To name some of my personal values, I would say justice, intersectionality, kindness, healing, and understanding. The way this translates to my professional goals would be a career that emphasizes bridging the gap between cultures and languages to reach a common goal and a result that satisfies all parties involved. I’ve always been interested in mediating conflicts, disagreements, and misunderstandings, particularly when they involve two or more different cultures. I’m particularly passionate about Japan and want to find a job, hopefully in international law, that would allow me to interact with Japanese culture and language frequently while also fostering communication and interaction between Japan and the United States. My current goal is for that to be in a diplomatic, government, or corporate setting.

When I evaluate career options, some factors that come to mind for me are travel factors and location, job permanence, interaction with Japanese people or Japanese content, usage of linguistic and cross-cultural skills, as well as pay, insurance, and all the other financial implications of a legal career. I would like a job that requires or at least allows me to travel to Japan regularly, though I’d like to be based in the United States. I wouldn’t want to have to move away from the West Coast permanently either. On the topic of movement, I certainly do not want a job that requires me to move frequently, for example being part of the military. I also want a
job that pays enough so that I can support a family, because that is something I intend to have someday.

One idea that I took away from participating in Huskies@Work is that linguistic and cultural skills are difficult to properly acquire with a degree and are truly learned by living and working in the nation whose language and culture you wish to learn. The second message that I took away from meeting with [redacted] is that you don’t always use your undergraduate degree in your field of work, and sometimes it’s not even directly related to the field of study you pursue after getting a bachelor’s degree. I got insight into my career goals and I think this bit of insight is that to achieve them I will need to spend a significant amount of time in Japan to master the language and learn how to live in a culture so different from the one I grew up in. This might change when I plan to pursue law school and a career, as living abroad will affect the timing of those two things.

I have a lot of research left to do about the involvements I can pursue here at UW, but I wish to pursue involvement in the Japanese Student Association, and also connect with [redacted], whom I was introduced to by my Huskies@Work mentor, [redacted]. [redacted] is a prominent figure in Japanese-American law particularly in the Seattle community. I am still researching, but I would like to pursue an internship at a law firm to see what being a lawyer or attorney is truly like.