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## **America's Unsung Heroes: 911 Dispatchers**

Written by: Aditi Nambiar- Editor-in-Chief April 2022- OPINION



Photo Credit: Openverse

According to the National Emergency Number Association (NENA)- The 911 Association, an estimated 240 million calls are made to 9-1-1 in the U.S each year. That averages out to approximately 600,000 calls being made per day. 911 dispatchers/telecommunicators, emergency communications centers (ECC), public safety answering points (PSAP), and emergency operations centers (EOC), are essential for successful emergency communications and provide critical, life-saving care to those in need.

National Public Safety Telecommunications Week (NPSTW) is held annually during the second week of April to honor emergency telecommunications professionals (911 dispatchers) for their service, commitment, sacrifice and dedication to assisting those in need through often the scariest emergencies they encounter in their lives. 911 dispatchers are the unseen public safety members who have the most direct communication with the community.

They are the ones who coordinate with local public safety departments to send the right professionals to the right place at the right time- all through the phone. They help get valuable resources and information to those in need, and connect callers to emergency services and care as soon as possible. As you can imagine, it is an incredibly demanding job, with some shifts lasting up to 24 hours.

This dispatcher appreciation week was a local initiative which was first started in 1981 by long-time dispatcher Patricia Anderson of Contra Costa County, California. By 1990, the national Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) convinced Congress to write a formal proclamation to officially declare the week as a recognition of the hard work and diligence of dispatchers across the nation. The next year, the second week of April was successfully proclaimed by Congress and signed by President Bill Clinton, designated to be what we now know as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week.

In celebration of NPST Week, and spreading more awareness of the intense and invaluable work of 911 dispatchers, here are some interesting facts about the history behind the national emergency line system, as well as what it really means to be a 911 dispatcher.

1. 911 Was First Developed in the 1960s

Before the 1960s, the concept of calling a universal easy-to-dial telephone number did not even exist. Community members were expected to instead memorize the number of their local police or fire department if they wanted any chance of receiving help in time. In the U.S, the first initiation for a nation-wide emergency telephone number was in

1957, when the National Association of Fire Chiefs recommended for there to be a single, quick-dial number for reporting fire emergencies. The system was proven to be more useful for responding to emergencies, and in 1967, the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice drove efforts forward to establish a nation-wide number for reporting any emergency situation.

2. The Emergency Number Was Originally Developed by AT&T

In November 1967, the Federal Communications Commission met with AT&T (referred to as the American Telephone and Telegraph Company at the time) to establish a national emergency number that could be easy to dial. The parties came to choosing 9-1-1 as it was brief, easy to remember, and also met public communications requirements as it was never previously authorized as an area, office or service code.

3. The National Emergency Line System is More Complex Than You Would Think

The national 911 system is actually composed of a series of county dispatching units, known as public safety answering points. According to the National Emergency Number Association (NENA), "As of February 2021, the United States has 5,748 primary and secondary PSAPs and 3,135 counties, which include parishes, independent cities, boroughs, and Census areas."

4. Many 911 Calls Aren't Actual Emergencies

The 911 system is purely for emergency situations, but each year, there is a significant amount of calls made for non-emergency situations, on anything from overflowing toilets, to smoke detectors on low batteries, and such as loud neighbors, or the dog next door barking too loud. Mostly nuisances or inconveniences more than anything that could be an emergency. In these situations, the 911 operators will ask the caller to redirect their concerns to a non-emergency number, but some municipalities have started to press charges for misusing 911.

Every non-emergency call made to 911 risks delaying a person who is truly in danger to get help. To report anything that is not

an immediate emergency or dangerous situation, community members are encouraged to dial the local non-emergency number or file a non-emergency report online.

5. Accidental Calls Are a Big Problem For The System

Accidental 911 calls or "butt-dials/pocket calls" have been on the rise, straining the 911 system with worse effects than non-emergency calls. In 2014, The Federal Communications Commission shared that roughly half of 911 calls made to the NYC and Anchorage Public Service Answering Points were a result of callers unwittingly dialing the number, with no real emergency taking place.

Michael O'Rielly, FCC Commissioner who reported the information in their public memo shared his concern stating, "This is a huge waste of resources, raises the cost of providing 911 services, depletes PSAP morale, and increases the risk that legitimate 911 calls – and first responders – will be delayed."

6. 911 Dispatchers are Trained to Assist People Through A Wide Range of Emergencies

911 dispatchers have a record long list of the emergencies that they have been trained to assist with. They have supported flight staff and flyers during crash landings, instructed callers to perform CPR on a person experiencing a life-threatening emergency, and have even delivered babies over the phone, but this is just a small list of the situations they have provided support for. In order to most successfully assist people through their emergencies, dispatchers have to be able to think on their feet under extremely stressful situations, and actively listen and communicate effectively to distressed callers- all while staying calm and composed.

The effectiveness and speed of emergency response teams is largely dependent on how efficiently 911 dispatchers handle calls. as well as the accuracy and quality of the information they gather. Whether it is helping guide someone through a personal crisis or dealing with life threatening situations, 911 dispatchers are a vital part to a well-functioning emergency response team in a community.

7. 911 Dispatchers Are Highly Susceptible to Developing/Experiencing Mental Health **Conditions** 

Due to the high stress that comes with the high stakes of this job, 911 dispatchers are especially vulnerable to developing mental health conditions/issues such as PTSD, anxiety, and depression, to name a few. According to a study by Dr. Michelle Lilly titled "Duty-Related Trauma Exposure in 911 Telecommunicators: Considering the Risk for Post-traumatic Stress", mental health symptoms that 911 dispatchers experience indicate that they are at risk of developing PTSD similar to on-site emergency personnel such as police officers and EMS workers.

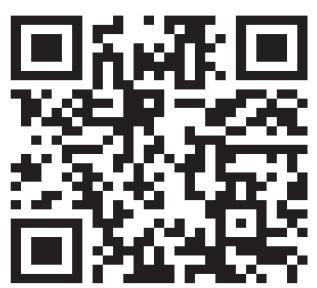
911 dispatchers have to face a high amount of traumatic stress and exposure to emotionally and psychologically demanding situations. Lilly's research suggests that between 18%-24% of 911 dispatchers experience PTSD when psychologically evaluated.

Lilly brings attention to how 911 dispatchers are susceptible to experiencing this condition due to more than the stress of the job, stating "PTSD is not a stress disorder; it is a distress disorder, so it is kind of misla- URL: https://tinyurl.com/hhapril22padlet

beled in that way. PTSD may develop because you have been exposed to events that are potentially traumatizing, distressing, and emotionally upsetting in some way."

This year, the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO), encourages everyone to commemorate and recognize the efforts and contributions of our 911 dispatchers. Visit APCO's official National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week website (https://www.npstw.org/) to learn more about and get involved in this national celebration.

With all that they do, 911 dispatchers play an essential part to countless communities as the first first responders of the nation. In honor of their diligence and commitment to our community, let's take a moment to celebrate the efforts of our local 911 dispatchers with a thank you note to show our admiration and appreciation for all their hard work. To all the 911 dispatchers out there, veteran and current, we thank you for your service. You are true heroes.



# The Significance of Ramadan with UWB's **Muslim Student Association**

Written by: Kamila Kurbanova- Assistant Editor **April 2022** 



Photo Credit: Freepik

This year the month of April is filled with religious and cultural holidays celebrated by a myriad of students. The month begins with Ugadi, a New Year celebration in the Hindu practices, followed by Ramadan, Passover, Easter and everything in between. It is a month filled with celebration and practices of cultural traditions.

The National Week of Conversation, which falls on April 24-30 this year is an excellent opportunity to learn and listen to different cultural viewpoints to cultivate better understanding of each cultural

epistemology. The Husky Herald had the opportunity to sit down with the Muslim Student Association, MSA, to discuss the significance of one of such religious holidays

The Muslim Student Association is a national organization focused in bringing their chapters support to grow their members "spiritual, religious, and social, civic growth and well-being of students" as according to their mission.

Zyad Elgohary, an executive member of Bothell chapter's MSA commented that they are "trying to create a community on

campus for Muslims to ... meet with other people who have similar cultures and similar backgrounds, and ... to tell other people about what [Islam] is about and kind of shape a positive image of the religion...". "There's like a lot of different views on the religion so like this MSA ... is really trying to like correct that image of their religion for people who aren't really familiar with it".

Correcting this negative image is what the club has been setting out to do in the student community by holding discussions, events and an open door to welcome students

#### Continued...

to learn more.

"[To] get a deeper understanding for what we're about ... we definitely encourage [diversity] ... we've had members kind of like from other religious clubs on campus approach us and try to be as welcoming as possible. When that happens... we try to learn from them because they've created a free environment as well".

Creating a comfortable environment for students is the goal of most universities. Student led organizations are often those advocating for the call to action for the creation of these environments. They are also able to create these environments within their own organizations.

"...Something that we've recognized actually is that a lot of our club members are international students, like they're coming from different cultures and backgrounds and they don't really have like the same familiarity that they would do in their own home countries...". To provide the communal comfort for their members, MSA hold prayer times for their members as well as cultural events like the breaking of their fast during Ramadan. "...it's been pretty powerful to provide that for people, because even though they are like studying away from home they could still feel like they're at home...".

Ramadan is a time when this community environment plays a major role in Muslim's lives. "Ramadan is our .. holy month of the year, so Islam actually has a difference from the [Gregorian] calendar year and then it's not the only religion that does this, mostly Abrahamic religions have [this]".

They shared that, "They followed the Lunar calendar, ... during the time our prophet received the Holy book ... and Ramadan is the one month of the year where we recognize it as".

"Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam and is a significant time in most Muslim's lives. It is important because "the idea behind it, is that, as a Muslim every like good deed that you do is like amplified". "... the general idea is just to be the best version of yourself", MSA stated.

There are a few ways that Muslim individuals partake in Ramadan. "...the charitable stuff is a really big thing that we do, ... and fast everyday from sunrise to dawn. The idea behind fasting is to really like be humbled in a sense, so it's like you get to once you know what it's like to go without like food and water, you have a better appreciation for all like the gifts that we have. I think it's really important for us like living in a first world country to really like understand what it's like to not have access to food and water for a day...".

While fasting is expected in Islam by every willing and able Muslim, those who are ill, young children or the elderly, those nursing, pregnant or mensuration and traveling are exempt from partaking. During this time it is important to understand that Muslim individuals are partaking in this as its part of their culture and religious identity and a few of the ways that non Muslims could provide support is through understanding and empathy. When asked for an example of how our community could show support to the Muslim community, Zyad suggested that "[From] professors standpoint of like understanding that people are fasting as new schedules and are a little bit different and trying to be more encouraging...".

The separation of church and state is one of the most prominent beliefs instilled in the American students from a young age. The laws surrounding the Constitutional clauses are continually updating and evolving. Public institutions, like the University of Washington Bothell are bound to follow the laws regarding this clause.

Religious clubs and organizations on

campus are permitted to use the property on school grounds to meet before and after classes as long as they are in accordance with the policies laid out for non religious groups as well. With the clear distinction of this separation, there is much hesitation and apprehension with the discomfort provided by religious clubs on campus. "I think the important thing to realize is that at the end of the day, these are like clubs so it's like each person still has like a choice of whether to join these clubs and listen to these clubs and I think that still holds" states Zyad.

He emphasizes, "Our title is Muslim Student Association does not mean it's like Muslim only ... really we're an open organization that's willing to have conversations with everyone willing to ... just accept anyone into our club and we hope to teach others and provide communities for people, not just Muslims, but anyone who just wants to talk about the religion of Islam as a whole, so openness is really our core..."



Photo Credit: Muslim Student Assocation

# The Importance of Latinx Representation in Healthcare

Written by: Alina Zasimczuk & Emely Zapata- Student Reporters



Photo Credit: Openverse

Within society, representation is needed to be able to attain influence for different groups of people. Without representation, it is difficult to secure resources and services. There is no one to speak up about the needs of a certain group; as was the case with the Latinx community. The pandemic came as a surprise to everyone around the world, but within Washington, nobody knew that almost a million people of a single demographic would

be heavily impacted during the COVID-2019 pandemic.

In a study conducted by the Latino Center for Health, "Increasing the Latino Physician Workforce Now", in 2019, the Hispanic population reached around 999,898 individuals in Washington, which encompasses 13.3% of the state's total population. Almost a quarter of the population would require immediate medical attention during the coming

years.

However, not many would have guessed that they would not have the ability to receive the care they required because they could not understand their doctor. In a case study reported by the Latino Center for Health (LCH), physicians who identify as Latinx only make up 3.1% of the healthcare workforce in the state of Washington.

Evidently, this leaves less than half of the Latinx population to be able to ask for a Spanish speaking, Latinx descent doctor when they visit a healthcare institution. In which, something so important as a person's health becomes compromised because of the lack of cultural understanding and representation within an institution.

Given these understandings, as a Latinx Campus Events Board (CEB) programmer, Alina Zasimczuk chose to organize this event, Latinx Representation in the Healthcare System, because she wondered how many students at UW Bothell are affected by this particular issue. Zasimczuk came to realize there was a lack of events aimed towards the Latinx community, in particular, on our campus.

She hoped that organizing an event that invited influential Latin speakers would

inspire students to participate and learn more about how they can be active members in their community.

The main goal was to motivate our peers to come out and meet Latinx students on campus. During their time here, Zasimczuk wanted Latin students, and all UW Bothell students, to form friendships, and make memories, all the while exposing them to new perspectives.



Photo Credit: Campus Events Board (CEB)

Although one of the goals was to create connections and a sense of community among Latinx students at UW Bothell, it was also important to address key issues regarding the Latinx community. One of which is proper representation within a field such as healthcare that is predominantly dominated by physicians and healthcare workers influenced by American culture.

Essentially, the goal of having better representation within these institutions is to encourage the Latinx community to seek help and care when they need it without feeling misunderstood or intimidated by their physician. Also, to acquire health services that fit their cultural perspective to better fulfill their needs. Ideally, with better representation, Latinx's can feel comfortable at their healthcare appointments because they can talk to someone who speaks their native tongue and inherently understands the underlying culture.

At CEB, we hoped that Latinx Representation in the Healthcare System, which was held virtually on Thursday, March 2, 2022 from 4:30-6:pm, would create dialogue and space where students could learn interactively and connect to community members in the process. Thanks to the collaboration of three members from the Latino Center for Health at the University of Washington Seattle campus, Amber Tafoya, Aida Hidalgo, and Antoinette Angulo, this event came to fruition.

It was inspiring to hear from these three women because they all held different roles in LCH. Tafoya is a communication specialist who focuses on community outreach. Hidalgo is a promotora de salud, which is a healthcare worker that provides their services exclusively to the Latinx Community, and Angulo is a policy director who works to create and institute new policies statewide. Their different positions offered a richer and deeper understanding of what representation for a community can look like.

Based on the COVID-19 guidelines, the event was conducted through Zoom to make it more accessible to students and help them feel safe. UW Bothell students who identified as being Latinx attended the event and shared their own stories, aspirations and experiences with receiving healthcare as someone with a Latinx background.

During the event, Hidalgo said, "When I came here [to the U.S.], I just realized, 'Wow, I just learned about all the health disparities that are in this country, and how my own Latino community was suffering as well as many other underserved communities.' So, I just thought, 'I have to do something with my skills, with my time, with this desire to help my community.' [And] I just found...it was my moral duty to embark in public health here in the U.S. Helping my Latin community. Because health is a human right, and my community is entitled to it, as well as everybody else." All of which is impacted by the lack of representation because, as previously stated, no one will bring up health disparities within the U.S. unless it is actively spoken about by people within the institution.

During the conversation, Angulo shared with us how she was not aware about the existence of Public Health until college. Essentially, she had to pass through many barriers in order to find this field of science, which she believed was a good approach towards health as it focused on keeping populations healthy.

She further explained, "I always think about my grandma. If grandma doesn't have insurance and she doesn't have access to a doctor, who's gonna keep grandma healthy? Who's gonna support her and her health? And so that's where public health to me really felt like a good fit, because it's about keeping communities. Healthy populations, especially through preventive...access to healthy foods, access to active lifestyles,...a reduction of exposures to toxins and second-hand smoke. So, that's what really drove me to get involved in the health field."

Angulo's story reflects some of the common circumstances of being Latinx within the U.S. Some of us have family members who lack healthcare insurance for one reason or another, which impacts their quality of life. This, or have observed and/or experienced the health disparities of our community. Due to this exposure, many of us may feel inspired to seek a career in healthcare in order to combat these unjust circumstances.

A perfect example that popped up during the event was how the lack of representation within healthcare impacts access to adequate mental health care and treatment. As a UW Bothell student who suffers from mental illness with a Latinx cultural background, Emely Zapata believes it is crucial to hear about how their roles are contributing to addressing the shortage of Latinx mental health professionals and the taboo nature of mental health in our community.

Mental health on its own is a serious issue as it deals with sensitive information and the mental state of an individual. However, with U.S. cultural values and ideals influencing mental care and treatment, mental health professionals may end up causing more harm than good to people from non-U.S. cultural backgrounds such as Latinx individuals.

Unfortunately, as one of the speakers states, there is simply a shortage of Latinx mental health professionals to help those in our community who are in need of mental health care and the taboo nature of mental health is an on-going issue. Though, despite this, it goes back to representation where as the number of Latinx mental health professionals increases, the more Latinx people will be able to get adequate mental health care that suits their cultural background with a professional that inherently has understandings of their culture.

Additionally, with more Latinx people in mental health care, they can take steps forward in combating how our community views mental health as a taboo subject since they are professionals in the field. In which, this emphasizes the need for representation within healthcare. So, the acknowledgement and the work towards addressing this need is much appreciated.

Within the current healthcare system, some groups cannot get the proper care from their healthcare providers, as many, unfortunately, do not have the multicultural training needed. Without some sort of cultural understanding of the Latinx community's needs, healthcare institutions cannot structurally address larger issues within it.

In addition, as of right now, there are not many Latinx people within healthcare professions to tackle these complex issues of accessibility, proper treatment, isolation, language barriers, and many more. However, despite these limitations, community members, students, teachers, politicians, healthcare workers and anyone, can still do their best to support and push for diversity in healthcare.

This can be done by academically supporting and encouraging Latinx students who are currently studying in the various fields of healthcare. Also, actively discussing the issues that the community may be facing with local politicians and seeking to create sustainable solutions. Lastly, reaching out to friends and families who are Latinx and connecting them with places, like the Latino Center for Health, that may be able to provide the guidance and resources they need.

If you would like to hear this recorded conversation and learn more, check out CEB's instagram page: @uwb\_ceb and find our video on the reels page. And if you are a student interested in a healthcare profession, don't be discouraged, you can do so much for your community.



Photo Credit: CEB

Current SEA Campus Events Board team (CEB 2021-2022)

# Campus News: Everett High School Partners With UW For New CHS Course

Written by: Joe Lollo- Student Reporter



Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons

College in the High School (CHS) courses, also referred to as Dual Enrollment, are meant to help high school students get a jump-start on their college education and potential future careers by offering them college credit for advanced-level high school classes.

Through UW's own CHS program, juniors and seniors can take UW courses at their high school and earn high school and college credit at the same time. Courses are taught by the school's own teachers, who are approved and trained by the UW department sponsoring the course.

This year, Everett High School (EHS) chemistry teacher Elizabeth Scott, a former

two-time teacher of mine at Bellevue High School, has been busy developing a new, and CHS course meant for students interested in a career field close to her heart – teaching.

Partnering with UW's College of Education, students at EHS can now take a class called Introduction to Education, described by Scott as "an introduction to how we can think up, and eventually create, socially just education systems, that helps all students see themselves as teachers."

The Everett Public Schools course catalog mentions that students who successfully complete the course will have the opportunity to receive UW credit for EDUC 251, one of the introductory courses for the

Seattle campus's Education major, as well as a general transfer credit from Everett Community College if they do not wish to go to a UW campus. "They've earned the beginning of their teaching career right after high school, which gives them a good impression on who they are as teachers and learners, and if teaching is truly a good fit for them," says Scott.

As a pre-service educator myself, I think that this is a very important step to take with communities of young people — part of the solution to teacher shortages and problems in education is to engage students who may be interested in teaching early, especially marginalized communities. Exposing students to critical debates and issues in education, especially those surrounding equity, diversity, and struggles around power, can help them find ways to make others' lives meaningful through a career in education, often done through preparation and mentorship like Scott's vision for this class is.

Education in the U.S. is facing real challenges. But that doesn't negate the fact that teaching remains one of the most rewarding and respected professions in the country. Whether young people have dreamed of a teaching career for a while, or are considering the role for the first time, they are the ones who have the power to make a difference in their community, equipping future generations for a lifetime of success.

# **How Carbon Emissions Are Impacting Our Planet**

Written by: Ahmet Kutay Gokeri- Student Reporter (CBLR)

The largest goal humanity can collectively agree to strive towards for the future, is to ensure that there actually will be a future for us to continue living in our world and living our lives. It's an extreme statement to make but climate change actively affects the difficulties in conservation and preservation of land, forests, and all natural resources, to a point where it is common sense to know that there are professional discussions and studies about the possibility of our future being doomed if the world continues on its current path of emissions.

To help control and reduce carbon emissions, nations around the world like New Zealand, France, Japan, Australia, China, Mexico, and more, all follow The Kyoto Protocol and The Paris Agreement in order to fight against climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and overall pollution. The shared effort has generated a currency called carbon credits, or carbon offsets, that are purchased by companies in order to allow them to emit a percentage of emissions based on how many carbon credits they buy as compensation. These are utilized for actions and activities that are not carbon-free and will generate pollution, but are a necessary production for the purchasing company.

Carbon credits can also be sold to



Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons

companies or parties in order to halt them in proceeding with their work and creating pollution. An example of this comes from the Katingan Project in Indonesia in 2007 effort where environmental entrepreneurs persuaded local farmers to hold off on clearing large-scale forests in return for selling carbon credits from their land. This event is now known as the world's most prominent forest-based avoided-emissions project, giving statistics of prevented CO2 emissions and thousands of acres of swamp forest environments untouched.

This past month from a *Seattle Times* article, we have learned that Washington state is set to preserve a collection of 10,000 acres of trees to sell as carbon credits to polluters. Although our Evergreen state is filled with wonderful natural environments and trees, this number captures only 0.5% of the state's forested trust lands. Realistically, the preservation of any forest is more valuable than ever, as it's understood that trees sequester carbon dioxide, using natural gasses to trap heat and use it as food to grow, absorbing carbon emissions from the burn-

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ing of fossil fuels. These trees are located in King County and consist of mighty Douglas fir trees that are at least 140 years old each, a great quality of wood and an amount reasonable to cut down and sell as lumber. On Wednesday April 6th, however, Washington state's commissioner of public lands announced a new policy that the fir trees will be preserved and utilized as the state's new carbon reserve.

From this carbon reserve, it is intended that the trees will be leased as carbon credits to greenhouse gas emitters, partnering with developers and supplies of carbon offsets to "verify the effectiveness of the offsets." State officials are hoping that the money from leases will help compensate state trust land beneficiaries, like money for hospital districts, library districts, and more. With this particular 10,000 acre solution, it is estimated that the preservation of the trees will reduce carbon emissions to the

equivalent of two billion vehicle miles traveled.

It's important for us to know and understand these new regulations and the carbon credit transactions that follow from a decision like choosing to preserve these lands. The preservation will allow a chance for the young trees in these forests to grow unharmed, so they may continue to ultimately help our environments and contribute to helping the world.

## Amal Manohar: Singer, Songwriter, and Student with Big Dreams

Written by: Aditi Nambiar- Editor-in-Chief



Photo Credit: Amal Manohar

For Amal Manohar, 21 year-old senior at UWB, music has always been a prominent part of his life. Manahor is a student majoring in Applied Computing, with a minor in Business Administration, and a singer, songwriter, and musician.

He first got into music when his dad signed him up for violin lessons at the age of nine. At the time, no one in his family had any sort of a musical background. Manohar was intrigued and interested to pick up playing the instrument, but the experience was less enjoyable in the beginning and came with its challenges.

"I hated it initially, it was a pain to kinda learn the whole... how to play it, how to hold it, how to learn the notations and everything... After about a year or two of learning it, I was getting into it, getting into the rhythm and I enjoyed playing [the violin]," Manohar said. It was a short while after that he started to learn piano, which sparked a new interest for him. He said, "It's kind of a different instrument; it opened a new area of music to me." Manohar joined the school orchestra in middle school, and continued with it through his high school years, where he was in his school's chamber orchestra and was also playing for the Youth Symphony.

It was during this time that he wanted to take this passion further, and share his love for music with the world. "Around 9th and 10th grade is when I was like, maybe I should make covers on my violin and kind of see how that would go about if I posted on my YouTube [channel]," he said. Manohar proceeded to upload his first violin cover of a pop song on the platform for the pure fun of it. He shares that it was a memorable moment stating, "It was a cool experience

putting together the audio, the video, and posting that and that is kind of what started my YouTube channel".

"That's when I also thought, okay if I'm going to make my own music, I should probably learn a bit to sing, and also learn a bit of music theory and music production, so I signed up for a couple classes and vocal lessons", Manohar shares.

His interest to pursue singing in addition to the instruments he plays was certainly unique to come about more recently at the age of 19, but he was only more determined to add it to his list of musical abilities.

Manohar describes that taking this skill up was not so much of a challenging process to pick up on, stating, "Since I had a musical background for ten years, when I got into singing, I kind of knew how to go about it, how to learn, what to apply to like better at singing. Having that background kind of helped me make it easier to learn in that short amount of time."

Born in Chennai, India, and having lived there for many years of his life, Manohar's music journey has been heavily influenced and shaped by his cultural roots and background. "I was born in Chennai, India. Growing up, my parents always played Indian music in the house, that was kind of what I grew up with. I've always, growing up, wanted to make a song in my own language— my language is Tamil— and that's kind of how I put together my first single in 2019/2020."

Initially starting the channel was a challenge as Manohar shares, "It was definitely a long process, there were times where I felt like I just want to give up because you know, I put a lot of time into somethings and

I would never get the response that I expected but, it takes a lot of time and patience to wait and see how everything plays out." But as he began putting out more content, the interaction and subscribers on his account started to rise.

A notable point in Manohar's success with YouTube was when he put out his single, "Stanza Cafe," for which he worked with his uncle who is in the cinema industry back in India, and had professional actors come together for the music video, that there was quite a big reach to it on his channel-- where he has now gained more than 10,500 subscribers and over 1.8 million views.

Manohar attended the A. R. Rahman School of Music as a part-time student when he moved back to India at the age of thirteen, where he made memorable experiences and got the opportunity to enhance his musical skills and indulge into his passion with a community of spirited musicians alike. He shares, "It was definitely a different experience because I was used to taking private lessons with teachers locally, but that was more of a professional school... It was kinda nice being in that space, being in that environment. Everyone was there just to make music, to learn music... so it was really nice."

A. R. Rahman has been a big inspiration for Manohar, influencing him to pursue music and create his own works. In terms of how he would describe the music that he creates, Manohar says, "I don't really have a set genre that I like to produce, I like to experiment a lot, I like to experiment with what sounds good to my ear at the time when I'm making it." He listens to a diverse variety of music, and enjoys R&B and jazz, which are incorporated into current pop music.



Photo Credit: Amal Manohar

Manohar released his latest single, "Kadhaliye" (which translates to "lover" in Tamil), in October of last year. The song was a summer project which he worked on with his dad and a friend who helped shoot the music video,

#### Continued...

and he shares, "We worked on it as a summer project of last year and it was nice to be able to work with my dad on that because you know, there's that family connection and it's kind of easier to work with your parents."

Manohar's love for music has also shaped his outlook and approach to computer science as a student majoring in Applied Computing. For his recent Senior Applied Computing Capstone Project, Manohar took hold of the opportunity to design a freelance music website with the main purpose of developing a platform for people to come together and connect with musicians easily for hiring.

His idea to create this came from his own struggles with finding musicians to collaborate with for projects. Manohar states, "I work with a lot of musicians and it's hard to find people that are, you know, willing to work with you. It's hard to find the right talent that you want for yourself". The project outlined the fundamentals of the website, which Manohar is looking to take further. "I want to definitely put this project together to kind of have it in my portfolio by the time I graduate."

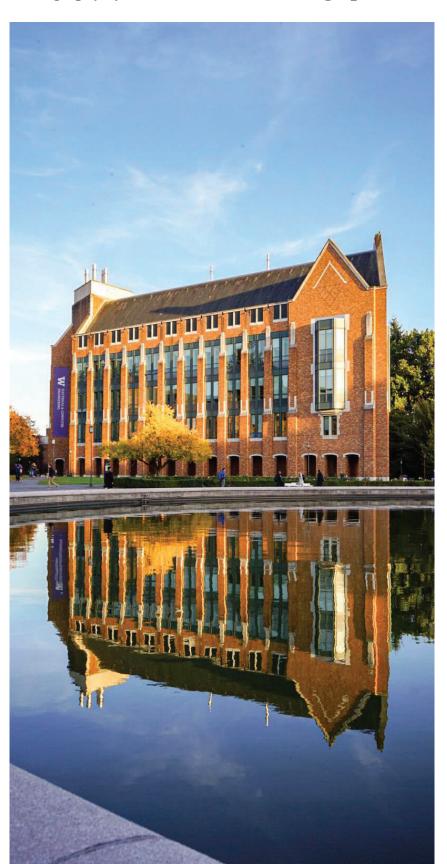
Outside of music and computer science, Manohar is the President of the Indian Student Association, and an Assistant Career Advisor at Career Services, where he guides students with job and internship search strategies, as well as helps them strengthen their resumes and cover letters for success with growing their professional experience and landing ideal job opportunities. In his free time, Manohar enjoys spending time with his friends and family, and going out and exploring new things. Manohar is especially grateful to his family for always sticking by his side and states, "throughout this whole process, my dad and mom were all very very supportive... they've always supported me, they've always had my back."

Manohar will be graduating this Spring, and plans to pursue a career as a UX Designer, but his dreams of continuing his music career are only getting bigger. "I want to pursue both [passions] at the same time. I want to kind of balance out my academic life as well as my passions at the same time, and I am working on some music but haven't been able to work on it as much because of my schedule right now... but definitely do plan to put music out soon, hopefully over the summer", he shares.

Manohar is open to taking his passion further and pursuing music full-time if the opportunity presents itself. He states, "Hopefully, if something clicks with music, and if that's something I can make into a lifelong thing, then I definitely wouldn't hesitate to take that up. I'm open to it for sure, if I have the right reasons to make that my career in the future."

## Student Photography & Poetry

Photography by: Joe Lollo- Student Photographer



Photography by: Anirudh Potturi- Student Photographer



Incomplete Canvas

Photography by: Andrew Cornel- Student Photographer



Untitled Daffodils



**Unbloomed Orange Tulips** 

#### State of My Mind

Written by: Job Golla- Student Writer

Darkness, pain,
negative thoughts, bad thoughts,
"not wanting to be here" thoughts,
Thoughts that form in my mind,
Like clouds in the sky,
Clouds obscuring the light, my light,
That is filled with joy and confidence,
The day still goes on,
Having to fake it till I make it,
Is how I get through that heavy feeling
Until that storm hits.

Bracing to escape out of that environment Doubting that I can't get out
But, the thing is I can
Knowing the power of my mind
The state of my mind
Listening to my gut
Listening to my triggers
Before I make a choice,
I take a DEEP breath,
And count to ten.
10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1
\*exhale\*

#### Twenty Five, Twenty One Movie Review

Written by: Mia Baerg- Student Contributor (CBLR)



Photo Credit: Rotten Tomatoes

Twenty Five, Twenty One: A nostalgic coming of age romance series that heals our inner child.

to always depend and learn from each other, and choose to only be happy when they are together. They form a deep and precious

Set in 1998, this show follows eighteen year old Na Hee-Do, who is a member of her high school fencing team. But due to the South Korean financial crisis, the high school fencing team disbanded. The crisis also causes male love interest, Back Yi-Jin's father's business to go bankrupt. This leads to a dramatic life change for Back Yi-Jin and his whole family splits up, leaving him completely broke. He then, at 22, moves to the town where Hee-Do lives, and meets her while working part-time jobs like delivering newspapers.

Hee-Do, with her high optimism and fearsome determination, always makes a way for herself to constantly improve and seek opportunities. Hee-Do and Yi-Jin both now left with no one that supports them, decide to always depend and learn from each other, and choose to only be happy when they are together. They form a deep and precious friendship that gets them through all of their touch experiences that life throws at them. Hee-Do works incredibly hard and becomes a member of the national fencing team, while Back Yi-Jin has studied to become a sports reporter. Ultimately at ages 25 and 21, they fall deeply in love. However, they still have so much they need to conquer.

This sixteen 16 episode ongoing Korean Drama on Netflix establishes a deep connection between the characters and the viewers. Through itsit's brilliant writing, clever plot, refreshing characters, as well as the evident nostalgia, *Twenty Five, Twenty One* has proven to be a true masterpiece. It goes above and beyond a typical coming of age story.

The characters immediately grasp

your heart and make you desperately want to see them succeed and be happy, within the first episode. The show starts out introducing Hee-Do as a youthful and bright teenager with a refreshing and mature outlook on life, who always inspires viewers through her determined attitude, while also making viewers remember and miss being young in high school, and not being afraid to be expressive with emotions and go for your dreams head on.

Back Yi-Jin, who came from everything and now has nothing, always shows his constant support for Hee-Do and really balances out her passion with his calm demeanor. The two lean on each other, and the show's premise is built on their bond. But with scenes cut to the present day, showing Hee-Do and her teenage daughter struggling with her passion for ballet, Yi-Jin is nowhere in sight. While the plot unfolds episode by episode, more clues try to answer, where is Back Yi-Jin? And what came of their love story?

It's a show that checks all the boxes. Romance, supportive and deep friendships, perfect timing with comedy, intelligent writing, and such heartfelt emotion throughout the whole story. The honest characters and honest life lessons this show offers with each episode are healing, and have brought me such motivation recently. With the pandemic, it's been easy to lose focus and feel like I'm just going through the motions. Now, when episodes come out every Monday and Tuesday, it's become my happy place and helps me start off my week strong. Hee-Do and Yi-Jin facing the South Korean financial crisis, with their whole world turned upside down and having to start over, remind me that I can still work hard through this pandemic and make opportunities for myself.

# TV Review: The IAS Experience is Better Than "The Chair" - I Promise

Written by: Joe Lollo-Student Reporter



Photo Credit: IMDb

A professor is "canceled" for inappropriate and insensitive acts that provoke outrage among students. A male professor frequently interrupts his female co-lecturer, completely changing the direction of class discussion. A young Black professor struggles to get tenure. Did this all happen on Netflix's The Chair, or in a real university? The answer...well, both.

The Chair is a fairly recent Netflix original series starring Sandra Oh as Dr. Ji-Yoon Kim, the newly appointed chair of a failing English department, at a fictional college not-so-secretly based on creators Annie Julia Wyman and David Benioff's alma mater of Harvard. The series is excellent at showcasing academia's absurdity through and through, including scenes of cancel culture, DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion), and corruption.

As a literature student at UWB (which may be obvious if you read more of my articles), I put this series off for a long time – I knew that such an incredible cast and story

10. Which bird can fly backwards?

would deliver, but at the same time, I worried that my viewing experience would be so relatable it was embarrassing, even bordering on painful. Yet, when I finally did watch it over spring break, I found it relatable in its portrayals of frustrations of academic life.

Many scenes are all too familiar: student reactions to the fictional Dr. Bill Dobson (Jay Duplass) doing a Nazi salute in class while hung over will remind UW students about the backlash against real computer science professor Stuart Reges a few years back.

I laughed as this fictional college's dean expressed that "anything can be solved with a letter of apology" – which is an absurd belief of university officials everywhere. I had a little too many laughs when Joan, an older professor played masterfully by Holland Taylor (the true star of this show), read her Rate My Professor reviews, and began wondering if any of my professors have read what their students have to say about them.

Even if The Chair is capturing many

frustrations found in academic life, I am thrilled to say that some elements – such as the show's portrayal of a department filled with overwhelmingly old professors and outdated curriculum couldn't be farther from the truth if we're talking about the CLA department in IAS. This school is filled with a range of students, faculty, and staff from different age groups, genders, races, and backgrounds. Most of these fictional professors are stuck in the past, refusing to listen to Ji-Yoon's demands to modernize the curriculum.

The ones at UWB, or at least the ones I've studied with, know how to keep up with the times – last winter in BIS 488, for example, we connected 19th Century British literature to contemporary social issues, as well as similar cultural portrayals in contemporary cinema and television like Bridgerton. I would love to see one of the professors from this show even try to teach a lesson like that.

Where I did see a connection between my real teachers and this fictional world, however, came from the fact that the department genuinely cares about the student experience – like the fictional students who are unfortunately rarely shown, I always felt genuinely acknowledged and respected by my professors here. The show reflects my experience observing professors as a student, and I see that the similarities somehow outweigh the differences.

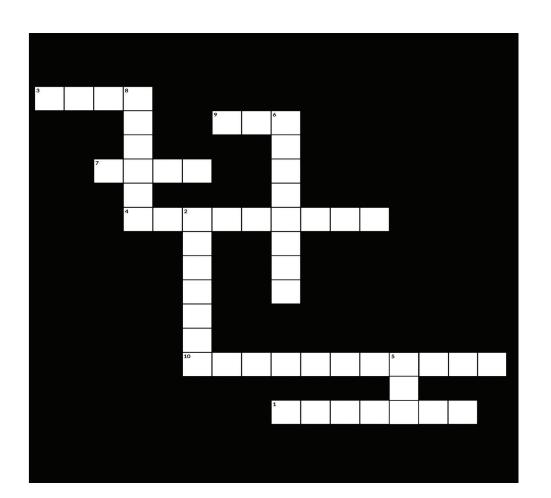
This isn't to say there isn't work to do – the biased history of literature, known as the Canon if you've taken even one class on literary theory, requires that departments should re-evaluate what's being taught, and departments who may resemble this fictional college more closely, like Ivy League schools, may struggle with similar bureaucratic problems. The Chair, however, is doing honest work in the way it exposes both the problems with academic life and what it's like to be in a school where the teachers genuinely care.

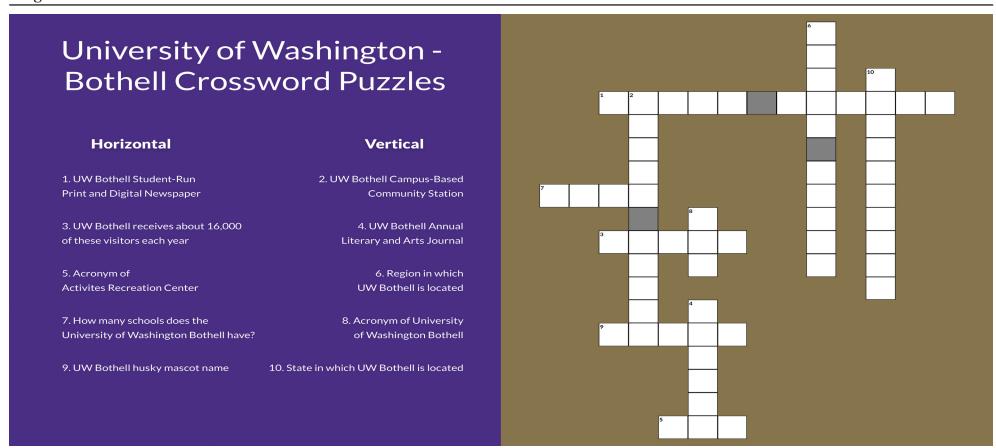
#### **Crossword Puzzles**

Created by: Jason Estrada- Student Contributor (CBLR)

#### **Animals Crossword Puzzles**

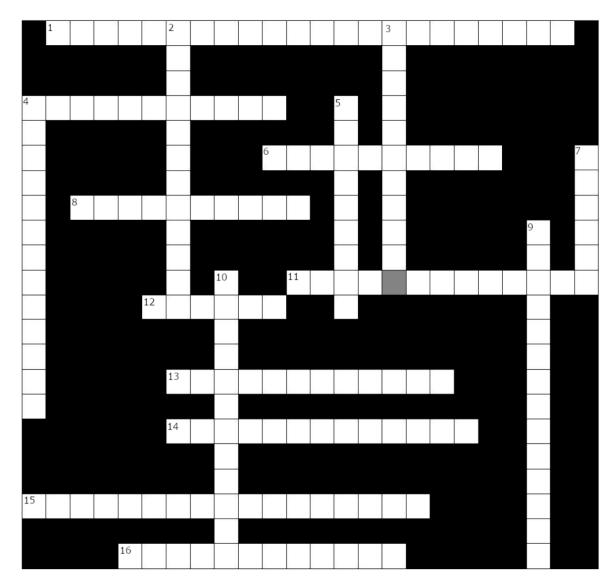
# Horizontal 1. Which is the fastest land animal on the planet? 2. Which is the world's tallest bird? 5. This mammal is the only animal capable of flight 4. Who is most venonmous fish in the world? 6. Which is the tallest land animal in the world? 7. \_\_\_\_ Whale 8. Which animal sleeps the longest per day?





#### **UWB Locations**

Created by: Kevin Ortiz-Student Contributor (CBLR)



Note: The gray box is not used for Number 3 across

#### DOWN:

- 2. Name of path going behind the library
- 3. Historic House on campus in the center
- 4. Place to relax, study, or socialize in UW2
- 5. The hall near the dorms
- 7. The food place located next to the library
- 9. Food place shared with the bookstore
- 10. Place to go or call for help. Also helps store students' lost valuables

#### **ACROSS:**

- 1. Building neighboring the ARC
- 4. The hall name for UW2
- 6. Historic house on campus in the south
- 8. Food options that are outside the ARC
- 11. The new Makerspace
- 12. The Activities and Reaction Center
- 14. The hall name for the other half og UW2
- 15. the name of the building across Beardslee Blvd.
- 16. The name of the dorming location at UWB

#### **UWB Themed Word Scramble**

Final Phrase: Clue letters are in order: \_ \_

Created by: Bailey Fox-Bales-Student Contributor (CBLR)

Unscramble the words and use the higlight-	7. ISTERUNYVI
ed letters to find the final phrase:	8. WIGONHNTAS
1. EREEDG	
	9. BRYIRLA
2. LETHBOL	10. DATGERUA
3. YUHKS	10. 2111 0211011
, DAOMGI GOG	11. ERSYDOICV
4. RAOMCLSOS	12. SBEDLRAEL

<b>GO DYMCS</b> i	Final Phrase:

1. Degree, 2. Bothell, 3. Husky, 4. Classroom,5. Founders, 6. Campus, 7. University, 8.Washington, 9. Library, 10. Graduate, 11.Discovery, 12. Beardslee

6. SUCMPA-\_\_\_\_

5. DFUNOESR-\_\_\_\_

Answers:

# Do you want to contribute to the Husky Herald?

We are always looking for student photographers, writers, and more! If you have a talent that you would like to share with the Herald and gain experience to add to your resume or portfolio, email the Editor-in-Chief: uwbeic@uw.edu or the Assistant Editor: uwbae@uw.edu.

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