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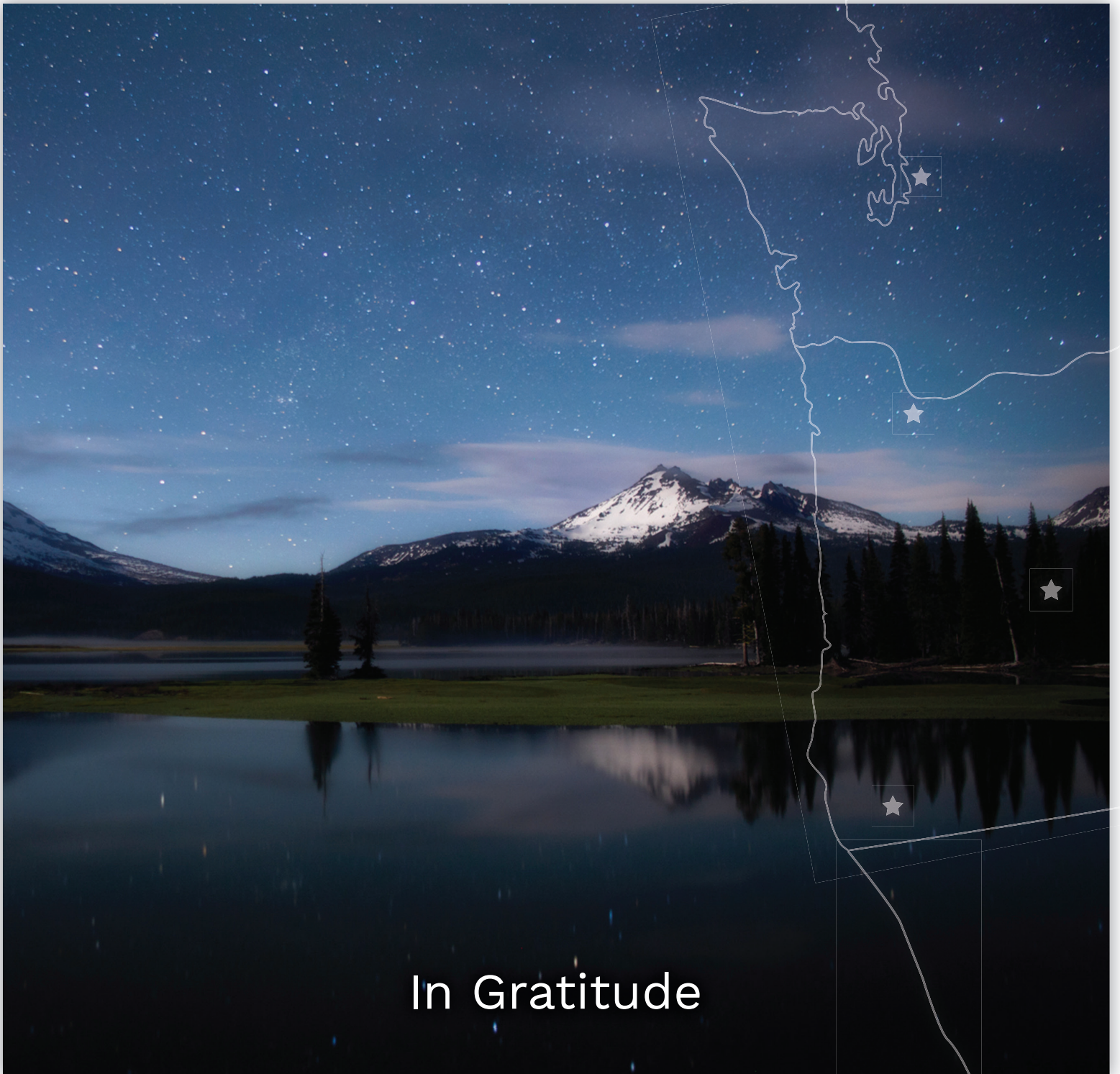
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Falling Leaves, Rising Hopes

Fall has become my favorite time of year. As the leaves turn and Ducks fans return to Autzen Stadium to cheer, the University of Oregon campus comes alive. A new flock of students joins the more seasoned scholars on campus, finding their way, eager to learn, optimistic, and ready to make a difference in the world.

Over the last several years, the UO has stepped up efforts to ensure students from every background and income level can come to the University of Oregon; we are being more intentional about helping our incoming students explore, find the right path, and stay on track to graduation. This year we celebrate 10 years of PathwayOregon, an innovative scholarship and advising program that has provided free tuition to more than 5,000 students with financial need. From hiring advisors and employing new technologies to connect students with resources to creating additional enriching academic residential communities, the university is investing heavily in student success. We have made good progress, but we are far from satisfied and owe it to our students, their families, and Oregon taxpayers to not let our foot off the gas and keep driving

toward greater student success.

We know from experience and research that students are more likely to succeed when they make early connections on campus, when they engage with faculty members and immerse themselves in learning. There is nothing more rewarding than hearing about students' "aha" moments in the classroom, laboratory, or while studying abroad—when they realize they aren't at a world-class public research university merely to soak up information, but to contribute to the world's body of knowledge. This is why undergraduate research is a cornerstone of the University of Oregon student experience. From very early in their academic journeys, UO students actively participate in research that leads to understanding about our world, bodies, minds, and hearts—to advance their understanding of the human condition and to make sense of complex problems.

In this edition of *Oregon Quarterly*, we meet students in the donor-funded Peter O'Day Fellowships as they explore virtual reality; human physiology; the role of histamines on blood flow; and conservation in Coos Bay's South Slough. We head to India to visit with a student asking questions about Tibetan culture and we follow another trying to better protect snow leopards. We chart a student's academic path from living on the streets to pursuing a doctorate in neuroscience. I also invite you to read about alumni whose research experiences led to rewarding careers.

This academic year, we have tremendous plans to provide students with more of these research opportunities, open the new Willie and Donald Tykeson Hall, home to our new advising effort, and ensure PathwayOregon continues to offer free tuition to Oregonians. We are looking forward to an outstanding year and another beautiful fall.

Michael H. Schill
President and Professor of Law

Oregon

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Under a donor-funded program, student teams from biology, human physiology, psychology, and more examine climate change, brain plasticity, blood flow, and spatial awareness

BY LAURIE NOTARO

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TIBET: SNOW LEOPARDS AND SOUVENIRS

In projects rooted in the remote "Roof of the World," an environmental studies major examines the mountain feline and a philosophy-sociology student explores cultural appropriation

BY EMILY HALNON

ON THE COVER

This issue explores UO's varied opportunities for undergraduates to pursue research—one of the most valuable ways a student can develop critical skills and contribute to the growth of knowledge.



ROY KIM (TOP); DUSTIN WHITAKER, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS (MIDDLE); CHRIS LARSEN, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

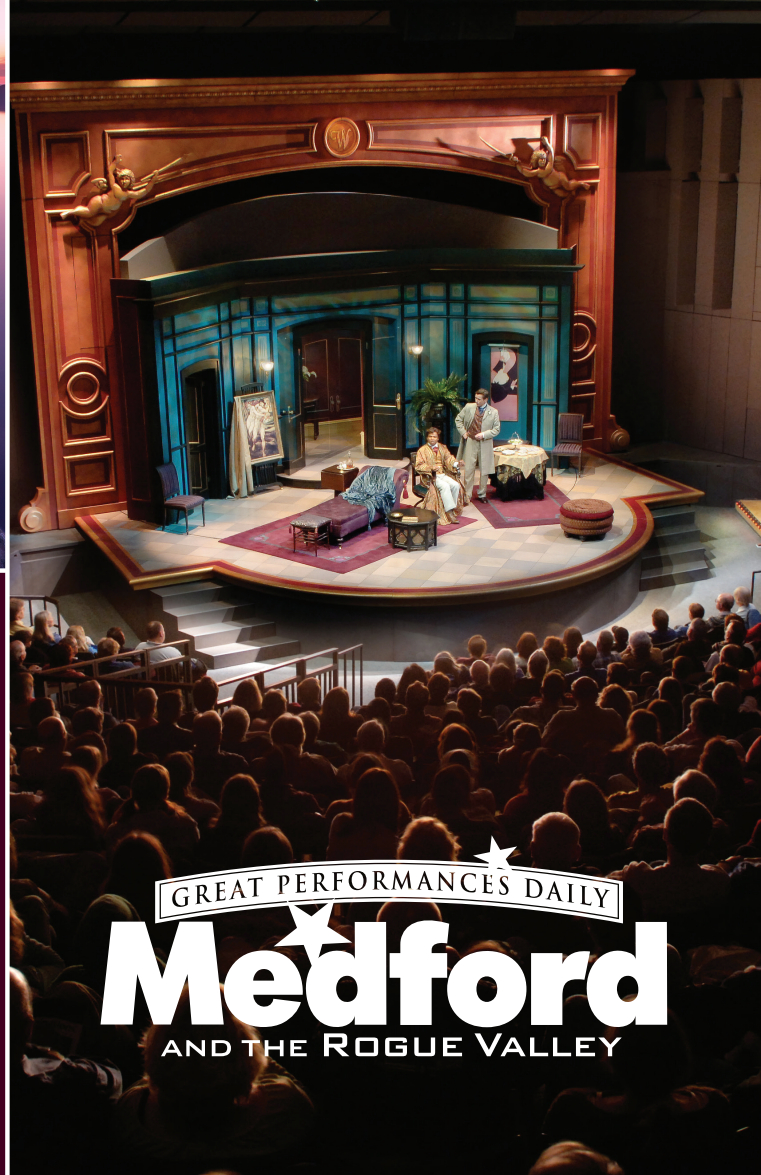
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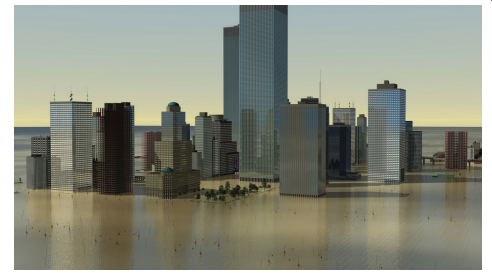
AroundtheO



Crisp air and color in the trees—reds, yellows, oranges—herald autumn’s return and the start of a journey: the new academic year. Education is exhilarating—how else to describe the sensation of solving a stubborn problem, gaining new insight, or discovering a novel solution?

This issue of *Oregon Quarterly* is a first for us—it focuses on undergraduates who maximize their education through demanding research projects. These students learn more about the world, more about themselves. Undergraduate researchers define the UO experience—but as these online features attest, Ducks also distinguish the university with work on climate change, autism, the workforce, and more.

—GEORGE EVANO



IS THE INTERNET’S FUTURE ALL WET?

Ramakrishnan Durairajan, of the Department of Computer and Information Science, led a team that found internet infrastructure vulnerable to malfunction due to projected rising waters in places such as Seattle and Miami. The work made a splash with NPR and other news groups.

oregonquarterly.page.link/risingwater



BIRD’S-EYE VIEW

It’s the talk of the law school: An aerial camera has offered live, round-the-clock footage of an osprey family nesting underneath. Donations paid for the Dean Margie Paris Osprey Cam—so dubbed for the school’s recently retired leader—and a contest followed to name two chicks. The winning entries do justice to these “legal eagles”: “Ruth Bader Ginsbird” and “Sandra Day O’Sprey.”

oregonquarterly.page.link/2018osprey



REVVING UP RESEARCH

Numbers don’t lie: UO research is on an upswing. Investigators brought in \$121.9 million in grants, contracts, and competitive awards last fiscal year—an increase of more than 5 percent. The UO is now ranked number five in the Association of American Universities in licensing per research dollar. “Our research productivity is increasing,” says David Conover, vice president for research and innovation, “and so, too, is our impact on the world around us.”

around.uoregon.edu/2018-research-funding



FREEDOM FIGHTER

DaHyun Kim overcame adversity—now she’s helping others do the same. The 2018 international studies graduate—a survivor of domestic violence—now works for Liberty in North Korea. Kim earned a scholarship to attend the UO and later a grant for a six-month internship at the United Nations headquarters in Kenya. The trip would prove a catalyst for her career in international aid.

around.uoregon.edu/dahyun-kim



COMMENCEMENT SPEECH

Miguel McKelvey, BArch ’99, cofounded WeWork, a shared-space company that uses design to help people collaborate more meaningfully. The keynote speaker at commencement urged graduating Ducks to embrace the same spirit of creativity and innovation that drives his company.

oregonquarterly.page.link/2018graduation

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and I don't feel guilty. Political correctness is so much BS. Humor is basically cruel; something or someone is the object of a joke. To the author of this article: Get over it!

Michael Manela, BA '69 (general science)

Tucson, Arizona

Then and Now

It's a pity the University of Oregon student culture, as depicted in Jason Stone's article, has lost its sense of cultural history and humor. This must now be the "University of Political Correctness." No wonder Jerry Seinfeld won't perform on college campuses anymore. Jeez . . . LIGHTEN UP!

Steve Dossey, BS '71 (psychology)

Santa Fe, New Mexico

Remembering Hope

I read with sadness your lovely tribute to Hope Pressman [Summer 2018, right]. Hope personified relationship-based development. We met when I was 13 years old and had a summer job in the UO development office, looking up phone numbers in the Eugene and Portland phone books (yes, the printed ones) because the university was getting ready to launch its phonathon fundraising program. Over the next 12 years, she would become a valued friend and mentor.

My first "real" job after graduating from the UO in 1986 was to help raise \$9 million in gifts to renovate and expand the main library. Hope initiated the idea to approach Phil Knight because of the important role Bill and Barbara Bowerman and Nike stock had played in the library's growth to date. I was a 21-year-old junior development director, and with Hope and university librarian George Shipman (and others), developed the strategy, put together a proposal package, and planned the request that resulted in Mr. Knight's multimillion-dollar gift to the library. Hope guided the work, smoothed the path, and ensured success every step of the way. She often didn't get credit until much later for the big things she made happen at the UO. Her work was personal and often behind the scenes, not loud or flashy. She was a woman ahead of her time who didn't call attention to herself, but shined a light on others and on the university's accomplishments. Well done, good and faithful servant!

Laura Simic, BA '86 (public relations)

Boise, Idaho

Revisiting Animal House

As a parent of a recent graduate from UO, I was very interested in the article regarding the 40th anniversary of *Animal House* ["Cell-UO-loid Heroes?" Summer 2018]. I and many others consider the movie a classic and applaud then president of the UO William Boyd for his controversial decision to allow the filming of the movie on campus, and even in his office. It is a movie that should be applauded by the UO family as putting UO on the map.

I reject the quote from UO professor Michael Aronson, who says that as a film, "it's best to forget." The movie was funny at the time it was released and is iconic in movie history. I remind professor Aronson (for whom I have the greatest respect) that the US Library of Congress deemed *Animal House* "culturally, historically or aesthetically significant" and selected it for preservation in the National Film Registry. The movie was listed number one on Bravo's "100 Funniest Movies." It was number 36 on the American Film Institute's "100 Years . . . 100

Laughs" list of the 100 best American comedies.

I agree that there are scenes in the movie that, if shot today, would be deemed racist and sexist. Should we avoid movies from the '40s that show everyone smoking? Or perhaps forget about *The Godfather*, because it shows Italian culture in a bad light?

However, I agree with professor Aronson that it is hard to forget Otis Day and the Knights, a group that did not exist in "the real world" until the movie was released. Amazing what movies can do.

Thomas Wall

Rancho Palos Verdes, California

Political Correctness Needs Double Secret Probation

Really?! This movie was a spoof/satire of its time. It cannot be judged by today's values. Although incorrect for a number of reasons today, it should be judged by the standards of the time. I can watch it today and still laugh,



Sold After Three “Wow’s”

The summer OQ was another great package of storytelling. But this Duck J-school grad would have been impressed with just three elements in the issue. My kudos contentions: (a) the photo and caption on page 15 [“Big Step Forward,” regarding a student from the UO’s Inside Out Program for incarcerated men, who graduated from a campus he had never visited] speaks volumes; (b) “On Her Own Terms” (Caitlyn Jenner) truly told the power of story; and (c) page 47’s Old Oregon cartoon mural was memorable for a ’64 grad (men’s hoops coach Steve Belko was my landlord my last two years in Eugene). Yes, that’s his caricature down by the old Mac Court. I just might have to buy a print.

Craig Weckesser, BS '64 (journalism)

Olympia, Washington

CORRECTION: Andrew Ek’s name and degree were misprinted in the summer issue. The 2017 alumnus (MS, conflict and dispute resolution) was included in a feature on entrepreneur Paul Anthony Troiano.

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. Published letters may be edited for brevity, clarity, and style.

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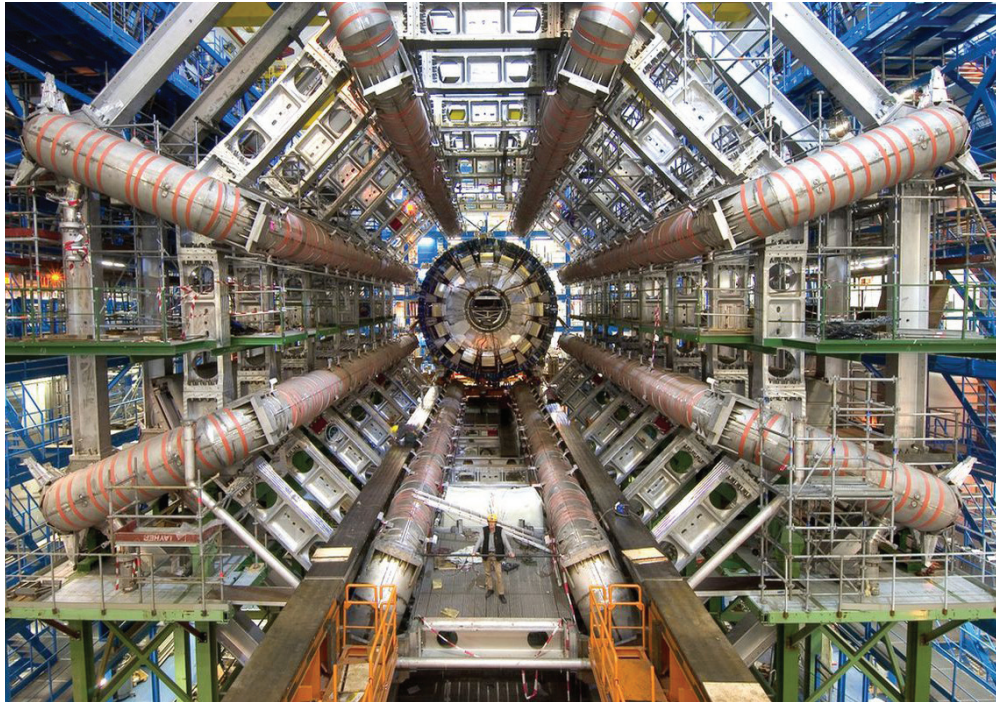


ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT

As part of the Science & Memory project in the School of Journalism and Communication, undergraduates went to Ghana to meet researchers and tell visual stories about climate and the environment. Most waste in that country is organic, so students created a campaign to keep it out of the landfill and to increase the use of compost. They studied areas key to commercializing and distributing compost products, including the bustling coastal transport facilities in Elmina, where advertising student Justin Hartney took this picture with a drone-mounted camera.

PHOTO BY JUSTIN HARTNEY, BS '18 (JOURNALISM; ADVERTISING)

Student Research SIX QUICK PICKS



1 On a Collision Course

At the world's best-known atom smasher in Geneva, not even a coffee break interrupts the hunt for new particles.

"Coffee breaks are known to be the place where science is done," Adrian Gutierrez says, laughing. "You go out with your peers to talk about your research and ask questions."

The physics major, a member of the class of 2019, spent the summer at the Large Hadron Collider, where researchers crash proton beams together to learn more about particle physics and aid our understanding of all matter in the universe. The facility is operated by the European Organization for Nuclear Research, or CERN.

Gutierrez, who works in the lab of Stephanie Majewski, an associate professor of physics, was part of a team from Duke University looking for "gluinos"—theoretical particles important to a concept called supersymmetry.

To find evidence of such a particle requires a massive amount of number-crunching, so Gutierrez ran a computer through various software applications meant to improve the machine's ability to learn on its own—that is, to improve its performance without specifically being programmed to do so.

Gutierrez found it exhilarating to work so close to the world's top physicists. He counts among his fondest memories a chat with Fabiola Gianotti, project leader during 2012's breakthrough discovery of the Higgs boson, a particle famously predicted to imbue other ones with mass.

Not all the young scientist's discoveries have been at the quantum level, however. He was delighted to find the research facility is home to various social clubs, from chess and dance to snowboarding.

"CERN is like its own country," Gutierrez says. "A country with a common language: physics."



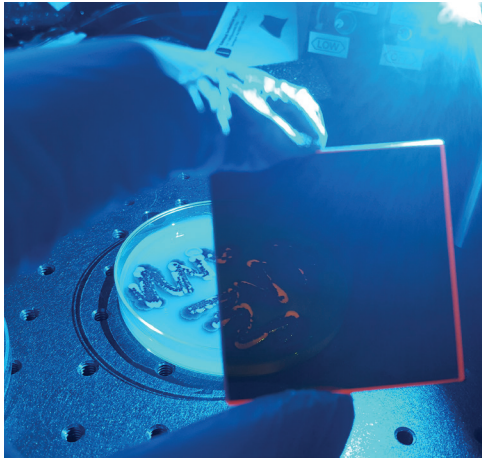
2 A Mushrooming Problem

Oregon is failing a mushroom-picking industry that supports marginalized groups and others and is worth tens of millions of dollars to the region.

So says Becca Marshall, class of 2018, who examined mushroom harvesting in the Willamette National Forest for her senior thesis in environmental studies. The Robert D. Clark Honors College student analyzed more than 50 forest-management documents, interviewed 14 harvesters and land managers, and toured a wild-mushroom business.

The US Forest Service is required to manage land for mushrooms and other forest products and must include harvesters—often minorities and people with low income—in decision-making. But guidelines for managing mushrooms and ensuring public participation are largely absent from forest documents, Marshall says, and interviews suggest a "communication gap" between land managers and harvesters.

"The Willamette National Forest cannot make informed or environmentally just management decisions if they do not take into account the experiences, knowledge, and voices of the commercial mushroom harvesters," Marshall writes.



3 Quality Control

Undergraduates in physicist Raghuvier Parthasarathy's lab work with bacteria to aid understanding of disease, and pure specimens are critical. Here, Drew Shields, a physics-economics double major, uses a blue light and a handheld filter to examine *Acinetobacter* for contamination. "I'm looking to see if there's another type of bacteria present," Shields says. "You can think of it as troubleshooting."



4 Troubled Mine

It's no secret that Oregon's Black Butte Mine is an environmental problem. The abandoned mercury mine near Cottage Grove is a Superfund site.

But the situation might be worse than previously understood.

For her senior thesis in environmental science, Rachael Cleveland (above), class of 2018, addressed gaps in documented contamination levels. She tested 29 sediment samples around the mine,

tracing the behavior and concentration of mercury in sediment that has been released since Black Butte began operating in the 1890s.

Cleveland furthered the results of state and federal regulators by studying mercury from the Black Butte Mine site, through drainages like the Coast Fork of the Willamette River, and into the Cottage Grove Reservoir. At a site within the reservoir, she found evidence mercury could be converting from an inorganic to an organic state—which is especially toxic—and she found locations where this hadn't been discovered.

"A new site of organic mercury transformation has potentially been identified," Cleveland says, "and future [cleanup] work can address this site." Cleveland's study also contributed new knowledge about how mercury changes form as it moves from mine sources through watersheds.



5 Romantic Appeal

Cellphones today are so smart you can use them to order just about anything—from movies to music to a new pair of shoes. Why not a date?



About 30 million Americans have used dating applications or "apps" through websites such as Match.com. Mariah Bloom, an anthropology major and member of the class of 2019, is surveying 500 men and women to see how dating apps affect behavior.

Bloom says the popularity of these services is such that anthropologists can ill afford to ignore their impact.

"You can't really study human mating today without looking at dating apps," says Bloom. "They've become such a huge part of adults' lives all over the world."

6 Antihero vs Antiheroine

For her senior honors research project in the School of Journalism and Communication, Meg Rodgers, BA '18 (journalism: media studies), examined the "antiheroine"—a female character in film or TV who bucks the stereotype for how a woman should act and think. How does an antiheroine compare to the more common antihero archetype? Rodgers pits *Sex and the City's* Carrie Bradshaw against Tony Soprano from *The Sopranos*.

| Tony Soprano | Carrie Bradshaw |
|--|--|
|  |  |
| In a nutshell | |
| Patriarchal macho mob boss | Ultrafeminine slutty shopaholic |
| Why an antihero/antiheroine? | |
| Responsible for multiple murders | Cheats on boyfriend and continuously falls for toxic men |
| On the therapist's couch | |
| Closed off emotionally | Still single in her 30s, happily owns her sexuality |
| What the critics are saying | |
| Easy to forgive him for his crimes | Greatly disliked for her questionable choices |

Visit around.uoregon.edu/antiheroines for more on Rodgers' research by Becky Hoag, a journalism and environmental science double major.

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Undergraduate Research: What It Is, Why It Matters

Coordinators Kevin Hatfield and Josh Snodgrass on the importance of student projects

BY MATT COOPER

The UO's burgeoning undergraduate research program reflects the work of Josh Snodgrass, associate vice provost for undergraduate studies, and Kevin Hatfield, director of academic residential and research initiatives. They explained to OQ the role of undergraduate projects in student growth.

What is undergraduate research and why does it matter?

Josh Snodgrass: People hear “research” and they think microscopes and petri dishes, but it’s broader than that—it’s really just the creation of new knowledge. That could be the sciences, social sciences, arts, humanities, even the professional schools. It’s taking the skills undergraduates learn in class and applying them to a complicated problem or an unanswered question, adding something to a topic that interests them, or producing original work—a thesis or an experiment or even a piece of music.

Kevin Hatfield: Research creates flexible, independent thinkers—students who think outside of the box to solve problems. That’s what employers want, regardless of the major. Doing research teaches you to read critically, to analyze information. You learn to be patient and persistent.

It’s an especially effective way to teach, and undergrads who do research have a leg up for distinguished scholarships. They also develop relationships with faculty members and graduate students that help them get into graduate school or start careers.

What do you tell parents who believe their kids should focus on gaining technical skills?

JS: It’s really about the ways students are thinking, rather than the accumulation of skills. A robot is going to do a technical job better than

you. We know people are not going to have one career—they're going to have two, three, four, 10 careers, and they're going to need those flexible-thinking research skills that transfer from job to job.

The problems we need to solve in society are not easy ones, and they're going to require students to apply themselves in situations they haven't anticipated—to go above and beyond. That's research.

Why does the University of Oregon prioritize undergraduate research?

KH: It's what we do best as a research university. We're engaging students in knowledge creation—this is different from a community college, from most small liberal-arts colleges. It's different from the online degree environment. The data show that this type of “experiential learning”—learning by doing—is an especially effective way to work with course material.

What are some examples of undergraduate research?

JS: Check out the Undergraduate Research Symposium. This year we had more than 380 participants, and all eight undergraduate colleges were represented. As you'd expect, there were lots of projects in the natural sciences—biology, human physiology, environmental studies, students looking at climate change or cell structure. But we also had projects on dance and film, indigenous peoples, Greek life, jazz, space travel—even lemon meringue pie.

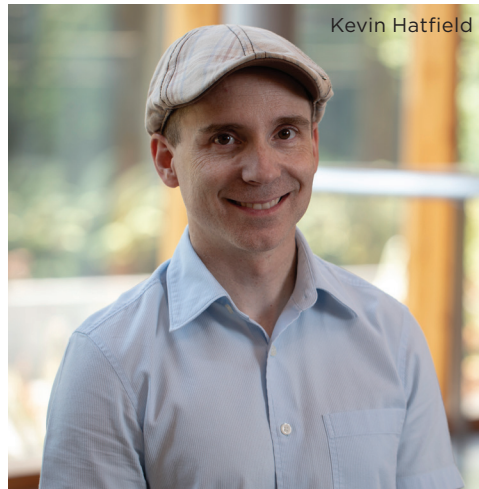
What's the Undergraduate Research Symposium?

JS: The symposium is a daylong event at which undergraduates present their projects through poster or oral presentations and panel discussions. It's a great way to get experience for a research conference and to connect with peers and faculty members. You learn how to talk about your work, how to answer questions.

Students are demanding undergraduate research opportunities because they see that as important to building their résumé and getting a job or getting into graduate school. The numbers at the symposium are clear: In the eight years we've run it, the number of presentations and student presenters has increased fivefold. This year, we had 310 presentations and 382 student presenters.

How does an undergraduate start in research?

JS: Reach out to a professor working on something you find interesting. If that doesn't work, or if you're uncomfortable doing so, contact the



Kevin Hatfield

Center for Undergraduate Research and Engagement [cure.oregon.edu]. The center can connect you to research opportunities, provide funding support, and help you showcase your work on campus or even across the state and nation.

KH: Another great way for first-year students to get their feet wet is with the ARCs—academic residential communities. These communities are a proven approach for student success, such as grade point average, retention, and graduating on time. They build a sense of belonging—it's like an academic family, which is especially important at a large university.

Students in the ARCs live and take classes together on a topic of shared interest—music, social activism, Native American and indigenous studies, LGBTQIA+, or media and social action, to name a few.

If students wait until junior or senior year to get into research, it's often too late. Students in ARCs take seminars that include a research project they present at the symposium, so they get experience in research before their first year is done—how to write an abstract, how to present your work. They have the autonomy to come up with something that interests them.

Kevin, I know you're excited about the work done by students to interview Native Americans. What's the project?

KH: Students in the Native American and Indigenous Studies ARC live together in Kalapuya Ilihi Hall and take classes together, including a yearlong seminar in which they learn what research is and work on actual projects.

One of the recent projects was the “Indigenous UO” digital map (map.uoregon.edu/indigenous). Students selected more than 20 sites on campus that are associated with Native American history and culture—location of the first UO Longhouse, for example. Each student takes a different site and does a mini-research project to provide



Josh Snodgrass

information about that site—they get information from UO Libraries' archives, they talk to tribal elders and community members and others who are involved in the ARC project. Then they write a two-page narrative for that spot.

That information was transferred to a digital format. Now, when you take a tour of campus, you can see on your phone the spots that have more information that can be accessed about the Native American experience. It's interactive—and soon you can listen to an oral interview.

All of the ARCs have a project like that. It demystifies the whole process of doing research and it sets up students to work with faculty members in the future.

Same question, Josh—do you have a favorite undergraduate research story?

JS: Sandra Dorning [BS '17, marine biology]. She did a number of projects at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology—everything from whales to threatened ecosystems. She did a project on a “sea squirt” species threatening an estuary in the Coos River.

Sandra went on to win a Marshall Scholarship [as many as 40 young Americans receive the scholarship annually to pursue graduate degrees free in the United Kingdom]. When she applied for the scholarship, she had a track record of doing research and letters of recommendation from people in her corner, helping her with her application.

The people who are going to be competitive for these types of scholarships are the ones who have been deeply engaged in undergraduate research.

Matt Cooper is managing editor for *Oregon Quarterly*.

Return to Morningside

Foray into mental illness shifts to problems at a Portland institution



The multifaceted history of Portland's Morningside mental health facility intrigued student researchers.



"It feels like you're reading a novel, but this is real life." Gabby Farland (left) and Rachel McGill, both of international studies, examined mental illness in the 1950s, working from patient accounts of treatments such as electroconvulsive therapy.

In the 1800s, it was called Dr. Coe's Nervous Sanitarium. That's one of the old names for Morningside Hospital, a psychiatric facility in Portland touched by controversy over 85 years of operation. The hospital was shuttered in the 1960s and its land converted into a shopping mall, thus beginning Morningside's retreat from the public awareness.

Until now, UO researchers recently familiarized themselves with Morningside, courtesy of a treasure trove of hospital records. What began as a study of mental illness became an examination of the hospital and mental health care in the Pacific Northwest that introduced two undergraduates to the excitement of an open-ended investigation.

Gabby Farland and Rachel McGill, members of the class of 2019, joined professors Mary Wood, of English, and Kristin Yarris, of international studies, to examine treatment of mental illness in the mid-20th century; the faculty members plan to write a book on the evolution of mental health care. Through a grant from the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation, the professors worked with Farland, McGill, and other students in the university's new global health minor initiative.

"Even though many global health students think about contemporary challenges, they're also thirsty for understanding how the past informs the present," Yarris says.

Working in UO Libraries' Special Collections and University Archives, the team sifted through records, meeting minutes, and notes from DeWitt Burkes, a psychiatrist at the hospital in the '50s. As the team dug deeper, the multilayered Morningside story resurfaced.

In 1904, the US Department of the Interior contracted with Morningside to hold people with mental illness from the Alaska Territory, which had no facilities. Mental illness—at the time, often treated as a crime—was defined broadly, including schizophrenia, tuberculosis, alcoholism, Down syndrome, and even homosexuality.

Fascinated by their finds, the team expanded their reach. They traveled to Portland's Oregon Historical Society, home to records of the late Edith Green, the legendary Oregon representative and 1940 alumna known for trailblazing work in the creation of Title IX. Green was key to the passage of the Alaska Mental Health Enabling Act of 1956, meant to improve care in the territory.

"The Edith Green papers . . . told a very rich story about how the hospital was being audited," McGill says, for financial

mismanagement and criticism of patient care.

As Green and Alaska lawmaker Bob Bartlett worked for legislation to transfer care of patients back to Alaska, investigations continued over the hospital's treatment of patients and possible misuse of federal money.

"We were looking at both the medical and the political side, so it became a multifaceted research question," Farland says. "You can see that one of the doctors cares deeply about the patients and wants to diagnose them very accurately, but then you also get the more business side [and concerns] about making a profit. It feels like you're reading a novel, but this is real life."

The team was surprised by patients' descriptions of treatment, several of which appeared in the Green archive.

"I read something from a patient who was getting [electroconvulsive therapy] and she wrote, 'I've had it seven times, I've been held down. I don't want it again,'" Farland says.

When Wood and Yarris first presented the Morningside records to McGill and Farland, the energy with which the students dove in confirmed to the faculty members the merit of the project. Undergraduates are clamoring for research opportunities in the social sciences and humanities, Yarris says.

Adds Wood: "It's about undergraduates producing knowledge, not just consuming it."

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Doneka Scott leads the initiative to hire 23 advisors and house them in Tykeson Hall, opening in 2019.

From Day One to Diploma and Beyond

Nearly two dozen new advisors will guide students through education to careers

Today, when students first come to the University of Oregon, they have a 45-minute advising appointment before signing up for fall classes. For some, it could be the last time they see an advisor.

As part of President Michael Schill’s student success initiative, the UO is launching an ambitious project to ensure every student receives substantial advising and support. The university is hiring nearly two dozen advisors to join the current ranks, helping students navigate their education and connect what they learn in the classroom with potential careers.

Willie and Donald Tykeson Hall, under construction and scheduled to open in fall 2019, will house the advisors, who will be cross-trained in academic and career advising. In addition, the UO Career Center will relocate to Tykeson Hall, providing career development and employee relations opportunities.

For first-year students, the changes will result in significant support early in their college experience, encouraging them to think in new ways about what it means to earn a degree.

“As we reenvision academic advising at UO, we are building a foundation for student success that will provide more opportunities to help our students navigate the university and achieve their goals,” says Doneka Scott, associate vice provost for student success and leader of the advising initiative.

Advisors will use “thematic areas of interest” to better understand the types of careers that interest students. The themes will overlap with and include multiple majors to serve a variety of students and create a more flexible view of how a major relates to a career. Rather than seeing a major as determining a specific job, students will be able to see how their passions interweave with skills that can be developed

BY JESSE SUMMERS

through classes and applied to a career.

“When students matriculate into college, major selection can be a significant cause of stress, as many students equate major choice with job determination,” says Scott. “Our goal is to minimize the associated anxiety by helping students understand there is more than one academic path to achieve their desired career choice. The thematic areas of interest will help students intentionally explore their options.”

Feedback from employers and alumni has been pivotal in ensuring the new advising resources will meet student needs and help them develop competitive skills for careers. Career development specialists in the Career Center will help students translate their undergraduate experience into competitive résumés and cover letters, hone their interviewing skills, and find opportunities that align students’ passions and career interests.

The initiative also brings a change for students still contemplating their major. The term “undeclared students”—traditionally describing those who have not chosen a major—will be replaced with the more positive and proactive term “exploring students.” The new term reflects the thematic approach to advising, as well as what a student is actually doing when he or she hasn’t chosen a major.


But this is only one example of the many ways in which students are being encouraged to rethink their futures.

“These new resources will continue to place our university at the forefront of student success,” Scott says. “Our intent is to meet students where they are, connect them with campus-wide opportunities, and help them match their academic experience with their career ambitions.”


Jesse Summers is a staff writer for University Communications.

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Acosta-King was told he wouldn't amount to much. Now he's studying neural systems in mice and earning a doctorate in psychology.

From Homeless to a PhD

Thrill of discovery lifts student from self-doubt to success

One evening last year, Jared Acosta-King was in a laboratory in Huestis Hall, diluting a potentially odorous chemical called isopentylamine.

The psychology major and community college transfer had earned a spot in the lab of Matt Smear, an assistant psychology professor, through his classroom inquisitiveness. But Acosta-King had limited experience working with odors; he was curious about isopentylamine and took a sniff too close to the bottle—and he experienced an indescribably bad smell.

“It was like a gnarly alcohol. It felt like I was inhaling a fireball,” says Acosta-King, 29. “The fear response was immense.”

He became so disoriented and panic-stricken that fellow students took him to an emergency room.

As Acosta-King regained his composure, he was seized by another spasm of fear—that Smear would kick him out of the lab. The assistant professor quickly allayed those concerns, which were rooted in the insecurity ingrained in Acosta-King from an upbringing fractured by poverty and trauma.

“My default setting,” he says, “is I’m dumb and I don’t belong.”

Many college students have wrestled with fear of rejection or failure. For Acosta-King, it ran deeper.

Prior to enrolling at the UO, he struggled to believe he could move past his early challenges. The voice in his head told him he wasn’t good enough, but one thing sustained him: an innate obsession with knowledge and discovery. That drive to understand the world was a beacon during dark times, and it has led Acosta-King to status as one of the UO’s promising young scholars.

In 2006, Acosta-King, 17 years old and estranged from his family, dropped out of school and was evicted from his apartment in Billings,

BY MARC DADIGAN Montana. He spent years homeless, he says, living in a van, couch-surfing, and drinking to numb frigid temperatures and shame.

Acosta-King started to stabilize after moving into his sister’s apartment in Coos Bay in 2013. He hit the books with intensity at Southwestern Oregon Community College, driven by the fear that this would be his last chance to make something of himself. He got sober, started getting A’s, and in 2016 transferred to the UO for its standout psychology department.

A first-generation college student, Acosta-King arrived as a 27-year-old junior with \$200, no place to live, and having been sober for barely a year. He got help quickly through the Trio support program for at-risk students, where staff members wrote him letters of recommendation for scholarships and introduced him to peers with similar hard-luck backgrounds. Through diligence and charm (he got a job at a convenience store the same day he struck up a conversation with the manager), he quickly found an apartment and some income.

Acosta-King had little working knowledge of higher education. But even before he had started his undergraduate studies, he was the type of guy who’d hear a joke about quantum physics and spend hours reading and researching until he understood it.

In Smear’s biopsychology class, he was energized by the professor’s research on the brains of mice and how they process scents to find a mate or identify a predator. Smear’s encouragement proved as meaningful as his knowledge.

“He doesn’t talk down to people. He took the time you needed to really help you understand a concept,” Acosta-King says. “I thought if I was in research, I wanted to be like that guy.”

With Smear and other role models for guidance, Acosta-King

experienced an academic awakening through research. He distinguished himself in the lab, working with the professor's team on projects that explored the olfactory neurons in mice. He branched out, pursuing questions about the autistic brain and why it discerns scents differently.

"The truth is I never had the environment where I was encouraged, and once I had that, I proved I was smart," Acosta-King says. "Students like me, if we're given the right kind of care and supportive, constructive criticism, we can do really amazing things. I'm a testament to that."

That drive propelled Acosta-King to graduation in May as a McNair Scholar, an award that supports promising, underprivileged UO students for doctoral programs. Acosta-King spent the summer working in Smear's lab, where he'll begin earning his PhD in psychology this fall.

Acosta-King will continue to study the olfactory mechanisms of mice, which are vital to the critters finding food and identifying predators. The neurological nodes of the nose are similar structurally across all mammals, but poorly understood compared to other senses. Thus, the inner workings of a mouse brain can reveal discoveries about our own.

During his time at the UO, Acosta-King has methodically replaced self-doubt with self-belief, and that's made him an assiduous evaluator of research. He analyzes projects published in scientific

“The truth is I never had the environment where I was encouraged, and once I had that, I proved I was smart.”

journals and critiques the validity of the author's interpretations.

"The growth in his confidence has been the most important thing in his development so far," Smear says. "He deals with that imposter syndrome more than the rest of us because of his background, and he's still learning how smart he is."

Marc Dadigan, a freelance writer and photographer in Redding, California, covers Native American issues, the environment, mental health, and higher education.



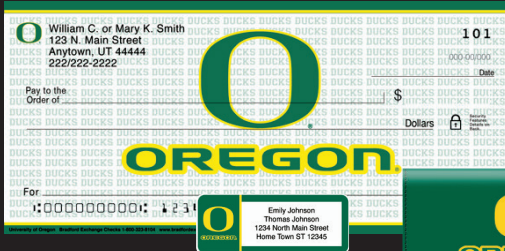
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LANGUAGE DETECTIVE

With onionskin pages and type so tiny even young eyes cry out for a magnifying glass, the *Oxford English Dictionary* captivated Melissa Baese-Berk's inner detective from age three. But she didn't discover her calling as a linguistics scholar until college.

"As I grew older, I felt I was investigating how language works every time I sat down with the OED. It's really what I do now, only in a lab rather than with a magnifying glass," says the 2018 winner of two of the UO's most prized accolades, the Ersted and Tykeson awards for distinguished teaching.

"I was thrilled to join the UO faculty partly because I'm not a typical linguist," Baese-Berk says, explaining that her colleagues, unlike their peers at most universities, emphasize behavioral and field data to examine patterns of sound, grammar, and meaning.

"How we learn our first language isn't well understood," she says. "Most kids do this easily, without being taught. Trying to figure out what's behind this, and how adults can capture this ability, is my favorite part of the job." What she discovers is useful for kids with speech and language difficulties, adults with traumatic brain injuries, immigrants hoping to adapt to a new country, and anyone wishing to learn a second language.

A photograph of Melissa Baese-Berk, a woman with dark hair and glasses, wearing a blue patterned dress and a light blue cardigan. She is holding an open book with marbled pages. The background is dark and out of focus.

Melissa Baese-Berk

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LINGUISTICS

BY MELODY WARD LESLIE, BA '79 (HUMANITIES)
PHOTO BY NIC WALCOTT, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

UNDERGRADS MAKE THE LAB GO 'ROUND

The UO's lab-driven linguistics program is one of the nation's largest. Paid undergraduate research assistants help collect and analyze data. "In order to have a successful research program in my field, the most important piece is undergraduate researchers," Baese-Berk says. "If you look at the budget breakdown for my grants, the bulk goes to support them. Not having them would cut my productivity in half." She also plans to use the honorarium from her Tykeson award to fund undergraduate assistants, saying, "It's a tremendous bang for the buck."

WHAT A DIFFERENCE AN "A" MAKES

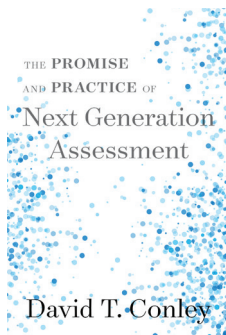
The long-running controversy over the first words uttered on the moon intrigued Baese-Berk because she could tackle it through linguistic analysis. The world heard Neil Armstrong say "one small step for man," but he insisted that he'd actually said "one small step for a man." Working with colleagues at other universities, she set up experiments from the perspective of speech production and listener perception. Their findings support the hypothesis that people tend to perceive one word—"for"—rather than two words "for a," under conditions similar to those present for Armstrong's Apollo 11 broadcast.

SOME BECOME STARS

About a dozen undergrads work in Baese-Berk's lab. Most go on to other things, but some discover their life's work. In Drew McLaughlin's case, Baese-Berk could see she was brilliant but lacked confidence. "Drew proceeded to win every prize for undergraduate research, and by the end of the first year, she was presenting her findings about perception of accented speech at an international conference in Boston," Baese-Berk says. "Watching her transformation from student to researcher to shining star was extraordinary." McLaughlin, BA '17 (linguistics), was accepted into every PhD program to which she applied. What's more, her prize money and research jobs in two labs helped pay for her UO education.

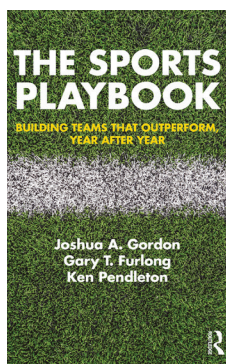
BOOKMARKS

Recent works by alumni and faculty members explore student assessment, winning cultures, colorful draft dodgers, and a return to Oregon.



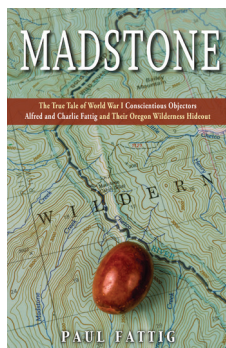
THE PROMISE AND PRACTICE OF NEXT GENERATION ASSESSMENT (HARVARD EDUCATION PRESS, 2018) BY DAVID CONLEY, PROFESSOR OF EDUCATIONAL METHODOLOGY, POLICY, AND LEADERSHIP

Conley calls for a new system of assessment that does more than merely rank students. Changes in the aim of education, he argues, demand approaches that help all students succeed in college and careers. Rather than relying on high-stakes multiple-choice tests, he endorses drawing on a diverse portfolio of personalized assessments.



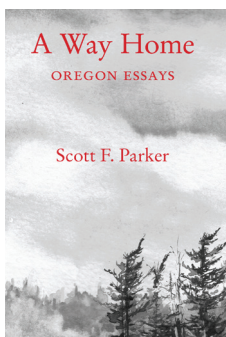
THE SPORTS PLAYBOOK: BUILDING TEAMS THAT OUTPERFORM, YEAR AFTER YEAR (ROUTLEDGE, 2018)

Why do some teams consistently succeed—and others fail? Authors **Joshua Gordon**, a UO instructor of sports business, **Ken Pendleton**, PhD '98 (philosophy) and practitioner at the Sports Conflict Institute, and **Gary Furlong** provide a playbook that helps teams fulfill their potential through leadership, focus, and performance. They analyze winning cultures, from the NBA's San Antonio Spurs to Germany's 1960 gold medal rowing team.



MADSTONE: THE TRUE TALE OF WORLD WAR I CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS ALFRED AND CHARLIE FATTIG AND THEIR OREGON WILDERNESS HIDEOUT (HELLGATE PRESS, 2018) BY PAUL FATTIG, BS '79 (JOURNALISM)

In 1917, two brothers drafted for World War I hid for three years in southwest Oregon's mountains and forests. Fattig, their nephew, captures the fascinating tale of two colorful draft dodgers and also interviews veterans about the war. Like most rural areas, the region was rife with young men eager to test their mettle in war—patriotism was encouraged, pacifism was not.



A WAY HOME: OREGON ESSAYS (KELSON BOOKS, 2018) BY SCOTT PARKER, BS '04 (GENERAL SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY)

Parker pens a love letter to Oregon and an ode to living in the present. After living several years in Minnesota, he longs for the Oregon of his youth; over the course of several visits and the unfolding of memory, he discovers what he is capable of understanding about time, home, and himself.



“PathwayOregon helped me find my community, because that’s always been really important to me.”

—Haley Case-Scott, BA '18
(Political Science)
Chiloquin



“They encouraged me every step of the way.”

—Wesley Bryant, BS '18
(Sociology)
La Pine



“It was great. The best moment of my life.”

—Brianna Hayes,
Class of 2018
(Political Science and
Philosophy)
Portland

Breaking Trail

PathwayOregon, which combines financial aid with advising, celebrates 10 years

BY ED DORSCH

Brianna Hayes was at a restaurant with her dad when the letter arrived. The first-generation college student from Portland had been active at President Ulysses S. Grant High School, earned a solid GPA, and been accepted to the UO. But she had no idea how to afford college, and she was feeling down. Then her mom called.

“You just got a piece of mail from something called PathwayOregon,” she said. “Your tuition and fees are paid for.”

“I’m just sitting there screaming in the middle of the restaurant, and then I started crying,” says Hayes, a member of the class of 2018 who studied political science and philosophy. “My dad asked, ‘What is wrong with you? What’s going on?’”

“I said, ‘I’m going to college. It’s going to work out.’”

For the last 10 years, high school seniors from across Oregon have begun their college journeys like Hayes, with a PathwayOregon letter from the University of Oregon.

The unconventional scholarship program is funded by UO donors, the Oregon state government, and millions of dollars allocated by the university through the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships. The program helps the UO leverage Federal Pell Grant funding, combining these resources to make the most of each.

Years before the first PathwayOregon freshman arrived on campus, UO administrators posed the question: How can the state’s flagship university remove financial barriers to college for Oregonians with lower income and help them succeed once they’re here?

The answer was a comprehensive approach that offers financial access, along with support that helps students succeed once they’re here—practical assistance to help students meet academic requirements, manage their finances, overcome common challenges, link their majors to future careers, and more. PathwayOregon—an innovative and unconventional scholarship program—was among the first of its kind at a public institution in the United States and was the

first one in the state of Oregon.

Although the funding varies for each PathwayOregon scholar, the promise is the same. The university guarantees that tuition and fees will be covered for four years as long as the students meet benchmarks on the path to success.

The model allows for students to apply for other scholarships and grants, while simplifying what is often a complex financial puzzle. Freed to focus on their studies, and with guidance from the program’s academic advisors, students are more likely to graduate on time and with less debt. For many, this freedom makes it possible to study abroad, participate in internships or student-leadership activities, and explore ways to match their education and interests with a future career.

A decade after it started, the program has cleared the path to the UO for more than 5,000 Oregonians—inspirational stories that began with a letter.

For more information:
around.uoregon.edu/pathwayoregon2018

Ed Dorsch, BA '94 (English, sociology), MA '99 (journalism), is a staff writer for University Communications.

A SUCCESS BY ANY MEASURE

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IN 2018, **45** PERCENT OF RECIPIENTS ARE STUDENTS OF COLOR

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Kafka AND THE Immigrant

German-theater student recasts *The Trial* to examine human rights

BY EMILY HALNON



Alex Mentzel was studying in Germany in 2016 when a glitch with visas left him unsure of his ability to remain in the country.

As he looked around the visa bureau in Stuttgart, Mentzel felt privileged to be a white, financially secure male, fluent in English and German. He couldn't shake the thought of how much harder it would have been to navigate the confusion and stress of the experience without the same resources or knowledge or skin color—while also trying to escape hardship or persecution.

His immigration-like experience, based on his observations about what parallel human experiences might look like, provides the inspiration for his senior honors thesis.

Mentzel, a senior double majoring in German and theater arts, is adapting German author Franz Kafka's *The Trial* to explore human rights and the immigration experience in the United States.

Kafka's story follows the abrupt arrest of a bank officer who must defend himself against an unknown charge without much help or information; the novel is read as commentary on bureaucracy, totalitarianism, and the loss of individual freedoms. Mentzel explores similar themes by imagining an undocumented immigrant as the main character, navigating the modern immigration system.

Mentzel will also stage and direct a performance of his adaptation in Eugene this winter, inspired by the theatrical methods of Bertolt Brecht. The late German theater practitioner was known for innovative performance techniques such as breaking the "fourth wall" between the actors and the audience to spur conversations about social and political goals.

"The UO helped me realize how to use the humanities to cut into the fundamental questions and problems of our time," Mentzel says. "My thesis project aims to do this with the immigration system, which has been plagued for years by deep-seated structural imbalances of power that threaten human rights, and the dehumanizing border enforcement efforts that have increased in the last two years."

Mentzel draws from his liberal-arts education and wide-ranging research sources for the project.

He turned to German philosopher Hannah Arendt for the ethical underpinnings and political framework of human rights and immigration. He leveraged his lessons from a six-month fellowship in Germany, where he studied Brechtian technique with theater professor Nikolaus Müller-Schöll at Goethe University Frankfurt and immersed himself in Europe's robust theater scene. And he pored over policy briefs and contemporary

news reports of issues with the immigration system in the US.

Mentzel is also pulling from his rich background in acting and theater for the project. While at the UO, he has appeared in local and university productions, as well as episodes of TV shows *Glee* and *Grimm*, and he continues to fly around the world for auditions. Earlier this year, Mentzel was the convocation student speaker at the welcoming ceremony for the class of 2022.

For his production of *The Trial*, Mentzel also serves as director, yet another element that he's carefully considering under the umbrella of the project. The director is an inherently authoritarian figure, he says—how does one reconcile that traditional relationship in a play meant to provoke conversations about political powerlessness? In his paper, Mentzel will probe that question in a chapter about his creative process and execution.

"I hope my thesis project will activate an awareness of human rights and speak to a human experience," Mentzel says. "It is hard to imagine any person more in need of their inalienable rights than those fleeing war, poverty, violence, oppression, persecution, and economic hardship."

Emily Halnon is a staff writer for University Communications.



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Alec Cowan studied Michi Yasui Ando, a 1940s English student whose life was disrupted by the internment of Japanese Americans. She provided the inspiration for a statue in Eugene memorializing victims of the action.



English as Weapon, English as Sanctuary

Study of World War II documents a nation's fear and a girl's plight

BY TARA RAE MINER

Shortly after finishing her finals, University of Oregon senior Michi Yasui applied to attend graduation with her class on May 31, 1942. The commencement ceremony would begin at 8:00 p.m. at McArthur Court. But the United States was at war with Japan, and under internment policies, Japanese American students were confined to their dorm rooms by a strict curfew. Though the university had petitioned the government on her behalf, Yasui was no exception. She was denied permission to attend her graduation ceremony.

Yasui's story is well-documented; she was one victim of many during a time of heightened national fear. But English major Alec Cowan added insight to previous accounts by examining the experience of many Japanese American students at a time when anti-Asian sentiment ran high and the study of English was a pivotal wartime tool.

In 2017, toward the end of his junior year, Cowan, BA '18, joined an ambitious project: writing a history of the English department by researching Special Collections and University Archives, a repository of original documents dating back to the university's founding. The project was developed by John Gage, director of the Center for Teaching Writing, and Corbett Upton, associate director of undergraduate studies. They saw an opportunity to document department history while helping undergraduates develop research skills.

Cowan accepted the internship because he thought it would be interesting to "spend time with old and dusty documents and explore history." He and other student interns were

divided into teams, each assigned a different decade. The work was challenging: Perusing documents, transcripts, meeting minutes, and other records, they followed leads that often went nowhere—but they also discovered gems. “At one point,” says Upton, “students brought in papers documenting the debate within the English department over whether studying American literature was appropriate.”

Cowan, who transferred from Colorado Mesa University to pursue an English degree, focused on World War II. He had worked as a columnist, reporter, and podcast editor for the *Oregon Daily Emerald* and brought this experience to bear, layering research he discovered in special collections with other sources: a transcript of a radio speech from the archives; National Japanese American Student Relocation Council (NJASRC) records; testimonials and statistics from other universities; and newspaper clippings from the *Emerald*. “There’s this old adage that journalism is the rough draft of history,” says Cowan. “It was cool to see that the school newspaper covered issues that weren’t covered in detail anywhere else. I would find these clippings and think, ‘Oh, a typical news day report,’ but for such a monumental research situation, it was invaluable.”

Cowan’s paper, “English as Weapon, English as Sanctuary,” shows how English was utilized as communication during the war effort and as a tool that Japanese Americans used to help get them to safety.

In a 1943 radio speech, Clarence Valentine Boyer, then chairman of the department, made a passionate, bombastic defense of the necessity of English for the war effort: “The great importance of training in English composition lies in the fact that writing is one of the chief means of communication, and communication, at all times essential to civilization, has become an invaluable weapon to the successful prosecution of the war.”

Boyer cited the necessity of every serviceman to possess literacy, accurate expression, and the ability to understand “explanations concerning complicated movements and machines.” According to Cowan, the speech “featured quotes from Mill, Milton, Cowper, Burns, and Shakespeare throughout. A defense of country needed a defense of English.”

But for the “Nisei”—Americans of Japanese descent—command of English was essential for a different kind of defense: defense of citizenship.

At the UO, Japanese American students hoping to counter anti-Asian sentiment expressed their patriotism through letters to the *Emerald*, Cowan found. In records of

the NJASRC, a resettlement organization for college students and internment inmates, he discovered that by 1943, 1,600 Japanese American students from West Coast schools had transferred to schools outside the exclusion zone. Most—28 percent—were liberal-arts students.

A command of English made a strong case for transfer, Cowan says. “Before the war, the study was an academic enterprise—but now, it was an asset in the defense of basic freedom,” he writes. Testimonials from transfer universities praised students who were both patriotic and proficient at speaking English. “One of the girls wrote an English theme on ‘What We Americans Will Do to Those Japanese’ and read it in English class,” wrote one dean. “Any other Nisei of this type would be welcome to come to school here.”

The largest exodus of UO students was to Colorado, and Yasui was in this number. On the same night as her graduation ceremony, Yasui fled Eugene by bus, knowing it was the only way to avoid incarceration in an internment camp.

Yasui was a second-generation American from Hood River. Cowan writes that “Michi wasn’t just studious but exceptional. An active member on campus, she was selected to represent the university at a symposium in Seattle. . . . She stood as a representative of the university’s enterprising English program.” Suddenly uprooted, she made a new life, received a master’s in education from the University of Denver, married Toshio Ando, raised six children, and became an elementary school teacher.

In 1986, four decades after the fact and at the invitation of university officials, she attended her commencement ceremony at Hayward Field. Her remarks prompted a standing ovation as local, national, and international TV cameras rolled. Former UO president Meredith Wilson, who also spoke, would later remark, “What a beautiful way to be outshone.” Yasui Ando died in 2006.

The end of World War II didn’t necessarily mean a welcoming back of Japanese Americans to Oregon, Cowan learned. He cites “No Japs Allowed” signs prominently placed in businesses, and Oregon’s former governor and congressman Walter Pierce is quoted as saying, “We should never be satisfied until every last Jap has been run out of [the] United States and our Constitution changed so they can never get back.” Even the *Emerald* ran skeptical columns on the allegiances of the newly returned students. “I think it’s interesting to revitalize and give life



Michi Yasui Ando was honored at a UO graduation ceremony in 1986 as partial recompense for being denied permission to graduate with her class decades earlier.

“The way we write, the things that we write, define who we are as a country, for better or for worse.”

to history, especially areas that are dark and hard to acknowledge,” says Cowan.

Gage says Cowan expertly navigated the vast records in special collections, deriving “a meaningful story and a significant contribution to history from all this raw material.”

Cowan’s research on English continues. He is currently working on part three: how the study of English changed, following World War II and the GI Bill, to accommodate an influx of veterans. English, says Cowan, is more than just an academic study. It is fundamental to who we are; for someone like Yasui, it was a lifeline.

“The study of English creates this kind of national consciousness,” says Cowan. “The way we write, the things that we write, define who we are as a country, for better or for worse.”

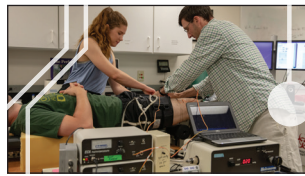
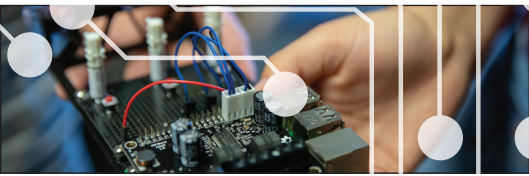
Tara Rae Miner, BA '96 (English), is a freelance writer and editor in Portland.



By Laurie Notaro

Photos by Chris Larsen and Nic Walcott
University Communications

KNOWLEDGE QUEST



From the lab to the coast to the brain and even a virtual world, a new fellowship fuels breathtaking journeys in undergraduate research

On a flawless day in mid-July on the Oregon coast, the sun shines white. The waist-high grass ripples in the breeze, giving it a silvery velvet shimmer, and the birdsong is excited and active. Three men in waders and canvas hats traverse through a spongy salt marsh, the mud thick and black, rushing to fill the holes after each man's step with an audible gulp.

From a distance, the three appear ready for a day of fishing—if the fishing required a 10-foot-tall tripod, a crank, and bread knives.

This stretch of estuary near Coos Bay was once farmland, diked and drained before the turn of the 20th century. In 1996, the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve began restoring it, and that is why the men are here with their tripod, knives, and a cooler. One of them suddenly slaps his own arm once in response to an insect bite, then again. And again.

They're after gas. Nitrous oxide, carbon dioxide, methane, all greenhouse gases that the estuary is constantly producing and releasing into the atmosphere. Yet, at the same time, the estuary also has organisms within it that metabolize greenhouse gases in the air, fixing them in organic materials and removing them from the atmosphere. It's a rate of exchange, and with their research, the three men marching through the muck will likely inform future public policy and plans for land use.

Biology professor Scott Bridgham and Matthew Schultz, a graduate student in his lab, have been studying the rate of exchange in Pacific Northwest estuaries for years.

The third man, the one slapping his arm, is senior Emil Sadofsky, who is spending his last summer of college under a glorious blue sky, in mud up to his knees, hauling coolers and heavy tripods around a salt marsh. He, along with Schultz, is one of the recipients of the Peter O'Day Fellowship, which is funding this research and this trek into the salt marsh.

For Sadofsky, despite the insects, mud, and the perspiration, there is no better place to be.

THE ANONYMOUS ALUMNI donor was explicit: The fellowship was to fund biological undergraduate research, and more specifically, an

undergraduate and graduate student mentorship.

"Usually that type of funding only goes to support the undergraduate student doing research," says Karl Reasoner, program manager of the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program, which administers the fellowship. "But the donor's experience was specifically involving a graduate student mentor, so the fellowship funds both the undergraduate and graduate students."

Now in its second year, the fellowship is named for retired biology professor Peter O'Day, in recognition of his vast contributions to undergraduate research at the University of Oregon. The criteria to qualify for the fellowship is simple: The research must be based in biological sciences, the undergrad must have completed a specific biology class with a B grade or better, and have a 3.00 GPA.


"The students can come from any major as long as the research focuses on the biological sciences," Reasoner says.

Earlier this summer, four pairs of students were awarded the fellowship, granting them \$5,000 per student, a 10-week window to conduct research, and access to UO laboratories, equipment, and facilities. There are many educational experiences that improve academic achievement, graduation rates, and a sense of belonging and identity in the university, Reasoner says.

"And in my mind," he adds, "the quintessential one is undergraduate research."

WITH A SERRATED BREAD KNIFE, Sadofsky slices sections of the core samples he, Schultz, and Bridgham have pulled from the earth. It is not easy work. Fueled by elbow grease at the crank, the "punch," about four inches in circumference, has to slice through four feet of compacted grasses, organic matter, and dense mud. It emerges as a solid, almost the consistency of clay. After Sadofsky slices it into equal increments, he bags the samples and puts them on ice in a cooler.

"We're measuring the gas flux out of the estuary," Schultz says. "We are taking soil cores to measure how much carbon has accumulated in the ground, and then I'm measuring how much has been released through gas flux. We're getting the carbon balance of it being taken in and going out."



The work by (from left) Matthew Schultz, Scott Bridgham, and Emil Sadofsky could inform public policy and land use regarding climate change.

In the restoration of the estuary, the National Estuarine Research Reserve used soil from the dikes to create four quadrants of different heights. The team tests core samples from each quadrant with radioisotope dating.

“In this process, the samples are incinerated, and the mass lost in incineration will give the carbon content of the samples,” says Sadofsky, a double major in biology and English. From there, the team can determine how fast carbon accumulated at different time periods and in different sections, and which height was the most effective.

“What we are trying to do is get an overall scope,” he adds, “and generate information about the value of restoration for these kinds of estuaries.”

That will provide valuable data on the amount of greenhouse gases the estuaries are cleaning out of the atmosphere; in general, estuaries remove more greenhouse gases from the atmosphere than they produce.

“Our research should shine some light on what actually controls the greenhouse-gas emission in coastal wetlands,” Schultz adds. “This project could inspire further experiments to further our understanding of carbon cycling and greenhouse gas production.”

Under the O’Day Fellowship, the research team presents a specific project, states expected results, and explains how the project could contribute to an academic discipline. In other words, the two student researchers are in charge. And they’re accountable.

“The students are doing real, impactful research that may lead to publication, and that’s pretty huge for an undergrad,” Reasoner says.

IN THE WARREN OF HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY offices and laboratories in Esslinger Hall, senior Chaucie Edwards and graduate student Matt Ely’s lab looks part emergency room, part hobby bench. Behind a stretcher with a pristine white pillow on top, the space is organized and tidy with sensors stored in test tubes, their wires twisted precisely as to not become knotted. Edwards and Ely have assembled what looks like the seat from a weightlifting bench bookended by thick yellow bricks of upholstery foam.

Professor John Halliwill, principal investigator for the project, designed the apparatus. It’s a knee extender; the subject raises their leg up and down for an hour to the measured tick, tick, tick of a metronome, which keeps the rhythm paced and the subject on track for the duration. Edwards and Ely are studying histamine—a compound released by cells in response to injury and in allergic and inflammatory reactions. They want to learn why histamine is released in the muscle during exercise and if it may be related to the widening of capillaries, similar to inflammation in allergies—which seems daunting until Edwards explains it.

“If you get a cut or a bruise, histamine will rush to that and cause an inflammatory response,” Edwards says. “After exercise, histamine causes an increase in capillary permeability, by creating tiny gaps within the capillaries that allow fluid to move into the tissues. So if your muscles seem bigger after you exercise, it’s because fluid has traveled from the blood into the muscle.”

Subjects are fitted with a blood-pressure cuff around the thigh,

Top Students tested circulation in the thigh to explore the relationship between histamines and blood pressure.

Bottom Graduate student Jonathan Saunders and undergraduate Brynna Paros could advance understanding of dementia with their research on brain plasticity.

which prevents the blood from leaving the leg after the hour of exertion. Sensors are also attached to the thigh, connected by tiny wires filled with mercury, which conducts electricity. This system feeds data into an ergometer, which presents the results across a computer screen in a pattern resembling a heart rate but is a measure of fluid leaving the circulation, traveling through the capillaries and into the muscle.

Edwards, a Robert D. Clark Honors College student, began working in Halliwill's lab as a volunteer and spent the last year helping with other projects and being trained on procedure and equipment. As a human physiology major, she was fascinated by the subject of capillary permeability and the fact that very few studies existed on it. The research project also fit the requirements for her honor's thesis, which will be completed before she graduates.

This data will help Edwards and Ely answer the question of what the histamine is doing: Is it holding the capillaries open for increased blood flow? Is histamine helping to regulate blood pressure?

"If this is a pathway that can drop high blood pressure," Ely says, with animated hands, "this can potentially be taken advantage of to help people as they age."

That's quite an honors thesis for Edwards.

"By the time the study is done and her paper is written," Ely says with a smile, "she will be one of the world's experts on histamine release in skeletal muscle histamine release and capillary permeability."

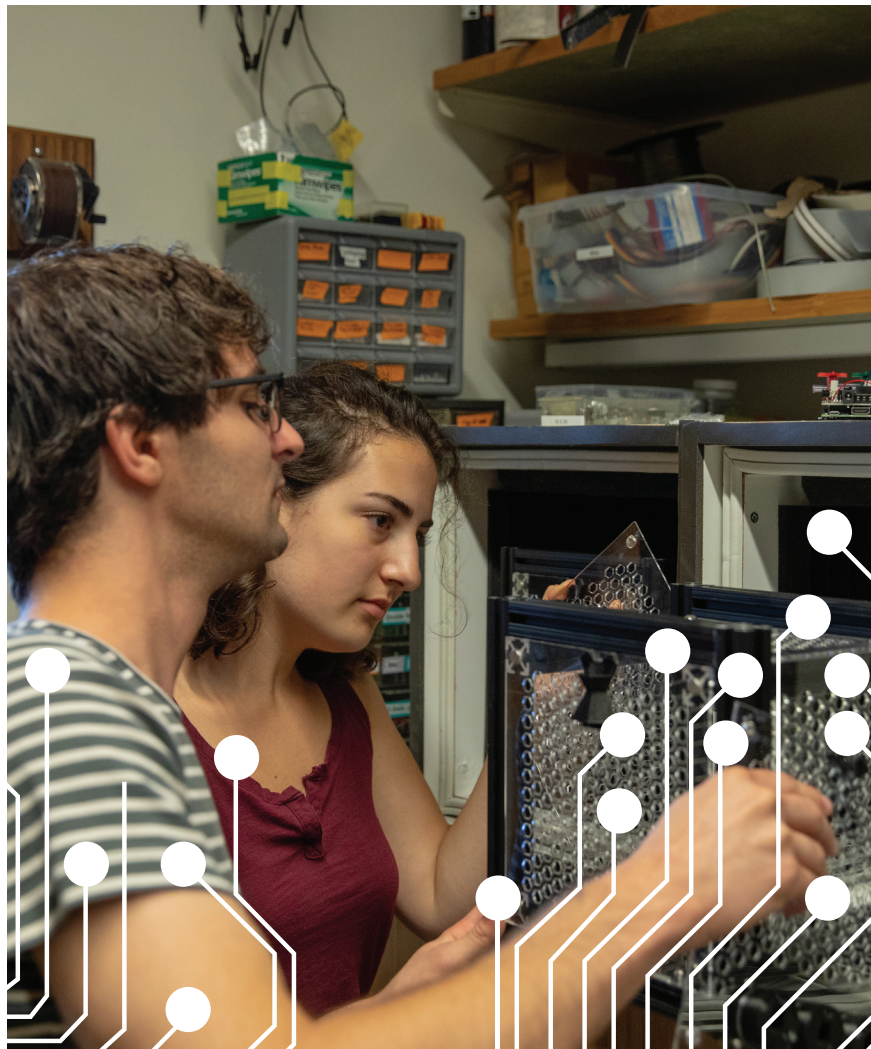
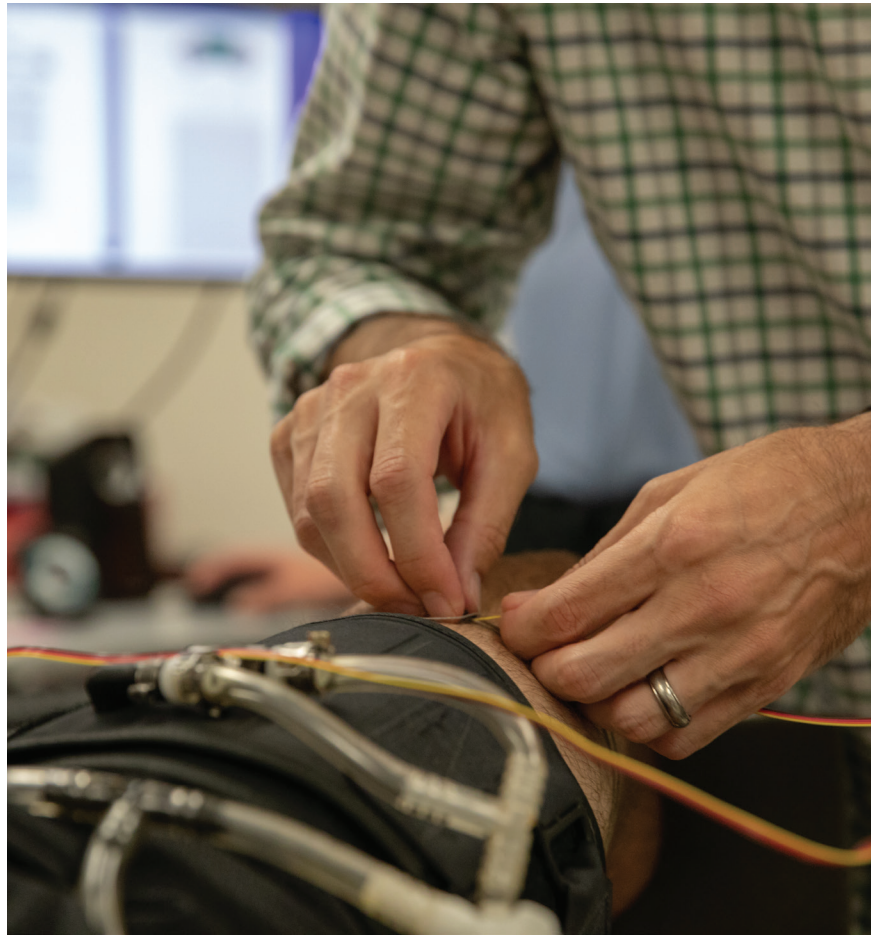
WHAT IF THERE WAS A WAY TO TURN BACK the biological clock to the early years of childhood, when learning potential is at its maximum, due to the flexibility of brain cells? What would that mean for Alzheimer's and dementia patients?

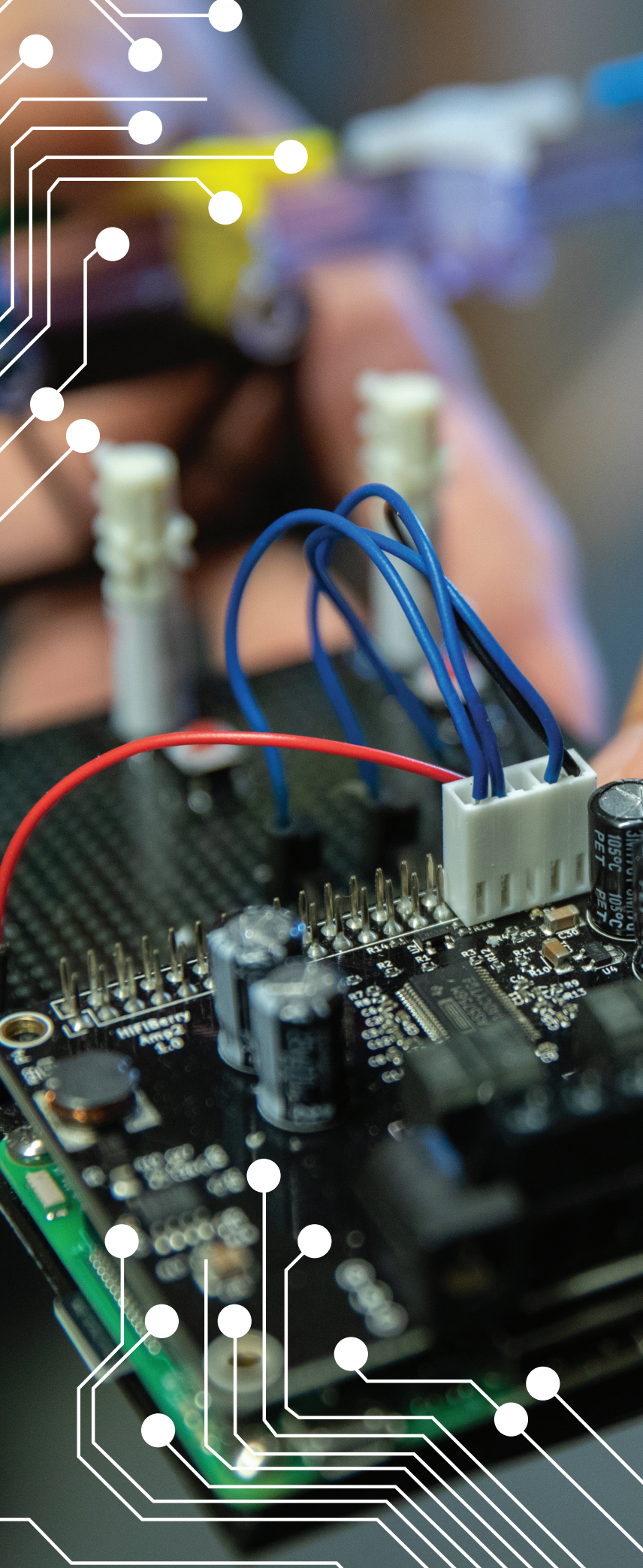
That's what prompted graduate student Jonathan Saunders to run a pilot study in principal investigator Michael Wehr's neuroscience lab. He wanted to find out if the perineuronal nets—molecular structures that surround some neurons—when dissolved, could return the cells to a stage called "synaptic plasticity," when cells are at their fullest capacity for learning language and developing memory.

Saunders wanted to see whether "digesting" the neural nets in a mouse had any effect on its ability to learn speech sounds.

He reached out to undergrad Brynna Paros, who was also working in the same lab, when they learned about the O'Day Fellowship from Wehr.

"The timing was perfect: Brynna and I had been waiting for the right time to start a project together, as I was rebuilding the equipment





we use to run mouse behavioral experiments and she was busy with music,” Saunders says. “And perhaps what is most important, no one had done it yet.”

Paros, a double major in psychology and music, is a flutist whose summer was already packed with master classes at music academies on both coasts. But she also wanted to do a research project involving sound.

“In the past, Jonny had done some preliminary experiments in which he gave mice a complex, auditory task,” she says, “which in this case, is being able to distinguish between English phenomes B and G in consonant-vowel pairs, such as ‘buh,’ ‘bah,’ ‘bih,’ ‘goo,’ and ‘gaw.’ We know that they communicate in chirps and sounds, so this task requires the auditory cortex in order to complete, and that’s what we’re studying when we dissolve the nets.”

For Saunders, the implications of this study are nothing short of beautiful.

“I think the idea that the brain might store information over the long-term by simply having holes poked in an extracellular protein net is beautiful in its parsimony and hilarious in its duct-tape-and-super-glue-style effectiveness,” he says.

As far-reaching as the benefits of the study may be, there was also a personal reward from the O’Day Fellowship—an essential mentoring experience.

“Mentorship is an integral part of being a scientist,” Saunders says. “In my experience, it was especially important when first starting to work in a lab to have a supportive mentor that taught me to feel comfortable being creative, and that I was a valuable member of that lab.”

“RELAX. FIND TARGET.”

“Relax. Find target.”

On the third floor of Gerlinger Hall, the commands are issued by a monotone female voice, spilling into the empty darkened hallways right outside of principal investigator Andrew Karduna’s human physiology lab.

The voice is disembodied, emanating from a desktop computer that holds another universe within it. It is a virtual-reality world that only appears within goggles that resemble military-issue, night-vision headgear, and is seen as a black-and-white domed grid. Kieley Trempey, an undergraduate, and Kate Spitzley, her graduate student mentor, are researching the role of handedness in visual proprioception abilities.

Vision enables us to see where our body is in space, while proprioception enables us to feel where our body *is* in space. Our use of both vision and proprioception is essential for healthy movement, and when either is impaired it can lead to disordered movement patterns.

Trempey and Spitzley’s study is investigating how handedness influences the relative contributions of vision and proprioception to movement—or our visual proprioceptive abilities, as they are sometimes called.

“If I close my eyes and hold out my arms to the side, I know where my hands are because of my sense of proprioception,” Spitzley says. “We see deficits in proprioception in injury, peripheral neuropathy, and disease, and neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson’s disease.”

Top A subject wears virtual-reality goggles to test the ability to feel where her body is in space.

Bottom Kieley Trempy (left) and Kate Spitzley are studying processes that could benefit those with Parkinson's disease and similar disorders.

“Visual cues are important for Parkinson’s patients, because their ability to sense where they are in space is reduced,” Trempy adds.

The goggles are part of a virtual-reality gaming system that Spitzley and Trempy have programmed and validated to record data, bypassing the expensive laboratory-grade software typically used in such research. It took Spitzley two years to write the code that measures how people move in space while collecting kinematic data—that is, data that describes how the body is moving. Now they are applying what has been learned through preliminary research to test hypotheses on handedness, and theirs is one of the only studies on the subject.

“The point of this study is to understand this sensory pathway more in order to apply it to a bigger context, such as those disorders,” Trempy says.

Through the virtual-reality goggles, the subject sees a representation of their hand as they hold the controller. The program instructs the subject to reach a specified angle while watching their hand representation, then to relax. This process is repeated, but without an auditory cue from the program, showing the contribution of vision in the movement. Then the subject must replicate the angle without the auditory cue or representation of the hand. This is where proprioception comes into play: Because the subject cannot see their hand, they will move the controller to where they felt the angle was, exhibiting proprioception.

“Their arm might actually be at a different angle than what it is in the real world,” Trempy says. “That creates a baseline measurement.

“We’re interested to see if there are implications or applications for these virtual-reality experiments either in measurement protocols or assistive devices,” Trempy continues. “We hope to lay groundwork for those types of studies.”

She hopes to work with the Parkinson’s population in the future, especially since the O’Day Fellowship has provided the opportunity to explore new research options.

“It’s nice to be validated in the wider community of science in getting something like this fellowship,” Spitzley adds. “And that people are appreciating what you’re doing and want you to do it.”

Laurie Notaro is director of communications for the Robert D. Clark Honors College.





STORIES BY EMILY HALNON

SAVING

THE SNOW LEOPARD

Monks could aid conservation of the revered cats

Most of the world's remaining snow leopards can be found high on the Tibetan Plateau, roaming the rugged landscape nestled between towering peaks and gushing rivers. But these mountain-dwelling felines are rapidly dwindling in numbers due to poaching, declining amounts of prey, retaliatory killings from local ranchers, climate change, and increased human activity on their habitat.

Conservationists are trying to protect this vulnerable species, but they're bumping up against challenges—especially in Tibet, where the rough and remote terrain makes it difficult to collect data and monitor the roaming animals. And where local communities have needs that clash with conservation efforts, like ranchers who want to safeguard their livestock from the carnivorous cats.

Hannah Taub was digging into the nuances of these challenges for a research project earlier this year when she identified an unconventional resource for conservation efforts: Tibetan monks.

Her project was for Biology and Geology of the Tibetan Plateau, offered through the Robert D. Clark Honors College. She'd been

charged with researching a topic for her final paper and decided to focus on snow leopard conservation; she wanted to investigate how humans can better protect the endangered cats, which have been on the threatened species list since 1972.

Samantha Hopkins, an associate professor of geology, had encouraged her students to pursue issues that aren't fully resolved so they could offer their own insights into solutions. Given the long list of conservation challenges for the snow leopard, there was no question that Taub's research subject offered plenty of room for her to identify a new approach.

Which is exactly what she did, by turning to Tibetan monks and spirituality.

The seeds of this idea were planted when she unearthed information about the Dalai Lama's efforts to merge science and spirituality. This concept immediately resonated with Taub, an environmental studies major. She'd spent four years at the UO honing her ability to draw from disciplines associated with the humanities, such as religion, to advance environmental problem-solving.

Hopkins started to dig into the values of Tibetan monks, and quickly discovered that

they're a natural fit for aiding with snow leopard conservation.

"The spiritual traditions and practices of Tibetan Buddhists and indigenous communities emphasize respect for animal life, and specifically snow leopards," she writes in her paper. "Their spiritual values align closely with conservation principles, positing these communities as valuable, underutilized resources in the effort to protect snow leopards in and around the Tibetan Plateau."

But it isn't simply their values that position them to be such assets in snow leopard conservation. Tibetan monks are also often ideally situated, both physically and within their communities, to help address some of the biggest challenges facing conservationists, Taub says.

"Monasteries are often in some of the most isolated and unpopulated areas of Tibet," says Taub, pointing out the overlap between areas where monks dwell and snow leopards roam. "Monks could play a unique role in species observation of the elusive snow leopards."

Through her research, she discovered that Tibetan monks have already aided conservationists in similar data collection,

when they helped estimate the size of the regional blue sheep population. It's possible the monks were tapped for this work because they are trusted figures on the Tibetan Plateau, and locals are more likely to cooperate with the monks than they are with foreign researchers, Taub says.

The respect that the monks enjoy within their communities is the final pillar of Taub's argument to better utilize them in the fight to protect snow leopards. Taub believes monks could help local groups better understand the need to protect snow leopards by inserting spirituality into conversations about conservation.

"Coercive pressures from the government and environmental rhetoric from nongovernmental organizations aren't effective. Locals respect and follow the teachings of the monks. They could be more easily convinced to protect nature and wildlife if they understood the spiritual connection," Taub says.

Scientists studying snow leopards in Tibet have expressed concerns that this friction between people and the ecology of the Tibetan Plateau is hampering their efforts. Conservation policy is most successful when it has the support of local community members, organizations, and stakeholders.

"Incorporating the traditional, local reverence for snow leopards with scientific approaches would create a more successful and culturally-sensitive method of conservation," says Taub, who graduated earlier this year.

Hopkins was thrilled with the innovative and interdisciplinary angle for Taub's project.

"This course is intended to train students in interdisciplinary approaches in spite of the mostly scientific slant to the content, and Hannah did a great job of taking the perspective she had from her own interests in environmental studies to reexamine science and humanities in tandem," Hopkins says.

"Her proposal that an understanding of the local religious structures could further snow leopard conservation represents the kind of integrative thinking that a liberal-arts education is intended to encourage in students."



CASHING IN ON CULTURE

Do Tibetans oppose commercialization of their religion?

When Amanda Di Grazia went to Nepal for a study-abroad program in fall 2017, she found herself avoiding the immersive cultural experience that typically accompanies the academic component of a semester on international soil.

There was a universal reluctance among the students in her program to participate in local activities because her classmates were concerned that their participation might offend community members.

But Di Grazia wondered if this logic was sound.

“We were a bunch of white people speculating that our actions would offend these Nepalese people, but was that actually rooted in truth? Or, were we just being overly sensitive?” she says. “And was our intent backfiring because we weren’t learning as much about the local culture as we could be if we spent more time involved with it?”

Di Grazia turned her question into a research project, remaining in South Asia to investigate the matter after her program concluded. Although not required to do so by any class or professor, she designed and executed a study and wrote a paper outlining her findings, simply driven by her desire to learn more about another culture.

Di Grazia examined how Tibetans feel about the commodification of religious items and souvenirs affiliated with their culture. She chose this subject because McLeod Ganj, India, her residence after leaving Nepal, is home to Tibetan refugees and the city is

a bustling tourism hub, brimming with visitors exchanging cash for Tibetan tokens and keepsakes.

Metallic trinkets and colorful handicrafts flood storefront windows. Shops overflow with brass statues of Buddha and Hindu deities, piles of bright, beaded jewelry, crocheted hats, long rows of prayer wheels, and Tibetan knives.

Many of these objects might look familiar to Americans, Di Grazia says, as many people in the United States decorate their homes with Tibetan pieces, adorning their porches with rainbows of prayer flags and planting statues of Buddha in their gardens.

The philosophy and sociology double major asked Tibetans if they found these gestures offensive, or objected to people profiting from their culture through souvenirs and trinkets. In her interviews, she used skills acquired in ethnography—the scientific description of the customs of peoples and cultures.

Di Grazia found that most of her subjects weren’t offended by the proliferation of souvenirs and religious items. Instead, they saw these objects as an opportunity for people to educate themselves about the Tibetan culture and cause.


“Most people were not at all concerned about the amount of religious and cultural souvenirs being sold in local shops, as long as people are respectful and not misusing the objects,” says Di Grazia, who graduated earlier this year. “Souvenirs can act as a form



of sharing culture and communicating the issues affecting Tibet. Many Tibetans saw these objects as a way to keep their traditions and identity alive and to spread word of their cause around the world.”

The deeper she got into the interviews, the more Di Grazia shifted her own behavior as a visitor to a foreign country. She started embracing cultural activities as an integral aspect of visiting a new place and living amongst its people. She attended dance performances, accepted invitations to family dinners, and went to the local monasteries.

“Americans don’t need to be so hypersensitive that they avoid cultural opportunities outside of their own, they just need to be respectful,” Di Grazia says. “If you want to participate in someone’s culture, take the time to learn about it and understand what you’re using or doing.”



I'm a UOAA member because no matter where in the world my degree takes me, it's a reminder of where I came from and the people who worked so hard to get me there!

JOHN STRONG

has been busy in 2018, covering the FIFA World Cup in Russia and the UEFA Champions League final in Kiev, Ukraine. But the Lake Oswego native knows that no matter where his job as Fox Sports' lead soccer play-by-play announcer takes him, his UOAA membership keeps him connected to where it all began: the School of Journalism and Communication classrooms of Allen Hall and the pressboxes of Papé Field and Howe Field at the University of Oregon.

- Fox Sports' lead soccer play-by-play announcer
- Called 2018 FIFA World Cup and 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup
- Called two UEFA Champions League finals
- 2011 recipient of Major League Soccer's Broadcast Call of the Year
- Featured speaker at the UOAA's Member Appreciation Night in Portland on November 9 (uoalumni.com/pdxmemberappreciation)



John Strong, BA '07
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OLD Oregon

IN A BLUR
Senior Lindsey Vander Weide—an outside hitter and two-time all-Pac-12 selection—is a key player on a veteran volleyball team picked to finish third in the conference this year. Catch up with the Ducks at home when they take on Cal, October 19 (7:00 p.m.), and Stanford, October 21 (11:00 a.m.).

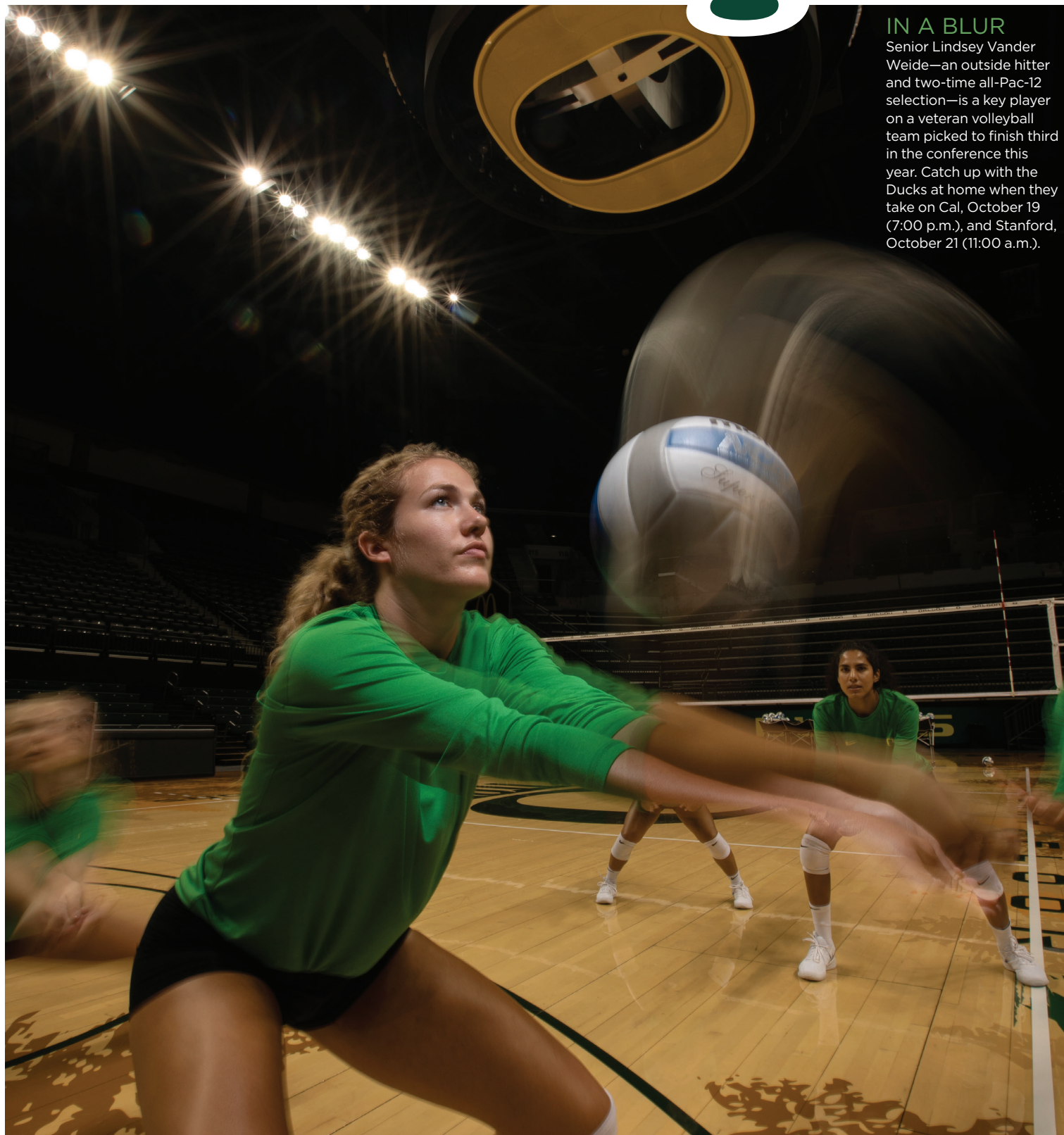


PHOTO BY CHARLIE LITCHFIELD, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS



Epic Journey

Challenging path through undergraduate research ends with career in health care

BY ED DORSCH

Austin Wong doesn't waste time. At age 16, the high school valedictorian from Salem started at the University of Oregon as a Presidential Scholar and PathwayOregon award recipient. During spring break of his freshman year, he traveled with fellow UO undergraduates to Honduras, where they helped poor families build safe, fuel-efficient stoves—a transformative experience that sparked his interest in health care.

"That was the beginning for me," says Wong. He immediately began exploring how science can help people—a passion that would eventually lead the 2015 biology graduate to a career with Epic Systems, a Wisconsin-based health-care software company.

Shortly after returning from Honduras, Wong and his roommate dreamed up Oregon Medical Brigades, a service program that sent UO students to Panama to set up medical clinics for needy communities. During his sophomore year, he met Josh Snodgrass,

director of the UO's Global Health Biomarker Laboratory.

"Austin was smart and motivated," recalls Snodgrass. "He clearly wanted to make a difference in the world." Snodgrass put him to work on a common task for rookies in the lab—thawing spit.

Snodgrass develops innovative, but simple, methods to gather health-related data in remote locations where labs and clinics are not readily available (for instance, using a small tube of saliva or a drop of blood). These techniques enable research on impoverished communities.

Wong thawed tubes of saliva that had been frozen at -112 degrees Fahrenheit—repetitive, painstaking work. The tubes must stay upright in the water bath. That water has to be just the right temperature. And then there's the smell. The stench from one tiny vial can fill a room.

"It sounds simple," says Snodgrass, "but

there are many ways to mess it up. I always pay attention to how well people do at this technical level—and whether or not they complain about it."

Wong did well, so Snodgrass gave him more responsibilities. But these were just the first steps of the journey.

“As a student, I was enthusiastic about public health issues and improving lives.”

"Once they learn the technical skills, undergraduate researchers become part of a team," says Snodgrass. "That's when they start to learn the more subtle, challenging aspects of research, like communication, flexibility, creativity, and collaboration."

For his thesis for the Robert D. Clark Honors College, Wong led a study of body composition that was part of a World Health Organization project on aging. That's when he encountered his greatest challenges.

"The goal was for him to become more independent, and that's what he did," says Snodgrass. "I distinctly remember the moment it hit him—how hard and open-ended research can be. He was overwhelmed, but he didn't run away. He grew a great deal in a very short amount of time."

Today, Wong is the primary contact for clients using Epic's Healthy Planet product, which helps hospitals, clinics, and other health-care organizations track data. For example, if patients are going to multiple clinics, the software gives doctors a comprehensive picture of the patient's medication and treatments.

"As payment models continue to shift from fee-for-service to value-based care, these tools become increasingly important in enabling organizations to improve both clinical and financial outcomes," says Wong.

"As a student, I was enthusiastic about public health issues and improving lives. I thought it would be life-changing to improve the health outcomes of even just one person. But I always wondered what could be done to scale those efforts up from a single person to a larger population. As a company, Epic can identify, understand, and take action on that larger population without losing sight of the individual."

Ed Dorsch, BA '94 (English, sociology), MA '99 (journalism), is a staff writer for University Communications.

Every Moment Covered





Lucy Gubbins, BA '12 (linguistics), helped kick-start the *Oregon Undergraduate Research Journal*. Now she helps RevZilla understand its customers.

Learning the Language of Retail

Linguist's skills translate for seller of motorcycle gear

BY TIM CHRISTIE

How did someone who studied linguistics, Japanese, and anthropology at the University of Oregon end up working for a company that sells motorcycle gear?

The short answer: an abiding love of research, and the skills that come with it.

Lucy Gubbins was involved in undergraduate research throughout her time at the UO. Now the 2012 alumna uses those skills every day as a “user experience researcher” for RevZilla, a Philadelphia-based e-commerce site that sells motorcycle apparel, parts, and accessories.

“I can do my job because I had that academic research experience as an undergraduate,” says Gubbins, who graduated with honors in linguistics while minoring in anthropology and Japanese. “Having experience doing deep quantitative analysis and understanding scientific inquiry and scientific research protocols is incredibly valuable.”

“I regularly give presentations to senior-level executives, and I would not feel comfortable and confident doing that unless I had that experience arguing my research. Being pushed to break things down and explain things and communicate findings—that confidence, you can’t buy that. That comes purely from practice and experience.”

At RevZilla, Gubbins—who rides a '93 Suzuki dual sport—uses qualitative and quantitative analysis to learn more about RevZilla customers and what they want.

She works with customers and RevZilla de-

partments—marketing, visual design, customer service—to make the shopping experience easier and more intuitive. If developers add a new feature to the website, Gubbins surveys customers on the changes and works with the web team on tweaks.

As a junior, Gubbins cofounded the *Oregon Undergraduate Research Journal*, a UO publication edited and produced by an undergraduate editorial board that showcases the best student research across all disciplines.

But her history with research at the UO dates back to her freshman year, when she was taking

“Take time to really seek out opportunities that might be off the beaten academic trail.”

an introductory linguistics course on Japanese. One day her professor asked her to stay after class.

Gubbins was the only freshman, and “I thought she was going to ask me to leave the class,” she says.

Instead, the professor, Kaori Idemaru, encouraged Gubbins to apply for a research assistant position in her speech perception lab.

Idemaru, an associate professor of East Asian languages and literatures who collaborates with

members of the linguistics faculty, was immediately struck by Gubbins’ excitement for learning.

“She was kind of like a very smart Energizer Bunny,” Idemaru says. “Her enthusiasm was contagious and I knew she would be a great, positive addition to my lab.”

Gubbins worked for Idemaru for more than three years. Last spring, the two collaborated on a project with Peipei Wei, a former doctoral student under Idemaru with three UO degrees—MA '11 (East Asian languages and literatures), MS '16 (computer and information science), PhD '16 (East Asian languages and literatures); the trio authored a paper published in the journal *Language and Speech*. Titled “Acoustic Sources of Accent in Second-Language Japanese Speech,” the study analyzed the acoustic characteristics of second-language speech that give rise to the perception of a foreign accent.

Her experience as an undergraduate researcher, which included presenting at academic conferences, was life-changing, Gubbins says.

Her advice to students?

“Take time to really seek out opportunities that might be off the beaten academic trail,” Gubbins says. “Don’t ever be afraid to show enthusiasm or interest in something someone is researching. You can create your own path. It takes a little more time and energy, but it’s very, very worth it.”

Tim Christie is a staff writer for University Communications.

PHOTO BY ROY KIM

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Beaverton, Oregon
October 7

BLACK ALUMNI REUNION
Eugene, Oregon
October 11-14

THE MIGHTY OREGON TAILGATE AT ARIZONA
Tucson, Arizona
October 27

CLASS OF 1968 REUNION
Eugene, Oregon
November 1-3

HOMECOMING/FALL FAMILY WEEKEND
Eugene, Oregon
November 2-4

***PDX MEMBER APPRECIATION NIGHT**
Portland, Oregon
November 9

THE MIGHTY OREGON TAILGATE AT UTAH
Salt Lake City, Utah
November 10

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Eloquent Listener

English alumnus Kim Stafford on the power of poetry

BY ALICE TALLMADGE

In his new position as Oregon's poet laureate, Kim Stafford is sharing a simple message: Use your words.

"We are living in a time when language is used in destructive ways, and I am eager to help Oregonians restore truth through poetry," he says. "We are bombarded by news, but I feel like the news is half the truth, just events, facts, and statistics. Poetry helps people take the next step into meaning."

According to the Oregon Poet Laureate website, the state poet laureate "fosters the art of poetry, encourages literacy and learning, addresses central issues relating to humanities and heritage, and reflects on public life in Oregon." For Stafford, BA '71 (English, Clark Honors College), MA '73 (English), PhD '79 (English), that means bringing poetry—words and meaning—to people from all walks of life.

Along with leading workshops and giving readings, Stafford wants to share poetry with people in homeless shelters and prisons, and with children and seniors. "Poetry is healing water," he says, "and it should flow toward the place of greatest need."

Stafford, 68, is a second-generation poetry healer. His father, William Stafford, published 65 volumes of poetry, prose, and criticism during his lifetime; he was a conscientious objector during World War II, taught at Lewis and Clark College for three decades, and was Oregon's fourth poet laureate, from 1975 to 1990. He died in 1993.

The younger Stafford has continued his father's legacy. He has published several books of poetry, is the founding director of the Northwest Writing Institute at Lewis and Clark, and now has taken on the mantle of the state's poet laureate. Like his father, Stafford writes in the early mornings.

For many, following the career trajectory of a well-known parent can be fraught with issues of identity. But Stafford says distinguishing himself from his father was not a struggle. For example, their writing styles differ greatly. The Kansas-born elder Stafford was "from the prairies," and his style tended to the lean and spare. The Oregon-born son favors more lush and lyrical

expression, bordering on what his father once called "baroque."

"My father was my champion and confidante," says Stafford. "There was no competition. We were like a family guild, sharing tools and processes and interests. We would give readings together—our differences were part of the entertainment."

"I wrote essays and they wanted to become poems. I wrote poems and they wanted to be songs. I wrote songs and they wanted to be a soundtrack for a film," he says. "You keep following where it leads."

The younger Stafford stretches the borders of poetry to encompass different modes of expression. Besides publishing several volumes of poetry, he has written two memoirs—*Early Morning: Remembering My Father* and *100 Tricks Every Boy Can Do: How My Brother Disappeared*, about his older brother, Bret, who committed suicide at age 40. His body of work also includes two books of essays, a book of short stories, two CDs of original songs, and a children's book.

"I wrote essays and they wanted to become poems. I wrote poems and they wanted to be songs. I wrote songs and they wanted to be a soundtrack for a film," he says. "You keep following where it leads."

In his book of essays, *The Muses Among Us: Eloquent Listening and Other Pleasures of the Writer's Craft*, Stafford shares an epiphany he had while visiting a religious community in Iowa. "I close my eyes, and suddenly I feel a great burden lifted from my shoulders. For it comes to me that I am not the prophet, but scribe to the prophet. When I write, I am secretary to a wisdom the world has made

available to me. The voices come from the many around me, and I need more to be alert than wise."

In his role as scribe, Stafford listens intently to the world around him. Not only to the natural world, but to children, bits of overheard conversation, and spontaneous encounters with strangers. His ear is primed and ready. "Anything that causes you to gasp in wonder is a prophet," he says. "I'm the secretary to that power. I'm the servant to that voice."

Some of his most powerful experiences as a writer, he says, have come from situations in which he meets someone who is living a powerful story, "but doesn't have the words to tell that story. My job is to make a poem or song for someone who can't speak in their own voice."

He recounts a story of meeting a woman weeping at an impromptu shrine on the streets of New Orleans. The shrine commemorated a friend of hers who had recently been killed. Moved by her grief, Stafford returned to his hotel room and wrote a song. The next day he sang it during a radio interview. The sister of the man who had been killed heard it and ended up singing it at his funeral. When she met Stafford, she told him his song had captured her brother perfectly, adding, "I can't believe you never met him."

"That kind of thing doesn't happen very often," he says, "but you're always searching for a chance like that."

In announcing Stafford's appointment, Governor Kate Brown called Stafford "one of our state's most generous literary teachers." He has received creative writing fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Stewart H. Holbrook Literary Legacy Award from the Portland nonprofit Literary Arts, and a Governor's Arts Award for his contributions to Oregon literature.

Referring to his work, Stafford reverts to modesty, another trait likely inherited, then made his own. "However writing can serve someone's daily life," he says, "I want to help them do that."

Alice Tallmadge, MA '87 (journalism), is a contributing editor for *Oregon Quarterly*.

DASTGAH

By Kim Stafford

A wandering musician from afar
arrives on foot, dusty with the journey,
and quietly performs while strolling
the strange city, steps lightly alone
through crowded bazaar, traffic-choked
knot, sings a snatch of old song, hums
a rising scale that climbs through
tenements,
threads the seething kink of honk
and curse, sings through smoke, strums
through rank despair that billows
from money rubbing on pain,
in order to hear, follow, and find
any other wandering player in the thick of it
also strumming oud, tapping tabla,
breathing trill in reed pipe so pure
it can be heard through all this
human din—until one by one
the players convene and begin to braid
one rhythm into the next, salt harmony
and honey dirge, operatic scale rising
through sorrow to the pinnacle joy
that could lullaby the lost and waken you.



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, email it to quarterly@uoregon.edu, or mail it to Editor, *Oregon Quarterly*, 5228 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-5228.



CLASS NOTABLE

Holding Court

Dave Frohnmayer, Dom Vetri, Mildred Carmack: Martha Walters, JD '77, credits numerous members of the law faculty for teaching her not only the law but how to think like a lawyer—to analyze, to question, to ferret out inconsistencies in testimony or text.

But making history? She did that all by herself.

Recently, Walters was unanimously elected Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court, becoming the first woman in state history to achieve that position. “I feel like this is important to people out there in the world, and that’s what makes me happy,” Walters says. “We’ve come a long way.”

Appointed in 2006, and then the only woman on the bench, Walters will preside for six years over a court now predominantly female.

She relishes a deep debate on antitrust law or civil procedure as much as the next attorney. But Walters doesn’t think you need a law degree to understand the judicial system—you just need to care about your country.

“It’s important to learn how the judicial system works—it affects so many decisions we make as citizens,” she says. “Our democratic institutions depend upon the rule of law, and caring about the law is really important.”

—Matt Cooper, *Oregon Quarterly*

INDICATES UOAA MEMBER

1950s

After working for the Portland Development Commission for 18 years, **MARY VRANIZAN HINSDALE**, BS '50 (business administration), took up travel and, at age 85, visited all seven continents in one year.

CAROL WOLLESON, BA '59 (history), published her first book at age 81. *There There Now: A Memoir* chronicles her adventures in the San Francisco Bay Area in the 1960s and '70s, leading to a career as a psychotherapist in the East Bay.

1960s

GEORGE GREEN, BS '66 (fine and applied arts), was the featured artist at the Albany Boys and Girls Club in July.

BOB LAMBERT, MA '69 (secondary education), was inducted into the Saint Peter Public Schools Hall of Fame in Minnesota.

1970s

LINDA VIGEN PHILLIPS, BA '70 (sociology), released her second young adult novel, *Behind These Hands*, about a teenage girl diagnosed with Batten disease.

FLASHBACK

1908 The Boola Band, the UO’s original brass band, forms in autumn to perform at football games and play the team on to victory.

HEATHER MCPHERSON, BA '73 (French), was awarded the 2018 Ireland Prize for Scholarly Distinction for her work in art history. She is a professor in the Department of Art and Art History at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

The Architecture Foundation of Oregon named **MARK EDLEN**, BS '75 (finance), MBA '76 (marketing), and his wife, Ann, this year’s Honored Citizens in recognition of their commitment to sustainability.

The Association for Computing Machinery appointed **VICKI HANSON**, MA '76 (psychology), PhD '78 (psychology), executive director and CEO, making her the first female CEO of the educational society.

CHRISTINE ROFER HEINRICH, BS '76 (journalism), won second place and a \$2,000 award in the “Reported Narrative” category at the Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference for her story about efforts to save condors despite obstacles such as lead ammunition poisoning acquired from carcasses the vultures scavenge.

HOWARD ALLRED, MBA '77 (accounting), was appointed chief financial officer of West Star Aviation, which has locations in Chicago, Houston, and Denver, among others cities.

COLLEEN KELLEY, MS '77 (speech: rhetoric and communication), PhD '82 (speech: rhetoric and communication), published *A Rhetoric of Divisive Partisanship: The 2016 American Presidential Campaign Discourse of Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump*, which explores how the politicians’ rhetoric created an “angry orphan” persona in their marginalized bases.

KARL CARRIER, MBA '79 (finance), has been appointed chair of the board of directors for PeaceHealth, based in Vancouver, Washington.

1980s

Health Center Partners of Southern California has appointed **VICTORIA ABRAMS**, BS '80 (health education), executive vice president for Integrated Health Partners.

BRIAN TAMANAHA, BS '80 (psychology), was named the John S. Lehman University Professor at Washington University School of



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

AUDREY SOEJIMA WATANABE, BS '78 (health education), notes there were more than Mariners and Red Sox fans at a June 17 game at Safeco Field. Ducks included (left to right) Beth Brunner May, SANDRA BASSFORD DUNCAN, BS '80 (psychology), FAYE SONO, BS '76 (community health and health science), LINDA GREENSTEIN, BS '83 (elementary education), KERRY HEALY PANTON, BS '78 (geography), SUE SCHERER WADDELL, BS '78 (geography), MEd '90 (educational policy and management), WATANABE, Jackie Sampson Vanderburg, BECK PETERSON KINYON, BA '79 (communication disorders and sciences), MA '82 (communication disorders and sciences).

Law in Saint Louis, Missouri.

BRADFORD WARD, BS '80 (political science), has joined King & Spalding as a partner in the law firm's Government Matters practice group in the Washington, DC, office.

BILL BOGLEY, MS '83 (mathematics), PhD '87 (mathematics), has been appointed head of the Department of Mathe-

matics at Oregon State University.

The News-Press and Gazette company has promoted **JERRY UPHAM**, BS '83 (journalism), to general manager for its Palm Springs broadcast stations.

TODD VAN RYSSEL-BERGHE, BS '83 (political science), has been appointed to serve as a judge on the Clackamas County Circuit Court in Oregon City.

STEVEN JOHNSON, BS '86 (marketing), has been appointed senior director of communications at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, California.

CHARISA MOORE, BS '86 (health education), has been named "Educator of the Year" by the Bainbridge Island Kiwanis Club of Washington.

KELLY HIBLER, BS '89 (speech: rhetoric

FLASHBACK

1918 The Spanish influenza hits campus in October. Kincaid House and the Fiji and Phi Delta Theta houses are used as emergency infirmaries.

and communication), has been appointed general manager of Reebok Classics business unit, which handles product creation, marketing, and merchandising for the global athletic footwear company.

1990s

KAREN CHURCH, BS '90 (elementary education), has been inducted into the Snohomish County Sports Hall of Fame in Washington.

ALICE CANNON, BS '91 (planning, public policy and management), was hired as a senior associate at Jensen Strategies, a policy and organizational development company in Portland.



DUCKS AFIELD

Sigma Nu fraternity brothers MIKE KIMBALL (left), BA '63 (general science), and CHRIS MCKENZIE, BS '63 (general social science), at the Saturday Farmers Market in Waimea, Hawaii.

FLASHBACK

1928 Voting on the theme for homecoming, the Homecoming Directorate chooses “Friendly Homecoming.” The theme celebrates the “hello spirit” and friendly feeling of campus.

ROBERT DAVIES, MBA '91 (finance), has been appointed president of Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant.

PAMELA RALSTON, BA '91 (English), has been named interim executive vice president of educational programs at Santa Barbara City College in California.

BRYAN DENT, BS '92 (finance), has joined Vancouver, Washington-based Riverview Bancorp as vice president and commercial loan officer on its lending team.

TODD PETERSEN, BA '92 (telecommunication and film), published his third novel, *It Needs to Look Like We Tried*, which explores the ways in which our failures work on the lives of others, resulting in an intricate web of interconnected stories.

After 24 years as a technology and business

reporter, **ARIK HESSELD AHL**, BA '93 (journalism), has joined the German software company SAP (Systeme, Anwendungen, und Produkte in der Datenverarbeitung) as vice president and global head of content, based in New York. He directs global public relations.

JOHN KELLEY, MS '93 (psychology), PhD '97 (psychology), was awarded the 2018 Distinguished Professorship at Endicott College in Massachusetts for his excellence in teaching, research, and service.

Pennsylvania-based GWC Warranty named **SCOTT LUGGER**, BA '93 (marketing), a regional sales manager for the company's western region.

LAURIE MUGGY, BS '94 (sociology), has been hired as director of human resources at Tyree Oil, Inc., in Eugene.

KATHERINE BUNTING-HOWARTH, JD '95, has been appointed interim director of the New York Sea Grant Institute.

MARK ELIAS, BA '95 (history), has joined First Transit, a Cincinnati-based public transportation management company, as vice president of operations for the northwest region.

RICARDO VASQUEZ, BA '95 (English), has been hired as communications coordinator for the Woodburn School District.

MATT SEARFUS, BS '96 (economics), has joined Yamaha Corporation of America as vice president of marketing.

JESSICA WOOD, JD '96, has joined the Grand Rapids, Michigan, law firm Dickinson Wright.

SARAH CANNON, BA '97 (Spanish), released her debut memoir, *The Shame of Losing*, a book about the brutal realities of a brain injury and a young mother trying to save her own life.

MAKIIA LUCIER, BA '97 (public relations), published her second young adult novel,

FLASHBACK

1938 Oregon's literary “Big Three”—Ernest Haycox, Edison Marshall, and Robert Ormond Case—return to the UO for homecoming. A short story contest for students is renamed the Case, Haycox, and Marshall contest.



DUCKS AFIELD

JIM EYRES (right), BA '66 (economics), and RICHARD LAWRENCE, BA '66 (economics), at a banquet dinner for a Columbia University class reunion at the Palace Hotel in New York last spring.

Will Power



“Thank you!”

Elizabeth Lytle,
BA '14, MEd '15
Wilbur M. Watters
Education Scholar
Walker Educator
Diversity Scholar

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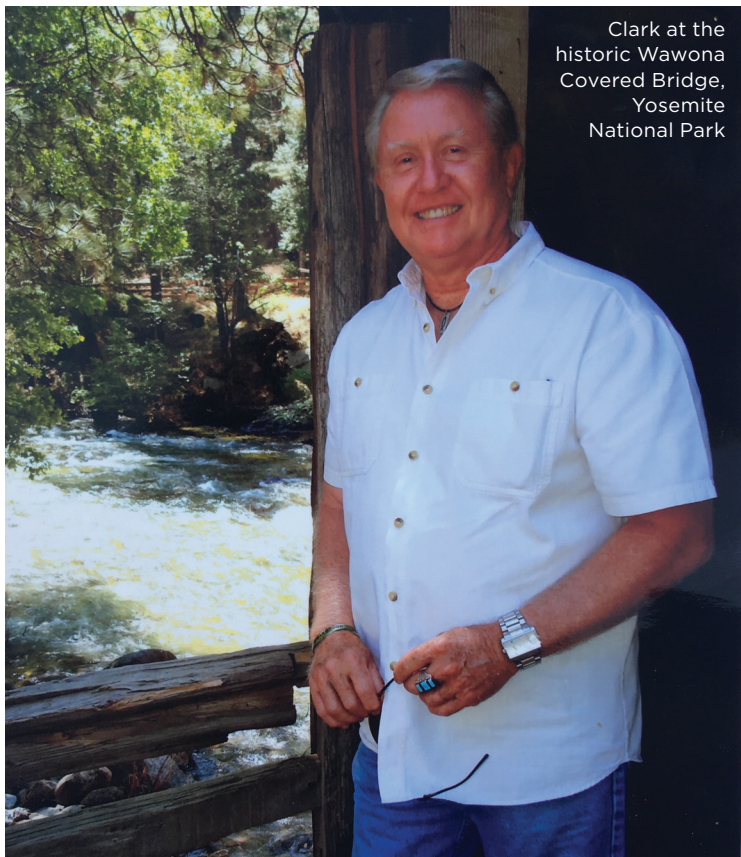
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Clark at the historic Wawona Covered Bridge, Yosemite National Park

CLASS NOTABLE

Passion Play

Don Clark's eighth-grade teacher left him an unforgettable book inscription: "God bless you, Donnie Clark, as you prepare to become the man the world would rather do without."

Whatever the job, the 1966 journalism graduate has shaken up the status quo, never mind the consequences. He did it as a newspaper reporter in Boston, a KEZI-TV anchor in Eugene, and—notably—an upstart candidate for Oregon Secretary of State. Urged to run in 1984, Clark campaigned to purge government of waste, claimed 20 percent of the vote, and won Lane County soundly.

Clark's faith drives him to try to make things better. He's not tiring in retirement: At 77, Clark recently completed his fifth collegiate degree, a doctorate in Christian leadership. "Yes, it's 'Doctor Don' now," he says, laughing. "I'm feeling an even more solemn weight of responsibility."

Clark is now helping lead The Journey, a nationwide movement, he says, that "is intended to bring men into a deep, personal relationship with Jesus Christ that empowers them to do the work uniquely designed for them to accomplish in this world." When not traveling, he lives on a ranch in Bakersfield, California, with his wife, Bettie, and hikes the Tehachapi Mountains with his two dogs.

He also writes prolifically, specifically essays that challenge and inspire (donclarksamerica.com).

"In *Chariots of Fire*, Scottish runner Eric Liddell said, 'God made me fast, and when I run I feel His pleasure,'" Clark says. "For me, when I write, I feel His pleasure."

—Matt Cooper, *Oregon Quarterly*

FLASHBACK

1948 The university appoints Bill Bowerman head track coach and freshman football coach in November, marking the start of the Bowerman track-and-field legacy.

Isle of Blood and Stone, a fantasy story involving hidden riddles and old maps.

LEMMY COOPER, BA '98 (sociology), is the new director of food and beverage at the Duniway, a hotel in downtown Portland.

HECTOR HERNANDEZ, BFA '98 (painting), MFA '99 (painting), presented his work at Mingle and Muse, an event held in July at the Sitka Center near Lincoln City.

2000s

ERIK SHEARER, MFA '00 (painting), is the new assistant superintendent and vice president of academic affairs for Napa Valley College in California.

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History has named **ANDY BEYER**, BA '01 (history), the 2018 Oregon History Teacher of the Year.

AMY MARGOLIS, JD '01, recently launched the Initiative, a Portland-based accelerator program devoted to helping female cannabis entrepreneurs cultivate and solidify relationships with investors.

RENÉ VELLANOWETH, PhD '01 (anthropology), has been appointed to the State Historical Resources Commission in Sacramento.

ALLISON BLAKELY, BS '02 (education studies), PhD '17 (special education), has been hired as director of special education for the Washougal School District in Washington.

STEPHANIE FITZGERALD, BS '04 (physics and mathematics), joined San Francisco-based Ideate Software as a software developer.

DAN HURLEY, MS '04 (environmental studies), has been named director of Lane County Public Works.

CELESTINO LIMAS, PhD '04 (educational leadership), has been selected vice president for student life at Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania.

PETER HOLLENS, BMus '05 (music performance), earned *Billboard* number one spots on the classical albums and classical crossover albums charts with *Legendary Folk Songs*. Founder of the UO a cappella group On the Rocks, Hollens was also the

first a cappella artist to reach the top 10 on the emerging artists chart.

MICHAEL SAWIEL, BArch '05, has joined Steele Associates Architects in Bend.

EMILY CHARRIER, BS '06 (journalism), has been named publisher of the *Petaluma Argus-Courier*, a weekly newspaper reporting on Sonoma County, California.

LISA HARLAN, MEd '06 (educational leadership), was named assistant superintendent for Greater Albany Public Schools.

NADJALISSE RODRIGUEZ, BS '06 (political science), has joined EWM (Esslinger-Wooten-Maxwell) Realty International's Brickell, Florida, branch as an associate.

DMITRI VENKOV, MA '06 (Russian, East European, and Eurasian studies), was awarded the E-flux Prize at the International Short Film Festival Oberhausen for *Gimny Moskovii (The Hymns of Muscovy)*.

STEFANIE LOH, BA '07 (history and journalism), has been promoted to assistant sports editor at the *Seattle Times*.



DUCKS AFIELD

SUSAN HALE, BS '71 (general social science), snorkeled with stingrays and blacktip sharks during her trip to the French Polynesian island Bora Bora.

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DUCKS AFIELD

On May 26, seven Ducks who graduated in the 1960s and their wives celebrated 80th birthdays by spending the night at Silcox Hut on Mount Hood. Ducks included (from left) FRED HENSHAW, BS '61 (geological sciences), JOHN LINDSTROM, BA '60 (biology), MA '66 (journalism), STEVE BUNNELL, BS '60 (history), MUP '84, CARL SQUIRES, BA '60 (English), MFA '67 (creative writing), HERB MERKER, BA '62 (foreign language), John Gustafson (political science), and STAN HAYDEN, BA '62 (general science).

FLASHBACK

1958 In November, the university hosts World Affairs Week. Diplomats and guest speakers from around the world talk to students about French rule under Charles de Gaulle, American foreign policy in Latin America and the Middle East, and US-Soviet relations.

JEFFERY CERVENY, BA '08 (psychology), MEd '17 (educational leadership), has been named principal of Patrick Lynch Elementary School in Portland.

TIFFANY CRUICKSHANK, BS '08 (business administration), has been selected

to serve on the Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Region Board, which supports the workforce and economic development.

CHLOE GARCIA ROBERTS, MFA '08 (creative writing), has translated *Li Shangyin*, a second

book of Chinese poet Li Shangyin's classic poems.

AARON LONGO, BS '08 (general science), has been hired as assistant principal and athletic director at Taft High School in Lincoln City.

EMILY MCLAIN, BA '08 (political science), is the new executive

director of Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon, the political advocacy arm of the organization's Oregon chapters.

WILLIAM MILLER, BA '08 (political science), has joined Boise-based Perkins Coie law firm's labor and employment practice.

MAX BEEKEN, BS '09 (marine biology), has been named the new conservation director for Wild Rivers Land Trust in Port Orford.

Portland-based architecture firm Mackenzie has promoted

ADRIENNE CLIFFORD, BArch '09 (architecture), to associate.

2010s

COURTNEY FOLEY, JD '10, has been appointed head winemaker at Sonoma County's Chalk Hill Estate vineyards and winery in Healdsburg, California.

Professional football player **SPENCER PAYSINGER**, BS '10 (economics), was a consulting producer on, and the inspiration for, the new CW drama *All American*.

Inspired by the life of Paysinger, the show tells the story of a talented high school football player from South Central Los Angeles who is recruited to play for Beverly Hills High School.

KATIE KNOWER, BS '11 (art), is the new historic resources coordinator for the Albany Visitors Association.

Factors Southwest (dba FSW Funding), a Phoenix-based company that specializes in financing solutions for small- and mid-sized businesses,

has hired **LUCAS MILLER**, BS '11 (business administration), as a portfolio analyst.

DAWNA HANSEN, MS '12 (special education), has been hired at Coldwell Banker Valley Brokers in Corvallis.

NATALIE KESSLER, BA '12 (planning, public policy and management), has joined Southwest Strategies in California as an account executive.

EMMA JAMES, BA '13 (international studies), has joined Rosell Wealth Management in Bend as a client services manager.

CHET LISIECKI, PhD '14 (comparative literature), has joined Colorado Springs-based Colorado College as an assistant professor in the Department of German.

JENNY ORDONEZ, MArch '14 (architecture), has joined Hennebery Eddy Architects in Portland as a designer.

LAURA ROESLER, BS '14 (psychology), was inducted into the North Dakota Sports Hall of Fame for her performance in track and field.

TAYLOR SMITH, BA '14 (English), has been named the volunteer program and prevention coordinator for

Saving Grace, a Bend nonprofit organization providing family violence and sexual assault services.

ALISHIA GARCIA, BMus '15 (music performance), cofounded Coast to Coast Music Theater and Voice Intensive, a summer session for high school students to improve their fundamentals in acting and singing repertoires.

MOLLY NEUMEISTER, BS '15 (educational foundations), has joined the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders.

MATTI SJOBLOM-CHAMBERS, BArch '15, has joined Bend-

based Steele Associates Architects as a designer on technology, senior, industrial, and hospitality projects.

MARYN BEUTLER, BS '16 (journalism), is the new director of operations for women's soccer at the UO.

TIARA DARNELL, MS '17 (strategic communication), MS '18 (multimedia journalism), is in production

for the first season of her podcast about cannabis, *High, Good People*, focusing on the experiences and perspectives of people of color.

GARRETT MITCHELL, BArch '17 (architecture), was hired as a design professional for BBT Architects in Bend.

SULMAN RAZA, BA '17 (French), made his professional debut at

the US Open Championship golf tournament in June.

IN MEMORIAM

STEVEN WOODSON, a general social science major and member of the class of 1939, died August 12. He worked for Southern Pacific railroad for 39 years. He enjoyed gardening, fishing, and model railroading. He also authored a book

FLASHBACK

1968 In November, nearly 150 students march on National Draft Day to advocate noncomplicity with the Selective Service draft system. Seventeen draft cards and more than 100 statements of noncomplicity are presented to officials.

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DUCKS AFIELD

JAMES LUND, BS '83 (journalism), showed off his UO pride while on Grand Cayman island last winter working on his forthcoming book.

FLASHBACK

1978 The UO men's cross-country team earns its third straight Pac-10 title and places second at nationals, with four runners receiving national honors.

about his railroading career with Ray Hewitt, an English professor at Oregon State University.

WILLIAM "BILL" LOUD, BA '43 (business administration), died July 26. He starred in the popular PBS broadcast *An American Family*, one of the first reality TV series in the United States. He served in the US Navy as a PT boat commander during World War II and was involved in the D-Day invasion of Normandy. He also served in the Korean War and received a bronze star.

THOMAS "TOM" KAY, BS '47 (economics), died May 18. He received the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for service in World War II while stationed in France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. He enjoyed golf and was a regular at the Salem Golf Club.

KATHERINE "KAP-PIE" EATON, MS '52 (journalism), MS '68 (librarianship), died August 7. She ran the Bureau of Government Research and Service Library at the University of Oregon for 15 years and served two years as president of the faculty senate. She was passionate about serving the com-

munity as a citizen advocate and was the president of local and statewide groups such as the League of Women Voters. Aside from being heavily involved as a citizen, she also advocated for libraries throughout the Pacific Northwest and the improvement of women's lives worldwide. She was a huge Ducks fan and for more than 50 years attended almost every home football game, as well as every men's or women's basketball game.

JACOB TANZER, BA '56 (law), LLB '59 (law), died July 23. He was a well-known Portland lawyer and judge who worked for the US Department of Justice managing several important civil rights cases. He enjoyed photography and helped his wife at Elephants Delicatessen, the bakery she founded in Portland.

PAUL CLAYTON, BS '59 (law), LLB '61 (law), died August 6. He practiced law in Eugene for more than 50 years. He enjoyed fishing, reading, and spending time at his cabin on the McKenzie River.

MAX BAKER, BA '64 (geography), died July 19. He cofounded and operated Marketplace Books in Eugene for 17 years. Even

after retirement, his passion for books remained strong and he volunteered at the Bookie Joint, Klamath County Library's used bookstore. He also worked at Ross Ragland Theater in Klamath Falls for 12 years.

ALBERT JOHN "A.J." DEMARIS JR., BA '66 (biology), died July 22. He worked with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for 33 years as a fish hatchery manager and engineering coordinator. He was an avid hunter and outdoorsman and enjoyed working on his farm.

BOB FOX, BA '70 (Clark Honors College, history), died August 26. After a distinguished career as a trade economist for Alberta, Canada, he held a private practice in Edmonton as a trade consultant. He and his wife, Janette, were married almost 49 years, with four children and four grandchildren.

JANET "JAN" REAVES, BA '70 (art education), MFA '83 (painting), died July 29. Her paintings were exhibited regionally and nationally and she was featured four times in the Portland Art Museum's Oregon Biennial. She was an



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DUCKS AFIELD

SUE, BS '63 (elementary education), and ED KINGZETT, BS '70 (marketing), met a Ducks fan at Wadi Rum in southern Jordan May 17. He wanted to go to an Oregon football game this fall but wouldn't fit into a seat at Autzen Stadium.

FLASHBACK

1998 The Oregon Campaign, the university's first comprehensive fundraising drive, concludes December 31, having raised \$255.3 million in six years and exceeding its \$150 million goal by 70 percent.

art instructor at the University of Oregon for 30 years. Her passions for the natural world, particularly for black flowers and cats, were expressed through her gestural, abstract paintings.

HARRICK HUDSON, BS '72 (computer and information science), died May 27. He worked at Peterson Pacific for 20 years and did alternative service at Good Samaritan Hospital in Portland. He enjoyed pottery, gardening, and working on his ranch.

GEORGE WILLIAM "BILL" CAMPBELL, BArch '78 (landscape architecture), died March 3 at age 75. After serving in Vietnam and completing his college degree, he worked as a land-use planner with Yamhill County, a regional development officer with Oregon Economic Development, and as planning director for Tillamook County. He is survived by Peg-

gy Campbell, his wife and best friend of 48 years. Together, they had a son and daughter. He and his family enjoyed rafting, golf, and Ducks football.

JOHN ERHARDT, MS '78 (public affairs), died June 17. He spent 41 years in the military, serving in both the California Air National Guard and the Oregon Army National Guard. He spent 19 years working in law enforcement in both California and Oregon. He enjoyed horseback riding, golf, and bowling.

THOMAS DISHON, MA '80 (independent study), PhD '88 (psychology), died June 1. He was passionate about research and was a top scholar in prevention science. He developed the Family Check-Up program, which targets at-risk families with young children and teaches parenting skills that improve family interactions.

CHRISTOPHER CHAPMAN, BS '83 (leisure studies and services), died June 25. He worked for the Firemen's Fund for many years before moving to Truckee, California, to work in information technology and with Tahoe Forest Hospital. He was passionate about the outdoors and enjoyed camping and hiking in the Cascades and Sierras.

SARIEAH MACDONALD, BS '09 (women's and gender studies), died July 6. She worked as a midwife and helped start a women's health clinic in Portland. She enjoyed being outside and going to music festivals, and was a huge fan of the Grateful Dead.

FLASHBACK

2008 In the 112th Civil War between the 19th ranked Ducks and 17th ranked Beavers, the UO prevails 65-38. The victory marks the Ducks' first win at Reser Stadium in 12 years and prevents OSU from making the Rose Bowl.



DUCKS AFIELD

From left to right: MITCHELL VAN DYKE, BS '13 (accounting), MActg '14, and MONICA (PALMESANO) VAN DYKE, BS '14 (educational foundations), traveled from their home in Amsterdam to meet GINA (O'LOONEY) PALMESANO, BS '06 (sociology), and NICK PALMESANO, BS '07 (human physiology), in Paris in March. The Palmesanos reside in Talent.



“SHOUT OREGON” AND SEE THE HOMECOMING SIGHTS, NOV 2-4

“Homecoming” week gives alumni an opportunity to return to their alma mater and see for themselves that while the University of Oregon still feels like the university they know and love, if they look hard enough there are subtle differences that underscore how much the UO has changed since their student days.

For example, inside Autzen Stadium November 3, Chip Kelly will be pacing the sidelines—only now he'll be doing so after jogging out of the visitor's tunnel as head coach of the UCLA Bruins. Continuing a tradition that dates back 110 years, Ducks can walk to Skinner's Butte to give the “O” a fresh coat of paint—though depending on their class year, they may find the view from the summit remarkably different.

For alumni who don't find a walk to the butte challenging enough, there's a Run with the Duck 5k on November 4. Ducks interested in art—but who don't want to paint the “O”—are invited to the public opening of the Erb Memorial Union's Permanent Art Collection on Friday, November 2. Attendees can mingle with featured artists, create their own art, and enjoy refreshments and live music.

The Class of 1968 will be back on campus for their 50th class reunion, and while the class is preparing for the Order of the Emerald Banquet, the public can Shout Oregon—this year's theme—and enjoy Friday afternoon's Homecoming Parade, where the best seats in the house will be right in front of the EMU.

For more details visit homecoming.uoregon.edu/events.



For Love of the Comma

Winter term 1992. I waited with bated breath for feedback on my first creative writing essay. Kathy Rush, my instructor,

had lovely things to say about my voice and plotting. But it was her perspective on punctuation that would haunt me and send me on a quest: “You need to become *intimately* acquainted with the comma.”

At first appearance, the comma seems straightforward. Nothing more than a simple punctuator, a connector, helping to weave thoughts together or remind us to pause. However, upon closer inspection, the comma is perhaps the most ambiguous tool in modern English.

In a nutshell, you can’t escape the conundrum of the comma: When do you use it? When don’t you? Is there anyone among us who can say for sure?

My attempts to master the little beast began long before college. It started in my early years when my father, Arnie Dyer (a ’69 alumnus and English teacher) would whip out his red pen and bloody every essay I crafted. In hindsight, I realize that his exacting pen helped thicken my skin and strengthen my writing. Not that I appreciated it at the time.

I distinctly remember my breaking point. I was in high school and had spent countless hours reworking an essay, only to have it returned looking like it was in desperate need of a tourniquet. The bottom of the page included a primer on the proper use of the comma: the introductory, the interrupter, a basic conjunction, and the granddaddy of them all—the Oxford comma.

The Oxford is an optional and stylistic comma used to clarify meaning when stringing items together in a list. My father touted this perfect piece of punctuation, claiming it performed like a superhero, warding off misunderstandings. He was probably right. Case in point? Last year Maine dairy workers won a labor dispute over a list of required duties due to vagueness of contractual language—thanks to a missing Oxford comma. Grammaticists take the serial comma seriously. Entire tomes, such as the bestseller *Eats, Shoots and Leaves* by

BY KATE DYER-SEELEY

Lynne Truss, have been devoted to the Oxford and its appropriate use.

Today, in my career as a professional writer, I’ve learned to appreciate the gifts gleaned from my father’s and professor’s insights and red pen, like the fact that I never flinch when editors suggest changes to a manuscript. Or that I delight in feedback from everyone who touches my work. Yet, my understanding of the comma remains fluid.

There’s no escaping the great comma debate. One of my editors loves the Oxford. Another loathes it. Copy editors have differing and unwavering beliefs how best to use the comma. When my first manuscript went through copy edits, every introductory comma was removed. I made note and intentionally didn’t use a single introductory comma in the next manuscript. But stop the presses! Don’t make assumptions or get unattached to the pesky punctuator, because the next copy editor added every introductory comma back in.

What I’ve learned 18 books later is that, while other punctuation has a distinct and undebatable purpose, the comma remains ambiguous. A period signals a stop. A question mark demands an answer. An exclamation point should be used sparingly and never in threes. A colon is a dying breed, most commonly recognized as a smiley-face emoji.

The comma is an enigma. Loved and loathed. Bound by personal taste rather than rigid rule books.

In a social media-saturated world where everybody is screaming the loudest that they’re right and you’re wrong, the comma lives in gray areas of uncertainty. It asks us to take a breath, reflect, and listen. It reminds us to consider words and meaning. For a small piece of punctuation, that’s a profound gift.

Kate Dyer-Seeley, BA ’99 (communication disorders and sciences), is a Pacific Northwest native and writer of murder mysteries under the pseudonym Ellie Alexander.

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