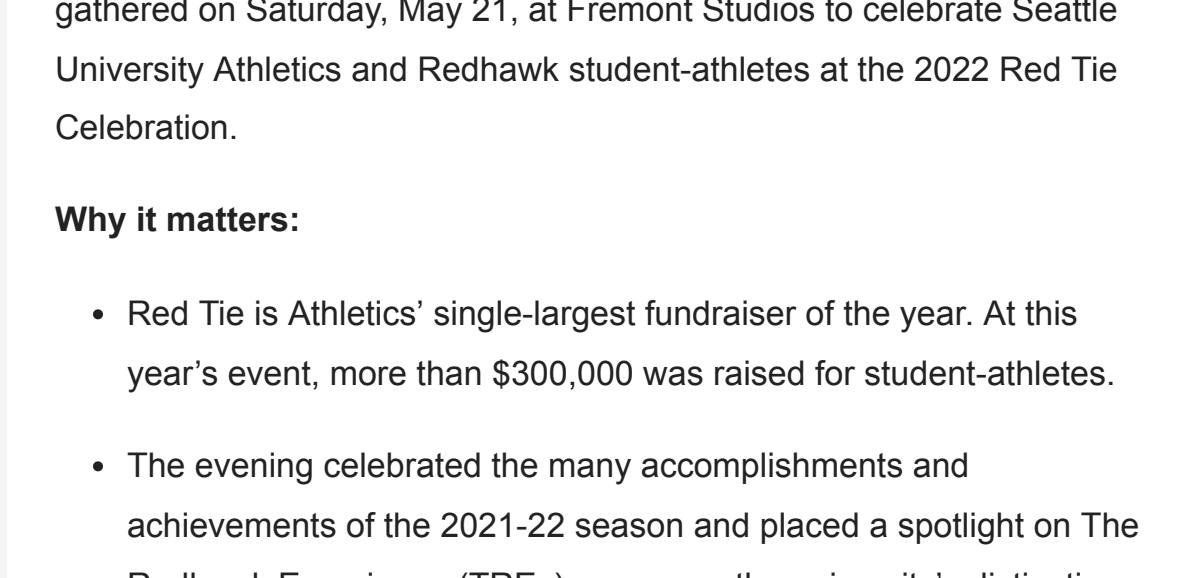
Leadership changes, meet-ups with alumni across the country and commencement are the topics of discussion in the latest installment of the digital series, "Catching Up with Eduardo."

From his Q&A, President Peñalver shares his takeaways from his "Meet 22 in '22" alumni events:

"...Recent alumni to people who graduated decades ago all said the same things about their [time at SU], citing the student experience, our small classes, supportive faculty and staff, the warm environment on campus and the friendships they formed. It was such an affirming experience to engage with them and to hear their stories and it inspires us to carry that forward."

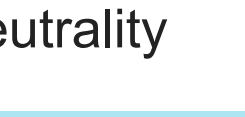
Go deeper: [Watch](#) the full Q&A.

5. Costco Executive New Chair of SU Board of Trustees



Pat Callans, '08 LEMBA

Executive VP, Administration



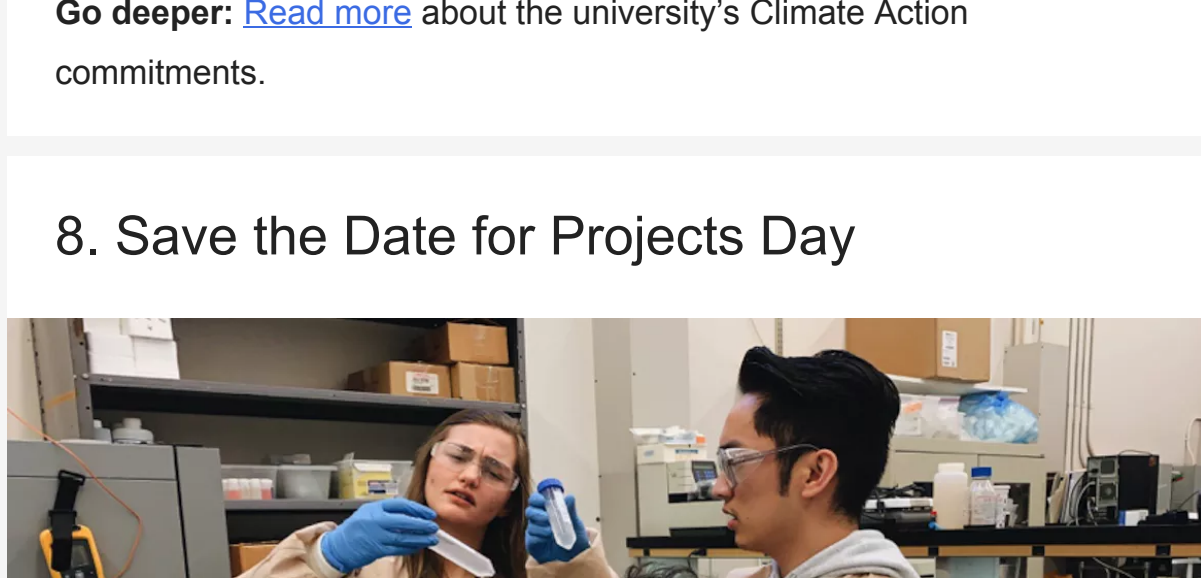
Pat Callans, '08 LEMBA, steps into the role of the new chair of Seattle University's Board of Trustees humbled and with an eye to the future, steered by the university's reimagined Strategic Directions and grounded in its Jesuit and Catholic mission.

Why it matters: Callans, who is the Executive Vice President—Administration at Costco, joined the Board in 2015.

On his connection with SU: "From my time as a student and my service on the Board of Trustees, I know that SU is a special place, with a strong Catholic and Jesuit foundation, an inspirational mission and truly amazing potential. It's an exciting time to be associated with the university and I enthusiastically look forward to my service as Board chair."

Go deeper: [Read the Q&A](#) with Callans.

6. Redhawks Reunite at Red Tie



© Robert Wade Photography

Back in-person for the first time in three years, more than 300 guests gathered on Saturday, May 21, at Fremont Studios to celebrate Seattle University Athletics and Redhawk student-athletes at the 2022 Red Tie Celebration.

Why it matters:

- Red Tie is Athletics' single-largest fundraiser of the year. At this year's event, more than \$300,000 was raised for student-athletes.
- The evening celebrated the many accomplishments and achievements of the 2021-22 season and placed a spotlight on The Redhawk Experience (Trex) program—the university's distinctive Ignatian approach to intercollegiate athletics.

Go deeper: [Read more](#) about the event and the evening's special guests.

7. The Path to Carbon Neutrality

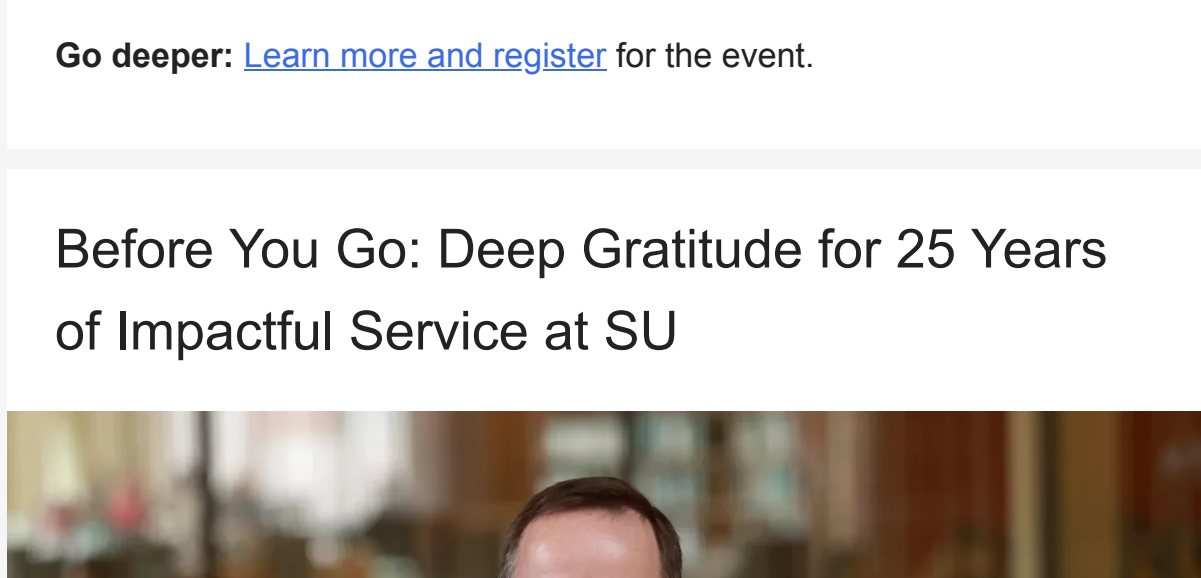


Illustration by Vitoria Cassol (Digital Design '22)

As President Eduardo Peñalver shared during SU's [celebration of Earth Day](#), the university has committed to offset its remaining Scope 1 emissions.

- [Scope 1](#) refers to direct greenhouse (GHG) emissions that occur from sources that are controlled or owned by an organization.
- At SU, those are operations and activities that use natural gas (heating water and buildings), gasoline, diesel fuel (vehicles and equipment) and fertilizer (grounds maintenance).

Why it matters: Seattle University's carbon offsets will support a local forestry preservation effort and energy-efficient stoves in Honduras.

What's next: The university is currently developing a plan that will completely eliminate its use of natural gas.

What they're saying: "Until that plan can be fully implemented, we will continue to take responsibility for our direct greenhouse gas emissions by purchasing high-quality carbon offsets that have multiple environmental and social benefits," says President Peñalver.

Go deeper: [Read more](#) about the university's Climate Action commitments.

8. Save the Date for Projects Day

Through Seattle University's Project Center, students are truly engineering solutions for real-world problems. And the results of their work over the course of the academic year will be showcased at the 35th annual Projects Day, June 3, noon–6:30 p.m., in Sullivan Hall and the Sinegal Center. (The results and deliverables of these hands-on projects will be both in-person and livestreamed).

Why it matters:

- Students worked on 44 projects for a range of companies and organizations, including Amazon, U.S. Forest Service, F5, Kenworth, The Postman, KiloWatts for Humanity and Seattle City Light.
- There will be presentations on smart flexible sensors in the cold chain management market, data center robotic technology, off-grid community development planning and the impact of beaver dams on waterways, estuary restoration projects and many more.

What they're saying: "This Projects Day is very special because, while we are celebrating 35 years of projects that have impacted thousands of students, this is also our first year in our new Project Center spaces ... and our first in-person Projects Day since 2019," says director Rachael Brown.

Go deeper: [Learn more and register](#) for the event.

Before You Go: Deep Gratitude for 25 Years of Impactful Service at SU

After a combined quarter century at Seattle University—and a grand total of 42 years working in higher education—Tim Leary, PhD, will step down as executive vice president in June.

What they're saying: "Much of Tim's work was hidden to most of the university, but his impact was significant and very positive," says President Emeritus Stephen Sundborg, S.J. "As president I personally relied on him daily and profoundly. We all owe him a great debt of gratitude for his service at the heart of what we are about."

Go deeper: [Read more](#) about Leary's favorite moments at SU and what's ahead.

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