



## President's Letter

On behalf of the officers of the Seattle Chapter of the Appraisal Institute, thank you for your continued support. We truly appreciate it.

The past few years have brought a lot of change for organizations like ours. The COVID-19 pandemic reshaped how people connect, gather, and learn, and it's clear that some of those changes are here to stay. At the same time, the growth of online education has challenged us to rethink how we deliver value to our members. While some things have returned to normal, others haven't—and that's okay. Your Board is focused on making sure the Seattle Chapter continues to evolve in ways that better serve you.

One of the ways we're doing that is by expanding the types of events we offer. Alongside our traditional programs, you'll see more social events and volunteer opportunities on the calendar. Whether it's formal dinners at the Washington Athletic Club, casual get-togethers at a local brewery on a summer afternoon, or a chance to give back to the community through volunteer events, we want there to be something for everyone.

We're also making changes to how we offer education. Many of you have told us—both directly and through your participation—that flexibility matters. In response, we've invested in hybrid classroom technology so you can choose to attend in person or remotely. This not only makes it easier for our local members to participate, but also allows us to connect with Appraisal Institute members across the country.

Communication is another area we're working to improve. We know it hasn't always been easy to stay connected, whether due to busy inboxes or messages getting filtered out. To help with this, we've brought on a marketing and social media specialist who will be sharing updates across multiple platforms, including LinkedIn, so you can more easily keep up with what's happening in the Chapter.

Look for quarterly newsletter updates from us as the year progresses and, as always, we welcome your thoughts and feedback.

I'm genuinely excited about what we have planned for the year and hope to see many of you at upcoming events in the near future!

## Special Election Results

Thank you, once again, to everyone who participated in our Leadership Special Election earlier this year. In case you missed the announcement, here is your 2026 Seattle Chapter Leadership team:

### 2026 LEADERSHIP TEAM

**President**

Bob Hartner, MAI

**Vice President**

Kathy Walsh, SRA, AI-RRS

**Treasurer**

Julian Rondello, MAI

**Secretary**

Mariye Sorenson, MAI

**Immediate Past President**

Mitch Olsen, MAI

**2026 Chapter Directors**

P. Barton DeLacey, MAI  
Grace Kim, MAI  
Michael Hall, MAI, AI-GRS  
Julie Swaun, MAI, MRICS

**Regional Representatives**

Albert Smith  
Lance Johnson, MAI  
Scott Biethan, MAI, CRE, FRICS

Photos of our Installation Dinner and award ceremony are at the end of this newsletter.

## Upcoming Courses & Events

**TODAY**

**Happy Hour**

**Reuben's Brews**

DOWNTOWN TAPROOM

3/26/26 | 4:30 PM - 7 PM

**Get Ready for UAD 3.6**

Two class options  
Join in person or via Zoom!

**TOMORROW!**

**INSTRUCTOR: JARED PREISLER**

3/27/26  
8:30 AM & 12:30 PM

**Walk & Talk**  
Seward Park



**May 1, 2026**  
**8:30 AM - 9:30 AM**

**Advanced Concepts & Case Studies**  
Instructor: Rick L. Carlile, MAI, SRA



**July 13-18, 2026**  
**8:30 AM - 4:30 PM**  
(In-Person Course)

**Walk & Talk**  
Green Lake Park



**June 26, 2026**  
**8:30 AM - 9:30 AM**

**Walk & Talk**  
Sammamish River Trail



**August 28, 2026**  
**8:30 AM - 9:30 AM**

Let us know what kind of education offerings you'd like to see in the future!  
Participation deadline: 3/31/26.

**5-Min Survey**

**2026 FALL CONFERENCE**



**More information coming soon!**

[Click Here for All Upcoming Courses & Events](#)

# Chapter News



We're very excited to share our brand new website! Featuring:

[Check it out](#)

- Mobile friendly design
- A fresh, modern layout
- Intuitive, streamlined content

## UW Appraisal Team's Valuation Competition

The Appraisal Institute's University Valuation Case Challenge (UVCC) is a new national real estate appraisal and development competition designed to showcase emerging talent from undergraduate real estate programs across the country. The multi-stage event begins with a rigorous first-round case study in which student teams analyze an actual site and prepare a full highest and best use conclusion, development program, financial model, and valuation proposal. Teams submit a 25-slide presentation and a one-page deal sheet summarizing their investment thesis, underwriting assumptions, and projected financial outcomes.



From this first round, the top 16 teams are selected to advance to the second stage, held during the **Appraisal Institute's 2026 Annual Conference in Nashville** (additional details below). There, students present their development proposal to a panel of senior industry leaders, who evaluate teams on analytical rigor, feasibility, risk assessment, and clarity of rationale. Finalists move on to a live Q&A round, with \$10,000 in prizes awarded to the top three finishers.

This year, the **University of Washington** is represented by a team of four seniors in the Real Estate major: Kristen Xu, Noah Temam, Dylan Greer, and Tsung-Pei Yu. The team is led by Mari Sorenson, MAI, who serves as the faculty

advisor for UW's entry in the competition. Working under blind judging (no school affiliations allowed), the UW team analyzed a multi-parcel assemblage in Memphis undergoing zoning and height-limit changes. Their proposal—a 162-unit mixed-use development supported by detailed market analysis, construction cost modeling, capital structure assumptions, and downside risk scenarios—earned them a spot among the top 16 teams nationwide. In early March, they were invited to advance to the presentation round in Nashville.

Our Seattle Chapter was pleased to contribute \$2,000 to support the team's travel costs to get to Nashville for the conference. We're proud to not only be able to help make the trip possible for the students, but also strengthen the Chapter's connection to the next generation of valuation professionals by investing in their future and professional development. We hope you'll join us in cheering them on at the conference next month!



## Back in Tune: Striking a New Chord in Valuation

The Appraisal Institute's 2026 Annual Conference is coming up! This year, valuation professionals will be meeting up in Nashville, Tennessee on April 14th and 15th for what's sure to be a memorable event, celebrating harmony, innovation, and revitalized connections within the appraisal community.

- Learn through hands-on demos of today's most relevant tools and technology,
- network with hundreds of appraisers from across the country,
- gain insights from industry leaders shaping the future of appraisal,
- participate in interactive sessions, quizzes, and competitions,
- explore business strategies to strengthen your practice,
- and earn continuing education credit while advancing your expertise.

Featuring our  
Chapter's very  
own...



**David Chudzik, PhD, MAI, CRE,** who will be on stage at the annual conference, presenting: The Role and Appraisal Needs of Data Centers in the Age of GenAI.

We're so excited for David to share his knowledge and expertise, as he represents the Seattle Chapter.

[Click for Full Agenda](#)

## Bonus! An Experience Unlike Any Other

We're hosting an exclusive, full buyout experience at a multi-level, high-energy venue, right in the heart of downtown Nashville.



**Join us at Nashville Underground!**

- Premium open bar
- Delicious dinner buffet
- Interactive games and bowling
- Vibrant atmosphere
- Panoramic skyline views of downtown Nashville and the Cumberland River

Whether you're looking to network, unwind, or just have fun, this reception is the perfect place to connect with your fellow appraisers. Don't miss one of the most anticipated events of the program! Tickets and more information available in the registration portal:

[Details & Registration](#)

## Did you know?

For over 90 years, the Appraisal Institute has been bringing the Gold Standard in appraisal education to the profession. Whether you are just starting out on the path to becoming an appraiser or you're a seasoned professional, we offer practical courses for every stage of your career.

Click below to browse our online programs.

Search Online Education from  
the Appraisal Institute

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Installation Dinner & Awards



Lauren and Kyle Reynolds (center), pictured with Rob Taylor, MAI (far left) and Rick Hull (far right), made Chapter history as the first set of spouses to earn their designation at the same time, while also balancing work and family life. BIG Congratulations on their achievement!



2025 President, Mitch Olsen, MAI (right), presenting the Associate of the Year award to Albert Smith (left) for demonstrating exceptional promise, professionalism, and dedication to the appraisal profession.



Mitch Olsen, MAI (left), presenting Leif Warren (right) with his MAI designation. Leif was also recognized for having achieved his Certified General license and his MAI designation within 12 months of each other, a major accomplishment.



Mitch Olsen, MAI (right), presenting Appraiser of the Year, our most prestigious award, to Julian Rondello, MAI (left), for demonstrating high ethical standards, making significant contributions to the organization at various levels, providing meaningful community service, and positively impacting the appraisal profession overall.



Our 2025 Immediate Past President, Diane Hayes, SRA, was unable to attend, but was recognized by Mitch Olsen, MAI with the President's Award for her dedication, reliability, and countless contributions made behind-the-scenes that continue to elevate our programs, our members, and our professional community.



Incoming President, Bob Hartner, MAI (left), Vice President, Kathy Walsh, SRA, AI-RRS, (center), and Treasurer, Julian Rondello, MAI (right), ready and excited to take on their roles for 2026.

**We value your membership and your voice.**

Stay in the know by following us online or sending a message.



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