

Pastry-Powered T(o)uring Machines Endowed Fellowship in Computer Science & Engineering

What's not to like about young alumni who work hard, pedal hard, and can point you to the best bakeries in the region? And, they contributed to the Campaign UW pie by establishing a fellowship to support "a starving grad student" through surely the most creatively named endowment in UW history.

Meet CSE alumni Lauren Bricker (MS '93, PhD '98), Ruben Ortega (MS '94), and Paul Franklin (MS '98). They were among a dozen grad students and alumni who formed a team to ride in the 1995 Seattle to Portland (STP) bike race — with the team name inspired by CSE's Steam-powered Turing Machine mural.

Many team members continued riding together even as they pedaled off campus and into careers and family life. Bricker and Ortega have sons aged 17 and 9, the younger of whom rode the first half of the STP this year. Ortega, an expert in search technology, worked at Amazon.com for nearly 10 years and is now with the startup Trusera.com. Bricker consults on user interface architecture and teaches and does IT work at Lakeside School. Franklin is a software developer at Amazon.

The three contributed to the Allen Center capital campaign and this year organized a consortium through the bike team to fund a Students First endowment. They made generous lead gifts to enable the 50 percent match in UW funds, and by June 30 contributions had topped \$256,000 with gifts from 11 alumni and friends.



From left: Paul Franklin, Ruben Ortega, and Lauren Bricker. Their shirts, much-admired in the biking community, feature CSE's Turing machine mural on the back. The book Bakeries by Bicycle is an essential for training rides, and the team motto is "We live to eat... we bike to eat more!"



"We got a great education at the UW, which opened the doors to great jobs, so we wanted to give back to CSE," Ortega said. "Creating an endowed fellowship offered a terrific opportunity to do that and the timing was right for all of us," Franklin noted.

"You don't have to be a team member to contribute to the endowment," Bricker said. "Just visit the website to learn more." (<http://pptm.cs.washington.edu>).

They plan to give the first fellowship recipient a PPTM team jersey. If the student happens to be a biker, well, that would be ice cream on the pie because he or she could join the group on training rides. By the way, their favorite refueling stops are Alki Bakery and Café and Snohomish Pie Company.