



ALUMNI COUNCIL

rainierscholarsalumni@gmail.com

Happy Fall!

I hope you are all enjoying the fall weather - wherever you are! Here in Seattle, the sun is out and the leaves are shades of red, orange, and yellow.

I am so excited to be the new liaison to the Rainier Scholars alums. I have attended three Alumni Council meetings so far, and I'm enjoying getting to know the local alums. If you're not in Seattle, I'd still love to get to know you too - feel free to email me or [add me on LinkedIn!](#)



We'll be sending this newsletter three times per year. If you ever have any questions or want to chat, don't hesitate to reach out to myself or to the [Alumni Council](#).

Thank you!

Erika Chen, on behalf of the Alumni Council
Event and Volunteer Manager

echen@rainierscholars.org

o: 206-838-6678

c: 914-774-1030

Alumni + Board Happy Hour Recap

By Jasmine Beverly, Cohort 4

Back in July, we hosted an Alumni + Board Happy Hour to give alumni an opportunity to meet and network with current Rainier Scholars board members over drinks, food and games.

Thank you to the 23 alumni and 8 board members who attended! And if you missed it, be sure to join us for the next event!



Above: Kelabe Tewolde, Sarah Smith & Calvin Lin



*Above: Top Left: Nam Ngo and Zander Doroski
Bottom Left: J'Kela Smith and Lela Franco*

Right: Alan Zeng and Bradaigh Wagner

Career & Internship Expo Recap



Above: Dovey Martinez & Seattle Art Museum

By Alan Lin, Cohort 3

On July 26th, close to 50 scholars and representatives from 38 companies joined us at Amazon headquarters in downtown Seattle for our second ever Career Expo. It was a busy afternoon for all as scholars, staff, and corporate partners visited the newly opened Amazon Spheres to take their share of pictures and enjoy a tour.

Afterwards, our friends from [The 5th Avenue Theatre](#) held a pre-Expo exercise about “Professional Body Language & Communication” as a quick 101 before the scholars had their opportunity to meet and ask questions to all the different corporate partners in attendance. In this quick seminar, scholars not only learned the importance of strong eye-contact and a firm handshake but practiced how they would introduce themselves, their education, and interests.

The Expo began promptly at 4PM and scholars flooded the two rooms filled with managers, recruiters, and other employees in attendance. Scholars went from table to table using the skills they just practiced to exchange resumes, collect business cards, and ask plenty of questions. In conjunction with the Expo, just a few doors away, were human resource volunteers from

SHRM ready to review scholars' resumes and LinkedIn profiles. Outside on the balcony, there was a photographer ready to take professional LinkedIn head shots.

After nearly 4 hours of touring, networking, and munching on refreshments, the Career Expo came to a close. All in all, a **successful 2nd year for the event!**

Special thanks to Amazon, The 5th Avenue Theatre, and SHRM (Society for Human Resource Management) for coordinating, volunteering, and sponsoring the Expo!



Above: Scholars, alums, and staff on tour at the Amazon Spheres.

Bricks & Books Auction Recap

October 4, 2018

Alums made a showing at this year's Bricks & Books auction. They came and participated as staff, volunteers, guests, bidders, donors, and advocates for Rainier Scholars.

In addition to the great atmosphere the alums helped cultivate, we also raised a record amount of funds for Rainier Scholars - **\$350,000!!!!** That is about \$100,000 more than we've ever raised before with this event.



Above: Tolossa Hassan

Thanks to Nico Andrade, Tolossa Hassan, May-Lannie Lozano, Kelabe Tewolde, Nancy Tran, and Miles Welsh for contributing to such a fantastic evening!

Also a big **THANK YOU** to our partner organization for this event: Skanska.

BE A SEAHAWKS SPIRIT OF 12 PARTNER

SIGN UP NOW FOR DEC 10

"The Spirit of 12 Partnership is a great opportunity to join the Rainier Scholars community (scholars, staff, alumni, and supporters) in fundraising and paving the way for future scholars. It's incredibly fun to hype up or get hyped by the fans and to spread the word about the amazing work that is done by the organization!"

- Nancy Tran, Cohort 4

We are still in need of cart captains for our game on Monday, December 10th. Filling your cart with friends and co-workers is encouraged!

[Click here to sign up!](#)



*Above: Tan-Brian Dinh as a cart captain.
Below: Bisrat Gebre in the volunteer room.*



EARLIER START INITIATIVE

By Sarah Smith,
Rainier Scholars
Executive Director

Greetings alums:

Looking back, I am guessing it seems like a long time ago that you started your 11-year Rainier Scholars journey, yes?



Above: Alums with Bob on the first day of AEP Summer 2018

Well, for Cohort 17 and all cohorts who come after them, that looking back will one day be a 12-year retrospective as we just completed our implementation of our Earlier Start Initiative (ESI). As part of our 2015-2020 strategic planning process, we decided that identifying students for the Rainier Scholars experience at the close of 4th grade and then having them participate in the AEP phase prior to middle school made such better sense on so many levels.

For one, students then transition out of the AEP into schools as new 6th graders at the same time that everyone else is new, making for a smoother socio-cultural adjustment and overall transition. There are also many more opportunities for financial aid and admission at our independent school partners with 6th grade applicants rather than 7th grade, and our Cohort 17 members took full advantage of that shift, with a record 75% of the cohort earning admission and viable aid packages at partner schools. Whether on the public school highly capable track or the independent school pathway, all involved agree that the transition is made immensely more rewarding at the beginning of 6th grade rather than 7th.

Our youngest-ever scholars would make all of you alums proud. Though the curriculum was certainly adjusted to match the new age group we serve, students demonstrated all of the characteristics of excellence, perseverance, integrity and courage (EPIC) which have been modeled by all of you over the years. They completed homework, made unprepared calls home when they didn't, participated in class discussions, performed

oratories, enjoyed Popsicle Thursdays and Field Day Fridays, and took the Whitman campus by storm on our celebratory trip as scholars have done for years now. Though a year younger, they are no less motivated and excited to seize the educational opportunities before them.

[Come visit the AEP in session](#) sometime and see the younger version of yourself. Staff are always eager to welcome alumni/ae back to visit.

Sarah Smith,
Rainier Scholars
Executive Director



Above: Nancy Tran teaching science during the 2018 AEP summer session.

WINTER EVENT: DECEMBER 28

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2018
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

NEW VENUE:
PYRAMID ALEHOUSE
1201 FIRST AVENUE SOUTH
SEATTLE, WA 98134



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
Nov 4	Seahawks Game 1	~8:30am- 2:30pm	CenturyLink
Nov 13	Alumni Council Meeting	7:00-8:00 pm	2100 Bldg 360A
Dec 10	Seahawks Game 2	~12:30pm- 6:30pm	CenturyLink
Dec 11	Alumni Council Meeting	7:00-8:00pm	2100 Bldg 360A
Dec 28	Alumni Winter Event	6:00-9:00pm	Pyramid Brewing Co.

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Have news to share? Wanna be involved? Got a new address or email so we can keep in touch? Contact the Alumni Council at rainierscholarsalumni@gmail.com. If you're local, consider coming to a monthly meeting! All are welcome.

Jasmine Beverly
Co-President

Nancy Tran
Co-President

Tan-Brian Dinh
VP/Secretary

Nico Andrade
Treasurer

