HEIDI SCHRECK | JOHN STRONG | KALAPUYA ILIHI

Oregon QUARTERLY

WINTER 2018

QUANTUM NAVIGATOR

BENJAMÍN ALEMÁN follows his north star

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

A change of heart: Among other things, we've recently undergone a change of heart. Mainly our own heart. In the coming year, we'll be keystroking a new story. One with bold *new characters, crushed beans,* and *realized dreams,* all nestled safely within a thick and foggy plot. It's a tale about the recent past, as well as the bright future of a small coffee roaster in Albany, OR called Allan's.

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Shaking Up the Status Quo

At the University of Oregon, we spend a tremendous amount of time thinking about impact. Whether we are exploring fresh approaches to help students succeed, investing in research that solves problems, launching initiatives to better understand our world, or advocating for more resources to support higher education, the goal is always to enable the people of the University of Oregon to make the world a better place.

It takes great imagination, focus, and patience to create significant impact. We must be willing to take risks, to experiment, and to challenge the status quo. We must sustain a culture that rewards creativity and encourages respectful discourse. We must open our minds to new perspectives and our hearts to new possibilities. I see all of these traits in so many of our students. I see this passion in our faculty members who write, experiment, teach, and design—here and across the globe. I see this entrepreneurial spirit in our alumni and friends who constantly challenge me to make the University of Oregon the best it can be.

This issue of *Oregon Quarterly* explores some of the ways that UO faculty members, students, and programs embody our singular commitment to making a difference.

Physicists Benjamín Alemán and Kara Zappitelli are part of an interdisciplinary team seeking nothing less than a solution to age-related vision degeneration. The feature on this dynamic duo captures both the promise of their research in quantum science and the intangibles that make this a "UO story"—our commitment to fostering the next generation of scientists coupled with the resources and freedom to pursue innovative solutions.

Ducks are also addressing ills on the other side of the planet, as you will read in a richly illustrated piece about undergraduate Jess Kokkeler of the College of Design. He is working with wildlife rangers in Zimbabwe to design an observation tower that will enable authorities to crack down on poachers in a 6,000-acre game reserve that is home to the black rhinoceros.

It is impossible to imagine all the ways that the $1 billion Phil and Penny Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact will benefit society. With groundbreaking on the first phase scheduled for February, now is the time to familiarize yourself with this incomparable facility; the latest artist renderings can be found on page 20.

Also in this issue, you can "tour" Kalapuya Ilihi Hall—the university's newest residence hall and home to student communities studying how to make a difference through social justice.

I'd also like to welcome readers of ***Cascade***, the magazine of the College of Arts and Sciences. With this issue, ***Cascade*** has been merged into ***Oregon Quarterly*** to consolidate coverage of the university's many compelling stories about research, teaching, students, and alumni. This move makes OQ, the UO's flagship publication, bigger and better than ever.

There is no shortage of challenges in our society—or capacity and willingness of the University of Oregon to meet them. I am so proud of our UO community and grateful to have your support as we pursue this essential work. Go Ducks!

Michael H. Schill
President and Professor of Law

Oregon QUARTERLY

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PUBLISHER George Evano
gevano@uoregon.edu | 541-346-2379

MANAGING EDITOR Matt Cooper
mattc@uoregon.edu | 541-346-8875

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR Alice Tallmadge

CREATIVE AND PRODUCTION Oregon Media
info@oregon-media.com | 541-389-4383

PUBLISHING ADMINISTRATOR Shelly Cooper
scooper@uoregon.edu | 541-346-5045

PROOFREADERS Sharleen Nelson, Scott Skelton

INTERN Cassidy Haffner

WEBSITE OregonQuarterly.com

MAILING ADDRESS
5228 University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon 97403-5228

EMAIL *quarterly@uoregon.edu* **PHONE** 541-346-5045

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PHOTOGRAPHS: JESS KOKKELER (TOP); UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS (MIDDLE); ZACK DEZON (BOTTOM)

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Benjamín Alemán entered the UO with a career plan in mind. But he took one step into the world of physics and never looked back.

BY MELODY WARD LESLIE

40 **DESIGN FOR LIFE**

Architecture student Jess Kokkeler brings his skills to bear in the fight against poaching in Africa.

BY DAMIAN FOLEY

ON THE COVER
Benjamín Alemán in the á|*lab*⟩ in Willamette Hall. Photo by University Communications.


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AroundtheO

Pioneering faculty members, ingenious students, game-changing facilities: the Winter 2018 issue of *Oregon Quarterly* celebrates just a few of the University of Oregon's contributions to society. Our scientists are battling age-related vision loss and our students are righting societal wrongs, recognizing marginalized communities in this country, and fighting big-game poachers on the other side of the planet.

The university's efforts toward a better world can't be fully encapsulated in these pages, of course, nor can we do justice to all the great stories coming from campus. Here are a few favorites you'll currently find on Around the O, the UO's news source.

—GEORGE EVANO

TRAINING GROUND

Morning alarm. Breakfast. Class. Study group. Club meeting. Presentation. How does a part-time job fit into a busy Duck's day? Meet four students who found work that fits their needs, skills, and interests without ever leaving campus.

around.uoregon.edu/student-jobs

THE ARCHITECT OF HER OWN EXPERIENCE

Poet and English major Sarah Hovet, class of 2018, used the opportunities at the UO to craft her education and rise to national recognition.

around.uoregon.edu/sarah-hovet

MISSION TO MARS

Fueled by her passion to travel to space, physics major and NASA intern Manju Bangalore, class of 2018, finds that focus, grit, and—yes—failure are all necessary for success. She plans to become an astronaut before she's 30.

around.uoregon.edu/manju-bangalore

PERKING UP

They call him Dr. Coffee, and you first met Christopher Hendon in the Autumn 2017 issue of *Oregon Quarterly*. Find out in text, pictures, and video how java is integral to the work of this MIT-trained chemist.

around.uoregon.edu/drcoffee

FROM DARKNESS INTO STAGE LIGHT

Singing and science fiction? UO students make an adaptation of Ursula Le Guin's *The Left Hand of Darkness* come to life. The production follows a two-year collaboration among theater arts director John Schmor, the School of Music and Dance, and the Portland-based author and illustrator.

around.uoregon.edu/ursula-le-guin


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Nancie Peacocke Fadeley, with her dog Dexter, was profiled in the Autumn issue.

PHOTOGRAPH BY KELLY JAMES

Fan of Fadeley

Thank you for the excellent article about Nancie Peacocke Fadeley ("The Right Stuff," Autumn 2017). Nancie, both as a legislator and now, has been an important leader in environmental and women's issues. Not surprisingly, she is too modest about her pioneering work. Her stance as a legislator on these issues made her a target for a very nasty election campaign, which was unprecedented at that time. She was targeted by out-of-state money, which relied upon repeated misstatements of her positions on these issues. Sadly, such campaigns are now the norm.

David Jensen, JD '69 (law)
Vida, Oregon

Narrow Escape

I just read your story in *Oregon Quarterly* Autumn 2017 entitled "Vanport Resurfaces," which caught my eye and brought back memories of that time.

I was a junior at Lincoln High in Portland in 1948. They put out a call for volunteers to come and help at the dikes. My buddy Jim Caughlan and I volunteered. We went to the meeting and they loaded us into a dump truck with other students, sandbags, and shovels. They drove us out on the dike and stopped at a boil* on the dike. They said fill the sandbags and stack them around the boil. We started filling the bags and putting them around the boil as told. No one was there to supervise us. We just worked. After about one hour, a truck came by and told us to get in, we were leaving. We hadn't been gone 15 minutes when that dike broke and flooded all of Vanport. We did not know that anybody even knew where we were working on the dike. We were very glad somebody remembered and sent that truck out to get us out of there. Very lucky.

Gregg B. Corbitt, BS '58 (business administration)
Fallbrook, California

** Editor's note: Boils are cone-like bulges in the earth caused by a breach in a levee.*

After Vietnam, a Lift

Seeing Professor George Wickes profiled in the Autumn 2017 *Oregon Quarterly* ("The Spy Who Taught Me"), and also in episode one of the Ken Burns and Lynn Novick Vietnam series on PBS, reminded me of the richness of my undergraduate studies at the UO in the early 1970s. Besides Professor Wickes' American literature classes, I matriculated in Edwin Bingham's American history and later UO president Robert Berdahl's European history classes. Robert Tonkinson and Richard Stevenson brought Australian Aborigine cultures and English literature alive. Art history was lucid with Jonathan Kidder and the Baldingers. They and many others contributed greatly to elevating my mind and spirit after my tour with the Army in Vietnam.

A friend with a PhD from the UO and an MFA from Cornell found little difference between the excellence of the faculty at both universities.

I had no clue about George Wickes' military past, but then, he was a spy!

Steve Poff, BS '74 (general social science)
Ellensburg, Washington

CORRECTION: The degree for UO graduate Siobhan Mead was incorrect in the Autumn 2017 issue. It should read "BS '16 (material and product studies)."

We want to hear from you. Submit your letters at OregonQuarterly.com, by email to quarterly@uoregon.edu, or by mail to Editor, *Oregon Quarterly*, 5228 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403-5228. You may also post comments online at OregonQuarterly.com. Published letters may be edited for brevity, clarity, and style.

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The Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships is part of the University of Oregon's Division of Student Services and Enrollment Management. Learn more at **ssem.uoregon.edu.**

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intro

First Impressions

Newport artist Rick Bartow (1946–2016), of Northern California's Wiyot tribe, carved the sculpture "From the Mad River to the Little Salmon River, or The Responsibility of Raising a Child" to honor the birth of his daughter and out of empathy for boys he mentored at an Oregon youth correctional facility. The sculpture was cast in bronze and the first casting is held in the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC; the version seen here welcomes visitors to the new residence hall Kalapuya Ilihi, honoring the Kalapuya, the first residents of the Willamette Valley (page 22).

PHOTOGRAPH BY DUSTY WHITAKER, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

A Champ's Chow

Eat like an Olympian.

Brianne Theisen-Eaton makes it easy. The 2016 Rio Olympics heptathlon bronze medalist has launched weareeaton.com, a healthy foods website based on years of experience as an elite athlete who relied on the right fuel for performance.

"I love food and I love cooking, and I think I can make it simple," says the 2011 alumna (BA, business administration), recently retired from international competition. "I'd like to share that with people."

The website includes tasty info—which is better for you, peanut butter or almond butter?—and a peek at the eating habits of top athletes. But the main course is Theisen-Eaton's lineup of recipes for everything from sweet potato hash to "Game Day" chicken fingers, a fave of husband Ashton—two-time Olympic decathlon gold medalist—and served up here, just in time for the Super Bowl.

GAME DAY CHICKEN FINGERS

Yields: 9 chicken fingers

Ingredients

1 box (4.25 oz) Simple Mills Ground Sea Salt Almond Flour Crackers
½ cup walnuts
½ tsp oregano
¼ tsp sea salt
pinch black ground pepper
extra virgin olive oil
¼ cup almond milk
2 tbsp Dijon mustard
1 lb boneless, skinless chicken breast tenders, cut into strips

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Prepare a large cookie sheet with aluminum foil and grease well with olive oil (if you don't grease it well, chicken fingers will stick)

2. In a food processor, add the crackers, walnuts, oregano, sea salt and pepper and process until in fine particles. It might be a bit damp from the walnuts. That's OK. Pour into a shallow dish.

3. Whisk the milk and mustard together in a bowl.

4. One piece at a time, add the chicken to the milk, turning to coat and immediately dredging it in the crumb mixture.

5. Place the chicken tenders on the baking sheet and bake for 15 minutes before flipping the chicken and continuing to bake for an additional 10 minutes on the other side or until it's no longer pink.

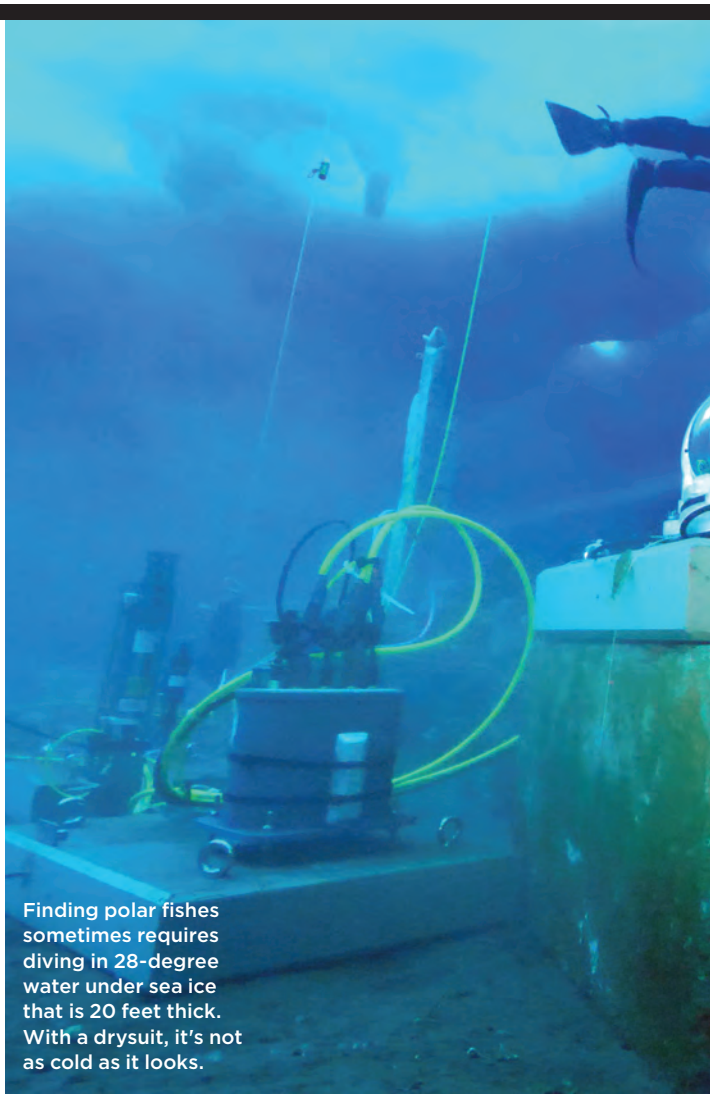
6. Allow to cool for 5–10 minutes and serve with your favorite dipping sauce.

CONTROL YOURSELF

Knowing two languages isn't just a bridge to understanding others. It might also help us better control ourselves. Two UO researchers have found that bilingual preschoolers show better impulse control than their peers who speak only one language. Over an 18-month period, children who spoke both Spanish and English showed more rapid development in their ability to resist an impulsive action in favor of one better suited to their goals.

This is called "inhibitory control" and over the study period, it developed faster in bilingual kids and those who acquired a second language than in children who were monolinguals, says lead author Jimena Santillán, who earned a doctorate in psychology in July. She partnered with Associate Professor Atika Khurana, director of prevention science graduate degree programs in the College of Education.

Previous studies focused on smaller groups of middle-class children. This study used data from 1,100 preschoolers from lower-income families, who can be at risk for impulse-control difficulties. The findings suggest that bilingualism can be beneficial for development of impulse control, Santillán says.



Finding polar fishes sometimes requires diving in 28-degree water under sea ice that is 20 feet thick. With a drysuit, it's not as cold as it looks.

Chilling Out

Contrary to commonly held belief, it turns out Ducks are perfectly adapted to the frozen climes of Antarctica.

Biology majors Natalie Mosqueda, class of 2018, and Leandro Marx-Albuquerque, class of 2019, were there last summer studying a group of fishes called "icefishes," which have adapted to survive in frigid waters. Their bones have softened and they have lost the ability to make red blood cells.

The students joined biology professor John Postlethwait, whose work contributes to understanding of osteoporosis and anemia.

The undergraduate duo collected fish tissue samples for analysis. During fishing expeditions, Mosqueda was fascinated by the skates, octopuses, and other sea-dwelling critters that came up in the net. "Some of the things we caught I would have never guessed were down there," she says.

Marx-Albuquerque found Antarctica otherworldly. "There was a glacier right behind the research station—this huge wall of ice," he says. "I never got desensitized to it."

The National Science Foundation funded Postlethwait's

research, and also that of Assistant Professor Paul Cziko, who visited the icy environs last fall. Cziko studies how the evolution and function of special antifreeze proteins in the blood of Antarctic fishes help them avoid freezing in the Southern Ocean's ice-laden, 28-degree seawater.

Cziko, a researcher in the Institute of Ecology and Evolution, returned in December, after his team installed a live-streaming underwater oceanographic observatory—the first of its kind—under eight-foot-thick sea ice.

The observatory (above) will record temperature, salinity, and tides, giving researchers a better picture of how these conditions affect sea life. The device will also provide publicly available, live, high-definition video and audio from an icy seascape few have ever visited.

Says Cziko: "We want to open a window under the Antarctic sea ice, and make that available to the world."

—Jim Murez, University Communications

PHOTOGRAPHS ABOVE COURTESY OF PAUL CZIKO; CHRIS OWYOUNG (CRAIG PHILLIPS)

DH@UO

A new English minor joins classic literature with contemporary technology. Students in the digital humanities minor—"DH"—use web tools to tease out patterns in Emily Dickinson's poetry, say, or publish—online—multimedia exhibit essays on Salman Rushdie novels. The minor equips students with e-publishing, data visualization, and other digital skills used in research and the job market. "Digital tools complement and reinvigorate humanities study," says Heidi Kaufman, an associate professor of English.

Mass Appeal

Have you read the latest in the blockbuster *Da Vinci Code* series? True story—it originates in an inspired idea by Craig Phillips, of the School of Music and Dance.

Origin, released last fall by novelist Dan Brown, follows fictional Harvard professor Robert Langdon on yet another mystery of religious conspiracies. Brown credits his brother—composer Greg Brown—for the piece that inspired the book, a Catholic mass–style composition titled *Missa Charles Darwin*, Latin for "the Charles Darwin Mass."

Phillips (left), an assistant professor of voice, dreamed up the concept for a mass sung to Darwin's writings, then collaborated with Greg Brown on the words and music. New York Polyphony, Phillips' Grammy-nominated quartet, performs the mass that, Dan Brown writes in the book's acknowledgments, "helped spark the earliest notions for this novel."

Proceeds from the group's reissued recording of the mass benefit music education programs. For more information, please visit newyorkpolyphony.com/discography.

This Easy Trick Could Save Your Relationship

Flowers, champagne, and chocolate make for a romantic Valentine's Day, but how do you keep the flame burning the other 364?

Practice the "magic ratio," says Tiffany Brown, clinical director of the UO's Couples and Family Therapy program (CFT) in the College of Education. Developed by famed couples therapist John Gottman, the ratio says for every negative interaction in a conflict, offer five that are positive. "Create positive moments for each other. They can be little things," Brown says, "but they amplify good feelings and shift focus from criticism or anger. It creates more capacity for understanding."

Couples and others in relationships can learn more at the CFT's free Relationship Check-In, February 2 and also the first Friday monthly through June at the HEDCO Clinic, 1655 Alder Street. Appointments required; call 541-346-0923.

Physics instructor Stanley Micklavzina has long electrified students and the public with entertaining science explanations and demonstrations—like using a "flame tube" to make sound waves visible or creating a vacuum to collapse a 55-gallon steel drum through air pressure. He recently joined faculty members from music, dance, and theater to stage a multimedia tribute to inventor Nikola Tesla at stops across Oregon—hence the need to master this Tesla coil and the high-voltage electricity it produces. "To perform physics demonstrations on a stage takes even more preparation," Micklavzina says—"not to mention outwitting Murphy's Law!"

Scary Good

It's a horror movie with a fairytale ending: *Waldgeist*—the first film by a handful of graduates fresh from cinema studies—made a splash in its debut.

The flick by fledgling producers Brad Burke, BA '16 (cinema studies), and Claire Haines, BA '15 (cinema studies), took "Best Horror Film" and "Best Supporting Actress" awards at last fall's Oregon Independent Film Festival. Set in Oregon and based on German myths about forest spirits, the movie touts 30 Duck alumni among cast and crew, many of whom bonded in Instructor Andre Sirois' course on low-budget filmmaking.

TOP PHOTOGRAPH BY CHARLIE LITCHFIELD, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

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Robert Guldberg, executive director

Building Bridges

Knight Campus will connect researchers, entrepreneurs, and industry

BY MATT COOPER

What will the future of scientific impact look like?

We'll begin to see when dirt starts flying in February on the $1 billion Phil and Penny Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact. The research complex opening in 2020 will fast-track discoveries into innovations that improve the quality of life in Oregon, the nation, and the world. The campus will house a new generation of researchers—such as bioengineers, computational scientists, and immunologists—who work across disciplines while working closely with entrepreneurs and industry.

During the inaugural phase of a 10-year endeavor, the first of the campus' glass-and-steel buildings will rise on the north side of Franklin Boulevard, just north of the main campus. A sky bridge over the boulevard will connect the initial 160,000-square-foot project to existing research facilities in the Lorry I. Lokey Science Complex.

The key to the Knight Campus is collaboration. Laboratories will be designed as open, inviting spaces, easily reconfigured to encourage researchers to come together when projects intersect. "For a lot of us who do work at the boundary between fields, we know that just talking to people is extremely important," says

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHARLIE LITCHFIELD, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS, RENDERINGS BY DBOX

> **“The Knight Campus represents so much more than buildings. It symbolizes the future of research, of a university, and of a state.”**

physics professor Raghuveer Parthasarathy.

The project will beautify, modernize, and ultimately transform a section of the Eugene millrace. “It’s rare for a design to mean as much to an entire community as it does to the people who use it every day,” says John O’Toole, the architect overseeing the project for the design team of Portland-based Bora and NYC-based ENNEAD architectural firms. “The Knight Campus represents so much more than buildings. It symbolizes the future of research, of a university, and of a state.”

ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS

A mechanical engineer well-versed in medical research and entrepreneurship will lead the Phil and Penny Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact.

Robert Guldberg, widely known in regenerative medicine, becomes executive director in September. Since 2009, he has headed the Parker H. Petit Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

The Knight Campus goal to quickly turn discoveries into usable societal applications fits well into how Guldberg approaches science. “As I’ve advanced in my career, I have gravitated toward developing technologies that actually make their way into patients,” he says.

Guldberg studies muscle and bone growth and development, focusing on regenerative therapies following traumatic injuries and degenerative diseases such as osteoarthritis.

With Dr. Kenton Gregory of Oregon Health & Science University, he helped establish the Armed Forces Institute for Regenerative Medicine, which seeks to restore the lives of soldiers with battlefield injuries. Guldberg also collaborates with Harvard University’s Stem Cell Institute on the business of translating regenerative medicine technologies into applications.

Matt Cooper is managing editor for *Oregon Quarterly.*

The hall's name, Kalapuya Ilihi, honors the Kalapuya as the first residents of the Willamette Valley.

Closer to the Kalapuya

The newest residence hall honors indigenous peoples and unites students for social justice

If you hear a symphony of voices echoing off the walls and smell the sweet aroma of syrup and home-cooked pancakes, it must be Sunday at Kalapuya Ilihi residence hall, where Debra Thompson—known to students as Dr. T—hosts a weekly gathering. "Every Sunday, my partner and I make pancakes. Students come, and we listen to NPR and talk about politics," says the associate professor of political science and faculty member-in-residence, who resides onsite with her partner and two-year-old daughter. "In one hour, students eat approximately 150 pancakes. It's a thing, and it's the best day of the week."

But pancakes and politics are only part of the appeal of UO's newest residence hall. Kalapuya Ilihi, which opened last fall to approximately 500 students, houses four new academic communities and honors one of Oregon's indigenous peoples.

The building's name recognizes that the Kalapuya, part of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, were the first residents of the Willamette Valley. In the Native American language of Chinuk Wawa, "Ilihi" means homeland. "We wanted to choose a name that reflected something powerful for Native people," says Brian Klopotek, associate professor of ethnic studies and program director for the Native American studies minor. "This is a way of acknowledging the territorial host, the Kalapuya people, and recognizing that this is their homeland."

The homage to Oregon's indigenous peoples continues in and around the building with

RESIDENCE HALLS AND YEAR BUILT, BY DECADE

2010s
Global Scholars Hall, **2012**
Kalapuya Ilihi Hall, **2017**

2000s
Living-Learning Center, **2006**

PRE-1980
Carson Hall, **1949**
Earl Hall (AKA Earl Complex), **1955**
Walton Hall (AKA Walton Complex): south wing, **1957**; north wing, **1959**
Hamilton Hall (AKA Hamilton Complex), **1961**
Bean Hall (AKA Bean Complex), **1963**
Riley Hall, **1964**
Barnhart Hall, **1966**

PHOTOGRAPH BY DILLON VIBES, UNIVERSITY HOUSING

















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original artwork by James Lavadour, a member of the Walla Walla tribe whose paintings reflect his people's connection to their northeast Oregon homeland, and a bronze casting of a sculpture by the late Rick Bartow, a Wiyot tribal member from Newport (p. 15).

Just west of the new hall is the Many Nations Longhouse, a community space for Native American students. Designed by Native American architect and UO alumnus Johnpaul Jones, ('67, BArch, architecture), the center must have an unfettered view of sunrise for ceremonial purposes. To accommodate that, Portland-based Mahlum Architects conducted extensive solar studies to ensure that neither Kalapuya Ilihi Hall nor Global Scholars Hall casts a shadow on the longhouse at any time.

"That whole little area is like a Native American quad now, because we've got the longhouse, we've got Kalapuya Ilihi Hall. The Northwest Indian Language Institute is right there. We've got the Rick Bartow sculpture in the middle, so it all comes together in a really nice way," Klopotek says.

The building's architecture further promotes a sense of community, with multiple learning and collaborative spaces that enable students and faculty members to get together. Highlights include a bright and airy maker- and hacker-space for students to work on projects or satisfy artistic impulses, glass-enclosed study rooms, and plenty of lounge spaces.

The residence hall is also home to new academic residential communities (ARCs) that offer students with shared academic interests or majors an opportunity to live and study together with teachers, advisors, tutors, and peer mentors. The communities, all based on social justice, cover Native American and indigenous studies, art and design, social activism, and media and social action.

Maya Banyacski, class of 2021, was drawn to the ARC for social activism, which is run by the law school. Although her major is biology, she feels that participating in the ARC will serve her in whatever career she pursues. "In every field, you need to interact with other people," Banyacski says, "and it's important to respect them and make them feel like their voices are being heard."

Through the ARC, passionate advocates for justice and social change such as Banyacski take courses on environmental law and policy, ethics, and conflict resolution; studies culminate with a final project on a social issue. Over just one term, Banyacski and her peers have formed tight bonds. "We get along really well," she says. "We hang out together outside of class and check in with each other. It's great community-building."

Living on campus and participating in an ARC helps incoming students feel at home in the university, according to Kevin Hatfield, adjunct assistant

RENDERING BY JOSH PARTEE (TOP LEFT); PHOTOGRAPH BY EMILY PEARSON, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS (TOP RIGHT)

If it's pancakes, it must be Sunday morning at Kalapuya Ilihi Hall, when students talk politics and connect.

professor of history and director of Academic Residential and Research Initiatives. "Students have an early opportunity to get to know and be known by a professor, which sometimes can be challenging at a large research university," Hatfield says. "ARCs are really about relationships and community and fostering that sense of belonging."

Having a faculty member in residence is also a big plus for first-year students. Thompson is more than happy to engage hallmates in conversations about her research areas, which include race and ethnic politics, inequality, and American political development—but that's not the only reason Kalapuya Ilihi residents appreciate her.

Nicole Levi, class of 2021, just likes to have a professor close at hand. "If I need study help or I feel like I'm not really studying effectively, or if I have a question about what she teaches, then she's right here, which is so nice," Levi says.

Describing her residence position as "a happy side job," Thompson sees her role as an informal advisor. She stresses the importance of living on campus for all first-year students, regardless of whether they join an ARC.

"A lot of what I do is like drive-by advising, so I'll see students walking down the ramp and they're like, 'Hey where do I get a parking pass?'" Thompson says. Some students, she adds, "don't have someone to say, 'Oh, you didn't show up at class today, what's going on?'—so sometimes it's just waving at them as they pass by. It's important to have somebody who just acknowledges your existence."

KALAPUYA ILIHI HALL AMENITIES

- COMMUNITY KITCHEN
- ALL UTILITIES PAID
- LOUNGE, STUDY SPACES
- IN-BUILDING LAUNDRY
- WI-FI
- 24-7 ON-CALL STAFF
- COVERED BIKE RACKS
- MAKER- AND HACKER-SPACE FOR ART AND OTHER PROJECTS
- SEMINAR ROOM

Blazing a Trail

Spencer Holton couldn't find a resupply company for long-distance hikers. So he started one.

BY MAI AMALIE BAK

In July 2015, Spencer Holton was hiking the Clouds Rest Trail in Yosemite National Park with two friends when they had a conversation that would change his life.

While taking in the stunning panorama at the top of the trail, they got to talking about other hikes they would like to do, including the Pacific Crest Trail, which stretches more than 2,000 miles between Canada and Mexico. They discussed the logistics of long-distance hiking, and one of Holton's friends concluded that he would never be able to pursue a months-long trek because there was no one he trusted to store and send the necessary boxes of supplies he would need while on the trail.

After the trip, Holton did some research and found no businesses that offered trail food, gear, and other resupply services to long-distance hikers. He saw an untapped market—but he was young, inexperienced, and without a college degree. Nevertheless, the idea was something he just couldn't let go.

In April 2017, at age 21, Holton started Trail Supply Company, which delivers resupply services to long-distance hikers during their trip; the company packs, stores, and ships packages to exact specifications and specific locations, and also sells everything from food to footwear. Since its launch, the company has supported hikers from across the US and six other countries while drawing substantial website traffic to its online trail guides.

"You have to be passionate about what you're doing, but honestly, passion isn't enough," says Holton, a business administration major and member of the class of 2018. "There will be days when you wake up and say, 'What am I doing? I'm not going to jump off this cliff today. I just want to go back to being a normal student, a normal 22-year-old.' But there are people counting on you."

For Holton, the launch of the business—before he's even earned a diploma—testifies to a stubborn streak and the boost he received through the university.

Shortly after he came up with the idea, Holton approached Kate Harmon, undergraduate program manager for the Lundquist Center for Entrepreneurship. The center trains students in areas such as business planning and the commercialization of new technologies, and it also matches students with advisors and professionals to explore the feasibility of new ventures. Harmon encouraged Holton to enter a business pitch competition and, to his disbelief, he won it, earning a $1,500 prize.

"I thought, 'This is great! This is beer money; I'm not actually going to start this company,'" Holton says with a laugh. That was his mindset even as he went on to win more pitch competitions. But everything changed after he lost at a larger conference—the Civil War Shark Tank—in May 2016. "Failure," Holton says, "made me actually want to do it."

In the audience of that competition was a representative from the Eugene arm of the Regional Accelerator and Innovation Network (RAIN), an organization that partners with the university to match entrepreneurs with investors and resources. Holton was recruited into the program, becoming the first current UO student in RAIN and working alongside entrepreneurs and business professionals as he pursued his idea.

RAIN offers a 16-week program under which founders of startups receive intense training and mentoring as they prepare to launch their endeavors. Through the organization, Holton also brought on two partners, both software developers.

Joe Maruschak, executive director of RAIN Eugene Accelerator, was sold on Spencer's drive and focused idea. "Spencer has what we call 'the right stuff' as an entrepreneur," Maruschak says. "We select people we think are coachable—people who know what they don't know, and are open to feedback."

While Holton is quick to acknowledge the support of others, he recognizes that business success is ultimately determined almost entirely by the entrepreneur's drive, skill, and willingness to sacrifice. His mettle was tested early on, by a mishap with the shipment of his very first resupply box. Following a misunderstanding regarding shipment dates, Holton realized that the package—destined for a resupply point just 40 miles north of the Mexican border—would not arrive on time.

"I had a moment of pure panic," Holton says. "I thought to myself, 'If you can't actually deliver a box—when that's the whole core of your business—then what are you doing?'"

PHOTOGRAPH THIS PAGE: MAI AMALIE BAK; RIGHT: TRAIL SUPPLY CO.

Within hours, he was on a plane from Eugene to San Diego. From there, he rented a car and drove to the University of California at San Diego, where he stayed overnight with a friend he hadn't seen in years. At 6:00 a.m. the next morning, Holton drove 60 miles to Laguna Mountain Lodge and hand-delivered Trail Supply Company's first shipment.

"You have to be passionate about what you're doing, but honestly, passion isn't enough."

As Holton develops his business, he continues to encounter challenges that pop up seemingly every day—and must be addressed just as quickly. Such is the life of the entrepreneur.

"The experience is not fun," Holton says, the sincerity of his statement contradicted by the smile forming on his face. "People equate being an entrepreneur to having a sickness. For some reason, you see opportunities other people don't see. I really don't want it. I wish I could cure it, but it consumes your life. I had no idea what I was getting into, but it's still worth it."

Mai Amalie Bak is a journalism major and member of the class of 2018.

Holton's Trail Supply Co. serves long-distance hikers by shipping resupply food and gear mid-trip. The company touts more than 400 items in its catalog.

AXIS OF DIFFERENCE

As an undergraduate at Princeton University, Jessica Vasquez-Tokos was singled out in class to give her position on Proposition 187, the controversial California ballot initiative that prohibited undocumented Latino immigrants from receiving health care and other services. She feels she was put on the spot because of her Spanish surname, dark hair, and California roots. "It made me realize the salience of race," Vasquez-Tokos says. It also sparked in her a desire to study social inequality and to give voice to Mexican Americans and Latinos.

Vasquez-Tokos earned her PhD in 2007 from the University of California at Berkeley. Before joining the UO in 2012, she taught at the University of Kansas. Her first book, *Mexican Americans Across Generations: Immigrant Families, Racial Realities*, was listed as an "Annual Outstanding Academic Title" by *Choice*, a publication that celebrates the best in scholarly publishing.

Vasquez-Tokos researches and teaches the experience of Mexican Americans and Latinos as relates to race, ethnicity, gender, family, and intermarriage. Her third book—funded in part by her recent receipt of a UO Fund for Faculty Excellence award—will compare Latinos and non-Latinos and their perceptions about race and belonging in the US.

Jessica Vasquez-Tokos

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY

PHOTOGRAPH BY JUSTIN JEFFERS, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Many of her undergraduates wrongly assume that civil rights issues were settled in the 1960s, Vasquez-Tokos says. She illustrates the reality with a 10-question, in-class survey about interactions with police and other race-specific issues. The results are eye-opening, Vasquez-Tokos adds—"these are raw data coming from people sitting right around you, and the experiences of you and your neighbor are marked by race."

BREAK THE COLOR BARRIER

As chair of the department's new Diversity, Equity, and Representation Committee, Vasquez-Tokos will lead the effort to boost the consideration of marginalized groups in the curriculum and the classroom. The committee also supports the effort to recruit more faculty members and graduate students who identify as people of color, LGBTQ, first-generation college students, or members of the working class.

TROUBLING DISCOVERIES

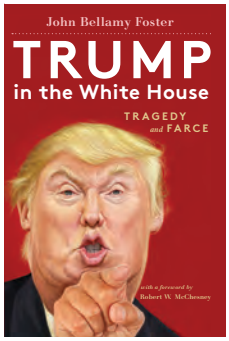
Vasquez-Tokos' work revolves around interviewing people, learning about their lives, and identifying patterns. But some of what she has encountered is beyond the scope of her focus, particularly when interviewing Latinas. "I was surprised by the degree of women confessing their experiences of sexual assault when I wasn't asking directly about that," she says. "It made me sad, but just confirmed the reality and prevalence of the problem."

FROM CHILDHOOD TO THE ALTAR

In her second book, *Marriage Vows and Racial Choices*, Vasquez-Tokos explores the decisions of Latinos who marry either within or outside of their racial and ethnic groups. Drawing from in-depth interviews with nearly 50 couples, she examined marital choices and how these unions influence their identities as Americans. Vasquez-Tokos found that their experiences in childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood shaped their perceptions of race, which in turn influenced their romantic expectations.

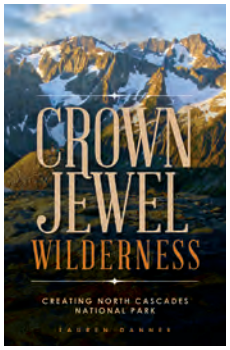
BOOKMARKS

Recent books by alumni and faculty members include a sociologist's perspective on the president, rehabilitation and the Russian novel, the making of a national park, and Christianity in 16th-century Europe. Find more titles at oregonquarterly.com/bookmarks.

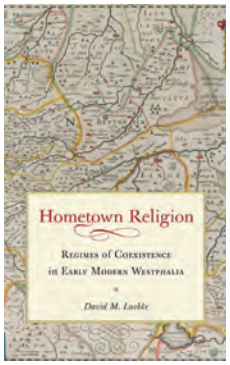


TRUMP IN THE WHITE HOUSE: TRAGEDY AND FARCE
(MONTHLY REVIEW PRESS, 2017)
BY JOHN BELLAMY FOSTER, PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY
Foster does what no other Trump analyst has done before: he places the president and his administration in full historical context. Foster reveals that Trump is merely the endpoint of a stagnating economic system whose liberal democratic sheen has begun to wear thin. Change can't happen without radical, antifascist politics, and inside Foster's analysis is a call to fight back, demonstrating it may be possible to end endless war and create global solidarity with oppressed people.

TURNED INSIDE OUT: READING THE RUSSIAN NOVEL IN PRISON
(NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2017)
BY STEVEN SHANKMAN, PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH
Shankman goes behind prison walls to teach students and inmates texts by Fyodor Dostoevsky, Vasily Grossman, and Emmanuel Levinas. These persecuted writers—Shankman argues that Dostoevsky's and Levinas' experiences of incarceration were formative—describe ethical obligation as an experience of being turned inside out by the face-to-face encounter.



CROWN JEWEL WILDERNESS: CREATING NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK
(WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2017)
BY LAUREN DANNER, PHD '99 (COMMUNICATION AND SOCIETY)
In the first comprehensive account of the creation of North Cascades National Park, Danner weaves a narrative that involves more than a decade of grassroots activism and political maneuvering. An unprecedented turn of events left the National Park Service and US Forest Service, agencies that often had adversarial viewpoints and objectives, working side by side.



HOMETOWN RELIGION: REGIMES OF COEXISTENCE IN EARLY MODERN WESTPHALIA
(UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA PRESS, 2016)
BY DAVID M. LUEBKE, PROFESSOR OF HISTORY
The pluralization of Christianity dominated cultural life in 16th-century Europe, but in the prince-bishopric of Münster no one form of Christianity prevailed. *Hometown Religion* was named 2017's "best book published in English in the field of German Reformation history," and received an honorable mention for another prize, from the main organization for Reformation-era scholars.

Cassidy Haffner came to appreciate museum people such as Herm Fitz (opposite page), always quick with a smile and a word of encouragement.

THE BEST...

Tooth Sleuth

A student worker, a museum volunteer, and incisor insights

BY CASSIDY HAFFNER

The UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History (MNCH) is home to Oregon wonders. On display you will find a giant sloth, saber-toothed salmon, and even the world's oldest shoes. Little kids run to the "excavation site"—a corner that has been reimagined as a rocky beach where they can dig up their own fossils. Other guests come to learn about the different cultures and natural marvels across the state.

But MNCH holds a special place in my heart not only because of the exhibits but also the people who make the museum whole—one of whom taught me to think about things in an entirely new way.

I have come to know a variety of guests throughout my three years of working in visitor services. One couple comes in every Thursday and asks excitedly, "What's new?" If there are no new exhibits, they are just as delighted to revisit the old exhibits that they love so dearly.

One woman is only in Eugene once or twice a year, but comes by our gift store every time she is in town. She spends almost an hour carefully looking over all of our items—beaded jewelry, pottery, and art prints, to name just a few—making sure she hasn't missed a thing. And there was one little girl, perhaps seven or eight years old, who desperately wanted to buy a platypus stuffed animal, but didn't have enough money in her coin purse; she settled for some farm animal stickers because, she said, "Santa will buy me the important things."

The volunteers at the museum are also some of the most intriguing people I have ever met. Many of them are retired, but their love of culture, anthropology, archaeology, and teaching propels them to share their knowledge with guests, and with me. Some volunteers have encouraged me to pursue my passion for art, while others have helped me come up with story ideas for my journalism courses.

One of the volunteers who had a significant impact on me in my time at MNCH was Herm Fitz, who I met my freshman year when he was training to become a volunteer exhibit hall interpreter. Every Thursday while I was working in admissions, he would come up to me after training and ask me how my day was going. He was soft-spoken and always smiling ear to ear.

Herm always shared with me a new animal tooth he had from his personal collection. He had a vast variety of animal skulls and teeth (including raccoon, beaver, and horse), and his daily 2:00 p.m. talk was fittingly called "The Tooth Sleuth." Herm dressed up like Sherlock Holmes and talked to guests about the variety of animal teeth he had on display. If a shift at the museum was going by a bit slow, he would come up to the front desk and give me an educational lesson on canine teeth versus incisors.

Herm knew I loved to draw and color and showed me a coloring book

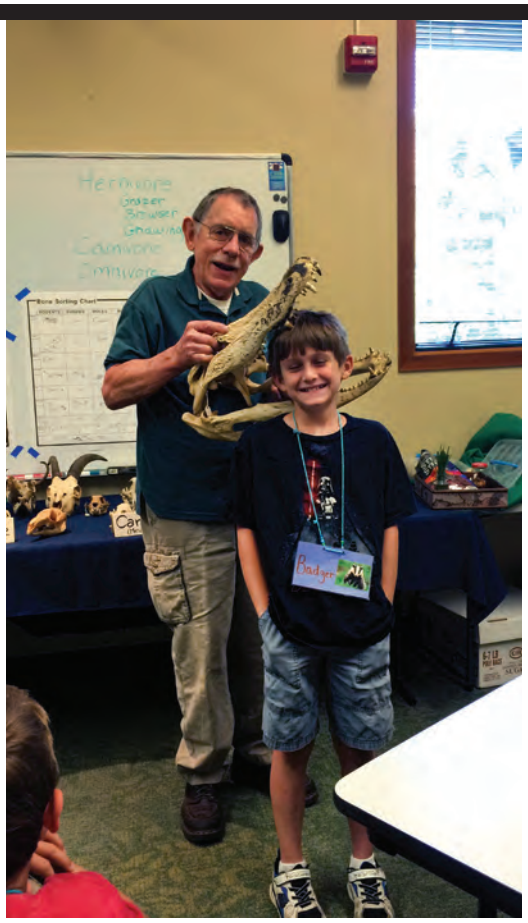
PHOTOGRAPH (THIS PAGE) BY EMILY PEARSON, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS; OPPOSITE PAGE, (LEFT): UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS, (RIGHT): THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY

about evolution that he bought secondhand for a couple bucks, encouraging me to get one, too. He would ask how school was going and motivate me to keep following my dreams and do what I love. He loved to educate everyone he met, and whenever I worked with him, he taught me something I would never have learned otherwise.

MNCH is a smaller museum separate from the hub of campus, but the knowledge and love the people have in this museum have made it central to my college experience. Every person I have met has added something to my education that I never imagined I would get, and I'm so thankful I walked under the copper salmon and through those double doors on that winter day of freshman year.

This essay is dedicated to volunteer Herm Fitz, who died in October 2017. Thank you for teaching me that I should never stop being excited about learning something outside of the box.

Journalism major Cassidy Haffner, class of 2018, is the student intern for *Oregon Quarterly*.



A Grateful Heart, a Giving Mind

In a recent study, taking a few minutes each day to express gratitude in a written journal changed the brain

BY ALICE TALLMADGE

Gratitude is having a moment.

For centuries, the humble concept of gratitude—the cornerstone of the world's major religions—was overlooked by psychologists and scientists, until recently.

Today, thanks to research in social psychology, health psychology, and social neuroscience research, gratitude is in the public and scientific eye. Studies have linked a grateful disposition to better health and well being. As religions have preached for centuries, and as ancient philosophers have mused, being thankful makes us feel better about ourselves.

But scientists such as UO's Christina Karns wanted to go deeper. The psychology research associate had long been fascinated by the brain's plasticity, or its ability to change. She was curious whether an "attitude of gratitude" went beyond making someone feel good. If gratitude was practiced, she wondered, how would it change the brain? Her study, published in a recent issue of *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, found that writing a gratitude journal for three weeks changed the brain's response to altruism—that is, focusing on gratitude ends up benefiting not only them, but also society at large.

To examine altruism, Karns and her team used functional magnetic resonance imaging (called fMRI) to measure a blood-oxygen signal related to brain activity. The 33 participants—all women between 18 and 28—had a brain scan at the beginning and the end of the study. The women also answered questions related to gratitude and altruism. In the MRI scanner, each person was shown images of financial transactions—some were altruistic and some benefited only the participant. The subjects were divided at random into two groups—one kept a daily gratitude journal; the other group kept a journal focused on other topics. After three weeks, Karns again measured brain responses to the financial transactions.

Her study found that people who had done gratitude journaling had an increased altruism response in the part of the brain known as the ventromedial prefrontal cortex. The control group did not.

Previous research had shown positive effects with keeping a gratitude journal, Karns says, "but no one had shown a changed altruism response in the brain, and just three weeks of gratitude practice seemed to be enough." Karns is continuing her investigation of pro-social emotions in her current

PHOTOGRAPH BY JACK LIU; ILLUSTRATION BY TEAFLY PETERSON

research, which uses an electroencephalogram (EEG)—a measure of the electrical activity of brain cells—to measure how quickly the brain responds to opportunities for altruism.

Karns says her current research brings together her interests not only in brain plasticity, but in positive psychology, philosophy, and moral emotions. When she first came to the UO, she worked with Helen Neville, director emeritus of the Brain Development Lab, examining neuroplasticity in the auditory cortex of congenitally deaf subjects. Karns wanted to determine whether "a lifetime without hearing meant that other sensory modalities had more influence over the auditory cortex." She found that they did—the deaf subjects' brains used the auditory cortex for touch and vision, rather than for hearing.

Her thinking then took a creative turn. "If even the lowest level of the sensory cortex is that plastic, think what training and practice can do to parts of our brain that are more plastic throughout our lifetime, such as the frontal lobe?" she asked. (The frontal lobe supports executive reasoning, but also social and emotional processing.) "Why not apply principles [that pertain to the lower-level cortex] to those more complex domains?"

At the University of California, Berkeley, Karns had become familiar with the work of psychologist Dacher Keltner, whose research focused on prosocial emotions—emotions that benefit the whole. Keltner is the founder of the Greater Good Science Center and author of the 2009 book, *Born to be Good—The Science of a Meaningful Life*. Karns attended a talk given by Keltner at the UO, and when the center announced it was taking grant applications for studies on gratitude, Karns applied and received a two-year grant.

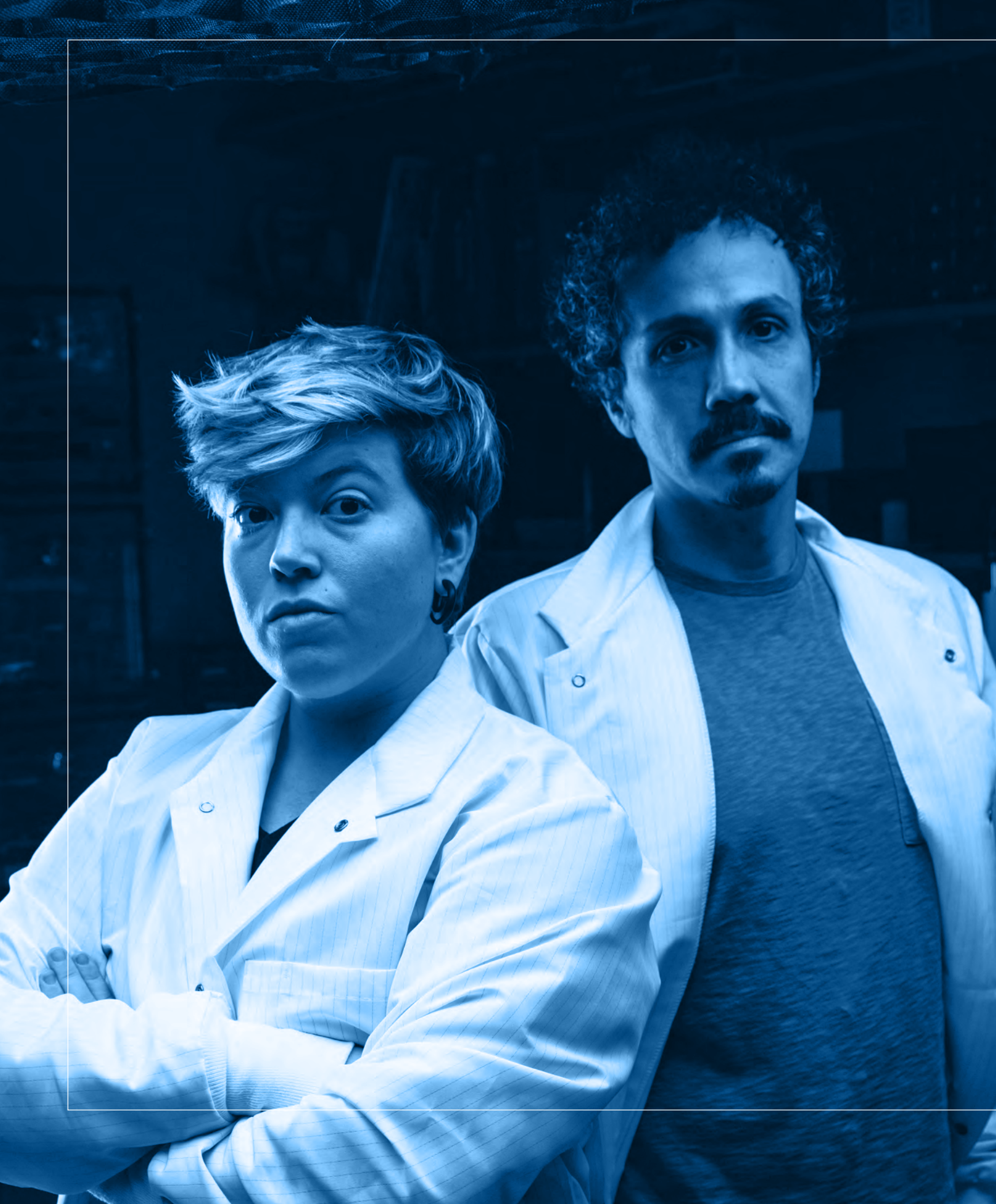
> **"Just three weeks of gratitude practice seemed to be enough."**

Karns is also a senior scientist with the UO Brain Development Lab, where she uses brain measures to assess positive parenting interventions with families in local Head Start programs. She teaches undergraduate psychology courses; in her class at the Robert Clark Honors College, "Why we do good things—the psychology, philosophy and neuroscience of morality," students applied different philosophical lenses to real-life moral issues.

For her part, Karns says that these days she concentrates on actively expressing gratitude. For instance, she is grateful to the undergraduate students who assisted her in her research, to UO psychology department head Ulrich Mayr, who developed the giving task she used in her research, and to the collaborators, researchers, and philosophers who have inspired her work in gratitude.

"I have the privilege of being in academia, where you can think and read and be a scholar. You can try and bring ideas together," she says. "I've always been an interdisciplinary thinker. You puzzle about things. What does it mean that this prefrontal part of the brain develops so slowly? And what does it mean that we're teachers, and we are teaching young people at a period when that part of their brain is really open?"

Alice Tallmadge is a contributing editor to *Oregon Quarterly*.



THE PHYSICIST WHO *ALMOST* WASN'T

Benjamín Alemán's career plans were set until an introductory physics class launched him into the world of the super small, where anything—including a cure for blindness—is possible

BY MELODY WARD LESLIE

PHOTOGRAPH OF KARA ZAPPITELLI AND BENJAMÍN ALEMÁN BY JUSTIN JEFFERS, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Step into 74 Willamette Hall and you'll have a front row seat at a veritable carnival of the infinitesimally small, where each day brings insight into the fascinating inner workings of nature.

Welcome to the á|*lab*⟩, where you'll see student researchers aiming laser beams at atom-sized drums that use pulses of light to weigh a single virus. Others are trapping electrons to create "electron in a box" quantum states that can be manipulated with laser light. An undergrad works on perfecting a solar water heater the size of a postage stamp, while another observes a fluorescing microscope capture a single neuron's worth of an electrical spark. A countertop furnace heats to 650 degrees, the ideal temperature for baking the proprietary materials for a device that may someday cure blindness caused by the degeneration of the eye's rods and cones.

The inventive mind behind these nanoscale and quantum-world wonders belongs to Benjamín Alemán, BS '04. A skateboarding scientist who wears T-shirts and jeans under his pinstriped lab coat, he has, with a home-built device, harnessed something called "quantum tunneling" to create a ruler capable of measuring a trillionth of a meter. When asked how he became a physicist, he measures his words just as carefully.

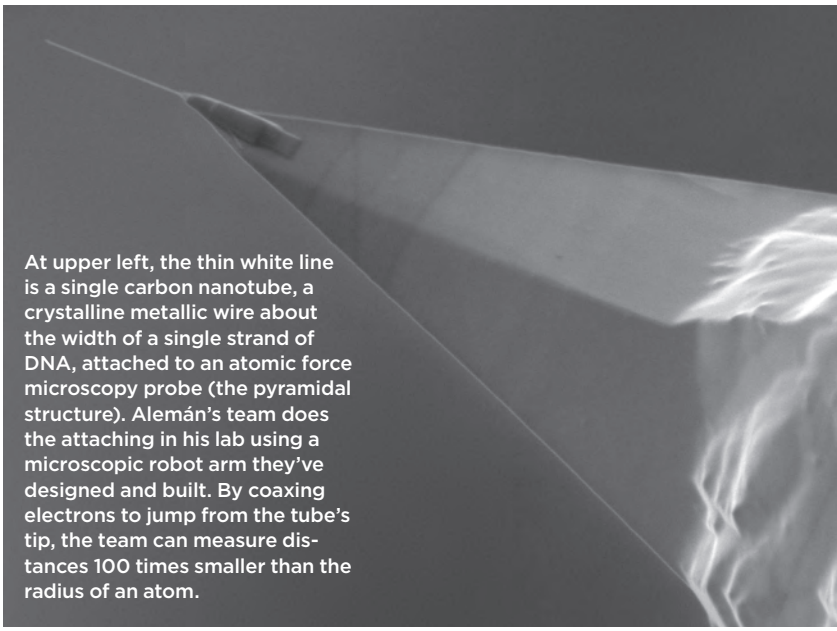
"I shouldn't be here," he says.

For Alemán, 39, the science of the small, with its boundless potential to help humanity, is the grandest playground imaginable. He's an expert at bending 21st-century miracle materials to his will. Take graphene, which is to today's technology what plastic was to industry of the last century. Just one atom thick—a million times thinner than human hair—it's 200 times stronger than steel, yet extraordinarily flexible. Alemán's UO lab is the first in the world to control graphene's shape—and therefore, some of its superpowers.

"Everything about nature is extraordinary at this level," he says. "Unexpectedly wild and beautiful things happen when you build objects as small as atoms." Make a guitar string out of a carbon nanotube, as he has done, and its musical notes will change to a higher pitch when a single electron sticks to it.

Why would a rising star, clearly in his element on the UO faculty, say he shouldn't be a professor? "So many things stood in the way that I never even knew it was a possibility," he says. "My parents are immigrants from Latin America. My mom is from Mexico. The anti-immigrant sentiment of the current political and national climate has always been close to the surface. Walls don't need to be made of concrete to push people back."

"It could be the neurons in your ear, your spinal cord, anything. Our dream is to do things that will help people."



At upper left, the thin white line is a single carbon nanotube, a crystalline metallic wire about the width of a single strand of DNA, attached to an atomic force microscopy probe (the pyramidal structure). Alemán's team does the attaching in his lab using a microscopic robot arm they've designed and built. By coaxing electrons to jump from the tube's tip, the team can measure distances 100 times smaller than the radius of an atom.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ALEMAN LAB/RUDY RESCH

JOURNEYS AND CONNECTIONS

Before civil war began to ravage his native El Salvador in the 1980s, Alemán's father Jorge, a photographer, fled for California. There, he met Tomasa, who had been picking cotton in the fields near Los Angeles since age seven. They married and welcomed three babies while bootstrapping their way into home ownership with a combination of hard work, grit, and Tomasa's raw entrepreneurial talent.

Determined to give her children a better future, she made a down payment on a 400-acre wheat ranch and inn at Lakeview, Oregon, only to lose it in the Soviet wheat embargo. The family moved to the Willamette Valley, where Tomasa spent years alongside migrant workers planting trees while Jorge invented farm equipment for a grass seed grower at a field hand's wages. One of just a handful of nonwhite kids at school, Alemán played many sports, and often saw his mother arrive at his games straight from a clear-cut hillside, soaked to the bone with mud clinging to her boots. "I noticed the other moms were dressed differently," he says. "But I didn't mind."

In grade school, the wiry boy with dancing brown eyes raced ahead of his classmates, solving story problems in the back of his math book while waiting for everyone else to finish their work. "Math made me happy," he says. "I loved the puzzle part of it." But his talent was overlooked; he was shunted into the lowest math group in middle school, where he filled the time by helping his classmates.

Then came the big standardized test, the one to determine who would represent the small town of Turner in the statewide math competition. Alemán made the team along with two boys in the advanced math group, and they took home trophies. "You'd think I would have moved up after that," he observes. "But no, I stayed at the same level." His gaze drops for an instant. "It didn't change my love of math."

Alemán's science potential stayed dormant through high school,

A NORTH STAR

for young scientists to follow

Nationally, only half of the students entering college as science majors stay with it. For women and underrepresented minority students, the retention rates are far lower. Together, the loss of talent is straining our nation's scientific competitiveness. The UO's new North Star Project may be the antidote.

"Students usually leave the sciences during their first year," says Benjamín Alemán, an assistant professor of physics. "Our goal is to create an environment that allows all students to thrive from the moment they hit campus. Our approach is to get undergraduates, graduates, and faculty to get to know each other as people, and to drive students from the abstract textbook and into the living, creative unknown of the science lab. "

The action begins two weeks before fall term when the North Star team hosts dinner for the new arrivals and their families. The next day, parents leave and a cadre of graduate students welcomes the freshmen into the UO's scientific community by showing them what science research is all about.

Each undergrad is matched with a graduate student for ongoing mentorship. "We're giving them a support system so that they won't feel alone when things become difficult," says coordinator Kara Zappitelli, a research fellow in the Alemán lab. "One of the cool things about North Star is that it also serves as a professional development opportunity for the graduate student teachers."

The experience includes a weekend camping and stargazing adventure to the UO's Pine Mountain Observatory, intensive courses in physics, math, and computer programming, and closes with an evening graduation ceremony. "The moment is emotional and full of courage," Alemán says. "It's clear that the North Star students form strong bonds with each other and with the team."

North Star supports students all the way through graduation. Study skills seminars, social events, and regular meetings with mentors provide the support system Zappitelli mentioned. A lecture series hosted by the North Star undergrads features the UO's top scientists and is open to all students.

North Star's potential to boost the number of graduates prepared for careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics has attracted funding from the Knight Campus and the UO's Division of Equity and Inclusion. Next, to help propel students into a research lab, the North Star team plans to offer workshops to develop hands-on skills open to all students. At this writing, all of the North Star undergrads still major in science, and several work in labs.

"It's giving life to people who love science," says Alemán, who cofounded the award-winning predecessor to North Star at UC Berkeley as a doctoral student. "We're opening the door and keeping it open."

when budget cuts had eliminated advanced science courses. He poured himself into making music, writing nature-inspired poetry, and playing sports. He also spent hours in the public library, researching airtight arguments for debate class. "I liked figuring out what the truth was," he says.

He emerged from high school with a full ride to the UO and a matter-of-fact business plan for his life. "Predental or premed, that's what I was shooting for," he says. "I was going to major in biology because I watched my parents suffer to make peanuts." He'd been at the UO only a few days when he noticed a 200-level physics class listed for the fourth year of premed and thought, "Why wait until senior year? I'm going to take it now."

The epiphany came shortly after he took his seat among hundreds of students in the introductory course for nonmajors. "Physics—that's what those problems in the back of the math book were about," he exclaims, the wonder of that realization still fresh in his voice. "I wanted to change majors on the spot."

It meant taking an extra year to get his degree, and he almost didn't pursue it. "I had to teach myself calculus to catch up," he explains. "I was a hot, burning fuse."

Alemán's been making up for lost time ever since.

He quickly earned a spot as an undergraduate research assistant. Accolades in the form of paid fellowships came rapidly, including the UO's prestigious McNair Scholarship. He got involved in research with a team led by Heiner Linke that included Richard Taylor, the professor of physics, art, and psychology who now directs the UO's Materials Science Institute. A bond that would eventually bring Alemán back to Oregon began to form.

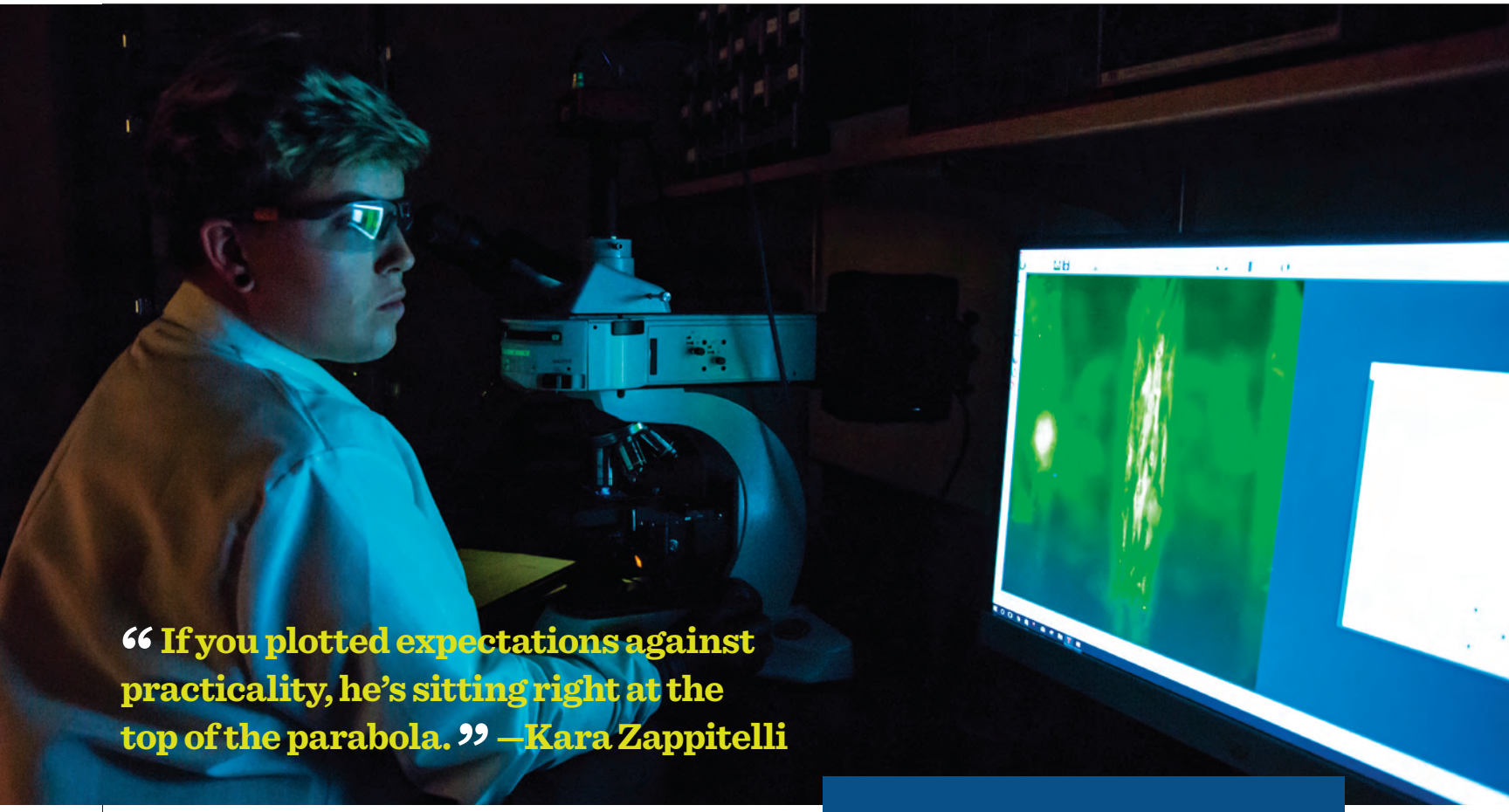
"Our work was published in *Physical Review Letters*, which is the most prestigious physical journal," Taylor recalls, "so Benjamín stuck in my mind."

Alemán graduated Phi Beta Kappa with degrees in physics and math, and was accepted into the world-leading physics graduate program of the University of California, Berkeley. However, he struggled with a feeling of not belonging after realizing that most of his peers were the children of physicists and professionals. "Look, there are six people from Harvard here," he told a fellow doctoral student. "Everyone else is from places like MIT and Caltech."

Her reply was steadying. "Yes, and you're here, too."

"I didn't feel like I knew as much as the others, and I didn't feel as smart. I was suffering from 'Imposter syndrome.' But my mother had shown me how to work hard and that's what I did," he says.

At Berkeley, he began exploring what physicist



“If you plotted expectations against practicality, he’s sitting right at the top of the parabola.” —Kara Zappitelli

Richard Feynman called the “bottom,” the unexplored space of objects that are smaller than what the human eye can see. He became well-versed in nanophysics and nanotechnology—especially carbon nanotubes, microscopically thin metal wires that are revolutionizing the electronics industry, and graphene, with its miraculous properties. “The closer you get to the ‘bottom,’” he says, “the more quantum mechanics shows its strange face.”

As a UC President’s Postdoctoral Fellow at Santa Barbara, he experimented with potential uses for quantum bits, or “qubits,” found in solids like diamond. “We were doing the things that today’s students read about in textbooks: exciting single electrons in order to watch them relax and emit a single packet of light, which is a single photon,” he says. “We manipulated single quantum magnets so they would point up and down at the same time. It was like magic, only real.”

Yet Oregon, and the UO, kept calling.

First, it was Gail Unruh, director of the McNair program, with a request to speak to the scholars at their annual dinner. Excited to return to campus for the first time since graduating, Alemán offered to give a talk to colleagues while he was there. Taylor made sure everyone in the Materials Science Institute turned out to hear what the young physicist was up to.

Next came an invitation to apply for an assistant professorship. Though he came to Eugene for interviews, Alemán believed the odds were against landing such a plum position. “I’d never even dreamed of it," he says. "In academia, landing a professorship in a place you love with colleagues you enjoy is like winning the lottery.”

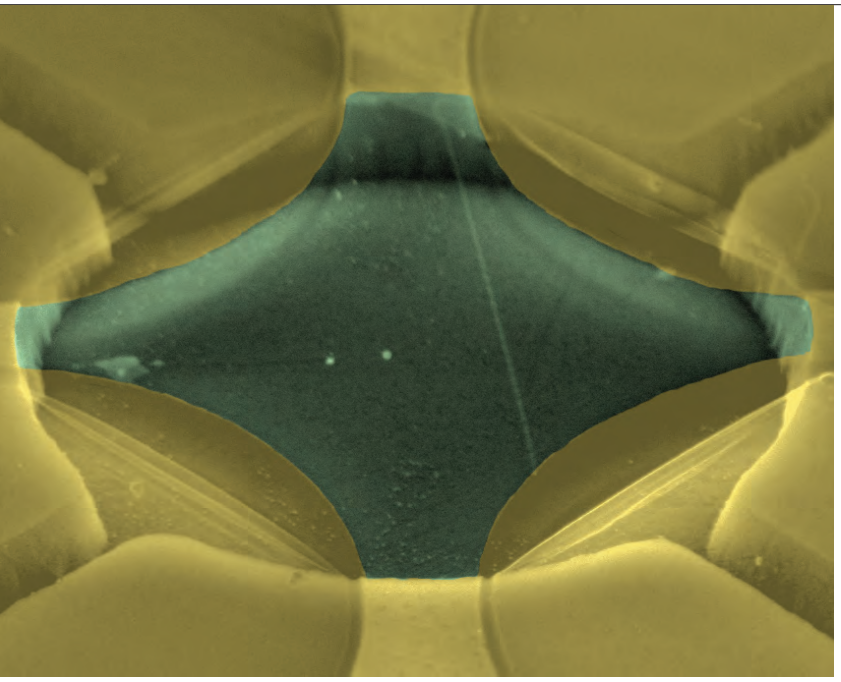
A month later, he was at his desk in Santa Barbara when the phone

á|*lab*⟩

Benjamín Alemán explains:

“The accented ‘a’ is a play on the creation operator in quantum mechanics; this operator can create excitations like photons or vibrational photon equivalents, phonons. The ket symbol (|⟩) represents a quantum state. Putting ‘lab’ in the ket symbolizes the collective teamwork state of my group. So, together, á |*lab*⟩ puts the team in an excited state of creativity.”

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHARLIE LITCHFIELD, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS. OPPOSITE PAGE: ALEMÁN LAB/DAVID MILLER



The Alemán Lab is expert in manipulating graphene, a microscopic material 200 times stronger than steel yet extraordinarily flexible. The graphene cross in this image, tinted green, is just one atom thick. Graphene drums are capable of ultrasensitive physical measurements, such as weighing a single virus.

rang. It was UO physics professor and department chair Ray Frey. Would Benjamín join the faculty as an assistant professor?

Stunned, Alemán dropped the phone. "Are you still there?" he heard Frey asking as he retrieved it from the floor.

RESTORING VISION

Four years later, Alemán's office is right next door to Taylor's, and their students flow like photons between their labs. The two physicists are collaborating with three other UO scientists in a quest to reverse blindness caused by retinal diseases. The project requires Alemán's expertise with carbon nanotubes, which he describes as the "secret sauce" for a retinal implant that may be powerful enough to restore sight. In the lab, neurons respond to the new material he's developed for this electrode as if it's actually part of the body. As a result, it's possible to herd neurons and their guardian glial cells to separate areas on the chip, a breakthrough that greatly reduces the risk of the rejection.

Even Alemán was shocked at the results.

"No one else has been able to do this in the way that we have," Alemán says. "Seeing this herding process, where we're able to suppress the growth of potential scar tissue while allowing neurons to flourish, took my breath away."

The hands-on work is done by graduate students like Kara Zappitelli, one of several researchers involved in the project. A doctoral candidate with a tattoo of a Thai sunrise on her left forearm, she plans to break into the biomedical industry. "The fact that neurons are electric and can be interfaced with nonliving materials is fascinating to me," she says.

The Alemán Lab's expertise in measuring extremely small things

> **"Unexpectedly wild and beautiful things happen when you build objects as small as atoms."**

using optics and electronics is another key to developing an implant that would disappear into the eye and be powered by ordinary daylight. Students are now designing experiments to see how much voltage the current version of the electrode can deliver to live neurons. They'll also test Taylor's theory that growing the carbon nanotubes in a fractal pattern can boost voltage even more. Assuming funding comes through, the next step will be to test the implant in mice.

Zappitelli says having Alemán as her advisor is motivating because he expects a lot but is realistic. "He's found the sweet spot," she says. "If you plotted expectations against practicality, he's sitting right at the top of the parabola. Everything is very well reasoned and articulated before we go into the lab."

Down the road, the implant they're developing has potential to restore many other types of lost function. "It could be the neurons in your ear, your spinal cord, anything," Alemán explains. "Our dream is to do things that will help people."

The Phil and Penny Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact, he adds, is breathing oxygen into that dream. "We will have a new nanofabrication facility that will be one-of-a-kind in the state of Oregon," he says of the UO's new project. "For the first time, everyday researchers will be able to make the finest nanoscale structures to explore some of the questions, issues, and challenges that we're addressing with the retinal implant project. It's exciting to see and to be part of that, and to be welcoming in new colleagues who will collaborate on innovative, impactful work in new fields."

Meanwhile, neurons aren't the only things growing in Alemán's lab. North Star, his project to increase the number of UO undergraduates earning science degrees, is thriving. Modeled after an award-winning program that he cofounded at Berkeley, the philosophy is simple and beautiful: people are more likely to persist when they have a solid sense of community, feel like they belong, and can engage in authentic, hands-on science.

"I'm here for a reason," Alemán says. He glances up at a giant photograph dominating the wall above his desk. It's a perfect aquamarine wave, and it's just starting to crest.

"I'm in a position to teach people how to make change in this world. I belong here."

Melody Ward Leslie, BA '79 (humanities), is a staff writer for University Communications.


Silhouette
+Kamouflage
Threaded Bolt
Washer
Lock-nu
Brandes on the side to conceal Ranger

A Design for *Life*

How architecture skills learned at the UO are saving endangered animals in Africa

By Damian Foley
Photography by Jess Kokkeler

Design student Jess Kokkeler (right) joined the fight in Zimbabwe to protect elephants and other big game from poachers. He sketched out plans for a lookout tower and, working with rangers, built a 20-foot-tall structure from the limited materials on hand.

Watering holes in the African savanna can be lifesavers. As the temperature creeps above 90 degrees, animals gather to quench their thirsts while escaping the sweltering summer heat. While the sun bears down, elephants bathe and spray themselves and each other with pressurized bursts of water from their trunks. Giraffes splay their legs and crane their necks to drink the refreshing liquid below. Hippos submerge themselves, cooling down while taking pressure off their bulky frames.

But sometimes, the lifesaver can be a killer.

A gulp of poisoned water is followed by lethargy, then paralyzing seizures, sudden cardiac arrest, and death.

And then? The final step is the ultimate indignity.

The savanna's apex predator isn't the lion, hippopotamus, or crocodile—it's a poacher armed with cyanide that kills and a saw that dismembers, removing horns and tusks so that they can be sold on the black market.

And the poacher's biggest threat might just be an architecture student at the University of Oregon.

As a child growing up in Eugene, Jess Kokkeler had a treehouse in his yard, and considered it his sanctuary.

Now an interior architecture student in the College of Design, Kokkeler, a member of the class of 2018, is letting his inner child run wild.

Supported in part by the Pacific Northwest Preservation Field School Director's Scholarship Fund and the Ion Lewis Traveling Scholarship in Architecture, Kokkeler is studying forest service lookout towers across Oregon. He assesses their aesthetic qualities and functionality, as well as the materials of which they're made.

"Places I like to go out in the woods have towers, and I'd hike to those and think, 'What a cool place.' There's a hideout with epic views and very basic architecture that's also sustainable," Kokkeler says. "Career-wise, I want to go to these cool, remote spots and build things that are beautiful."

In September 2016, Kokkeler went to Zimbabwe to study the extreme sport tourism market near Victoria Falls, one of the world's largest, most voluminous waterfalls. Before leaving Oregon, he contacted the International Anti-Poaching Federation (IAPF) and arranged to join a group that was fighting poaching at Zimbabwe's 6,000-acre Stanley and Livingstone lodge and private game reserve.

The reserve is the only place in the area to see the "big five"—black rhinos, Cape buffalo, lions, leopards, and elephants—and it is a recognized Intensive Protection Zone for the critically endangered black rhino.

Elephants, rhinos, and other behemoths play a very real role in tourism, with people flocking from all around the world to go on safaris and see them in the wild. A 2012 study conducted by North-West University in South Africa determined that a single elephant in the wild could be worth as much as $3.5 million in tourism over the course of its lifetime.

And yet, despite what they are worth to the environment and the economy, elephants and other big game are routinely slaughtered.

The global illegal wildlife trade generates between $7 billion and $23 billion each year, with demand for everything from ivory jewelry made of elephant tusks to traditional medicines derived from rhino horns funding terrorist organizations and conflicts in developing countries. In 2012, members of a militia from Chad rode into neighboring Cameroon on horseback and killed 600 elephants using AK-47s and rocket-propelled grenades. The following year, 300 elephants in Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park were killed in one day

"Career-wise, I want to go to these cool, remote spots and build things that are beautiful."

when poachers poured cyanide into watering holes; animals drinking from the contaminated watering holes died and predators feeding on the poisoned carcasses met the same fate.

During the 1980s, an estimated 100,000 elephants were killed across Africa; Chad now has just 2 percent of the 50,000 elephants that roamed the country 50 years ago. A study conducted by the University of Massachusetts Amherst estimated 8 percent of the African elephant population is lost every year, primarily due to poaching.

Reserves such as the Stanley and Livingstone are fenced, but that does not mean the animals in the expansive park are safe. Poachers create holes in the fences and make their way through the bush in search of their prey. Combating them is a constant struggle—but one in which Kokkeler has been able to help.

"Once we arrived we went out into the bush and they acclimated us to their operations and how to safely conduct ourselves, and pretty much right away we started doing patrols of the area to familiarize ourselves with the area, doing game counts and looking for signs of poachers," Kokkeler says. "Throughout the process they educated us on what the rangers did and how they operated, so we could be better ambassadors for their efforts."

Kokkeler first helped remedy a problem with ranger patrols, which are conducted in old, often-rickety land cruisers. The rangers drive fast, knowing speed is the key to catching poachers, but that also means the doors fly open while bouncing over uneven terrain; Kokkeler devised a way to keep the doors closed—even at high speeds—using magnets.

While on patrols, Kokkeler evaluated the rangers' needs, and devised an altogether different use for the lookout towers he had been studying in Oregon: combating poachers.

"We use fire lookout towers for land conservation and early detection of fires. I thought (officials) could use towers for

antipoaching purposes as well," he says. "It takes very few people to see a large area."

When it comes to finding poachers, height is key. If you have to locate a single person in a large area filled with acacia trees, standing on the hood of a dusty land cruiser won't cut it. Drones are out of the question, as the park is close to Victoria Falls Airport.

As Kokkeler explored the park and familiarized himself with the terrain, he jotted down ideas in his logbook:

- *Maximize ranger efficiency with limited manpower, tools and with found or repurposed materials.*
- *Utilize remedial design that can easily be replicated in the field by rangers with limited construction knowledge.*
- *Save lives-minimize risk of rangers and endangered species.*
- *Aid animal conservation through design.*

He sketched out a collapsible tower that could be raised and lowered quickly and kept out of sight of poachers. The rangers had a region of the park in mind: it was so remote that gunshots from poachers couldn't be heard, an easy spot for them to reach once they'd entered the park, and in a dead spot for radio; the tower could act as a communications relay point. The structure had to be of enough size and stability to accommodate multiple rangers overnight in all weather conditions, and it had to be safe from the reach of the wildlife. It also had to be easy to construct with the limited resources on hand.

First, the team took an inventory of tools at their disposal. An old chainsaw was discarded for safety reasons, but a drill with dull bits proved useful. The wood came from old rhino "bomas," temporary enclosures that hold animals before they're relocated. They didn't have rope, but Kokkeler had a hammock, and the straps from that were used to help raise and lower logs that had been cut and shaped with hatchets.

"A regular part of design is quickly adapting to changes," Kokkeler says. "Knowing I had limited materials but the support of these people, I was confident that we could move forward with the tower."

Kokkeler also needed to purchase the supplies they didn't have. Concerned that he would be unable to withdraw sufficient funds from ATMs in the economically struggling country, he again improvised.

"I hiked over to Zambia; it's only a few miles," Kokkeler says. "I went to the ATM and took out cash. Then I went to the exchange booth to get American dollars because the Zambian money, *kwacha*, they don't take in Zimbabwe, but the exchange place didn't have any American dollars or money acceptable in Zimbabwe. I had to take the *kwacha* to a bazaar in Victoria Falls, and there was a guy in a grey market where he's not legally allowed to exchange the money, but he did at a 10 percent rate."

The final step was the construction. Kokkeler drew up a plan, and four days and $67 later the rangers had a new 20-foot-tall lookout tower: a rudimentary ladder leading to a wooden platform and hammock with sweeping views of the valley, and safe from predators roaming the reserve.

"It was a primitive design," Kokkeler says. "It was based roughly on the designs I studied through the scholarships to study fire lookout towers. There is a classic argument in design whether form should follow function or the opposite; in this case, function preceded form. The restrictions of the area and funding limited the style and aesthetic of the project."

Aided by Kokkeler's tower, the fight against poaching continues at the Stanley and Livingstone reserve, and indeed all across Africa.

Picket Chabwedzeka, senior warden and anti-poaching manager at Stanley and Livingstone, says, "We are using numerous anti-poaching techniques to counter poaching activities, but the tower is actively assisting us with our operation. This is war against individuals and syndicated groups who are poaching wildlife in Zimbabwe."

The first night, Kokkeler and three others stayed in the tower. As the sun set, they could hear elephants grazing nearby. As it rose again the following morning, giraffes walked past.

"It was fun to be able to apply design to animal conservation, but it's not solving the problem," Kokkeler says. "The IAPF and the guys on the ground are making the most difference, and this is just a small way of helping them out."

Damian Foley is assistant director of marketing and communications for the UO Alumni Association.

> I became a member for the opportunity to build my personal and professional network

ERICKA WARREN

is a woman of many talents—it would take a special issue of *Oregon Quarterly* to do them all justice. But while she can outsing and outlift the best of them, she can't actually do everything (as far as we know). So, when she wanted to give her networking a boost, she joined the UO Alumni Association and gained access to the worldwide family of Ducks, discounted entry to events, and more.

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OLD Oregon

HOOP DREAMS

The 2017–18 Ducks women's basketball team has high hopes following last year's deep run in the NCAA tournament. A hundred years ago hopes were more modest, as women's club basketball was in its early stages.

PHOTOGRAPH PROVIDED BY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES, UO LIBRARIES

Finding the Balance

BY BRETT CAMPBELL

Writer. Producer. Actor. Heidi Schreck moves between stage and screen with hits *Billions* and *Nurse Jackie* to her name.

Heidi Schreck arrived at the UO intent on becoming an environmental lawyer. "The first week I landed in Eugene, I saw a call for auditions for a play called *Red Noses*," she remembers. "I fell in love with acting and the theater department. I stopped being prelaw after my first term and did a play every term after that. I might not have gone into theater at all if they hadn't converted me."

Good thing they did. Schreck, a Class of '94 theater arts alumna, has gone on to become one of America's most promising playwrights, forging simultaneous careers as an actor and television screenwriter. The Brooklyn resident has seen five of her plays produced at major New York theaters, performed repeatedly on both the stage and TV, and won a slew of awards that includes two Obies, perhaps off-Broadway's highest honor.

But Schreck has never stopped trying to balance her dramatic interests with her concerns about the world beyond theater. In fact, her whole career has been a balancing act—between theater and social issues, between writing and acting, between television and the stage.

Heidi Schreck was born to the theater—and to thinking about the real world beyond it. Her parents, both public school teachers, met while running a group home for homeless kids; her mother later ran a children's theater company in Wenatchee, Washington, making sure participation was free to all. Her family was devoted to helping other people, Schreck recalls; they were always taking in those without families.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ZACK DEZON

An ignition switch for your engine of ideas.

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An older cousin who attended the UO encouraged her to visit, and Schreck arrived in 1989, overlapping with Ty Burrell (who gained fame on Broadway and, later, TV's *Modern Family*), Rob Urbinati (now a New York–based playwright and director) and John Schmor, then a graduate student, now an associate professor in the theater arts department. Schreck performed in many productions including *As You Like It*, *The Troubles*, *Springtime*, *The Bacchae*, and Anton Chekov's *Three Sisters*, which Schmor directed.

Schreck, Schmor recalls, was part of what he called a talented theater "posse" that lived together in a house on Charnelton Street in Eugene. One of them, Tricia Rodley, now teaches in the theater department; another, Jeff Whitty, went on to win a Tony for writing the book that led to *Avenue Q*, the award-winning musical comedy.

"They were always doing activist things together, not just theater—always a good sign," Schmor says. "That group of students that Heidi came up with all had an adventurous spirit. They certainly picked up a willingness to take risks and jump into life from each other. They all had that same gusto."

On their walks from the little house they shared to get coffee at Espresso Roma, Schreck and Whitty usually spied a shaggy-haired figure familiar to most everyone around the university, sporting a tie-dyed T-shirt and a box of mimeographed pamphlets. "Have you seen the world's funniest joke book?" Frog would ask. "Jeff and I would talk to Frog on our way to acting Shakespeare together," Schreck recalls. "He'd be out there every day."

A character named Frog also sells joke books in Schreck's award-winning 2014 play *Grand Concourse*, which has been produced in theaters around the nation. That's not the only element from her past in the play, which takes place in a Brooklyn soup kitchen and depicts the ups and downs of well-intentioned efforts to help people struggling on society's margins. "I spent a lot of time in my childhood with my parents working in soup kitchens," she told Oregon ArtsWatch when the play was produced at Portland's Artists Repertory Theater in 2016. "Interacting with fragile communities was part of my environment growing up."

After sojourns in Russia (where she worked as a journalist) and Seattle (where she joined other UO friends in a new theater company and met her husband, Kip, a theater director), Schreck finally moved to New York in 2003, where she found work as an actor and began writing her own plays, which were staged to increasing acclaim.

I like to write complicated, weird women because those are the kind of parts I would want to play. I'm very conscious of writing parts that actors would want to play."

University Theatre staged Schreck's play, *Creature*, in 2013. Directed by theater instructor Tricia Rodley—a roommate of Schreck's during their college days in the '90s—the play takes place in 1401, alternating between poignancy and humor as it chronicles English Christian mystic Margery Kempe's lifelong quest for faith.

Schreck's experience auditioning for "terrible female roles" persisting in some corners of American theater "ignited a fire in me to write only the most interesting female roles I possibly could," she says. "I like to write complicated, weird women because those are the kind of parts I would want to play. I'm very conscious of writing parts that actors would want to play."

Lately, Shreck has been connecting with much bigger audiences. In 2013, she was cast in a play with former *Sopranos* star Edie Falco, written by Liz Flahive, creator of the comedy TV series, *Glow*. Schreck told them she was interested in getting into television work and showed Flahive a playlet she'd written that might work for TV. Her timing was propitious. "I entered TV at the moment when everyone was looking to hire playwrights," Schreck says. "This explosion of great cable TV shows meant a huge explosion of content," and with hundreds of new shows airing, producers needed writers.

Soon she'd landed recurring roles in *Nurse Jackie* (where she's also a story editor), *The Good Wife*, and *Billions*, where she's also now a producer. One of the episodes she wrote for *I Love Dick* garnered national praise for its honest depiction of female desire.

While all the work adds to her daily frenzy, TV has proved rewarding in more ways than just monetary. Mastering TV's rigorous formulas has helped Schreck with structure, which she considered a weakness of her earlier writing. And TV is becoming less restrictive. "The reason playwrights are in such demand is that there's a lot of expanding of the form happening," she explains. "Now there's so much niche TV that you can be experimental. There's a lot of innovation happening, and it's exciting to me as a playwright to confront a form that's changing so fast."

They'll be seeing more soon. She's writing another episode for *I Love Dick*, sold a series based on Mary Gaitskill's *Bad Behavior* to the Sundance Channel, and has TV projects in development with Bravo and Annapurna Pictures. Down the line, she's looking to create her own TV show.

But she's not leaving theater behind. Her 2018 stage project, *What the Constitution Means to Me*, will be the first time Schreck has appeared in something she's written herself. "It'll be the first time I'll be uniting my actor and writer selves. It's a lot scarier than I thought," Schreck says. "When you're writing, you can say, 'OK, the actor has to make this work.' And when you're an actor and some sentence in the script is terrible, you can say, 'I didn't write this.' Now, I have to take full responsibility—there's nowhere to hide."

Brett Campbell, MS '96 (journalism), writes for Oregon ArtsWatch, the *Oregonian*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and other publications.

PHOTOGRAPH BY UO UNIVERSITY THEATRE

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Bend, Oregon

January 25
PORTLAND DUCK LUNCH
Duck Career Network
Portland, Oregon

January 25
LANE COUNTY DUCKS SOCIAL
Eugene, Oregon

February 1
MEN'S BASKETBALL: UO VS. CAL
Bay Area Ducks
Berkeley, California

February 6
DUCKS HELPING DUCKS
Duck Career Network
Seattle, Washington

February 9
THE TRAVELER'S ROMANCE WITH ITALY
UOAA Travel Talks
Eugene, Oregon

February 15
PORTLAND SCIENCE NIGHT
PDX Ducks
Portland, Oregon

February 22
DUCK BIZ HAPPY HOUR
Bay Area Ducks
San Francisco, California

February 23
DUCKS ON THE BEACH
Hawaii Ducks
Honolulu, Hawaii

February 24
MEMBER APPRECIATION NIGHT*
Eugene, Oregon

March 9
MULTIUNIVERSITY CAREER FAIR
Duck Career Network
Los Angeles, California

March 14
WOMEN'S ROUNDTABLE
Duck Career Network
Portland, Oregon

April 19
FLASH MENTORING
Duck Career Network
(Online)

April 19
DUCKS TAKE OVER PAC-12 STUDIOS
Bay Area Ducks
San Francisco, California

April 28
DUCKS RAISING BUCKS
San Diego Ducks
San Diego, California

April 28
DENVER DUCKS WINE PARTY
Denver, Colorado

John Strong was a goalkeeper as a kid, but today the journalism alum (left) is better known for calling soccer matches than playing in them.

Soccer Strong

A penchant for storytelling propels sportscaster John Strong, BA '07, to success in "the beautiful game"

BY MATT COOPER

It's one of the biggest stages in sport: soccer's World Cup.

Aside from the Olympics, the quadrennial gathering of 32 national teams competing in "the world's game" is perhaps the most-watched sporting event on Earth. Consider: the 2016 game seven between the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers and Golden State Warriors drew 30 million viewers. More than 114 million watched Super Bowl 2015 between the New England Patriots and Seattle Seahawks. And 115 million tuned in for at least part of the 2016 World Series between the Chicago Cubs and Cleveland Indians.

By comparison, about a billion viewers saw Germany defeat Argentina 1–0 in 2014's World Cup final. Three billion watched the month-long tournament that played out across Brazil.

When the 2018 World Cup comes to Russia in June, it's expected to once again command those kinds of numbers. And tens of millions who tune in will hear alum John Strong calling many of the 64 matches.

"I've compared the World Cup to climbing Mount Everest. It's the ultimate," says Strong, who leads soccer coverage for Fox Sports, which will broadcast 350 hours of the tournament. "Having my voice on it is equal parts exhilarating and frightening."

Strong's rise to the peak of the sport is nothing short of meteoric. Within three years of receiving his journalism degree in 2007, Strong was doing play-by-play for the Portland Timbers of Major League Soccer (MLS). Two years after that, he moved to NBC Sports to cover MLS and the English Premier League, that country's top league for soccer (or "football," as the game is known internationally). In 2014, Strong joined Fox Sports to head MLS and Women's World Cup coverage; a year later, he became the network's lead play-by-play voice for most US men's national matches.

Strong will turn just 33 next summer, and it's safe to say the birthday will be memorable—it will pass while he is calling games in the World Cup, elbow-to-elbow with veteran broadcasters old enough to be his father. "For a lead announcer," Strong says, "I don't think there's going to be anyone even close to my age."

His excitement is scarcely dulled by the fact that the one team about which he knows the most—the Americans—won't be there, courtesy of a meltdown in qualifying matches. Strong's challenge will be to make the games interesting—make the *players* interesting—for US viewers without any hometown heroes to watch. Fortunately, he has an ace up his sleeve: he's a heckuva storyteller.

Sportscasting breaks neatly into two categories, Strong says—how you call the handful of I-can't-believe-what-I-just-saw moments that come your way and what you do with the other 99 percent of the time you're on the air.

It was none other than storied UO broadcaster Jerry Allen—think

PHOTOGRAPHY BY FOX SPORTS

"The Pick"—who instilled in Strong the importance of getting the big calls right, and the young sportscaster already has one under his belt: Strong's 2011 narration of a goal by the Timbers' Darlington Nagbe was named MLS "Broadcast Call of the Year," earning nearly two million YouTube views. "It was a goal I knew he was going to be replaying on video for his grandkids, and a thought raced through my head—*I hope he doesn't have to mute it because I sounded annoying or something*," Strong says. "So I checked the call at half, and it was fine."

A sportscaster's career can be defined by making—or muffing—the big call. But Strong credits his rise in the field to what he provides during the long periods of airtime in between jaw-dropping plays—namely, rich back stories that bring the players to life not just as athletes, but as people.

"One of the things I really like to do—and it's going to be really important, particularly without the US at this World Cup—is getting people to know the stories," Strong says. "I've always loved the storytelling. I've always loved trying to get you to be interested in something you didn't know anything about 10 minutes ago. A guy scores a goal and he's got tears in his eyes—why is he reacting that way? What's the story there?"

With the return of the World Cup, the camera will repeatedly find Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo and Argentina's Lionel Messi, two of the most famous athletes on the planet; Strong must be ready with new stories about them that soccer fans haven't already heard countless times. He has a few little-known gems in store, courtesy of exhaustive amounts of research. Whatever else other commentators might bring to a soccer match, Strong vows never to let anyone outwork him when it comes to doing his homework and finding a good story.

"I'm always going to work harder than anyone else," Strong says. "There is never going to be a situation where someone is going to outwork me for a game. That means preparing to a level that, no matter what happens, no matter who's involved in the play, I can tell you something about it, contextualize it. That's helped me to stand out."

This is music to Rebecca Force's ears. One of the most influential figures in Strong's education, the journalism instructor hammered home the importance of storytelling to the aspiring broadcaster and his classmates. Skim a long newspaper story—how would you condense it to 30 seconds of broadcasting brilliance? What would you include, what would you cut? How can you say it in as few words—as few seconds—as possible?

And don't think just about the story itself, Force lectured—think about how it's told. Broadcasters must read from the teleprompter, which can leave them sounding robotic and impersonal. Her advice: Read the news as you'd tell it to your grandmother.

"John is very good at reaching across the microphone and camera and wires and touching people," Force says. "The guy is so smart, and absolutely charming. He understood deadlines; he paid attention. He came in with the greatest gift you can have as a student to a teacher—he wanted to do it well. In the parlance of sports, he came to play."

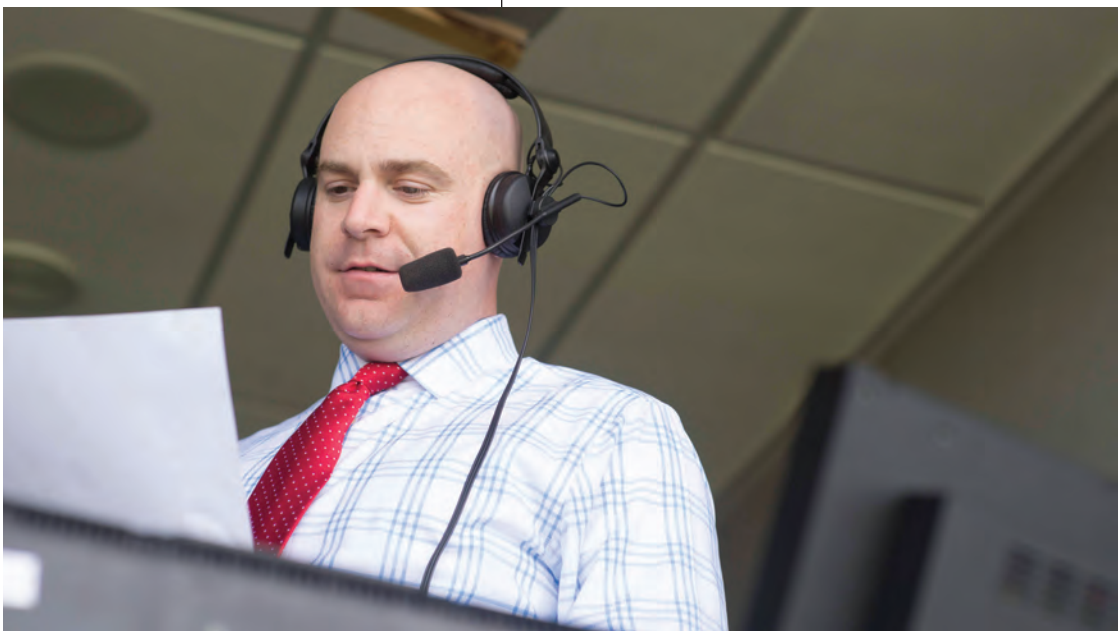
At the same time that Force and other faculty members were teaching Strong how to be a broadcaster, he was cutting his teeth with UO sports. First, Strong and friend Erick Olson converted a half-hour KWVA sports radio show—*Quack Smack*—into an hour-long program with athlete interviews. Next came live broadcasts of games—women's lacrosse, followed by softball and soccer. In 2006, Andy McNamara—an assistant athletic director at Oregon and director of athletic communications—was the voice of the Timbers; he helped Strong get an internship that eventually led to his breakthrough role as the team's play-by-play announcer.

> **"I've always loved the storytelling. I've always loved trying to get you to be interested in something you didn't know anything about 10 minutes ago."**

Citing his own collegiate experience and the boost it has given to his career, Strong sees the UO as poised to join the leading sports-multimedia-journalism schools—Syracuse, Columbia, Northwestern—given its top-tier journalism school and thriving athletics department. In fact, Strong, a member of the alumni association who still calls Oregon home, envisions making that happen.

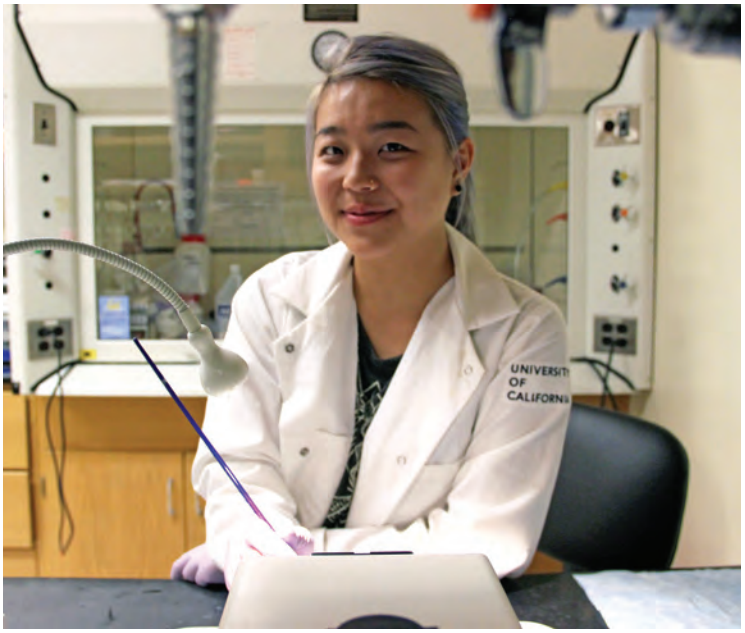
"Without the University of Oregon, I'm not doing any of this stuff," Strong says. "When I'm in Russia for the World Cup, or if I'm in Spain for a big match, or wherever I am, I always remember that connection back to Eugene. I love wearing that old Ducks hat—it reminds me of where it all started. This is where I got those foundational building blocks."

Matt Cooper is managing editor for *Oregon Quarterly*.



Class Notes

Do you ever wish we printed more notes from *your* class? Your classmates feel that way, too. Submit a note online at OregonQuarterly.com or mail it to Editor, *Oregon Quarterly*, 5228 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-5228.



CLASS NOTABLE

Zines, Pins, and Two Photons

Alumna scores with art-science mashups

Art and science aren't routinely associated with one another. Except in Christine Liu's work.

The 2014 alumna in biology and psychology cut her teeth in science, exploring how we process information from our senses. Now Liu studies nicotine's effects on the brain in a doctoral neuroscience program at the University of California at Berkeley.

She's also an artist, creating small, hand-drawn magazines on brainy topics such as the chemistry of opioids and the mechanics of sound. These "zines" use a lighthearted tone and imaginative artwork to simplify complicated concepts.

Liu and environmental scientist Tera Johnson share writing and drawing duties, selling the zines and other clever art-science mashups at Two Photon Art (twophotonart.com). Check out the sea star gold-metallic temporary tattoos and the pin set representing Schrödinger's cat, a thought experiment from quantum mechanics involving a cat, a poison, and a radioactive source.

Customer feedback is encouraging, Liu says—the zines, for example, are a hit not only with educators but also with fellow artists.

"We found this was an amazing science communication tool," Liu adds, "and a way for us to get out there and interact with people who aren't scientists."

—Jim Murez, University Communications

INDICATES UOAA MEMBER

1940s

DONALD REISH, BS '46 (biology), and **JANICE KENT**, BA '50 (psychology), celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in June. The UO graduates met while skiing in California.

1950s

JAROLD RAMSEY, BA '59 (English), received the Charles Erskine Scott Wood Distinguished Writer Award at the Oregon Book Awards in Portland. The award is given to an Oregon author in recognition of an enduring and substantial literary career.

1960s

JIM SHULL, BS '60 (fine and applied arts), MFA '63 (painting), conducted a show of his paintings, *The Sacred Depths of Nature*, in November at the Franciscan Spiritual Center in Milwaukee, Oregon.

RAYMOND WOOD, PhD '61 (anthropology) and Michael M. Casler transcribed and edited the book *Fort Tecumseh and Fort Pierre Chouteau: Journal and Letter Books, 1830–1850*, which details the two South Dakota trading posts that enjoyed their golden age in the 1800s, under the American Fur Company.

ALAN ADAMS, BA '67 (Romance languages), has worked with *La Asociacion de Productores de Semillas y Alimentos Nutricionales Mushuk Yuyay*, a farming association in Ecuador. The association improves soils, crop production, and marketing; it is constructing a processing center for farm products to support local communities.

DON EGGLESTON, BArch '69 (architecture), former principal of SERA Architects, retired after 45 years of leadership. Eggleston joined founder Bing Sheldon in 1971 in designing the student union addition at the University of Oregon. In the 1980s, Eggleston became the "E" in newly named SERA and championed some of Portland's transformative renovations.

1970s

KENNETH O'CONNELL, BS '66 (art education), MFA '72 (fine and applied arts), taught his workshop, Sketchbooks, in Italy for the 10th time since 2004. Adult attendees sketch for two weeks in the hill towns of Umbria, Italy.

DEBORAH PETERSON LANGE, BS '75 (journalism). Since 2001, Peterson Lange has worked with a largely immigrant population learning English at North Seattle College. She recently received a certificate from the Southern Poverty Law Center for teaching racial tolerance.

PHYLLIS YES, PhD '78 (art education), an Oregon artist and playwright, premieres her first play, *Good Morning, Miss America*, March 10. The semiautobiographical

FLASHBACK

1928 Campus holds a "current questions" poll for students January 26, regarding the 18th Amendment (Prohibition). Some 422 favor more rigid enforcement, 122 vote for repeal, and 636 want to modify the law.

PHOTOGRAPH BY REYNALDO CAYETANO JR

We love to track Duck migrations! Send us your favorite photos of yourself, classmates, family, and friends showing your Duck pride around the world. Attach a high resolution JPEG file to an email and send to **quarterly@uoregon.edu**, or submit them online at **OregonQuarterly.com**.

DUCKS AFIELD

GARY WIRTH, BArch '65 (architecture), claims a square foot of Antarctica for the UO near Marguerite Bay. The visit marked Wirth's completion of the seven continents, and during the trip he married at sea, among penguins and icebergs.

play focuses on the challenges of caring for aging parents. It was a semifinalist at Artists Repertory Theatre's Table/Room/Stage competition in 2016.

1980s

CYNTHIA PAPPAS, MUP '83 (urban and regional planning), has published a memoir titled *Homespun*. The collection stitches together stories from the fabric of her life, including farming, gardening, sewing, parenting, and friendship.

For nearly 20 years **DOUG LEVY**, BA '84 (journalism), has owned and operated Outcomes by Levy, LLC, a government affairs consulting and lobbying firm in Kenmore, Washington.

1990s

CATHY FISCHER, MS '91 (physical education), a health and physical education teacher for eighth graders at Meadow Hill Middle School in Missoula, Montana, received the Society of Health and Physical Educators—SHAPE America—Honor Award in March. The award recognizes recipients for personal integrity, devoted service, and contributions to the advancement of health and physical education.

JAMES JOBES, MArch '94 (architecture), has been promoted to vice president of Ghafari Associates, a global engineering and architecture firm. He leads the firm's new office in Fort Worth, Texas.

ERIC LIN, BS '97 (journalism: advertising), BS '97 (psychology), is now chief operating

FLASHBACK

1938 The UO adds three sports to the curriculum—boxing, wrestling, and skiing. Some 138 students on the ski team compete against the University of Washington in February.

DUCKS AFIELD

JEANNE ZUELKE, BS '85 (fine and applied arts), and daughter **EMILY ALBERTSON**, BA '15 (journalism), celebrate Jeanne's 60th by hiking to the top of Arthur's Seat in Edinburgh, Scotland.

FLASHBACK

1948 Effective February 1, the Oregon Alumni Association offers a life membership plan to UO graduates and former students.

officer of Infinitus Entertainment, the Hong Kong film production company founded by actor-producer Andy Lau. Eric heads Chinese-language film development and production in both Hong Kong and mainland China. His screenwriting credits include the action film *Operation Mekong*.

2000s

KAROLYN DALE, BA '01 (sociology), has joined Junior Achievement of San Diego County as the nonprofit organization's new vice president of development.

JACKIE LYNN RAY, BS '03 (journalism: public relations), recently joined the Clorox Company as associate director of government affairs. She was previously government and public affairs senior manager at Schnitzer Steel Industries, as well as government affairs manager for the National Council of Textile Organizations and legislative assistant to US Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), both in Washington, DC.

DUCKS AFIELD

MARNA BROEKHOFF, MA '66 (English), and her husband, **RALPH SHATTUCK**, BA '66 (psychology), lived in Chile for five months while Marna started a writing center at the Universidad Magallanes in Punta Arenas. While sightseeing, they visited the Grey Glacier and Torres del Paine in the south.

Anderson ZurMuehlen & Company has promoted **STEVEN JOHNSON**, MS '07 (economics), to senior manager. His experience includes tax planning and compliance reporting for individuals and businesses, and he consults for litigation cases on economic damages, forensic accounting, and liability issues.

2010s

HEATHER JAUREGUI, MArch '11 (architecture), was named one of Design Futures Council's Emerging Leaders at the organization's 16th annual Leadership Summit on sustainable design in Toronto.

Opsis Architecture has hired **KATE PIPER**, MArch '11 (architecture). She is currently putting her technology and historic preservation expertise to use on the Southwestern Oregon Community College Health and Science Technology Building project.

Freiheit & Ho Architects hired **KELLY BRAINERD**, BIArch '12 (interior

FLASHBACK

1958 "Peanuts" creator Charles Schulz talks to journalism classes, meets with students at an informal coffee hour and signs autographs. He also draws a comic specifically for the *Oregon Daily Emerald*.

DUCKS AFIELD

JUSTIN SCHNEIDER, BS '05 (business administration), and Sakura Gamblin visited Greece to celebrate their anniversary and cross the country off Sakura's bucket list. They visited Athens, Mykonos, and Santorini—and loved Santorini the most for the scenery and shopping.

DUCKS AFIELD

MIKE GAYNES, BS '78 (journalism), with his panda buddy at the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding in Sichuan, China. Gaynes and his wife visit China almost every year to visit her family in Wuhan.

FLASHBACK

1968 The School of Business Administration, renamed the College of Business Administration, is divided into two schools: the Graduate School of Management and the Undergraduate School of Business.

architecture), as an interior designer in Kirkland, Washington. She is working on a clinic expansion with Miller Family Dermatology.

FELIX FRIEDT, MS '13 (economics), PhD '17 (economics), has joined the faculty at Macalester College in Minnesota. He specializes in international trade and transportation economics and will teach courses in international economics and principles of economics.

Portland-based Woodblock Architecture has hired **AIDAN KATZ**, BArch '16 (architecture), as an intern. He has contributed to many projects, including those in the retail, hospitality, and industrial sectors.

LAUREN STRAUSS, MArch '16 (architecture), has joined Quinn Evans Architects as a staff designer in the firm's Detroit office. She focuses on community impact projects and works on the renovation of the historic Crapo Building in Bay City.

AVEN-ITZA DE PRIMAVERA, BA '17 (journalism: advertising), has joined Eugene-based Funk/Levis and Associates' marketing team as an account assistant.

IN MEMORIAM

BEVERLY LEWIS, who attended the UO School of Business Administration (now the Charles H. Lundquist College of Business) in 1948, died October 20. Together with her late husband, Bob, they laid the foundation that supports the UO's most promising research in human and environmental health. The Robert and Beverly Lewis Center for Neuroimaging

DUCKS AFIELD

ESTHER FREEMAN, MS '82 (leisure studies and services), gave her grandson, Luka, a knitted Ducks hat for his second birthday. He models it while on a walkway of Petone, a suburb in Wellington, New Zealand.

equipped the UO to secure more than $100 million in federal funding for brain research. The UO's Robert and Beverly Lewis Integrative Science Building unites leading researchers in developing treatments for diseases and injuries affecting the mind and brain.

DONALD MALARKEY, BS '48 (business administration), died September 30. He was drafted into the army during his freshman year, and on D-Day parachuted behind enemy lines and was later awarded the Bronze Star for his bravery in destroying German artillery. After the war he returned to Oregon, where he was

DUCKS AFIELD

MIKE MOSKOVITZ, BS '70 (journalism), and his wife, Janna, hiked the Mountain View Trail in the Swiss Alps high above the village of Mürren. Behind him are Switzerland's well-known mountain peaks, the Eiger, Mönch, and Jungfrau.

president of Sigma Nu fraternity. In 2002, he was inducted into the Sigma Nu National Hall of Fame and named one of 125 notable UO graduates.

CECIL EUGENE "GENE" ROSE, BA '50 (political science), LLB '53 (law), died September 6. He was a starting catcher for the university baseball team. He practiced law and served as president of the Baker County Chamber of Commerce, a member of the State Welfare Commission, and the first president of Baker Little League.

DONALD L. PICKENS, BS '51 (physical education), MS '56 (health and physical education), died September 10. He was an accomplished artist in oils and pastels and took great pride in his poetry. After raising their family in Aloha, Oregon, Don and his wife, Donna, retired to Redmond, where they built their dream home overlooking the Deschutes River and the Cascades.

WILLIAM BOON BORGESON, BS '52 (political science), died September 23. As a US Marine, he was awarded the Purple Heart for his role in the invasion of Iwo Jima. As a UO student, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. In 1965, he was appointed by Robert F. Kennedy as assistant United States attorney in Portland, where he served until retirement in 1988.

FLASHBACK

1978 Catherine Jones, associate dean of the College of Business Administration, is named head of the faculty-student senate. She is the first woman elected chair since the body's establishment in 1918.

FLASHBACK

1988 The Museum of Natural History's new building is complete, with fresh-cut wood pillars and a towering copper salmon sculpture over the door. The main exhibit is *Golden Peninsula: Three Traditional Cultures of Southeast Asia.*

JANET NELSON THOMPSON, BA '53 (English), died October 2. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Oregon. She was active with the Coos Bay Progress Club and was appointed to the Oregon State Board of Higher Education. She and her husband, Daryle, enjoyed planning the annual Coos Bay winter social and organizing bus trips to watch the Ducks in Eugene.

J. JAY SHINOHARA, BS '54 (psychology), died December 31, 2016. He was active on the board of the Novato Human Needs Center and served as president in 1977. An avid fisherman, his quest for the best streams lasted more than 40 years.

FLOYD RAY BURKE died October 8. He served 20 years in the Air Force and retired in 1976 from the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. After serving, he joined the United States Postal Service where he worked for 20 years. He was an avid golfer, enjoyed bowling, reading, woodworking, archery, and bow hunting.

LUCILLE "SAM" LEONHARDY, BS '58 (sociology), died November 1. She took pride in her position as associate editor in the Wood Materials and Engineering Laboratory at Washington State University. She also earned certification as a substance abuse counselor, was a foster mother for several children, and served on the board of Meals on Wheels of Latah County, Idaho.

GLENN HOGEN, MEd '61 (education), PhD '77 (educational policy and management), died November 13. Glenn devoted his life to his family and education. He worked in public school systems across the country and in Europe before retiring in 1991.

RADEAN MISKIMINS, BS '61 (psychology),

DUCKS AFIELD

SYDNEY LATHROP, BA '08 (journalism: magazine), spent three days hiking around Petra, Jordan, while on a 10-day trip in the country. She and her husband hiked 500 stairs carved from the sandstone to reach this vantage point atop the Treasury.

FLASHBACK

1998 The UO has its first-ever theater tour, staging *Tour of the Dragon* to 10,000 schoolchildren during a 1,500-mile, three-week tour of nine Oregon communities.

died November 27, 2016. He was a clinical psychologist, a successful businessman, and a published author.

JOHN HOLLOWAY, BS '63 (geological sciences), died September 6. He was emeritus professor of chemistry and geology in Arizona State University's School of Molecular Sciences and a world-famous experimental petrologist. He was elected to fellowship in the American Geophysical Union, published more than 100 journal articles, and took a trip to the ocean bottom in a deep-diving submarine for a three-month research expedition to the Antarctic.

FRED KOETTER, BA '63 (architecture), died August 21. He was a globally renowned architect who worked with clients designing sites in Canada, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Spain, and Saudi Arabia. Dedicated to instructing future generations of architects, he taught at Cornell University and Harvard University's Graduate School of Design. He served as dean at the Yale School of Architecture from 1993 to 1998.

ROBERT JAMES PARELIUS, BA '63 (sociology), died September 21. He served as a faculty member at Douglass Residential College at Rutgers University and as president of the Highland Park, Illinois, Board of Education. He enjoyed gardening, golfing, drawing, and painting.

TOM KABLER, BS '66 (economics), died August 4 in Anthem, Arizona. He was a member of Theta Chi and a varsity golfer who served four years with the Marines, including 18 months in Vietnam, finishing with the rank of captain.

GEETA RANI LALL, MEd '67 (education), PhD '74 (curriculum and instruction), died October 16. She was an educator,

DUCKS AFIELD

JOE M. FISCHER, BS '60 (fine and applied arts), MFA '63 (fine and applied arts), of Longview, Washington, recently completed a portrait of Moses Sims (age 2). Moses is the son of Steve and Marie Sims of Dallas, Texas.

DUCKS AFIELD

KEVIN MCCAREY, MA '80 (speech: telecommunication and film), explores the wreck of a Spanish galleon off the Isle of Youth for *Unseen Cuba*, a documentary series in development.

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author, and strong advocate for women's rights and equality. Her commitment to philanthropy, education, and orphans included the building of two churches, a school, and the Priyabala Hostel and School for Children in India.

ROBERT J. PIRRIE, BA '68 (general science), died September 9, 2016. He was a career Air Force officer who retired as a colonel after almost 30 years of service. In retirement, he worked in Eugene for the Oregon Department of Transportation, and later moved to Cheyenne, Wyoming.

JOHN G. WESTINE, MA '68 (sociology), PhD '71 (sociology), died October 11. As a member of the Oregon Department of Education's Office of Educational Policy and Planning until his retirement in 1997, he worked on large educational projects with the Workforce Quality Council to improve educational opportunities for children across Oregon.

ROBERT "BOB" CLARK SCHLEGEL, DMD '72, died October 30. He practiced oral and maxillofacial surgery at the Corvallis Medical Center for 36 years until retirement in 2013. He loved boating, big band and swing music, and operating his ham radio under the call sign KD7IZA.

FLASHBACK

2008 Portland's Opsis Architecture, with three UO alumni as principals, will design the Cheryl Ramberg Ford and Allyn Ford Alumni Center. The building will house the Alumni Association, Office of Development, Foundation, and Career Center.

FACULTY IN MEMORIAM

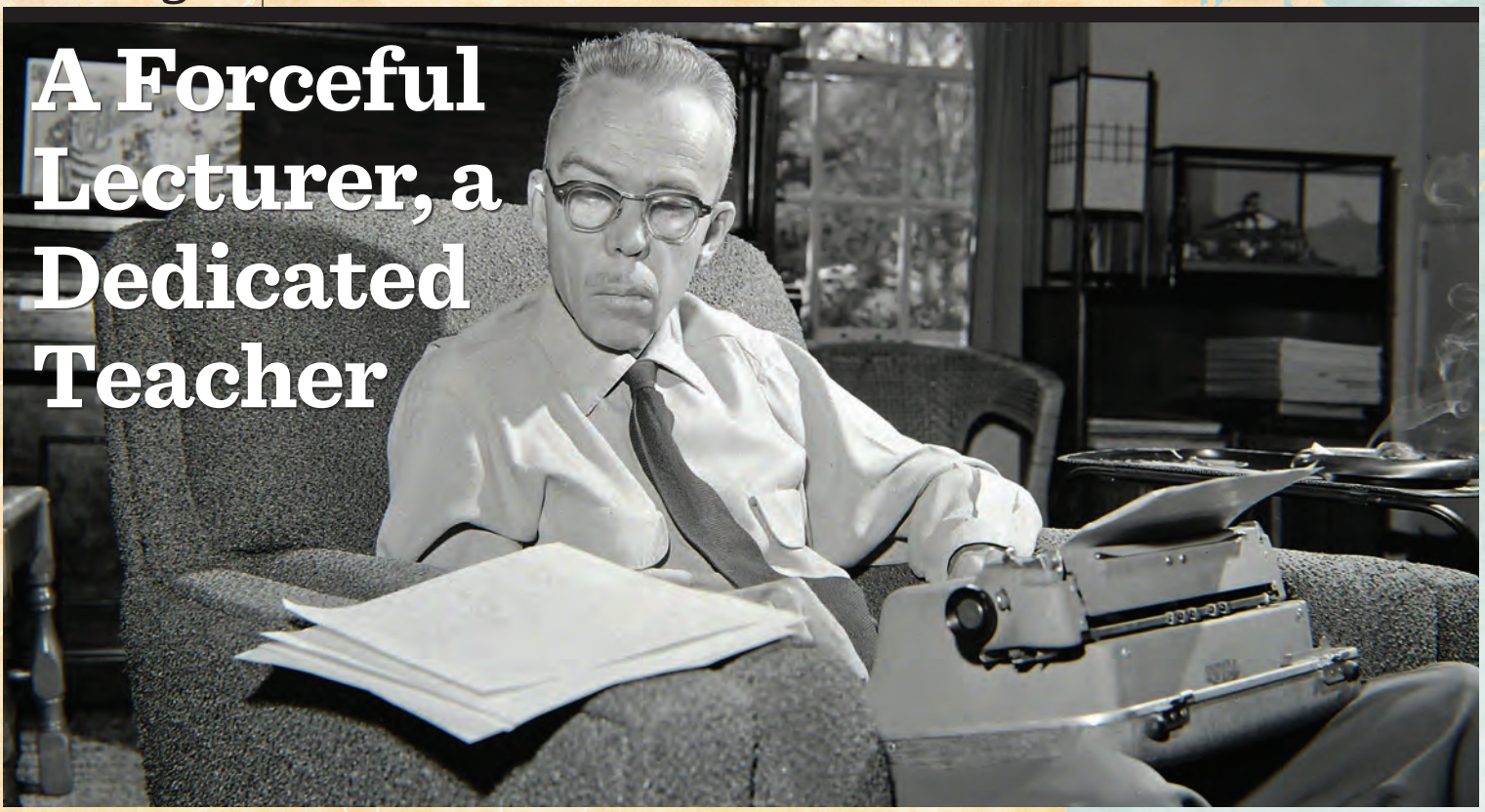
RALPH SALISBURY, professor emeritus of creative writing and literature, died October 9. He began teaching at Oregon in 1960 and directed the master of fine arts in creative writing program, which he helped develop. He published 11 collections of poetry, three short-story collections, and a memoir, and presented his work in hundreds of poetry readings, on stage, on radio, and on TV throughout North America, Europe, the former Soviet Union, and India.

MICHAEL REDDING, former vice president for university relations, died October 19. He served in senior public affairs leadership roles for 13 years at the UO, including chief of staff to the Office of the President, vice president for university advancement, and associate vice president for public and government affairs. Since 2013 he was vice chancellor for public and government affairs for the University of Illinois at Chicago.

DUCKS AFIELD

C. W. SULLIVAN III, DA '75 (English), PhD '76 (English), at the stern rail of the Viking Star in Stockholm, Sweden. In retirement, he is a guest lecturer on Scandinavian topics aboard Viking Ocean Cruises in the Baltic Sea and North Atlantic Ocean.

A Forceful Lecturer, a Dedicated Teacher



BY JOHN R. GUSTAFSON

For several years a small group of retired friends and I have been meeting informally at a restaurant here in the Washington, DC, area to talk about international affairs and East Asia. Two of us are University of Oregon alumni. The management seats us downstairs, away from the regular lunch crowd where our spirited talk won't bother other customers—our discussions often last three hours, and more than a few beers. We leave nice tips.

Our talks are wide-ranging, from what it was like growing up in China many decades ago (two of our group were youngsters there) to whether future conflict with that country is inevitable. We opine about avoiding nuclear proliferation in East Asia and discuss trade relations with that region.

We call ourselves the Far East Lunch Group. That's a salute to a UO history course taught nearly 60 years ago—the Far East in Modern Times—and the man who made the class so compelling: Professor Paul Dull.

Professor Dull was a Marine officer and Japanese language specialist during World War II. On December 7, 1941, he was stationed in Honolulu, Hawaii, during the attack on Pearl Harbor. After the war, Professor Dull became an eminent scholar and historian, lecturing and writing about the Far East, the role of the Japanese Navy, and events during and after WWII.

But his first love was teaching. Professor Dull taught respect for the Japanese people, whose government had been taken over by militarists who ruled by assassination. If you wrote the hateful abbreviation "Jap" on an essay test in one of his exams—which was not so unusual in those days—he warned that the correct abbreviation "Jse" should be used or your grade would be lowered.

Though Professor Dull was a forceful lecturer and a dedicated teacher—one of the first professors to receive the university's Ersted Award for Distinguished Teaching—he had a self-deprecating sense of humor and student-like priorities; one of my friends recalls that, reportedly ill, Professor Dull was away from class for a few days every year during the World Series.

Professor Dull died in 1981, but I can still picture him in his thick—almost Coke-bottle-thick—glasses, in the spring of 1959, giving his traditional senior lecture, the final lecture of the year. Every spring, several hundred of his current and former students crammed into the auditorium near what is now the Charles H. Lundquist College of Business to hear his observations about East Asia and its potential impact on the United States and the world in the years to come.

Professor Dull instilled curiosity and understanding about the importance of the Far East and the vital role it would play in the future of America and the world, urging us to stay informed and encouraging us to get involved in world affairs. Without knowing and understanding history, he argued, we could not understand the forces that shape the future. He reminded us that the United States is an island nation; our future and the future of the world depends on safe and open seas for trade, defense, and a peaceful world. We cannot and should not isolate ourselves from the rest of the world.

One of the members of our lunch group—my friend Elliott Carlson—is a journalist and historian. Since his retirement, he has written two books about US naval history in the Far East during WWII, the first of which won a national award. He credits Professor Dull with sparking his interest in history.

Elliott and I wrote editorials together for the *Oregon Daily Emerald* back in 1959. Professor Dull gave us the thrill of a lifetime by commenting, during a lecture, on one of our editorials. It was called "Life in Happy Valley," and in it we criticized the complacency of UO students and our lack of interest of public affairs. He strongly agreed with our editorial.

Professor Dull was an inspiration to us and many other Oregon students, and that continues to this day.

John Gustafson edited the Oregon Daily Emerald *editorial page in 1959. He retired from public service in 2005 after receiving the US Environmental Protection Agency's highest honor, the EPA Distinguished Career Service Award. He and his wife live in the Washington, DC, area.*

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