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Oregon

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SPRING 2021



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Science Drives Our Optimism

The challenges of the last year have reminded us of many things: the value of human connection, the need to support those most vulnerable, and the resilience and strength of our community. The pandemic has also illuminated the undeniable power of science and innovation. We turned to science to identify the new coronavirus and determine how to limit its spread. Science also led to the creation of safe, highly effective vaccines in record time, which is key to our recovery as a university, community, country, and world.

Scientific discovery is also one of the cornerstones of the University of Oregon teaching, research, and service mission. Our past is steeped in scientific inquiry and innovation. Science informs our present and propels our future.

In this issue of *Oregon Quarterly*, you're getting a glimpse into that future. In the coming decades, neuroscience promises to provide new therapeutic strategies to treat diseases while also playing an increasingly important role in areas beyond medicine, including education, consumerism, and the justice system.

The field will offer lasting improvements in human health, the economy, and society, and the UO—which has a rich history in neuroscience and unbridled momentum today—will help lead the way. Our feature connects the dots from the founding of the Institute of Neuroscience in 1979 to an exciting new undergraduate neuroscience major to key questions being explored by our researchers. They are examining the link between neural circuits and behavior, the pathways of reward, addiction, and memory, and even the potential for computational approaches to unlock insights into how the brain operates.

The issue also features one of our stellar young scholars: Nicole Wales, of Coos Bay, who overcame staggering childhood

challenges on her way to uncommon achievement in chemistry, physics, and mathematics. As a Ronald E. McNair Scholar, she's part of a program preparing her for graduate school through demanding research projects—but her personal story is no less inspiring than her academic success.

Speaking of research, you're sure to enjoy our coverage of a new campus partnership between science and comics. Under this interdisciplinary research program, students and scientists come together to produce graphic narratives illustrating and explaining faculty members' research.

Also featured: Kara Clevinger, assistant department head in English and winner of a remote-teaching award; Adrian Parr, new dean of the College of Design; Anne Helen Petersen, MA '07 (English), whose viral article on Millennial burnout was an internet sensation; and Namratha Somayajula, a Clark Honors College graduate of international studies who now writes on topics such as air pollution, water access, and consumer protections for Human Rights Watch.

And don't miss the Duck Tale: journalism students who examined a fascinating incident from the Cold War era and then turned their investigation into a compelling book that explores timely and timeless issues of borders, propaganda, and governmental overreach.

These are complicated but optimistic times. I feel, more than anything, hope and gratitude for our university community and the better days ahead.

Michael H. Schill
President and Professor of Law

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HONORING NATIVE PEOPLES AND LANDS

The University of Oregon is located on Kalapuya Ilihi, the traditional homelands of the Kalapuya people. Following treaties between 1851 and 1855, Kalapuya people were dispossessed of their indigenous homeland by the United States government and forcibly removed to the Coast Reservation in Western Oregon. Today, their descendants are citizens of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians of Oregon, and continue to make important contributions in their communities, at the UO, and across the land now referred to as Oregon.

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Once again, from all of us at The Duck Store:
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AN OPEN MIND

Neuroscience will offer lasting improvements in human health, the economy, and more, and the University of Oregon will help lead the way

BY JASON STONE

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MELTING GLASS CEILINGS

Nicole Wales has distinguished herself through research in physics and chemistry, and by what she’s overcome

BY ED DORSCH

ON THE COVER

UO neuroscience is enabling progress in how Parkinson’s disease is diagnosed, hearing problems are detected in infants, and treatments for motor disorders are improved

ILLUSTRATION BY TIM JORDAN, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS;
PHOTO BY DARKDAY CC-BY 2.0



DUSTIN WHITAKER, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS (TOP); COURTESY OF JULIA MUELLER AND ZACK DENIERS (MIDDLE); AUDRA McNAMEE

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Robert Bailey, with Garth Brooks, hit a high note with winter readers

Singing Bailey's Praises

I was so happy to read about Robert Bailey ("Friends in 'O' Places") in the winter 2021 issue. I had the pleasure of knowing Bob as we took music classes together. What a sweet and talented man. He used to sit down at the piano in the EMU and in no time, a crowd would gather. I knew that he went on to sing backup for Wynonna Judd, but I had no idea he was performing with Garth Brooks. What a great success story!

Deborah Mitchell, BMus '78
(music education)
Coburg, Oregon

Damian Foley's "Friends in 'O' Places" (Winter 2021) brought back wonderful memories for me and my wife. Yes, we are Garth

Brooks fans. To celebrate our 36th wedding anniversary, we were among the 60,000 at Autzen and just 10 yards from the stage. What a bonus thrill to have UO alum Robert Bailey perform "Shout!" Yes, the crowd did erupt and Autzen was never the same that night. Bailey made all Ducks proud.

Craig Weckesser, BS '64 (journalism)
Olympia, Washington

Boyd a Force for Academia

I appreciated your tribute to Bill Boyd in the winter 2021 issue. In 1978 my family moved to Eugene when my dad became UO's vice president for university relations. Bill was the tall, imposing, quietly gentle personification of wisdom to me. The Simic family spent a lot of time with Bill (always, informally "Bill")

because Dad's job required it, they enjoyed each other's company and, because Bill was single, my mom was often the university's official hostess at donor events.

Bill was an inspired orator, just as later President Dave Frohnmayer would be, and still maintained his Southeast coast pronunciation of particular words. Dad kept copies of Bill's speeches for the beauty of the language and quoted him often. Today, I have a couple of those speeches tucked into a file where they've stayed with me for almost 40 years. Bill is the originator of my favorite quote, that I often use to explain what inspires my career in university fundraising and the nobility of supporting higher education:

"Scholarship and philanthropy are each, separately, among the most powerful forces at work shaping the future of our society. In combination, they may be unsurpassed in their capacity to improve the human condition."

No one's ever said it better.

Laura Simic, BA '86 (public relations)
Boise, Idaho

Amazed, Touched, and Inspired

I admired the fine publishing work evident in the winter 2021 number. It is rare for any magazine I receive to amaze (as did news of the world's smallest milling machine said to be found in the beautiful, mysterious new building across Franklin Boulevard), to touch (as did Brian Trapp's moving essay), and to inspire (as did Emily Halnon's report on the doings of an old friend from law school, Barney Mann). Thank you to the *Quarterly* staff for your work.

Frank Gibson, JD '79
Eugene, Oregon

Design Flaw in Story?

In the winter 2021 issue of *Oregon Quarterly*, the article entitled, "Tour de Force," by Ed Dorsch, described many of the design elements of the new Knight Campus that he observed on his tour with Robert Guldberg. Mr. Dorsch described glowingly how the building was designed to support the goals and fulfill the needs of the people working within it. Unfortunately, he never mentioned any of the designers or architectural firms responsible for the design innovation he witnessed. In fact, the only designer credited in his article was Professor Richard Taylor, for the carpet he

designed on the bottom floor.

This may not seem important to most but good design does not grow on trees. It requires hours of effort, creativity, thought, trial, technical input, experimentation, testing, and review. A process of collaboration with consultants, manufacturers, and, of course, the stakeholders the facility will serve. When the designers are not mentioned that effort is taken for granted. That shouldn't happen when the subject of the article is a building.

For the record, the design was a partnership between Ennead Architects, New York, and Bora Architects, Portland, and no doubt utilized the talents of people trained by the School of Architecture & Environment at the university served by *Oregon Quarterly*.

Steve Parker, BArch '83

San Leandro, California

Editor's note: The inside cover of the winter issue credited designers Ennead Architects of New York and Bora Architects of Portland, and builder Hoffman Construction of Portland.

Creating a wonderful new campus building requires more than just one wealthy man. Dozens of architects and engineers—many of them trained at the U of O—labor for years on the design. Hundreds of skilled craftspeople—many educated at the U of O—work for the contractors who built the “exhilarating environment.” Yet your publication consistently neglects to mention any of these contributions when you write about new campus buildings. Your paean to the new Knight Campus is a case in point. I look forward to future articles recognizing the many hands that work to improve the university campus and education.

Robert Drucker

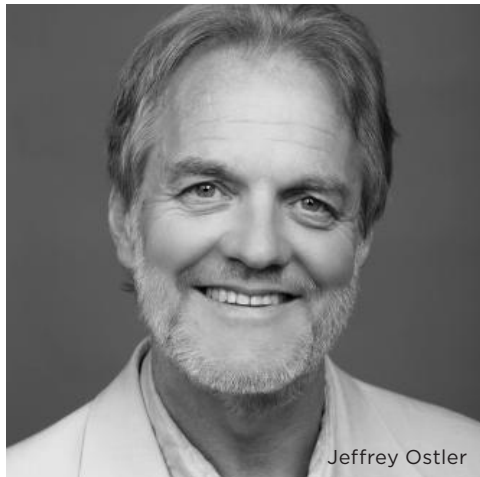
Seattle, Washington

Dearth of Diversity

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are in the conversation everywhere these days, and rightly so. I'm pleased to see the magazine continue to address it in various ways. But perhaps the discussion is not happening at the top at the University of Oregon. I see in the magazine masthead that only three of the top 11 administrators are women, and two are “interim.” Seems a little out of balance these days.

Patricia Squire, BS '67 (journalism)

Lake Oswego, Oregon



Another Side to Genocide

The famous passages of the Declaration of Independence are included in the first part, or body, of the document. Following this is a long list of grievances against King George III. One grievance reads, “He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured (sic) to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction, of all ages, sexes and conditions.”

The warfare on the American frontier wasn't one-sided, as posited in Jeffrey Ostler's book (*Surviving Genocide*, Winter 2021). It was a brutal struggle, with atrocities on both sides. Indians on the war path wiped out entire towns in New England during King Philip's War in the 17th century.

Philip Ratcliff, BA '79 (journalism)

Salem, Oregon

A Positive Perspective?

Unfortunately, I will have to agree with Anthony Traglio, BA '76, (Winter 2021) that the *Quarterly* has fallen into the trap of “Progressive thought” rather than take an educated look at the issues and present articles on both sides—Liberal and Conservative! So much for an education that teaches UO students “critical thinking” . . . how SAD!

You have come to publish only on “thought that exhumes the negative” . . . rather than “focus on the positive”!

As a UO grad who moved to San Diego and had a quite successful business career in sales, I ask you: How successful would I have been if I “focused only on the negative”? Perhaps these students need to spend three

months in another country and get a taste of the average citizen's lifestyle—for example in Thailand or Cambodia. Perhaps they would return to the USA with a “renewed sense of appreciation” for the world of opportunity offered in the USA!

Robert McCarty, BA '73
(elementary education)

San Diego, California

Doing Right by Her Dad

I just finished reading the autumn 2020 edition of *Oregon Quarterly* and as usual, found it relevant and interesting. My father, Dick Nooe, was a U of O alumni and Phi Beta Kappa graduate in 1957, after losing his sight in the Korean War in 1953. He passed away in 2018. However, I have not been able to bring myself to cancel the subscription, since the features are so enjoyable and bring to mind the stories my father always told about his college experiences. He found the environment to be so supportive of a person who was blind and had many funny stories about his life with Theta Chi fraternity. He had started at the U of O, I believe, in 1950, but found that after being a star football player in his small high school, he was just a “little fish” on the university football team. The Korean War was on and he joined the Marines. He was raised in Redmond, Oregon, and although he left the state after graduation, he instilled in his family a love of all things Oregon. We continue to visit every five years and Eugene is one of our favorite places.

I want to add that my father was a feminist before his time and he would have been so proud to see the inclusive nature of OQ and the way it keeps systemic racism and other social justice issues at the forefront. Keep up the wonderful work!

Marikathryn Nooe Oakley

Neenah, Wisconsin

We want to hear from you.

Submit your letters by email to quarterly@uoregon.edu, at OregonQuarterly.com, 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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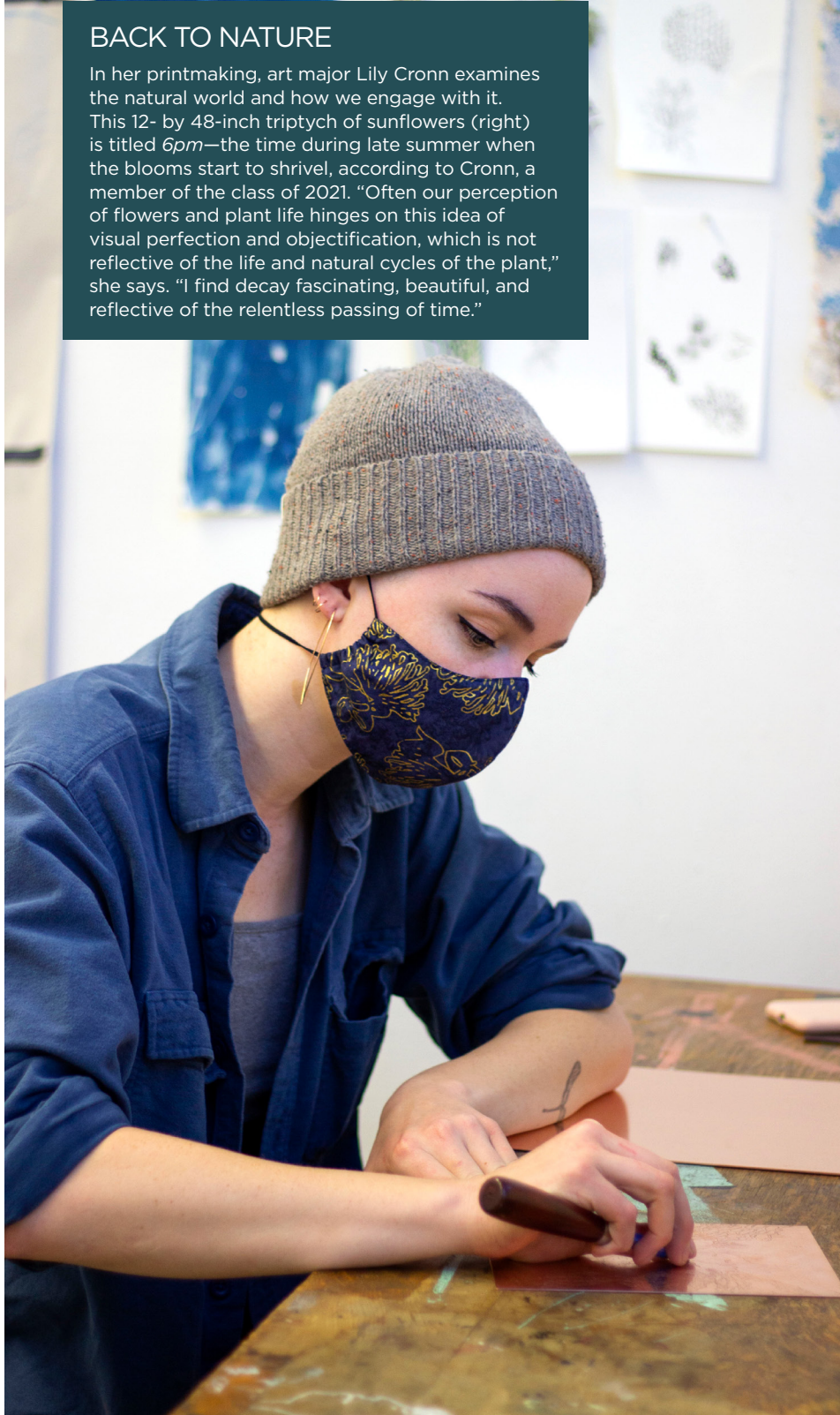
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intro

BACK TO NATURE

In her printmaking, art major Lily Cronn examines the natural world and how we engage with it. This 12- by 48-inch triptych of sunflowers (right) is titled *6pm*—the time during late summer when the blooms start to shrivel, according to Cronn, a member of the class of 2021. “Often our perception of flowers and plant life hinges on this idea of visual perfection and objectification, which is not reflective of the life and natural cycles of the plant,” she says. “I find decay fascinating, beautiful, and reflective of the relentless passing of time.”



Center of Attention

RoseMarie Beatty credits the University of Oregon for providing, she says, “the roadmap of my life.” She’s helping other Black students reach their destinations, as well.

The 1992 public relations graduate recently became the lead donor for the Lyllye Reynolds-Parker Black Cultural Center Scholarship Fund, which will create scholarships ranging from \$750 to \$5,000 for students affiliated with the Black Cultural Center. Recipients will be chosen based on factors including volunteer service to the Black Cultural Center, participation in the Indigenous, Race, and Ethnic Studies program, and the pursuit of a minor in Black studies.

Beatty, director of human resources at Donor Network West, a Bay Area nonprofit for organ donation, was proud to see the 2019 opening of the Black Cultural Center at 15th Avenue and Villard Alley. The 3,200-square-foot facility serves as a portal on Black heritage and culture and was sought by the Black



Sociology major Isaiah Allen in the Lyllye Reynolds-Parker Black Cultural Center

Student Task Force in 2015.

With the center open, Beatty encourages donors and alumni to step up to support scholarships and programming.

“I was lucky,” she says. “I received scholarships as well as significant financial support from my mother and grandmother, which allowed me to graduate without any student loans. But I had friends who were not so lucky. As alumni, we should help open the doors for students.”



EARTHQUAKE ALERT

Earthquake early warning has come to the Pacific Northwest.

ShakeAlert—a system that provides critical seconds of warning ahead of a major quake—is now available to the public in Oregon. Using more than 1,000 seismic sensors across the Pacific Northwest and West Coast, the system detects earthquakes and delivers alerts to smartphones and other wireless devices, while triggering sirens, emergency broadcasts, and other warnings.

University of Oregon geophysicist Doug Toomey, other university researchers, and the UO Oregon Hazards Lab are pivotal to the project, which is led by the US Geological Survey and includes the

University of Washington, among other partners.

Warnings will be transmitted by the wireless emergency alert system—sometimes called the Amber Alert system—that exists on all smartphones. Oregonians are also encouraged to download and install apps that say “powered by ShakeAlert”—experts say it’s preferable to have multiple warning systems given alerting times can vary depending on the device.

Says Toomey: “This is a monumental achievement for the West Coast, for the state of Oregon, and for the many individuals and groups that are contributing to Oregon’s resilience.”

SOUNDS OF THE SEALS

Weddell seals of Antarctica have long been known for their size (up to 1,000 pounds), appetites (some eat 100 pounds of fish daily), and swimming abilities (80-minute dives on one breath).

Now hear this: they also regularly produce chirps, whistles, and trills at frequencies inaudible to humans.

University of Oregon biologists Paul Cziko and Lisa Munger made the discovery after installing an ultrasensitive broadband digital hydrophone at their oceanographic observatory under the sea ice in McMurdo Sound, Antarctica. Seventeen percent of the seals' known call repertoire was found to be ultrasonic, or above the audible range for the human ear, they report.

It's a breakthrough in the understanding of pinnipeds—fin-footed mammals, including seals, sea lions, and walruses, which were thought to vocalize only at sonic levels. Still unknown is the purpose of the high-frequency calls—they could be for communication or a form of “echolocation,” a biological sonar used to navigate in limited visibility while locating friends, foes, or prey.

“You never know what you're going to find when you've got eyes and ears in the ocean, especially in Antarctica,” Cziko says.



Sturdivant at the California Capitol in Sacramento



“I was locked into the news and was in shock about the previous president refusing to accept the election results. I knew that being an electoral college voter really mattered.”

**—ERIN STURDIVANT,
SOPHOMORE AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR,
ON BEING AN ELECTORAL
COLLEGE VOTER IN
CALIFORNIA**

UO BY THE NUMBERS

63,810: COVID-19 tests performed through March 21 by the UO COVID-19 Monitoring and Assessment Program, the largest testing program in Lane County ▶

24: Percentage of Oregonians who said they will not get vaccinated for COVID-19, in a December survey by Benjamin Clark, codirector of the Institute for Policy Research and Engagement

152.4 million: Dollars in 2019–20 grants, contracts, and competitive awards, issued to UO researchers in a record-setting cycle

3 million: Dollars the UO will receive, over 10 years, from a jury verdict in the Arco debit card class-action lawsuit, to pursue research that benefits Oregon consumers

19: Number of December days that Max, UO police chief Matt Carmichael's German Shepherd, was missing after bolting from a Columbia River Gorge rest area (he was found, injured but alive, near The Dalles) ▶

16 to 1: Current student-to-teacher ratio



Seats from Historic Hayward Field

TRACK-AND-FIELD ATTRACTION

Coming soon to public spots throughout Eugene: elements of Historic Hayward Field.

Reconstruction of the University of Oregon's iconic track-and-field venue began in 2018. Salvaged materials not used in the new stadium were recently made available through a community application process, and more than 15 groups and individuals proposing creative projects were awarded wood, metal, and other materials (to ensure community needs are met, individuals were unable to buy or take mementos).

TrackTown USA plans to inlay pieces of wood into medals for top finishers at the US Olympic Team Trials, slated for June. The Oregon Track Club and the Eugene Airport will place a hands-on Hayward Field display near baggage claim, complete with original seats. Kidsports plans to use stair treads from the east grandstand to create benches in its new facility at Civic Park.

"I'm honored to lead an effort to use the remnants of a building that meant so much to me personally for the benefit of an organization that serves so many in our community," says Katy Polansky Garney, BS '04 (business administration), MBA '05 (general business), a member of Kidsports's board of directors. "I can see no greater use for this storied sports history than allowing it to continue through Kidsports's mission of letting all kids play."

Empowering through Education

BY EMILY HALNON

A University of Oregon program that provides education to incarcerated Oregonians is expanding with a boost from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, one of the largest supporters of the arts and humanities in the United States.

Under the UO Prison Education Program, faculty members and campus students have joined people who were incarcerated for discussion-oriented courses in Salem prisons.

The program developed from the UO Inside-Out Program in 2007, building upon the national program of that name based at Temple University, which brings college students together with incarcerated men and women to study as peers in a seminar behind prison walls. The UO program has expanded to include not-for-credit workshops, book discussions, and distance-learning courses. Hundreds of campus students and more than 1,000 incarcerated people have gone through the program, which has become one of the largest in the nation.

Program Director Shaul Cohen, an associate professor of geography, says studies have consistently shown that higher education during incarceration allows students to recognize and develop their abilities, helps people find employment, reduces the likelihood of returning to prison, and according to the Rand Corporation, a global policy think tank, makes both prisons and society safer.

For their part, participants say the impact of education can scarcely be measured.

“At no time in my life previously had I encountered such an intense concentration of compassion and empathy in a gathering of people,” says Bobby, an incarcerated participant. “Nothing could be of greater value.”

Classes are offered in geography, English, political science, sociology, environmental studies, philosophy, family and human services, and conflict and dispute resolution. They have also been conducted in partnership with the Clark Honors College.

While the pandemic has introduced new challenges, the future is promising. Due to coronavirus safety precautions, in-person classes have been suspended and technology constraints inside prisons have limited instruction to assignments such as readings and essays.

But a \$481,000 boost from the Mellon Foundation will enable the program to offer new educational opportunities to Oregonians in prison.

The funds will support training and instruction for additional educators and will enable the broadcasting of more UO programming

on televisions throughout the 14 prisons in Oregon.

The prison education program partners with the Oregon Humanities Center, the Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics, and the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art to give incarcerated students access to community programs recorded on campus. Through the award, a student who earned a bachelor’s degree through the UO while incarcerated will be hired to manage the TV programming.

With the Mellon gift, educational packets will also be provided to individuals in special housing, including solitary confinement and mental health units, and to those who are too infirm to attend in-person activities.

This expansion, according to Cohen, was developed in response to requests from participants with the hope that these offerings could be a gateway for additional education. He would like the UO to develop a model for colleges and universities nationwide that seek to expand access to educational materials for those who are isolated during incarceration.

Says Cohen: “We see our work as deeply intertwined with a core mission of the University of Oregon: to enhance the

social, cultural, physical, and economic well-being of our students, Oregon, the nation, and the world.

“A single day of education or a single course can be a transformative experience for an incarcerated student.”

Emily Halnon is a staff writer for University Communications.

“At no time in my life previously had I encountered such an intense concentration of compassion and empathy in a gathering of people.”

Drawn to Science

Researchers and students bring complex concepts to life through illustrations

BY LEWIS TAYLOR

The University of Oregon Science/Comics Interdisciplinary Research Program pairs students and science professors to create dynamic illustrations of subjects not normally seen in a comic book—complex concepts such as neuromodulation of brain states, biological populations in space, and the search for dark matter—in an artistic mode not normally seen in a textbook.

Under the program, selected students receive fellowships of \$1,000. Since its launch in spring 2020, the partnerships have given rise to a growing stack of brightly illustrated and entertaining comics that are used for science communication. Students and faculty members agree: the creative collaboration is challenging but enriching.

“It was maybe the coolest experience I’ve had at the University of Oregon,” says Audra McNamee, a junior in the Clark Honors College majoring in math and computer science and minoring in environmental studies and comics and cartoon studies. “There’s this built-in hook with comics. It’s not like you’re picking up a novel or a scientific article . . . you can pick up a comic about anything. It’s friendly. It won’t bite.”

The partnership is housed within the comics studies program, which offers a first-in-the-nation comics minor. Kate Kelp-Stebbins, associate director of the program and an assistant professor in the Department of English, says the fellowship offers great opportunities for students, makes science more accessible, and creates new interdisciplinary connections across the university.

The brainchild of Tien-Tien Yu, an assistant professor in the Department of Physics, the collaborations are partially funded through a National Science Foundation grant that earmarks money for science with “broader impact.”

“It’s a really fantastic way to bridge these two parts of campus that traditionally don’t have a whole lot of interaction with each other—the humanities and the hard sciences,” Yu says. “As a scientist, part of my goal is to make science more accessible in the sense that knowledge of the work that’s being done at UO belongs to everybody in the community. We should all have access to it and here’s this very digestible way of sharing that knowledge.”

Lewis Taylor is communications director for the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation.

Rose Gibian

Clark Honors College; art and technology, comics studies; class of 2021

Partner: Tim Cohen, physics

“I was trying to envision what an interdimensional creature that makes universes would look like. They ended up being these lava lamp-like creatures. Their bodies can move around and change color and shape based on how they’re feeling.”



Chloe DaMommio

Marine biology; class of 2022

Partner: Jayson Paulose, physics

“This comic is so much better than something I could have made on my own. I can see it being one of the things I’m going to be proudest of in terms of art that I’ve created.”



Audra McNamee

Clark Honors College; mathematics and computer science, environmental studies, comics studies; class of 2022

Partner: Luca Mazzucato, biology and mathematics

“I love drawing things and I do have lots of things I’m confused about. I want to research them and then explain them with comics. Comics offer you the ability to lay out things in this gripping, graphical way and both show things visually, and also keep people entertained visually.”

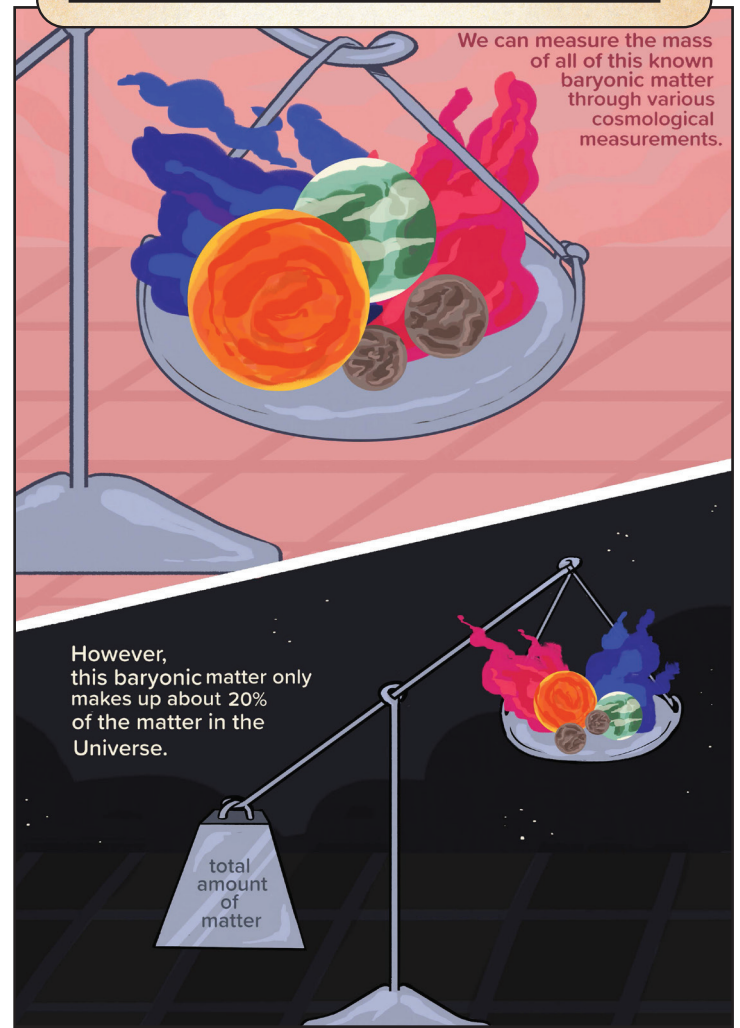


Mary Hubbert

Art and technology, comics studies; class of 2021

Partner: Tien-Tien Yu, physics

“If you have a better understanding of science, you can appreciate the technical aspects of art better. If you also have an appreciation of art, you can appreciate the beauty of nature and science better. They work in tandem.”



Parr's Portuguese Water Dog, Savannah, will occasionally be accompanying her to campus



An Explorer by Design

Adrian Parr will help the UO flex its imagination in the pursuit of environmental and social justice

BY ALEX NOTMAN CIPOLLE

As a kid in Sydney—growing up at the confluence of the Blue Mountains, the Australian bush, and the Pacific Ocean—Adrian Parr liked to get lost.

“I used to play this game where I’d like to see how lost I could get until that moment where you get a little freaked out and think, ‘I’ve gone too far off the path,’” says Parr, her accent mellowed after nearly two decades in the United States.

The new dean of the College of Design has been described as a philosopher, poet, cultural critic, environmental activist, author (she’s written eight books), and filmmaker (her 2016 documentary, *The Intimate Realities of Water*, won more than a dozen awards, including Best Documentary at the 2016 United International Independent Film Festival).

But after a lifetime of getting lost on purpose to better know the world, perhaps “explorer” is the title most suited to Parr, given her curiosities and breadth of experience. The latter includes an interdisciplinary scholarly acumen that connects the dots between architecture and cultural criticism, aesthetics, political theory, and environmental studies.

An activist at heart, Parr sees her work—and the college’s longstanding commitment to sustainability—dovetailing nicely with the university’s new environment initiative, a focus on bringing design and other areas of expertise to bear toward environmental and social justice.

“The college is incredibly well-poised to

contribute in a meaningful way,” Parr says. “This is something that people in the college have been doing for a long time.”

Parr says the college and university must flex what she calls “our emancipatory imagination” for environmental and social justice, an argument she makes in her book, *Birth of a New Earth* (2017).

“We have to be able to imagine a world that’s different than the world we live in at the moment,” Parr says. “And imagine a different kind of relationship to—not just to one another but to people we’ve never met, and to future generations.”

Patrick Phillips, provost and senior vice president, says, “The College of Design is somewhat unique nationally in the scope of its educational programs and the breadth of its scholarly and creative work. Adrian’s work and background, which span art, analysis, criticism, and policy work, match this breadth nearly perfectly. We are very fortunate to have her joining us as dean.”

Since 2013, Parr has served as chair on water and human settlements for the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

This appointment has sent her on site visits around the globe, from rural Tanzania to the Rohingya areas of Bangladesh, to north of the Arctic Circle. One visit, to the slums of Nairobi, particularly shaped Parr’s philosophy and trajectory. She spent time with four women who lived in shacks, trying to understand how water and sanitation affected their everyday lives.

“I would accompany them collecting water, washing clothes, taking care of their children,” Parr says. “It may sound corny, but there is such a strength of character, in the face of adversity, in all the women I spent time with. As a theorist and philosopher, it does underscore the fact that there are so many other ways of knowing the world. Not everything can always be summarized by reason and logic.”

What she learned from these women Parr included in the documentary, *The Intimate Realities of Water*. She wanted the women to represent themselves in their own terms and calls the film a collective undertaking. Parr

We have to be able to imagine a world that's different than the world we live in at the moment.

sends funds raised through screenings of the documentary back to the women.

“As a white woman coming in and benefiting from this, I wanted to create a structure where they were also beneficiaries of the research,” Parr says.

Parr’s commitment to resilience and justice will buttress the college’s own priorities, be that the School of Architecture & Environment’s Design for Spatial Justice Initiative or the School of Planning, Public Policy and Management’s newly launched Sustainable Communities and Public Good academic residential community (ARC). Created by University Housing, the ARCs are programs that help students find a community based around shared interests and passions for inquiry.

Parr has also had a lifelong engagement in the cultivation of arts. She is related to two world-renowned contemporary artists: her father is performance artist and printmaker Mike Parr and

her aunt, who lived next door to the Parr home in Sydney, is multimedia artist Julie Rrap.

When Parr, an only child, wasn’t wandering the forest or bodysurfing, she tagged along with her family on art adventures, traveling in a station wagon to exhibitions throughout Europe.

“Those are my formative childhood years,” Parr says. “It was very free.”

Parr comes to the UO from the University of Texas at Arlington, where she was dean of the College of Architecture, Planning, and Public Affairs. She holds a PhD in cultural studies and philosophy from Monash University in Melbourne and a master of arts from the Department of Politics and Philosophy at Deakin University in Geelong.

Joining Parr in Eugene is husband and Associate Professor Michael Zaretsky (MARCH '98)—the new head of the Department of Architecture—and their middle school-age son, Yehuda, and high school-age daughter, Shoshanna. (Their oldest son, Lucien, lives in Cincinnati but is considering a move to Eugene.) And, of course, their beloved Portuguese Water Dog, Savannah, has become a Eugene resident as well.

“I’m sure everyone at the UO will get to meet Savannah at some point, because I often bring her with me to things,” says Parr, laughing.

Alex Notman Cipolle, MA '11 (journalism), is a staff writer for the College of Design.

Look as sharp on the road as the Ducks do on the field.



uoalumni.com/plate



Kara Clevinger

SENIOR INSTRUCTOR, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

BY MATT COOPER, *OREGON QUARTERLY*

PHOTO BY JULIA WAGNER, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS



Students often learn best when they learn from each other. Kara Clevinger is making it happen, despite a global pandemic.

Or more accurately, *because* of a global pandemic: with the temporary shift to remote teaching, the assistant department head adopted methods that are inspiring students and educators alike. Clevinger is playing to strengths of the online realm, bringing students together for courses—she teaches composition and 19th-century American novels—and also the human connections people need to be healthy, especially in a time of isolation.

Working with colleague Nick Recktenwald, Clevinger last spring guided peers through the herculean job of redesigning classroom-based curricula for computers and laptops. For students, she incorporated thought-provoking online discussion boards for each assignment; the give-and-take between students posting comments and exploring each other's ideas quickly became so enriching her own conversation prompts went unnoticed.

For her efforts, Clevinger received a UO Remote Teaching award.

“With online instruction, students have much more time to process questions and think about their responses,” Clevinger says. “It’s also more democratic—it’s not just whoever is the bravest and speaks up in class, everybody is speaking and everybody’s voice has the same weight.”

“Peer-to-peer interaction is so helpful to their learning—they raise the level for each other. My students are producing far better writing in my online classes than my in-person classes because of that engaged discussion. It’s so cool to see.”

CONNECTING OVER KANYE

Clevinger also established a discussion board for nonacademic purposes. Students can weigh in on almost anything that comes to mind.

"It's basically, 'Hey, what are you doing to keep sane during this pandemic?'" Clevinger says. "Students have shared their paintings or that they're learning to play guitar—we've had a conversation about best Kanye West albums, and I've learned what's cool for me to stay young and hip. It's important they feel connected. It helps all of us persist through this—I draw inspiration from them, too. If they can keep going and stay positive, I can too."

PRIORITIZING PRACTICE

Becoming a better writer is about doing it over and over, and often coming up short. But failure is anathema for students who live in a world of grade point averages and test scores. Clevinger circumvents this with labor-based grading: students are assessed in part on how much effort they put into writing, not just what they produce.

GAGA FOR A WAWA PRETZEL

A native of Philadelphia, Clevinger has acclimated to the Pacific Northwest in all ways but one: she dearly misses her beloved Wawa pretzels, a staple of the Wawa convenience store chain on the East Coast known for these salty-soft, doughy delights.

"A Wawa pretzel is so clutch—when you hit a Wawa store and they've just made a fresh batch and they're hot, you've scored," Clevinger says, laughing. "You have to experience it, and then you'll know."

BOOKMARKS

SHORT TAKES: Latest titles of interest from alumni and faculty authors. Visit oregonquarterly.com/bookmarks for more, or to submit a book for consideration.



- 1** *Caspar David Friedrich: Nature and the Self* by Nina Amstutz, assistant professor of history of art and architecture
- 2** *The Unanswered Letter: One Holocaust Family's Desperate Plea for Help* by Faris Cassell, MS '90 (journalism)
- 3** *All Students Can Succeed: A Half Century of Research on the Effectiveness of Direct Instruction* by Jean Stockard, professor emerita, planning, public policy and management, Timothy W. Wood, Cristy Coughlin, and Caitlin Rasplika Khoury
- 4** *Buckets* by Grant Lemons, BS '15 (advertising) and Phillip Nguyen
- 5** *The Trail Back Out* by Jadi Campbell, BA '80 (English, women's studies)
- 6** *Caregiving for Alzheimer's Disease: A Personal Journey* by William Harris, BS '64, MS '65 (political science)



AN OPEN MIND

UO neuroscience—
an area of research
excellence and a
popular new major—
**promises to unlock how
the brain works**

BY JASON STONE

In the 21st century, one of the most thrilling frontiers of human thought is the instrument of inquiry itself.

“Perhaps the greatest discovery of humankind is the realization that the mind—its thoughts, emotions, memories, and aspirations—is the result of patterns of activity bouncing around inside the most complex structure in the known universe,” says David McCormick, a biologist and neuroscientist at the University of Oregon.

That sounds grandiose, but it’s no exaggeration. When you start looking into the human brain, even the basic numbers are mind-boggling. You have about 86 billion neurons, each with around 1,000 connections to other cells. Neural impulses speed through your head at around 260 miles per hour. You’ve doubtless heard the brain compared to a computer. Well, check out these tech specs: your 100 trillion synapses and 100,000 miles of axons perform, on average, 10 quadrillion operations per second, and your head contains 2.5 million gigabytes of storage space.

If absorbing all this data makes your brain

hurt, that's an illusion. While the body's sensation of pain occurs inside the brain, your gray matter itself has zero pain receptors.

At the UO, smart people have had brains on their minds for decades. From innovative beginnings half a century ago, neuroscience has grown into an academic endeavor that connects scholars across disciplines, advances the university's international reputation, and drives important research breakthroughs.

AN INTELLECTUAL HOME

While many institutions labored to find an intellectual home for this emerging discipline, at the UO a culture of research collaboration provided a solid foundation. A multidisciplinary faculty group established the Institute of Neuroscience (ION) in 1979, to build, as its website states, "a highly collaborative, integrated group where biologists and psychologists work together to dissect the development and function of the nervous system."

Administered through ION, a graduate program in neuroscience soon developed, offering robust training to students across disciplines. The Center for Translational Neuroscience (CTN) was founded in 2015 to promote transformative science for social change and train graduate researchers. And in the fall of 2020, neuroscience debuted as one of the UO's newest undergraduate majors.

In laboratories and classrooms across campus and beyond, UO researchers are tackling questions that will help shape our future understanding of the brain and its peripheral nervous system.

What mechanisms generate the brain's large diversity of neurons? How do these neurons "wire up" into functional circuits, and how do the circuits produce behavior? What are the circuits of reward, addiction, memory, and cognitive flexibility?

Such questions are more than just academic. Centered as it is on the essence of what makes us human, neuroscience is being used with life-changing impact. While medical applications of neuroscience may be the first use that comes to mind, neuroscience research findings are also widely used in fields including business, technology, law, mental wellness, government, and education.

Professor and Philip H. Knight Chair Phil Fisher, director of the Center for Translational Neuroscience, is an expert in child development who studies the effects of early, traumatic experiences, such as child abuse and neglect, and strives to address them.

"At CTN we are conducting world-class research using our state-of-the-science facilities to understand the basic brain mechanisms that underlie both mental health difficulties and well-being across the lifespan," he says.

"We employ these discoveries to craft innovative intervention and prevention programs that can be implemented at scale, in settings around the United States and globally. We also focus intensively on effective science communications in order to impact social policy."

Fisher's lab houses a research program that helps children and families facing economic and social adversity. The center also includes researchers campus-wide whose work runs the gamut of stages of human development, addressing everything from academic achievement and adolescent risk-taking to smoking cessation and cancer prevention.

"CTN's pipeline from basic science to programs to policy is unique to the UO and has evolved in the strongly collaborative and entrepreneurial culture of this university," Fisher says. "I'm not sure it could have happened anywhere else."

WIDE-RANGING BENEFITS

McCormick, Presidential Chair and director of ION, says the institute is similarly engaged in research that benefits humanity. Discoveries made at the UO are enabling progress in diagnosing Parkinson's disease, detecting infant hearing problems, fine-tuning motor disorders, and improving short-term memory.

"I'm particularly excited about a \$5 million grant we've recently received from the National Institutes of Health," he says. "Along with five of my colleagues spanning a

FACULTY RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



Biologist **Judith Eisen**, whose research on early development focuses on individually identified neurons, was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2018.

At the Phil and Penny Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact, neuroengineer **Tim Gardner** is unlocking clues to the workings of short-term memory by studying birdsong.

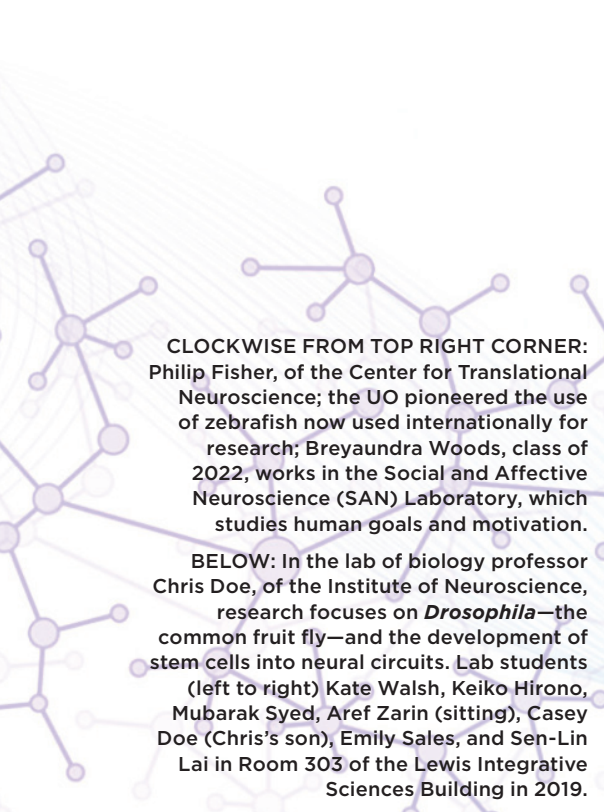


In EEG data, **Nicole Swann**, an assistant professor in human physiology, found markers that can aid the diagnosis of Parkinson's disease and fine-tune therapeutic treatments for motor disorders.

Jennifer Pfeifer, of the Center for Translational Neuroscience, addresses adolescent anxiety and mood disorders by using neuroimaging to study brain development and structure.

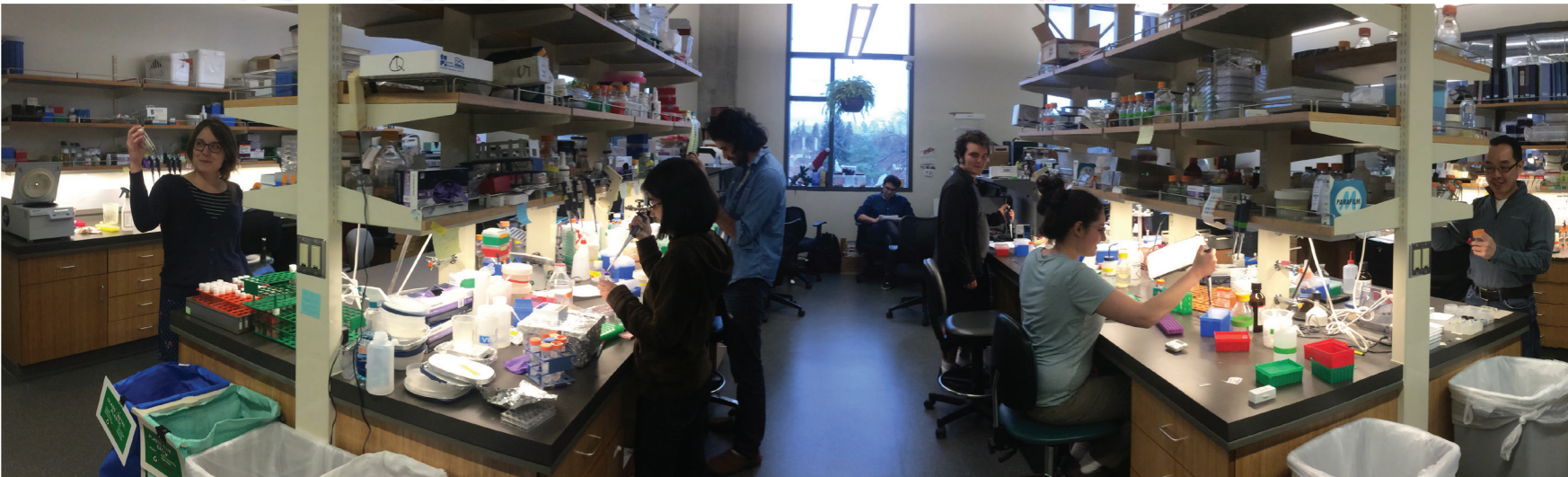


Biology professor **Shawn Lockery's** research on the neuronal basis of behavior led to major innovations in the use of roundworms (*C. elegans*) for lab work and drug discovery.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT CORNER: Philip Fisher, of the Center for Translational Neuroscience; the UO pioneered the use of zebrafish now used internationally for research; Breyandra Woods, class of 2022, works in the Social and Affective Neuroscience (SAN) Laboratory, which studies human goals and motivation.

BELOW: In the lab of biology professor Chris Doe, of the Institute of Neuroscience, research focuses on *Drosophila*—the common fruit fly—and the development of stem cells into neural circuits. Lab students (left to right) Kate Walsh, Keiko Hirono, Mubarak Syed, Aref Zarin (sitting), Casey Doe (Chris's son), Emily Sales, and Sen-Lin Lai in Room 303 of the Lewis Integrative Sciences Building in 2019.



number of disciplines, I'm part of a team that will investigate cognitive flexibility—the neural mechanisms behind our ability to quickly shift our attention among differing tasks. This project is just the kind of collaborative research challenge that attracted me to Oregon in the first place. Outside of the UO, there are only a couple of other places in the world that have the number of people and skill sets and a critical mass like we do for this particular type of research."

Ultimately, the researchers hope to address conditions such as attention deficit disorder, schizophrenia, and other psychiatric diseases. But the potential outcomes could also help everyone focus on the competing tasks of learning, work, and daily life.

Biologist Cris Niell, a coprincipal investigator on the grant, notes that the project has particular resonance in the current era.

"So many of us are facing additional responsibilities and distractions," Niell says. "We have kids at home doing schoolwork and we're trying to avoid scrolling on our phones to figure out who won the election and things like that. This

research is especially relevant now, when we are in this world where there's often just too many things going on for us."

MODELING THE BRAIN'S BUILDING BLOCKS

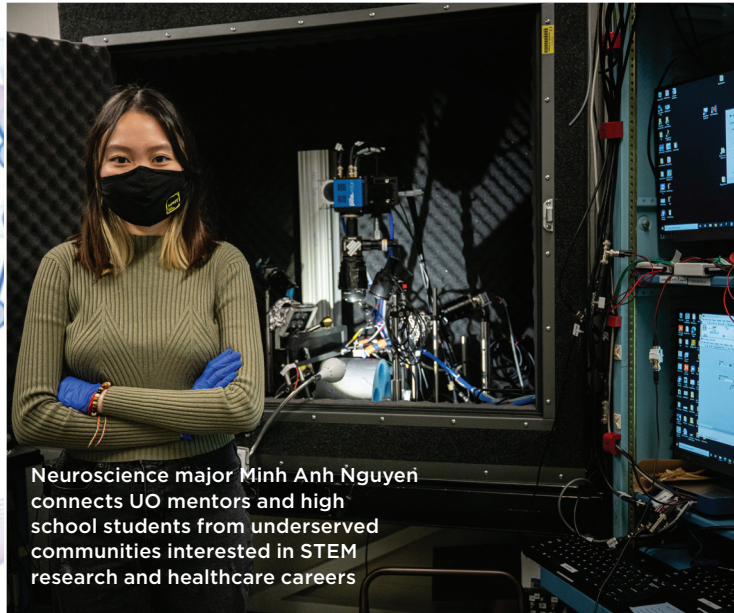
While some neuroscientists concentrate on biology and anatomy and others focus on patterns of behavior, still others specialize in theoretical and computational methods.

Luca Mazzucato, an assistant professor in biology and mathematics and a coprincipal investigator on the NIH grant, explores human behavior through statistical physics, information theory, and machine learning. He notes that the "knowledge experts" from various fields bring more than their own research methods to UO neuroscience—each discipline also contributes a different lens of understanding.

"The theoretical part of neuroscience is based on neural networks—these are the most fascinating objects to me," Mazzucato says. "While a colleague trained in biology

NIC WALCOTT, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS (SAN LAB AND NGUYEN OPPOSITE PAGE); CHRIS DOE (ON LAB); CHARLIE LITCHEFIELD, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS (FISHER, ZEBRAFISH)





Neuroscience major Minh Anh Nguyen connects UO mentors and high school students from underserved communities interested in STEM research and healthcare careers

will tend to picture them as an organic system and a computer scientist will think of them more algorithmically, as programs—with my training in physics, I tend to picture something more like a spin glass, a physical substrate.”

Cognitive functions emerge from the collective actions of many, many neurons, he explains, and experimental research now furnishes massive data sets of these neural impulses. Theoretical physics, in turn, is used to interpret all that data.

“My research takes experimental data on animal behavior, and neural data, and puts them together to build a model that hopefully can explain the computation that occurs in a certain brain area to produce a behavior, our sense of vision or taste, or even how we make decisions,” Mazzucato says.

While neuroscientists are making breakthroughs in training artificial neural networks to learn and perform tasks, Mazzucato says his work is more connected to foundational biology.

“I want to have a model that not only explains the cognitive function we study but also reproduces the building blocks of the brain—the neurons and chemical processes,” he says. “The work my lab is doing with computational models is performed in constant dialogue with my colleagues’ labs, where they work with living brains. A lot of our work at ION is done in this way, as a close collaboration between theorists and experimental researchers.”

The future of neuroscience looks expansive, reaching far beyond the lab and clinic. The Society for Neuroscience predicts the next 50 years will be a golden era of neurotherapeutics, filled with leading-edge research driving major advances in human health, wellness, economies, and societies.

At the UO, there’s a palpable, positive energy as the new major ramps up and neuroscientists grow increasingly confident their discipline is at the verge of new breakthroughs and tantalizingly close to solving the human mind’s whole, monumental puzzle—one with countless pieces.

“There is literally a neural circuit of anything human,” McCormick reflects. “Art, love, music, economics, friendship—even fascination with the brain.”

Jason Stone is a staff writer for University Communications.

Visit around.uoregon.edu/neuroscience for more.

NEW MAJOR IN NEUROSCIENCE



Nicole Dudukovic, a senior instructor of psychology and faculty member with the Robert D. Clark Honors College, is fascinated by memories, how they change over time, and why two people may remember the same event differently.

Asked to recall her inspiration for helping to create a neuroscience major at the UO, she says the reason was obvious.

“Given the existing faculty excellence in neuroscience at the UO, it seemed like a no-brainer—pun intended—to create a neuroscience major,” says Dudukovic, who directs the new undergraduate program. “There’s a lot of dynamic energy and trending awareness surrounding this field, and I think this is a great example of the UO building further in an area of strength.”

The first of its kind at a public university in Oregon, the major is already popular, especially among students interested in careers in research or healthcare. Since the program debuted last fall, 88 students have signed up to pursue a bachelor of science or arts in neuroscience.

Breyaundra Woods, a junior from San Diego, says she wanted to sign up on the same day she learned that the new major became official.

“Neuroscience pools knowledge from many different programs, and I think of the major as a bridge that will help undergraduates identify and connect with their specific areas of research interest,” Woods says. “Everyone is very excited about the potential to pull people together from different parts of campus and form something like a family.”

Isabelle Cullen, a senior from Dover, New Hampshire, has always been motivated to understand autism spectrum disorder. The new major is the one she’s been waiting for.

“This is a great major specifically for students who want to get directly involved in research as undergraduates,” says Cullen, who is planning to apply for PhD and MD/PhD programs.

“There are so many different types of research you can do—from molecular, cellular, behavioral, anatomical, and computational, to more exploratory types of research—and UO students have the opportunity to get connected with some of the top people in the field.”

Neuroscience majors are encouraged to get hands-on experience in a lab and can also hone science communications, computational, and programming skills. It’s all part of the rigorous preparation necessary for advanced studies and rewarding careers in this dynamic field.

“In creating this major,” Dudukovic says, “we thought about the kinds of qualities that our faculty look for in prospective graduate students, and we designed the major so that it provides this kind of training.”

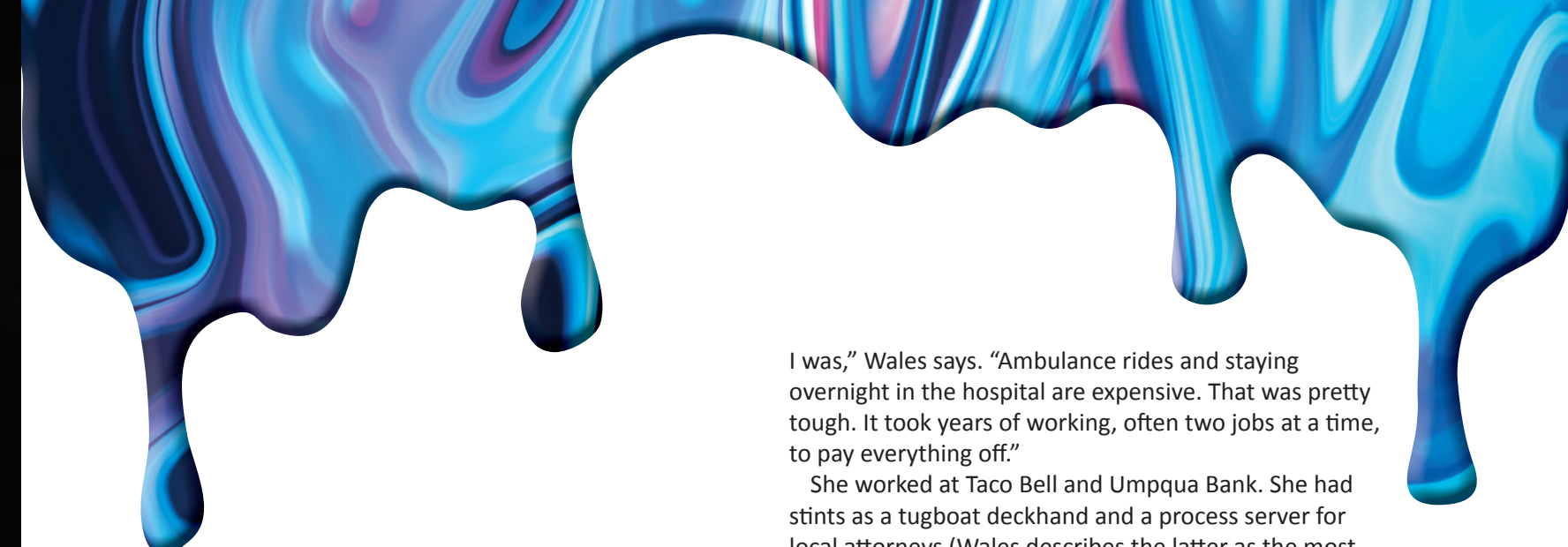


MELTING GLASS CEILINGS

BY ED DORSCH

PHOTO BY DUSTIN WHITAKER,
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Nicole Wales has distinguished herself through research into the physical properties of glass—and by what she's overcome



Nicole Wales will probably not be the only University of Oregon senior graduating this June with dreams of becoming a science professor. And there will also be others who represent the first in their family to attend college.

However, few of her fellow Ducks spent their spare time mapping their own brain using an MRI scan and learning code so they could research the physics of melting glass. What really sets Wales apart, though, are the challenges she overcame just to get to the university, let alone thrive as a scholar and researcher.

“I’m an underdog,” says the 28-year-old chemistry and physics major from Coos Bay. “My mom was a bartender and my dad was a diesel mechanic. There was never any expectation that I would pursue a college degree. But I decided to try anyway.”

While she was growing up, her family didn’t have a computer or internet access. But Wales worked hard at North Bend High School, earned a 3.93 GPA, graduated in 2010, and excelled at Southwestern Oregon Community College (SOCC).

Then she faced the first of several difficult challenges that delayed—but never quashed—her promising academic career. In 2013, her father died by suicide.

“That was the day I hope will be the worst of my life,” Wales says. “I can’t even begin to describe the heartbreak. But I can say that I would eventually bust through this trauma with a relentless new drive.”

Then another setback. Wales suffers from Graves’ disease, an autoimmune disorder that affects the thyroid. After being dropped from her deceased father’s health insurance, she tried in vain to find coverage. But this was before current laws that regulate the coverage of preexisting conditions.

She was unable to get the prescription medication she needed. Left untreated, her condition culminated in a thyrotoxic storm—a life-threatening condition that could have been easily prevented.

“I woke up in the emergency room and didn’t know where

I was,” Wales says. “Ambulance rides and staying overnight in the hospital are expensive. That was pretty tough. It took years of working, often two jobs at a time, to pay everything off.”

She worked at Taco Bell and Umpqua Bank. She had stints as a tugboat deckhand and a process server for local attorneys (Wales describes the latter as the most dangerous job she’s ever had). But she persisted, paid her medical bills, and returned to SOCC to take more classes, even though she had earned her associate’s degree.

Wales explored becoming a pharmacist, shadowed a local surgeon, and continued learning until she ran out of science courses to take. Then she heard about the UO’s Scholarships for Oregon Scientists, a program for incoming physics, chemistry, and biochemistry majors.

“I thought I might as well try,” Wales says. She was accepted and enrolled at the university in 2017.

“Once I got that scholarship for the UO, I knew I couldn’t pass it up,” she says. “That was amazing. It changed everything for me. Once I got to campus, things started to pick up.”

But adjusting to university life was challenging. Wales felt alienated and struggled to overcome a misconception that she didn’t belong or have what it takes to succeed—imposter syndrome.

“Between the ages of 19 and 24, I was fighting every step of the way just to get an inch closer to school,” Wales says. “This was in sharp contrast to most of my peers. For them, college was simply something they were expected to do.”

Still, she persisted, receiving Diversity Excellence and Mercer Family Foundation scholarships. And she volunteered with the Boys and Girls Club of Emerald Valley, working to help girls interested in science.

Wales decided to major in chemistry, and thanks to a Presidential Undergraduate Research Scholarship, she studied solar cells with Mark Lonergan, a professor of chemistry and biochemistry. Then she discovered physics, adding a second major even though it required another year of school.

Elsa Johnson taught Wales in a physics lab course and became a mentor, advising her about research, academics, and careers.

“I’ve had some great students, but Nicole just stood out,” says Johnson. “She’s gone through so much tragedy, but she kept on going. I knew she was smart, so I encouraged her because I knew she could handle pressure.

“I’ve seen hard-working, smart students waste energy doubting their abilities because they don’t receive much



“I don’t give up—ever. I may not be the smartest person in any given room. But I’m usually the most tenacious.”

feedback other than a grade. If they lack confidence, it’s difficult for them to ask for advice or promote themselves. Most likely no one is encouraging them to join this lab or apply for that internship. As a teacher, I tried to push talented students, particularly those like Nicole who needed encouragement, to get their names out there and apply.”

Wales met Associate Professor Eric Corwin in fall 2019 when she started Foundations of Physics, a three-course sequence. Nicole was a standout student, Corwin recalls; when Wales asked if she could join his lab, his answer was an exuberant yes.

Wales was accepted to the National Science Foundation’s Research Experiences for Undergraduates summer 2020 program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology but had to cancel the trip because of the pandemic.

However, that gave her more time to help Corwin investigate the glass transition problem, a physics mystery that continues to vex researchers worldwide. Glass may be a common and widely used material, but what exactly happens at the molecular level when it changes from solid to liquid (and vice versa) remains unclear.

Consider a pitcher of ice water, says Corwin: The ice cubes are clearly solid, with a crystal structure that’s visibly different from liquid water. As the ice cubes melt, they become liquid. The water exists in the pitcher in two distinct forms.

Glass is dramatically different. In solid form, it’s rigid like crystal but—unlike crystal—the molecules are disordered. And glass shifts from solid to liquid very gradually as it heats. That’s why a glass blower can create artistic shapes. Try that technique with ice, and you’ll just get wet.

This gradual, gooey transition is one reason glass is such a useful material. Understanding this transition better could lead to innovations in manufacturing. Imagine, says Corwin, cars produced by injecting molten metallic glass into a mold.

Pandemic precautions forced Wales to change her glass research plans. Instead of lab-based experiments, she focused on computer coding, which enables her to work from home and conduct experiments using particle simulations.

The project is part of her Ronald E. McNair Scholarship, a prestigious national program to help students from underrepresented segments of society earn graduate degrees.

She’s exploring “jamming,” a phenomenon related to the glass transition. Grains of sand can flow through your fingers like liquid. Pack that sand tightly in a bucket, though, and it will act more like a solid because those grains are jammed.

Wales maps out thousands of possible configurations of imaginary particles in three dimensions, exploring how one packing leads to another. What happens, for instance, to packed sand when you give it a bump? Do all the grains of sand rearrange? Or are there a few grains of sand, buried deep in the packing, that move much more than any others? The answer could reveal secrets about the glass transition.

“I had to teach myself to program with Python over the summer,” Wales recalls. “My frustration trying to communicate with my computer drove me to tears more than a few times. I like to stand on my own two feet. That’s the biggest hurdle I’ve had to overcome in research. I love figuring things out by myself, and I’m stubborn about that to a fault. I don’t give up—ever. I may not be the smartest person in any given room. But I’m usually the most tenacious.”

This fearlessness and perseverance is a great combination for a researcher, according to Corwin.

“Nicole is willing to try new things that she doesn’t know how to do yet,” he says. “That can be scary. But it’s important in physics to push beyond the familiar and the comfortable. She also has the ability to accomplish her research goals. The combination of these two traits makes her special as a scientist.”

Wales hopes to someday join a university faculty, combining her interests in research and teaching with an irrepressible passion for science.

“I genuinely love physics and the challenges it presents,” she says. “Physics is literally everywhere, everything, and always working!”

As she looks back on everything she’s gone through and the accomplishment of earning her diploma, Wales continues looking forward. She’s applied to 22 graduate programs, including MIT, Stanford, and the UO.

“Mom said, ‘Whatever you want to do, just do it,’” Wales says. “She’s very proud of me every day, even those days I don’t feel so special and great. My dad would be really proud, I know.”

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



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OLD Oregon

WHERE HAVE YOU GONE, STREET FAIRE?

Once, we had Street Faire—the twice-annual bazaar during which Ducks packed 13th Avenue, perusing tents with handmade candles, wall-sized James Dean posters, and exotic jewelry while vendors offered a mouth-watering menu of ethnic meals. Alas, the fall 2020 and spring '21 events were canceled due to pandemic concerns, leaving our wallets unnecessarily full and our stomachs unpleasantly empty. All hope turns to the prospect of a fall Faire in October, which will require—as with this talented trio at the fall event in '84—juggling the health of the campus community and our hunger to have a good time.



Petersen, a Millennial herself, says the generation is mischaracterized as lazy and entitled

Boosting the “Burnout Generation”

BY SHARLEEN NELSON

Anne Helen Petersen knows a little bit about Millennials. She is one. And when her BuzzFeed article, “How Millennials Became the Burnout Generation,” went viral in 2019—surpassing seven million readers and becoming the online news platform’s most-read article of the year—she knew she’d hit a nerve.

The essay became the source of her 2020 book, *Can’t Even: How Millennials Became the Burnout Generation*, detailing the challenges for children born between 1981 and 1996.

Based on a nationwide survey, historic and academic research, hundreds of interviews with Millennials, and her own experiences, Petersen, MA ’07 (English), contends that despite being characterized in the media as lazy, entitled, and self-obsessed, most Millennials are, in fact, confident, ambitious, and achievement-driven.

This nurtured and groomed-for-success generation did everything it was told was right but, through no fault of their own, things went terribly wrong.

Burdened by decades of bad economic policies, crippling college loan debt, and the worst job market since the Great Depression, countless overqualified Millennials mired in low-paying jobs have put off adult milestones such as saving money, buying a home, or having children.

“What happened with Millennials,” Petersen says, “is a story of gradual accumulation. It’s not like some mass tragedy that happened all at once. The policies that were put in place that led to this were implemented when we were kids or even before we were born. It’s been a sort of slow-motion crisis.

“There’s only so much people can take. People can break. You can bend and bend and bend to this idea of productivity, precarity, and debt, but then at some point, it breaks people.”

As a University of Oregon graduate student, Petersen and her cohorts used as their mantra a phrase that would later make it into her book:

“Everything good is bad.

Everything bad is good.” Even though they felt bad about constantly working, they convinced themselves that it was good and that leisure time was bad.

“We felt guilty about it,” Petersen says. “We said it as a joke, but it was always really true.”

The coronavirus pandemic—what Petersen calls the “great equalizer”—underscored not only this struggle between work and leisure, but exposed decades of systemic racism and laid bare the precariousness of the US economy, she says. As businesses shuttered, the reality of the types of jobs people held and how many jobs it often takes to make ends meet, brought gender, race, and class issues into stark focus.

“What COVID has done, not just for Millennials, but for society, has given us this moment of clarity, a real moment of pause,” Petersen says. “All of these things that I talk about in the book were apparent before, but Americans are very good at brushing things under the table instead of addressing some of the larger problems that we have, and that’s certainly true when it comes to race, and it’s certainly true when it comes to economics and equality.”

From the pandemic, the concept of the hybrid workplace and the future of working from home sparked a collaborative book project



“What COVID has done, not just for Millennials, but for society, has given us this moment of clarity, a real moment of pause.”

between Petersen and her partner, Charlie Warzel, a tech writer for the *New York Times*, set for release at the end of the year. Petersen contributes to the *Times* and other publications and produces *Culture Study*, a weekly newsletter on the publishing platform Substack.

She wanted to be a film studies professor, but the recession and a bottoming-out of the academic job market led her to revisit an interest in popular culture and celebrity studies cultivated at the UO.

Petersen keeps in regular contact with cinema studies department head Priscilla Peña Ovalle, former advisor Michael Aronson, and English department Professor Emerita Julia Lesage, who, she says, “still reads everything that I write.” She was also inspired by Professor Emerita Kathleen Karlyn, of English and cinema studies, to pen two books: *Scandals of Classic Hollywood: Sex, Deviance, and Drama from*

the Golden Age of American Cinema (2014) and *Too Fat, Too Slutty, Too Loud: The Rise and Reign of the Unruly Woman* (2017).

“She [Karlyn] was incredibly influential,” Petersen says. “The very first class I took at the University of Oregon was called Female Stars, and it opened my eyes to the way female stardom works and to celebrity and celebrity studies, which became my eventual focus of study.”

Changing careers turned out great for her, but is she still burnt out? Sometimes. Does she follow her own advice? No, not always.

Petersen concedes there are no easy answers or quick fixes for an entire generation’s problems, but the book was never intended to provide Millennials with a self-help list for avoiding burnout.

Still, it’s a start. By acknowledging the issues, providing historical context, and offering a call to action that it doesn’t have to be this way, Millennials can take steps to change behaviors.

The pandemic shone a glaring light on serious problems beyond burnout, and Petersen hopes Millennials will also seize this opportunity to find solidarity with others and work for real change.

“I’m hopeful that people are mad,” she says. “And I hope we can keep that feeling long enough to summon the political will to enact even larger changes.”

Sharleen Nelson, BS '06 (journalism: magazine, news editorial), is a staff writer for University Communications.

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On the Watch

Lifelong interest in human rights leads to career in advocacy

BY EMILY E. SMITH

During her first days on the job at Human Rights Watch in 2018, Namratha Somayajula got a glimpse of the work that goes into exposing human rights violations and advocating for change.

She helped prepare a report on deregulation of the coal industry and the effects on workers' health and access to clean water in Appalachian coal towns. Her role was minor, she says, but the project struck a nerve.

"I had really never made that direct association between environmental deregulation and how that impacts the health of coal workers," says Somayajula, BA '17 (Clark Honors College, international studies).

The work reaffirmed for her that terrible injustices often involve the most basic resources, such as access to clean water and air—essentials that many people take for granted.

"It revived an interest that I've had for a long time in the right to water," she says, "and how unequal access to clean water can be manifested in so many contexts."

Somayajula became attuned to these injustices as a 10-year-old in 2005, when her family moved temporarily from the Bay Area to the southeastern coast of India.

"There was a huge disparity in who was able to access clean water daily, especially in the aftermath of the monsoon flooding that happened that year," she says. "I didn't have the human rights language to articulate what I was seeing, but I realized it was wrong and was curious as to how that could be—how it was that so many people could be denied such a basic necessity."



Namratha Somayajula

The family returned to the states in 2006 and Somayajula's interest in global human rights continued to grow.

At the University of Oregon, Somayajula participated in the honors college Inside-Out program, which brings students and people who are incarcerated together to study as peers within prison. The weekly interactions opened her eyes to the injustices imprisoned people face, she says.

"It helped me understand how stereotyping and silencing disenfranchised groups perpetuates cycles of harm," she says.

After she graduated, Somayajula completed a Herbert Scoville Jr. Peace Fellowship at ReThink Media, a communications organization where she studied the effect of media narratives on public perception of US nuclear weapons policy. Then she landed the job at Human Rights Watch in Washington, DC.

The international organization investigates human rights abuses in nearly 100 countries. As a senior associate, Somayajula assists researchers working on poverty, inequality, and corporate accountability issues.

She contributes background research, drafts correspondence, communicates with human rights partners, and helps prepare the division's press releases, reports, and other products for publication.

Somayajula also pens op-eds and blog posts on environmental justice and workers' rights. She's covered the use of forced labor in Uzbekistan's cotton fields, the importance of access to clean water amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and US consumer protections.

"Writing on these topics allows me to shine a light on critical issues, collaborate with and learn from colleagues, and apply the skills I'm gaining," she says.

Still early in her career, Somayajula says her role is largely to assist more senior colleagues in their pursuit of legal advocacy and policy change. But she's gaining deep insight into the work of protecting and expanding human rights.

"I have a front-row seat and participate in the preparation process to roll [a campaign] out," she says. "It informs how I would approach human rights research and advocacy in the future."

Emily E. Smith, BA '10 (women's and gender studies, journalism: news-editorial), is a writer and editor in Bozeman, Montana.

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Belkis Ayón, *La consagración II* (The Consecration II)(detail), 1991. Collagraph. 91 x 119 in. Courtesy of the Estate of Belkis Ayón

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Protests Behind, Wildfires Ahead

Last summer was dangerous for documentary photographer Mason Trinca. This summer will be the same.

BY MATT COOPER

During the tumultuous summer and fall of 2020, a photojournalist needed more than cameras and lenses to cover the news. Kevlar jackets, ballistic helmets, and gas masks were also standard operating equipment.

That was the case for Mason Trinca, a documentary photographer who covered the at-times violent protests in Portland for the *New York Times*. The city was in the national spotlight repeatedly as activists and protesters clashed with opponents and the police for more than 100 days on issues including Black Lives Matter concerns, the 2020 election, and federal response to protests.

Against a backdrop in which tear gas and rubber bullets were nightly concerns, Trinca, BS '13 (environmental studies), suited up in body armor and dove into the fray. Relying on tips from sources, real-time guidance from the newspaper, and his own instincts, he strove to capture in pictures all sides of a fast-evolving story with subplots including the seizure of protesters by unidentified federal agents and counter protests by right-wing groups.

A Trinca photograph provided one of the defining images of the summer: a bird's-eye view of shooting victim Aaron Danielson, a supporter of the right-wing group Patriot Prayer, taken from a rooftop.

Interviewed earlier this year, Trinca—who lives in Portland with his wife, designer Myray Reames (BA '14, journalism)—was still trying to make sense of last summer's events.

Covering the protests had drained him physically and emotionally. Far from enjoying some sort of journalistic immunity, Trinca and fellow reporters received death threats for their coverage.

"We were targeted multiple times, for our coverage both on the left and right side," Trinca says. "When we do fair and accurate coverage, we get threatened on both sides. People want to exist in their own ecospheres and oftentimes not want to hear the other side of the story, whether it's good or bad."

Trinca hadn't fully processed the protests in part because he hasn't slowed down. He recently returned from Liberia on a shoot for a commercial client and also finished a job for *Wired* magazine (he's bound by confidentiality agreements from discussing projects prior to release). He was also retained by the state and Portland advertising



Trinca covering protests in Portland



agency Wieden+Kennedy—known for its work with Nike—to provide pictures for a campaign on the importance of masks during the pandemic.

What ties Trinca's various assignments together, he says, is storytelling. All his clients want it: genuine, revealing, human moments, whether the medium is journalism, advertising, or public service. A class in environmental studies first planted in him the notion of storytelling with a camera, and Trinca developed his skills with Sung Park, senior instructor in the School of Journalism and Communication.

"What makes my work—and the work of a lot of photojournalists-turned-commercial photographers—special is that we can pitch the idea, 'This is a real story; we're going to find real people and capture real moments,'" Trinca says. "People want that more and more."

Next up: finding a fresh way to tell the story of this summer's inevitable wildfires.

Trinca has photographed California's sprawling blazes roughly a half-dozen times. The saturation news coverage of these catastrophes forces him to constantly reexamine his approach in hopes of producing an uncommon photograph, a different perspective. He's already begun preparations—shoring up the camera equipment he'll need, working out logistics, girding himself mentally.

"How are we going to cover the wildfires differently?" he asks. "What will resonate with audiences when we are constantly bombarding them with terrible images? How do we bring humanity to that? These are the things I think about for the next disaster."

Matt Cooper is managing editor for *Oregon Quarterly*.

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Class Notes

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CLASS NOTABLE

A Friend Leaves the House

Greg Walden has, ahead of him, lots of skiing, camping, and kayaking. And behind: 30 years of public service as a leading lawmaker who worked across the aisle.

Walden, BS '81 (journalism), the longtime US representative for Oregon's 2nd congressional district, retired in December as the top Republican on the powerful House Energy and Commerce Committee. Among his achievements, he led passage of the 2018 opioid law—encompassing more than 70 bills on treatment, prevention, and enforcement—and the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act, which protects nearly a half-million acres in Eastern Oregon from incompatible land use and development. The longtime ally of the University of Oregon supported efforts ranging from neuroimaging and the humanities to earthquake early-warning systems.

Throughout his career, Walden strove for bipartisan legislation because the most important bills, he says, required the broadest support.

His determination to right wrongs as a lawmaker is owed in part to an upbringing in journalism—his father, Paul, was a radio broadcaster. At the UO, Walden developed a commitment to the impartial pursuit of facts under journalism professors Jack Hart and Karl Nestvold.

“Mr. Nestvold taught us you need to be thorough but keep your opinion out of it. You don’t have to be nasty to get a story,” Walden says. “Keep it to the facts.”

The advice served Walden well as a state and federal lawmaker who built relationships and kept his personal views to himself. As he and his wife, Mylene Walden, BS '81 (marketing), look ahead, Walden feels only satisfaction for what he accomplished.

“I’m not one of those cranky, grumpy members leaving public office,” Walden says. “I really enjoyed it. Politics really is a people business—it’s about making friends and building relationships. That’s how you get things done.”

—Matt Cooper, *Oregon Quarterly*

Indicates UOAA Member

1950s

JOHN WHITTY, BS '54, BL '56 (law), retired following 64 years as a lawyer in Coos Bay, where he specialized in estate planning, business law, and real estate. He was twice selected Coos Bay Citizen of the Year, and served for the Oregon Transportation Committee and Bay Area Hospital Board.

1960s

JOE FISCHER, BS '60, MFA '63 (fine and applied arts), of Longview, Washington, gave \$50,000 to the School of Art + Design to help students and faculty members deal with ongoing impacts of the pandemic.

ALAN NEWBERG, MFA '69 (fine and applied arts), is scheduled for a feature exhibition of his sculpture April 1–25 at Northwind Art, Port Townsend, Washington, including carvings in fine wood up to nine feet tall.

1970s

VICTORIA “VICKI” FORD, BS '73

(mathematics), retired after 43 years as a minister at Holy Family Parish in southeast Portland.

PETE SORENSON, BA '73, MA '79 (geography), JD '82, a former state senator and chair of the Lane Community College board, retired after 24 years as a Lane County Commissioner, the longest service of a commissioner in county history, but continues his legal practice on the Freedom of Information Act.

STEVE ALM, BEd '76 (elementary education), MEd '79 (curriculum and instruction), a former US attorney and circuit court judge, was elected prosecuting attorney in Honolulu, Hawaii.

AL LEVAGE, BArch '77, a principal with BBT Architects in Bend, retired after more than 40 years working as an architect, contractor, and developer in Central and Eastern Oregon.

TERRY SHANLEY, a 1977 psychology alumnus, was hired as business development manager for Portland-based Deacon Construction.

CLAUDIA BRUCKNER TEITELBAUM, BS '77 (general social science), retired after 43 years as a legal secretary in California, New York, Massachusetts, and Connecticut, and plans to travel globally with her husband once it is safe given pandemic conditions.

DAVID ANTONUCCIO, MA '79, PhD '80 (psychology), retired after 40 years as a clinical psychologist and reconnected with musical partner and UO roommate Michael Pierce, PhD '82 (chemistry), reconstituting their college-era band, now called RainFall, which released the new album *Deluge* on SoundCloud and Spotify.

MARK BAILEY, BFA '79 (fine and applied arts), contributed to the permanent archive of UO Special Collections and University Archives more than 150 photographs from documentary projects in the 1970s and '80s on Eugene's Luckey's Club Cigar Store, Junction City, and the former logging town of Valsetz.

1980s

Composer **MICHAEL HARRISON**, BMus '83, released *Just Constellations*, an album performed by the award-winning vocal ensemble Roomful of Teeth and featuring Harrison's innovations in tuning.

MONA BUCKLEY, BA '85 (public relations), was appointed president and CEO of the Government Employees' Benefit Association, a nonprofit membership association offering insurance products

and financial planning services to current and retired federal employees and members of the military.

COLEEN ST. CLAIR, JD '87, was appointed a prosecutor in the criminal division of the Office of the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

BRAD TRACY, BA '88 (finance), was appointed senior vice president of sales in North America for Maryland-based IT service management

company Peak-Ryzex.

1990s

TILAK MANDADI, MS '90 (computer and information science), was chosen as a guest speaker for HT-NEXT 2020, an educational and networking experience for hoteliers and technology solution providers, to discuss the future of guest experiences at Disney Parks.

LORI STEPHENS, BS '90 (general science), MArch '98, owner of Broadleaf Architecture in

Corvallis, was featured in the *Corvallis Gazette-Times* regarding her architectural style in projects including the Beazell Forest Education Center in Kings Valley, the Monroe Community Library, and the Long Timber Brewing building, also in Monroe.

STEPHANIE STOWELL, BA '90 (Asian studies), was named director of the ABQ BioPark Zoo in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

JEANNINE PARISI, BA '92 (planning,

public policy and management), MCRP '97 (community and regional planning), customer relationship manager with the Eugene Water and Electric Board, spoke to the City Club of Eugene regarding the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire, rebuilding, and multiyear recovery timelines.

KEMET GATCHELL, BS '93 (leisure studies and services), MS '98 (exercise and movement science), became director of the Office of Alumni Affairs at Eastern New Mexico University,

responsible for the supervision and implementation of events, programs, and communications while building a global network of alumni, family, and friends to support the university.

CHANG-RAE LEE, MFA '93 (creative writing), was profiled in the *New York Times* January 31 for *My Year Abroad*, his sixth novel, which the newspaper said is "about letting yourself plunge into the world, even when it hurts."

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CLASS NOTABLE

Model Citizen

The redesigned Portland International Airport promises to “wow” when work finishes in 2025. But a scale model of the new-look PDX is already turning heads.

That’s thanks to Talisa Shevavesh, MArch ’14, a model builder with ZGF Architects, a firm retained by PDX and headquartered in Portland. She led a team that painstakingly built an extraordinary, 20- by 30-foot model of the reimagined main terminal, complete with “greenery,” plastic “travelers,” and the project’s iconic flourish—a sprawling, undulating wooden roof.

Designers can visualize ideas with computer-generated images or sketches. But Shevavesh says a physical model of wood and plastic built by hand is still “the most honest way” to represent architecture.

“Even in the most accurate 3D computer-generated image, you can’t fully trust it—it can be manipulated to mess with lighting or make spaces seem larger or smaller,” Shevavesh says. “With a physical model, what you see is what you’re going to get.”

Shevavesh connected with her future employer while studying at the UO Portland campus; ZGF staff taught a course—Context of the Architectural Profession—on “real life in an architecture firm,” she says. Coupled with the skills she gained working in the fabrication shop with John Leahy, a senior instructor in the School of Architecture & Environment, Shevavesh saw model-building as a promising path in architecture.

The completion of the PDX models, after roughly five years, was bittersweet for Shevavesh. She hopes she’ll soon get another opportunity to create an intricate architectural design in miniature.

“It was a labor of love,” she says, laughing. “The whole team is hoping this sets a precedent for the type of involvement models can have in a project going forward.”

—Matt Cooper, *Oregon Quarterly*

ELLEN SHAW, BA ’93 (journalism: magazine), became acting forest supervisor for the San Bernardino National Forest in Southern California, where she has worked since 2015, following a career with the US Department of State.

CAMARA BANFIELD, BA ’95 (international studies), JD ’02, chief criminal deputy prosecutor in Clark County, Washington, was appointed Superior Court judge, a first for a woman of color in the county.

BOBBY LEE, BS ’95 (sociology), MS ’98 (public affairs), formerly director of Seattle’s Office of Economic Development, was named chief of staff for Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler.

CAMERON BURKS, BS ’96 (sociology), was elected to a second term on the city council in Lafayette, California.

DEREK LAU, BS ’96 (computer and information science), a certified international property and residential specialist, was named 2021 president of Hawai’i Realtors, a statewide professional

trade organization for the real estate industry.

SUNIL SHENOY, MBA ’96 (general business), was appointed senior vice president and general manager of Intel Corporation’s design engineering group, leading design, development, validation, and manufacturing of intellectual properties and system-on-chips for client and data center applications.

LEAF WADE, BS ’96 (economics), was appointed an institutional trader for Optiver, a Dutch proprietary trading firm and market maker for exchange-listed financial instruments.

JESSICA WOOD, JD ’96, joined the Grand Rapids, Michigan, office of Dickinson Wright, focusing on municipal law and finance, and economic development.

JAY LEO, BS ’97 (political science), was named president of Touchmark, a full-service retirement living company based in Beaverton.

DANIEL WU, BArch ’97, was interviewed on MSNBC’s

American Voices program to discuss what needs to be done to address violence against Asians and Pacific Islanders nationwide since the start of the pandemic.

EDUARDO PONCE, BArch ’98, was hired as a senior project architect in the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, office of St. Louis-based architecture firm KAI Enterprises.

TASHA McFARLAND, BA ’99 (news editorial), became a board member with the Family Access Network Foundation and will work with staff to improve the lives of needy children in Deschutes, Crook, and Jefferson counties.

JOE OLLIS, BS ’99 (computer and information science), was hired as principal, chairman of the board, and chief investment officer for the Peak Group, a Texas-based real estate investment company focused on single-family residential properties.

2000s

KENJI SUGAHARA, JD ’00, president and chief executive officer of Salem-



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based Drone Service Providers Alliance, was appointed to the Federal Aviation Administration Drone Advisory Committee, which advises on issues related to unmanned aircraft systems.

CHRIS DEMASKE, PhD '02 (communication and society), an associate professor in culture, arts, and communication at the University of Washington Tacoma, was featured in the university's collegiate newspaper, the *Ledger*, for a discussion of journalism, education, projects, and pastimes.

DAVID CONSTANTINE, BMus '03, MMus '05 (music performance), a percussionist gunnery sergeant with the United States Marine Band, performed at the January 20 inauguration of President Joe Biden at the US Capitol in Washington, DC.

CAROLE DORHAM-KELLY, MS '03 (counseling, family and human services), PhD '05 (counseling psychology), was appointed president and CEO of

Rubicon Programs, a nonprofit based in Richmond, California, that focuses on workforce development and promoting economic mobility in the East Bay.

SUSAN KLEIN, MFA '04 (painting), a studio art professor with the College of Charleston, South Carolina, won a grant from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation, which supports emerging and established international visual artists.

JENNIFER THOMAS, MA '05, PhD '10 (theater arts), chair of performance and communication arts at St. Lawrence University in New York, published *Inclusive Character Analysis: Putting Theory into Practice for the 21st Century Theatre Classroom*, which centers on representations of race, gender, class, ability, and sexual orientation, and promotes a more inclusive performance practice for the classroom and the stage.

BILL ALMQUIST, MCRP '06 (community and regional planning), was promoted

to community development director for Salida, Colorado, where he has worked since 2018 as a planner.

SEAN ANDRIES, BS '06 (theater arts), was selected by Gov. Kate Brown to join the board of directors of the Oregon Cultural Trust, which funds more than 1,400 Oregon nonprofit organizations in the arts, heritage, and humanities.

ALEX FRIX, JD '06, was appointed public defender for San Juan County in Washington.

NICHOLAS HUDSON, BA '06 (political science), director of the Office of Student Orientation, Leadership, and Engagement at Texas A&M International University, received the 2021 Doris Michiko Ching Award for Excellence as a Student Affairs Professional.

ERIC FLORIP, BS '08 (magazine), public affairs coordinator for C-TRAN, a public transportation provider serving Clark County, Washington, was named to Vancouver-based *Mass Transit*

Magazine's "40 Under 40" list for significant contributions to the public transit industry.

RACHEL HENDERSON, BS '08 (communication disorders and sciences), owner of the Hazelnut Hill confectionery company in Junction City with her husband Ryan, was featured in the Salem *Capital Press* for a story about their online business.

HEATHER LAKEY, MA '08 (philosophy), was named the inaugural McNally Family Chair in Philosophy and Human Ecology at the College of the Atlantic in Mount Desert Island, Maine.

DIANA MARKOSIAN, BA '08 (history), published *Santa Barbara*, a 216-page, clothbound coffee table book that chronicles the story of her journey from Russia to the United States.

SCOTT ORDWAY, MMus '08 (music composition), composed the 40-minute song cycle "Girl in the Snow," a premiere recording available through Acis Productions for

streaming, download, and CD.

2010s

DAVID GRACON, PhD '10 (communication and society), received a US Fulbright Specialist grant for his work as a professor of integrated media at Gonzaga University in Washington.

LAUREN TIERNEY, BA '12, MS '15 (geography), became graphics assignment editor for the *Washington Post*, which she joined in 2017.

CARLY GABRIELSON, BS '13 (political science), campaign manager for US Rep. Peter DeFazio, worked door-to-door in Georgia to help Democrats win the US Senate during the January 5 election runoffs in that state.

GEORGE KRAMB, BS '14 (economics), made the *Forbes* "30 Under 30" list for consumer technology as the cofounder of Rightdevice, which educates patients undergoing surgeries and guides medical decisions.

NATALIE MILLAR, BS '14 (accounting),

was featured in the *Wallowa County Chieftain* of Enterprise for her role as chief financial officer and general manager of Terminal Gravity Brewery and Pub.

ERIC STRAUBHAR, BS '14 (journalism: advertising), joined the Idaho Conservation League's external relations team as marketing manager, with a focus on protecting wild places in the state.

DeFOREST BUCKNER, BA '15 (general social science), a defensive lineman with the Indianapolis Colts, was selected as the 2020 recipient of the Polynesian Pro Football Player of the Year Award by the Polynesian Football Hall of Fame.

SARA GOODRUM, BS '15 (human physiology), was promoted to minor league hitting coordinator for the Milwaukee Brewers, making her the first woman to hold that position in a Major League Baseball organization, the team said.

GABRIELA GUAIUMI, BS '15 (biology), was hired as a public safety officer

in Rohnert Park, California.

JANIE REED, BS '15 (journalism), a former UO softball player and cofounder of a ministry called Church on the Dirt, was selected for the 2020 Olympic team, which will compete in the summer 2021 games after being delayed by the coronavirus pandemic.

MEGAN von BARGEN, BS '15 (planning, public policy and management), joined WGM Group's Bozeman, Montana, office as a planner,

following stints for municipalities in Oregon and Montana.

CHRIS BREWER, BS '16 (business administration), a former Ducks distance runner, finished 32nd in the 2020 World Series of Poker Online.

CRYSTAL BROWN, MS '16, PhD '19 (political science), was hired as an assistant professor in the Department of Social Science and Policy Studies at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Massachusetts.

SHELBY MEYERS, BLArch '16 (Clark

Honors College), was hired as marketing and promotions manager for the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association and will also oversee the Astoria Sunday Market.

LATHAM WOOD, MA '16 (anthropology), was chosen to assist Four Rivers Cultural Center of Ontario with coordination of the annual Tradition Keepers folklife festivals in 2021 and 2022.

KEN MASTRO-GIOVANNI, BA '17 (music, Japanese),

MMus '19 (jazz studies), was named Eugene's "Best Rising Star Jazz Drummer" in the 2020 Best of Eugene Staff Picks by *Eugene Weekly*.

BRIANNA HAYES, BA '18 (political science), was quoted in the Keystone, a Pennsylvania news website, for a story about the election of Vice President Kamala Harris, who, like Hayes, is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, the first intercollegiate historically African American Greek-lettered sorority.

The US Marine

Corps announced that **BRENNAN MCLEAN**, BS '18 (business administration), a law candidate with USMC Recruiting Station Orange County, California, will attend officer candidate school this summer.

MICHAEL PATTON JR., BS '18 (business administration), attended a retreat for those considering priesthood in the Archdiocese of Portland.

BRANTLY FULTON, PhD '19 (chemistry), cofounder and CEO of LAMAR IoT, which provides

logistics monitoring for Oregon dairies, joined Boston-based firm REMUS Capital as its first Black Entrepreneur in Residence.

TAYLOR JONES, JD '19, **BRYAN WILLIAMSON**, JD '19, and **SUZANNE DAIGLE**, JD '20, were hired in US bankruptcy court for the Western District of Washington in Tacoma, serving in chambers and courtrooms.

LAURA QUEEN, BS '19 (Clark Honors College, mathematics), a research assistant with the Oregon State

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Thanks to Bill Spears, BS '71 (community service and public affairs), we've identified the Hayward Field tractor driver in the winter edition's "Old Oregon" photo. It's his dad, William Roy Spears, a dual Canadian citizen who immigrated with his family to the area in 1929. Roy married Edna Pike and moved into her family's home on Moss Street in Eugene in the 1940s; he worked for UO grounds crews through the 1960s and died in 1984. His son Bill worked for Clackamas County's planning and engineering office for 30 years and retired to Anderson Island, Washington, where he served as a volunteer firefighter and is a commissioner for the Anderson Island Park and Recreation District. Bill's brother, Jim, still lives in Eugene.

University Oregon Climate Change Research Institute, was lead author for a study indicating that the Columbia River basin will see an increase in flooding over the next 50 years as a result of climate change.

2020s

DIEGO CARDIEL, MArch '20, joined the design staff of Bend-based BBT Architects, where he will focus on sustainability concepts and the space where science and community interact.

BRYCE DOLE, BS '20 (journalism), joined the Pendleton-based *East Oregonian* as a reporter on public safety, county government, and public health.

ERIC WATERS, BS '20 (human physiology), joined the Washington, DC, laboratory of Curative, one of the primary coronavirus testing providers in the US, and works as a supervisor in RNA extraction.

IN MEMORIAM

OTTO FRIED, BA '49 (fine and applied arts), died December 31. After serving in the

US Army Air Corps during World War II, he studied painting under art professor Jack Wilkinson and lived, worked, and exhibited in New York, Paris, Tokyo, and elsewhere. His works are in collections including those of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City and the Musée National d'Art Moderne in Paris, and have been purchased and collected by entities including Merrill Lynch, the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, and the Portland Art Museum.

HUBERT E. CHRESTENSON, PhD '53 (mathematics), died January 2. He retired from the Navy Reserve as a lieutenant commander and taught mathematics for more than 30 years, including stints with Whitman College in Washington, Reed College in Portland, and the University of Ghana. He was a fisherman and outdoorsman who, with wife Doris, built a cabin in the Trask River valley and planted hundreds of trees.

ALLAN BURNS, a 1955 art alumnus who became an Emmy-winning writer and creator of *The Mary*

Tyler Moore Show, died January 30. He earned five Emmys for the show and an Oscar nomination for the screenplay of the 1979 film *A Little Romance*, and made his feature directorial debut with *Just Between Friends* (1986), starring Ted Danson.

DAVID MACKIN, BS '57 (history), died January 5. He was a member of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. Active in ROTC, David became a second lieutenant in the US Army. He worked in the lumber and financial services industries, retiring from Wells Fargo Advisors in 2019. He loved Ducks football and was a legend in handball, representing the Olympic Club of San Francisco in national and international tournaments.

MAUREEN BERNARD, BA '58 (fine and applied arts), died December 29. She was a longtime supporter of the College of Education, the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, and other university entities.

VICTOR SNIECKUS, PhD '65 (chemistry), died December 18. As a professor at Queen's University,

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Ontario, Canada, he was known for his contributions to organic synthesis and a reaction used in the preparation of pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals. He was also director of Snieckus Innovations, a company dedicated to small molecule synthesis for the pharmaceutical industry.

SHELDON BERNARD AVERY, MA '67, PhD '70 (history), died April 26. Described by his family as a man "who saw humanity in all," he was a professor of history at Harford Community College in Maryland.

EUGENE "GENE" SAYLER, BS '67 (economics), died December 22. Honorably discharged from the Navy as a lieutenant in 1969, the avid traveler and golfer managed Sayler's Old Country Kitchen eatery in Portland and Beaverton and served as a state representative from 1987 to 1991.

TK LANDÁZURI, BA '78 (speech: theater arts), died February 8. She worked at the university for 35 years, including 18 in the philosophy department, where

she served as undergraduate and graduate program coordinator. She was also Eugene's 2006 Slug Queen, Slugretha.

JANE TODD, MA '79 (Romance languages), MA '81, PhD '83 (comparative literature), died February 2. Bearing a lifelong interest in French literature and language, she taught French, humanities, and women's studies at Reed College in Portland. She started a translation business and translated more than 90 books and hundreds of shorter texts for university and trade presses, and art museums.

CHRISTOPHER BJORK, BS '95 (leisure studies and services), died March 5. A member of the proud South Eugene High School Axe community, a youth sports coach, a beloved member of the Portland Trail Blazers staff in the 1990s and a lifelong Ducks fan, he most recently worked for Learfield/IMG as director of business development, and his tenure working either directly with or for the University of Oregon lasted more than 26 years.

FACULTY IN MEMORIAM

GARY MARVIN MARTIN, PhD '65 (education), died January 11. He served as a professor, associate dean, and acting dean during 35 years with the School of Music and Dance, where his work with young people was a source of joy.

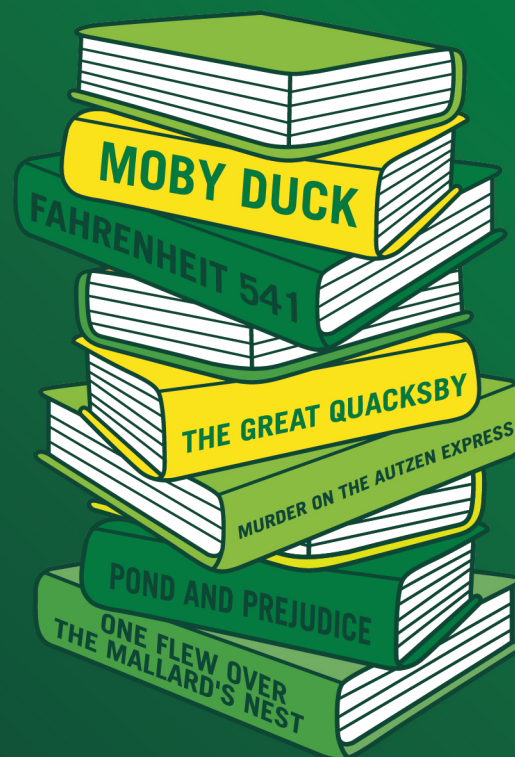
STEPHEN PONDER, an associate professor emeritus who taught journalism for more than 20 years, died August 8. He was an award-winning teacher known for his patience with students and their research and writing.

RENNARD STRICKLAND, dean of the School of Law from 1997 to 2002 and a faculty member until his retirement in 2006, died January 5. Strickland was Osage and a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. He strongly supported the incorporation of Indian law courses into the curriculum and taught a popular seminar on Indian law and policy.

University of Oregon Alumni Association

Book Club

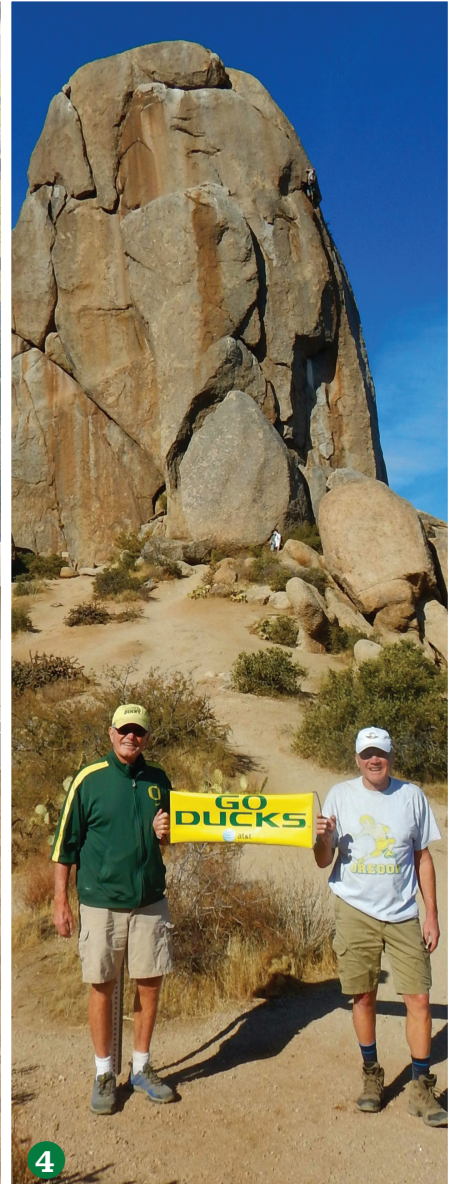
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Ducks Afield

1. MARY STOTT KUHL (right), BS '92 (psychology), and her daughter, **ELLE**, a family and human services major and member of the class of 2022, at the end of el Camino de Santiago in Fisterra, Spain, during a trip before the pandemic **2. GRANT HOSFORD**, BS '66 (political science), MS '69 (counseling), sent Valentine's Day greetings from Dash Point, Washington, where he kept cool with "Cold Duck" **3. KRISTEN VOGT VEGGEBERG**, BA '08 (medieval studies), and her 3-year-old, Jane, at the Art Institute of Chicago, where masterpieces including Georges Seurat's *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte* were available despite the closure of some exhibits due to pandemic precautions **4. MICHAEL MELLUM** (left), BS '69, DMD '72 (Oregon Health and Science University), and his brother, **DARRELL**, BS '77 (leisure studies and services), shed their facemasks for a photo at Tom's Thumb, a rock formation more than 3,000 feet above Scottsdale, Arizona

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