

PROGRAM ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Spring 2025 PCC Newsletter
Keeping You Connected

Message from PCC Director Becky Alexander

The past few months have been a time of uncertainty for the future of scientific research in the U.S. Layoffs of federal scientists, funding cuts, and threats of funding cuts have produced anxiety among scientists across the U.S., including those of us in the PCC community. In response, some PCC-affiliated units will have a smaller-than-usual incoming class of graduate students in the fall of 2025, which is common across the UW and universities around the country. Many units have been tightening their belts by attempting to reduce nonessential expenditures such as food purchases and travel.

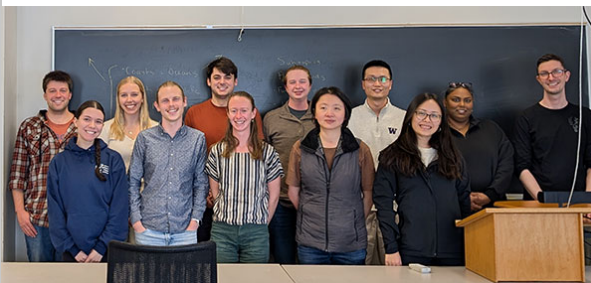


One way that we can cope with these changes is by focusing on things we can control. One of these things is our ability to foster and strengthen our own sense of community and our connections to each other within the UW. This is something that PCC already prioritizes and excels at. We intend to make extra efforts to connect graduate students across different units as a way to counteract the effects of having smaller student cohorts within individual units. The PCC Graduate Steering Committee (P-GraSC) will continue to host monthly “Third Thursdays” this summer. The PCC board recently discussed ways to bring the community together by organizing cross-unit research seminars during the 2025-26 academic year.

Despite these uncertainties, PCC is still going strong, in large part due to our generous donors. We are able to continue the Graubard Fellowships and Climate Research Accelerator Grants. In collaboration with the Washington State Climate Office and the College of the Environment's communications team, we have just kicked off our new Pacific Northwest Climate Ambassadors Program, which will help us to respond to community requests and create community beyond the UW. Professors Eric Steig and Kyle Armour are actively planning the 2025 Summer Institute, "Paleoclimate Perspectives on Future Climate." Please read below to find out more about these opportunities and events.

I invite all of you, including PCC alumni, to participate in our efforts to strengthen our community in this time of uncertainty by participating in our programming and reaching out to us with additional thoughts and suggestions.

Events



Announcing the PNW Climate Ambassadors

Ten graduate students from three different colleges and six departments (ESS, SEFS, SAFS, Oceanography, Urban Planning and Evans School) participated in this pilot program to build capacity for public climate conversations. They are ready to respond to public requests for presentations. [Read more](#)

UW Climate Community: Register for the 2025 PCC Summer Institute

Join PCC friends old and new at Friday Harbor Labs September 10-12 for this very special three-day event focusing on "Paleoclimate Perspectives on Future Climate." Registration is open until July 16. [Read more](#)





Graduate Climate Conference

2025 Graduate Climate Conference (GCC) will take place November 7-9 in Woods Hole, MA

Organized through MIT this year — with significant support from the University of Washington and contributions from graduate students at institutions across the U.S. and internationally — the GCC provides a unique, graduate student-run space for exchange of interdisciplinary climate science understandings and community-building. [Read more](#)

Highlights



PCC's annual winter welcome [brightened our February](#) with community-building and lightning talks



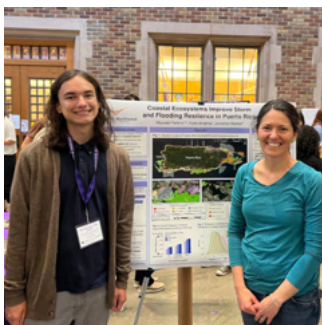
Third Thursdays [continue this summer](#), hosted by the PCC graduate steering committee to foster interdisciplinary community-building



The Undergraduate Cohort spoke with Oceanography's Kendall Valentine [on the science, policy and feasibility](#) of Blue Carbon



UCo in review: [Reflecting on the goals and events](#) of the last year. Looking forward to new events and community as they return in Autumn Quarter



GGeCS capstone blog by Max Perkins (SMEA): Nature-Based Solutions for Coastal Resilience and Climate Hope

Philanthropic Impact Update

Graubard Graduate Fellowships, Climate Solutions Funding and Research Accelerator Awards are adding to the vibrancy of the PCC community. [Learn more about opportunities to support PCC.](#)

2024 Climate Research Accelerator Awards



Calibrating a stopwatch to study past climates at University of Washington. Awarded to Assistant Professor [Frank Pavia](#) (Oceanography)



Quantifying near-surface temperature lapse rates: a path to improved melt estimates for the Juneau Icefield, Alaska. Awarded to Research Scientist [Mira Berdahl](#) (Earth and Space Sciences).

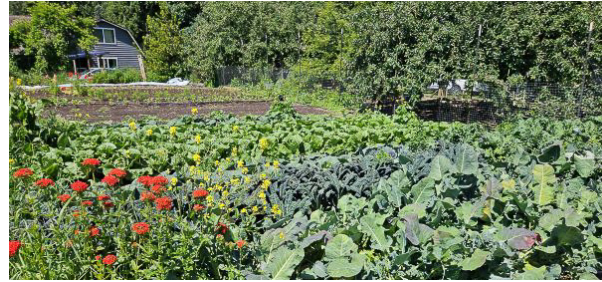


Optimal sensor analysis for identifying shallow Antarctic ice core drilling locations. Awarded to Associate Research Professor [TJ Fudge](#) (Earth and Space Sciences)

Community Connections Fueled by the Climate Solutions Gift Funds

Masha Vernik grows her graduate research and interviews organic farmers

Read Masha's blog post: [Resilience in Diversity: Climate Change and Seed Selection on Organic Farms in Western WA](#)



August Wettstein on the goals of adaptation planning through the eyes of the community

Read August's blog post: [Beyond Prediction: Building Capacity and Innovation in Adaptation Through a Participatory Evaluation](#)

Connect with our PCC Community

[Submit a year-in-review highlight](#) for our fall newsletter collage. This is a carryover from our spring call, expanding to encourage submissions of important connections built between people, actions and ideas around climate science.

New! [People of the Program on Climate Change page](#). Not seeing yourself or need a profile update? [Complete this form](#) to be added.

More Resources

- Join our [PCC LinkedIn group](#) (private)
- Join a [PCC listserv](#)
- Give to [support PCC programs and people](#)

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Program on Climate Change, Ocean Sciences Building, Box 355351 Seattle, WA 98195

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