



**The 2010 University of Washington Charles E. Odegaard Award,  
a note of good news:**

People have asked what the Del Rio Family Foundation has been involved in recently. Given we haven't spoken with many of our friends in some time, we thought we would take this opportunity to provide a quick note to friends, colleagues, and interested parties providing a short summary of selected activities and good news.

Background: As many of you know, Nelson Del Rio was accepted to the University of Washington Seattle, Washington ("UW") as a high school dropout at the age of 19. He graduated in three years with Great Distinctions in Economics, Phi Beta Kappa, winning the Vice President's Award his first year and the President's Award the next two years for his academic accomplishments. Nelson went on to Harvard Law School graduating with honors then to Wall Street to become a merger and acquisition attorney at the law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom. He then moved on to a successful business career in real estate development and acquisition through Sonnenblick Del Rio and in other creative business ventures through Del Rio Holdings, philanthropy, and best of all a wonderful family. Since attending the UW Nelson has dedicated much of his time to trying to make a difference in the lives of citizens of emerging communities both in the US and abroad – the UW has played a significant part in that effort.



**Our exciting news:** Nelson has been selected as the recipient of the 2010 University of Washington Charles E. Odegaard Award, a very prestigious award that we have been told is the only UW university and community selected award, regarded as the highest achievement at the University of Washington relating to the promotion of educational opportunity and diversity (Nelson prefers to refer to it as social equity and justice). The Charles E. Odegaard award was established in 1973 to honor individuals whose leadership in the community and dedication exemplifies Dr. Charles Odegaard's work on behalf of diversity. Charles E. Odegaard was the 19th President of the University of Washington and is generally credited with being the person responsible for taking the University of Washington from a regional public school to one of the leading educational institutions in the United States. He was most noted for his leadership in the community and dedication to educational opportunity at the University of Washington. As the recipient of the Charles E. Odegaard Award, Nelson joins a list of civic leaders including former Seattle, Washington Mayor Norman Rice, Washington State Rep. Phyllis Gutierrez-Kenney, former King County, Washington County Executive Ron Sims, Costco Wholesale Chairman Jeff Brotman as well as numerous other civil rights activists.

To give you an idea of some of our more recent philanthropic activities:

**Cambodia:** (<http://depts.washington.edu/sswwweb/rupp>). We assisted in the development of the first school of social work in the country of Cambodia in a partnership



between the Royal University of Phnom Penh and the UW School of Social Work. The development of a sustainable social services network as well as effective country level policy setting ability requires the development of indigenous talent and the RUPP/UW project will accomplish just that. The social work program

created by the RUPP/UW partnership enrolled its first undergraduate students in Fall of the 2009-2010 school year. The Kingdom's long overdue first generation of social workers are on a mission to right society's wrongs: <http://sea-globe.com/the-missing-link>  
Cambodia's first social work grads ready to take the reins:  
[Click here for pdf of news article.](#)

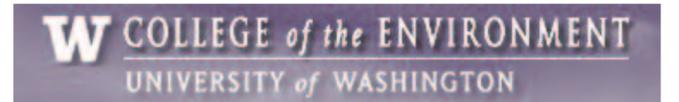
**UW X Prize Lab:** (<http://www.xprize.org/media-center/press-release/x-prize-foundation-announces-2nd-x-prize-lab-at-the-evans-school-of-publi>). Nelson believed that the exceptional breadth as well as depth of the UW made it the ideal home for an X Prize Foundation X Prize Lab similar to that started at MIT in 2007. To realize this dream Nelson worked with the UW Evans School of Public Policy and the exceptional people of the X Prize Foundation to establish the UW X Prize Lab. The Del Rio Family Foundation donated funds to the UW Evans School of Public Policy in order to facilitate development of the partnership. Nelson believes that the UW is the ideal home for an X Prize Lab because of its leadership, faculty, and students who understand the importance of incentives in solving complicated problems in interdisciplinary ways – the UW Evans School of Public Policy is the perfect place to center such an interdisciplinary effort. UW X Prize Lab classes begin Winter Semester 2010 and will provide an interdisciplinary educational/creative experience for undergraduate and graduate students as well as professors and researchers. In addition to being a learning experience, we hope that the UW X Prize Lab will generate X Prize concepts for further development and promotion by X Prize Foundation. Nelson is Chair of the UW X Prize Lab Advisory Board.



will teach them about contributions made to the region by their/our people. In addition, Nelson believes in La Plaza's goal of reaching out to people of all nationalities locally as well as internationally acting as a center and major destination, a focal point, for understanding Mexican and Mexican/American culture in the region. A center promoting social equity and justice through cultural awareness and education. The La Plaza facility is located in Downtown Los Angeles and is part of Olvera Street (El Pueblo de Los Angeles).



**UW College of the Environment:** In Fall 2009 the UW College of the Environment opened and immediately became the largest education and research institute of its type in the world. As a founding member of the UW College of the Environment Advisory Board and a member of its Executive Committee, Nelson is actively involved in assisting in the development and promotion of this exceptional College. The UW College of the Environment is an institution with UW-wide porous overlapping academic boundaries allowing teaching and research in an interdisciplinary manner previously unthinkable. What makes the UW



College of the Environment even more unique is the vast intellectual power that can be brought to bear on environment based issues through cross-discipline relations in, among other things, public policy, law, social work, engineering, built environments, public health, metrics, information technology, computer science, and education. Such interdisciplinary effort allows an understanding of and research with respect to the environment as a part of a human as well as global system – metrics on a global human and environment scale. While the sheer size and scope of the College of the Environment could possibly be duplicated in the future, the ability to address issues in the interdisciplinary fashion that is possessed by the UW College of the Environment functioning as an organic part of the University of Washington can not be. Nelson is proud to be counted among the group of individuals that have committed time and effort to development of this world-class institution.

**UW Del Rio Environment Scholarship:** We have established the University of Washington Del Rio Environment Scholarship, the first endowed scholarship (a 4 year scholarship) to exist at the UW College of the Environment, the purpose of which is to encourage students from disadvantaged backgrounds to pursue academic interests in areas related to the environment.

**UW Del Rio Global Citizen Scholarship:** We established the University of Washington Del Rio Global Citizen Scholarship, which is awarded to students of disadvantaged background who have excelled in college and who have not had an opportunity to study or travel abroad. The scholarship provides funds for foreign study and research to expand not only their knowledge, but also their personal horizons.

**Future UW Efforts in Development:** We are currently working with faculty from and leadership of multiple academic disciplines within the UW, individually as well as in interdisciplinary teams, to develop partnerships with various outside entities to address issues of global significance. We are particularly excited about a project that we are developing with the UW's iSchool, UW College of Education, UW Evans School of Public Policy, and UW Center on Reinventing Public Education which focuses on the reduction of school dropout rates and the creation of a better educational experience - one that results in creative, open minded, critical thinkers. Another project we hope to advance in the near future is an effort involving desalination that we hope will include the UW College of the Environment, UW College of Engineering, and the UW Evans School of Public Policy.

**University of Washington Foundation:** Given the wonderful opportunities that have come from the educational experience received at the University of Washington, Nelson is proud to be a two-term member of the Board of Directors of the University of Washington Foundation.

**Bethlehem University:** ([http://www.bethlehem.edu/archives-/2009/2009\\_058.shtml](http://www.bethlehem.edu/archives-/2009/2009_058.shtml)). Nelson conceived of and is supporting a



partnership between the UW School of Social Work and Bethlehem University, the West Bank. The UW/Bethlehem University partnership will allow us to assist Bethlehem University in enhancing its existing social work program. We believe that Palestinians need homegrown indigenous talent caring for their clinical needs as well as trained professionals to develop policies and programs that will make positive and

sustainable impacts on the country. The proposed program will include traditional social work elements as well as youth leadership, interfaith dialogue, and nation building components and will enhance not only the existing undergraduate program but is planned to also facilitate the development of the first Masters of Social Work on the West Bank.

**La Plaza de Culturas Y Artes:** (<http://www.lapca.org>). Nelson is one of a small group of civic leaders acting as founding Board Members of La Plaza de Culturas Y Artes Foundation, a participant in the County of Los Angeles museum/cultural center collection. Together with fellow Board members, they have brought the project from a run down unusable historic brick building to the wonderful facility it is today. Among other things, Nelson has been an integral part of the final design of the facility and the surrounding plaza which will act to revitalize the Olvera Street neighborhood and create a place for all to feel part of the Hispanic experience. Upon completion in early 2010 La Plaza will be the first Mexican American / Mexican cultural center in Southern California and among the best in the country. Nelson joined La Plaza because he feels that children of Mexican, Mexican/American, or other Latin origin need a place to celebrate their culture and which

We are of course involved in, and have made substantial contributions to, many other philanthropic efforts both inside and outside the University of Washington, in each case supporting the betterment of developing communities and disadvantaged people of the world through education, medical, and environmental efforts. Other organizations or projects we are or have been involved in include, but are not limited to, the Curtis School in Cambodia (a middle school built in the city of Kampong Speu, Cambodia by the Del Rio Family Foundation), Ancient Egypt Research Associates which is responsible for the discovery and excavation of the Lost City of the Pyramids, Mexican American Legal Defense Fund, Southwest Voter Registration Project, Soledad Enrichment Action (whose purpose is the providing of education, job training, and counseling services to youth and the parents who have been unsuccessful in receiving and benefiting from traditional educational services), American Diabetes Association, Boys and Girls Club of America and many others. In addition, through innovative public/private partnership structures developed by Nelson in his business activities, we have found methods to bring value to municipalities from assets that were previously considered unwanted and negative for the communities in which they were located – our goal is to create social good from every activity.

We will continue to be involved in all parts of the world where we can have a positive impact on the condition of the disadvantaged and/or otherwise promote social equity and justice.

Nelson, Suzanne and Nelson Del Rio

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