

A painting of a forest path. In the foreground, two large, pinkish-red pine cones are visible, surrounded by green pine needles. A dirt path winds through a lush green forest. In the middle ground, two people are standing on the path, and another person is walking away. The background shows a dense forest of tall trees. The overall style is impressionistic with visible brushstrokes.

Oregon

WINTER 2014

QUARTERLY

A Tree Grows in Lebanon


2014

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Hold the Decaf

One afternoon, in the offices of the art magazine where I held my first editorial job, I was startled when one of my colleagues threw down her red pencil in defeat. Exasperated by yet another competent yet uninspired text about the latest art-world trends, she proclaimed our milieu “the decaf generation,” hopelessly lacking in edginess or energy. (She was referencing the much-mocked 1980s “Coffee Achievers” ad campaign, a series of TV spots that enlisted such cool kids of the day as David Bowie, Heart, and Jane Curtin to make the case that drinking coffee offered a hip way to get exciting things done.) The rest of the staff felt her pain. As young, energetic artists, writers, and designers, it seemed like we were constantly struggling to rise above the comfortable sea of mediocrity that surrounded us. So we took a break, had a cup of strong coffee (or maybe headed next door to the bar, I really don’t remember), and came back to continue trying to be fresh and fearless and make a magazine that didn’t succumb to the sleepy lull of the decaf generation.

That day came to mind recently as I read fashion critic Vanessa Friedman’s dispatch for the *New York Times*, “Mired in Mediocrity.” Riffing off a recent speech by Christine Lagarde, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, Friedman expounds on the idea of “the new mediocre.” Identifying troubling trends ranging from bland fashion to President Obama’s compromised agenda, she laments what she sees as a new era of complacency, in which we’re “locked in a vicious cycle of same-old-safe-old.” She writes, “More than 30 years after the Me Decade”—(the one that brought us the Coffee Achievers, by the way)—“we are in the middle of the Meh Decade.”

I thought about Friedman’s essay in relation to the work we do here at *Oregon Quarterly*, and more broadly at the University of Oregon. On one hand, as employees of a large, government organization, we’re working within the quintessential bureaucracy, hardly the ideal petri dish one would choose to foster cutting-edge innovation and creativity. On the other, though, that organization is a university, by definition a place where new ideas are nurtured, a magnet for smart, dedicated thinkers and doers offering a constant influx of new talent, ideas, and ambitions.

I thought about the way we talk about “excellence” as a pillar of our fundraising campaign, a goal for our faculty, a measure of everything from our football program to this magazine. What do we mean when we use that word?

For me, it means actively resisting the mire of mediocrity, even as we work within systems and societal pressures that foster complacency. Friedman describes “the new mediocre” as a zeitgeist that makes it “even harder for anybody to have enough time to think up actually new new stuff, and forcing them—designers, authors, producers, what have you—into having to rejigger old stuff to make it look like new stuff.” The new mediocre isn’t new at all; it too is simply a rejiggering of the old mediocre. It’s our decaf. And just like the coffee achievers of 30 years ago, it’s on us—as teachers and mentors, scholars and researchers, designers and authors—to resist its sleepy lull, to find ways large and small to keep taking risks, stay in pursuit of our ideals, and create an environment in which our students can do the same. Then, “excellence” is a genuine aspiration, and not simply a campaign buzzword.

More coffee, please.

Ann Wiens, Editor

awiens@uoregon.edu



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“The Oregon Trail and the covered wagon have an important role, because they’re part of the popular imagery. What came before that seems unknown to most Oregonians.”

— GORDON SAYRE
PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

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At a gala event kicking off Homecoming weekend, the University of Oregon announced an ambitious \$2 billion fundraising campaign. The event featured faculty members explaining how philanthropy directly supports teaching and research at the highest levels. Local middle schoolers, representing future UO students, added to the celebration. The UO has already raised more than \$700 million toward its goal, thanks to the generosity of its alumni and friends, including many of our readers. So thank you for your support, Ducks!



OQ ONLINE

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WEBSITE EXCLUSIVE In Central Africa, members of the Gabon-Oregon Center's Urban Sustainability Program helped create a master plan to revitalize the campus of Gabon's national university. Program manager **Zoe Anton** talks to OQ about the project.

TALK TO US Comment on stories and share your favorites with others via e-mail and social media.

MORE TO LOVE See additional materials—including video and photo galleries—related to stories in the print edition, and read additional stories not found in the pages of this publication.

LEARN MORE Read a little more about the people who create *Oregon Quarterly* and learn about our approach to covering the university and its alumni.

JOIN IN Submit letters, class notes, and photos for our "Ducks Afield" section.

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FOSTERING SUCCESS

Foster kids don't get a lot of breaks, so a tuition waiver for college can be life-changing. Nevertheless, navigating college without the support structure a family typically provides can make adjusting to campus life a challenge. **BY MELISSA HART**

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TAKING ROOT

Oregon-based consultant Darin Stringer, BS '93, takes his expertise in tree husbandry halfway around the world as he helps bring forests back to the rocky soils of Lebanon. **BY JONATHAN GRAHAM**

42

AN OPERA IS BORN

Ethan Gans-Morse, MMus '13, proved that you can teach an old music form new tricks when he created an opera that deals with modern issues such as PTSD and environmental degradation. **BY BRETT CAMPBELL, MS '96**

ON THE COVER Illustration by Rakefet Kenaan, an Israeli artist with a strong interest in environmental studies. Kenaan often paints on scrap wood, as she did for her illustration of our story on page 38.

The King and I

Sy Ellington hired me as assistant director of the EMU a couple years after I graduated from Oregon in 1954. Your feature on the EMU expansion (“A More Perfect Union,” Autumn 2014) brought back a flood of memories, none more vivid than the visit to our building by the king of Siam when he came to celebrate the University of Oregon’s adopting a sister university in his country.

The State Department sent a team to guide us through the protocol for the king’s visit, and I found myself playing a key role in the plan: I would operate the elevator, transporting the king and his entourage to the second-floor ballroom for the welcoming banquet (kings and presidents don’t do stairs).

The king’s party arrived through the north entrance, and I saw we had a problem with too many dignitaries and too little space in my small car.



But we crammed everyone in (protocol calls for kings entering last) and the doors barely missed taking off the nose of the honored guest as I punched the button for the second floor. The overloaded car lurched upward, and then it didn’t.

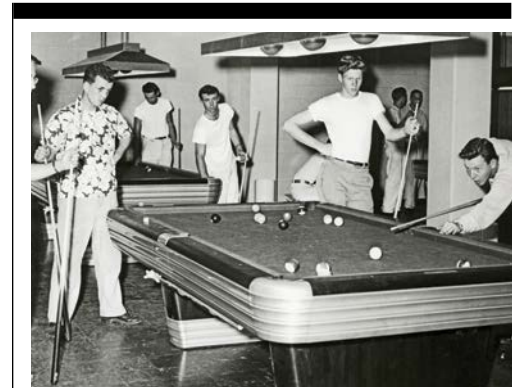
Arrrrggg! I had neglected to block off the mezzanine entrance, and someone had called the elevator from there. The doors slowly opened to reveal the “someone” as an elderly custodian in clothes that had seen many mop-ups, along with his wheel-can full of garbage.

The king and the custodian were standing eye-to-eye, literally just inches apart. With the exception of the king, all eyes turned to glare at me as I frantically jammed the “2” button. The king stared stoically ahead at the custodian, a royal dismiss of the intruder. It was a frozen time warp as the mechanical brain of the elevator digested the insistent messages from button 2. Then slowly, slowly the doors closed and the lift continued its mission to the second-floor ballroom. Another lift driver took my place for the king’s return.

Bill Landers, BS '54
Milwaukie, Oregon



KING OF SWING Bhumibol Adulyadej (left) is the king of Thailand (formerly Siam). Enthroned since 1946, he has remained king all these years despite numerous political crises and military coups. In this photo from 1960, he is shown jamming with Benny Goodman at Goodman’s apartment in New York. Some of the king’s compositions were recorded by Les Brown and His Band of Renown, though that wax only spins in Thailand.



EDITORS’ NOTE: Thanks to eagle-eyed readers, we have identified two individuals pictured in “A More Perfect Union” on pages 44–45 of the Autumn issue. Sherwood Snyder, MS ’59, points out “the handsome fellow in the floral shirt,” above, as his theater mentor Faber Duchaine. Dick Blenkinsop, BS ’52, says his fraternity brother Rodger Eddy, BS ’52, appears on the far right in the photo below. We thank all the readers who shared EMU memories. Read more and share your own in the comments sections of oregonquarterly.com.



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Carbon Problem

I hope that the lawsuit [described in “Natural Law,” Autumn 2014] succeeds, to compel the government to create a plan to reduce carbon emissions. However, reducing the current 402 parts per million (ppm) of atmospheric carbon to 350 ppm may not be feasible.

“It is practically impossible to retrieve CO₂ once it has been emitted. Much of it stays in the air more than 1,000 years,” according to scientist James Hansen, who was mentioned in the article. That’s grim news. But when you’re in a hole, the first step is to stop digging. Reducing carbon emissions is humanity’s first step.

Philip Ratcliff
Salem, Oregon

One very important point was not mentioned in the article: The US is only one of more than 200 nations in the world, and the only one that will obey the Supreme Court. The two most populous are China and India, and they have only recently become wealthy enough to follow the US in its century-long domination and overuse of the environment. Now that the US has

Corrections to the Autumn 2014 issue

In “Natural Law,” (pages 30–37) the gathering known as PIELC was misidentified. It is the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference. In “Homecoming at 100” (page 54) we mistakenly dated “the Homecoming that wasn’t” to 1964 rather than the fall of 1963. The caption under the photograph of the Oregon Duck and Donald Duck (page 57) did not credit the photographer, Bruce Berg. We also misspelled the name of North Dakota’s capitol (page 4). The city, of course, is Bismarck.

discovered environmentalism, we have begun to pressure other nations to join us. China and India have both declined our offer, saying that they have every intention to have their century or so of environmental domination and overuse, and then they might join us as environmentalists. We likely have another century or so of environmental overuse ahead of us.

Harold Bailey, BS '77, MS '79
North Bend, Oregon

I went to the UO for four years and graduated in 1982. Now I live in the real world and am well aware of the fact that my university is a very liberal institution. If I may, I wanted to bring up some “inconvenient facts.” Global warming is based on computer models. These computer models have been consistently inaccurate. Most recently the computer models predicted a mild winter for the East Coast and Midwest. How did that work out? The false conclusions of this bogus science is killing jobs in our economy. For what? A theory that has no basis in reality. Common sense can tell the world is not warming, so the scientists that are being paid for this bogus science change the name to climate change. I just wish the university would tell both sides of the debate, instead of just the propaganda.

Dave Bowman, BS '82
Corona del Mar, California

“Natural Law,” a piece on professor Mary Wood’s climate litigation scheme, presents an alarming rationalization for an end run around the will of the US electorate. While climate science is certain, the prescription for action is not. Courts are not bodies competent to craft sweeping prospective policy obligations absent a democratically attained mandate. No such mandate exists. Wood’s lack of faith in democracy is no reason to foist her climate prescription on society as a whole.

Ian Adams, JD '13
Roseville, California

Alaska Memories

I, too, went to Alaska with my UO journalism training in 1980. During the two years I spent covering city council meetings, local school and community activities, and other interesting stories on the Last Frontier, I learned to drive in snow, to avoid moose on the road at midnight, and to see all sides of a controversy.

Life in Alaska was difficult. I found the most independent, hardworking, and fun-loving people I’ve ever met, all of whom seemed to have gone to Alaska looking for something they lost in the Lower 48. Some of them are still searching for it, I suppose.

Aleta Zak, BA '83
Marysville, California



Jessica Hollowell Thurman, in her otherwise excellent and moving essay “Pipe Dreams,” [Autumn 2014] despite (or perhaps because of) her history degree and journalism studies at Oregon, states: “. . . the drilling rigs are used to make a *small number of men*—not my dad—very, very rich.” [emphasis supplied] It took about 10 minutes to find that Prudhoe Bay is operated by BP for the benefit of itself, ExxonMobil, and ConocoPhillips Alaska (“Big Oil” in Thurman’s formulation). The largest shareholders in each of these corporations are the Vanguard Group of mutual funds (which, in turn, are owned by millions of small investors), Franklin Resources (another mutual fund company), and State Street, a large institutional investor. The largest individual investor listed for ExxonMobil is its CEO, Rex Tillerson, who owns less than 1 percent of the 237 million shares last reported to be owned by Vanguard. The days of John D. Rockefeller “owning” Standard Oil are long past, except, it seems, in the minds of the author and editors of *Oregon Quarterly*, who, one may hope, didn’t come to this wholly unsupported statement (no women have large positions in “Big Oil”?) as a result of their education at the University of Oregon.

Dean S. Kaufman, JD '69
Cottage Grove, Oregon

Real Eugene

I have to say I take real issue with Larry Clack [“A New Low,” in “Letters,” Autumn 2014] about the essay “A Demolition” [published in the Summer 2014 issue]. I went back and

A young child with curly hair, wearing a pink and white checkered dress with a white polka-dot collar and a white fringed hem, is dancing barefoot in a field of yellow flowers. The child's arms are raised, and they are smiling. The background is a soft-focus field of yellow flowers under a bright sky.

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reread it because I had remembered no “porn.” It shocks me that he would be so upset by a sad truth. Eugene, once a pristine little city (at least what I saw was), no longer is that. Yes, we have our bike trails and our trees and our businesses and our cafes . . . and certainly our university, but we have a pretty ugly underside of life here, too. And if this essay has gotten the attention of the more comfortable among us, I say, good for it.

Marjorie Harris, BS '55
Eugene

In response to Larry Clack’s letter in the autumn issue, I would like to offer a different perspective. Just as *Oregon Quarterly* has the right and courage to publish the beautiful (nude) art photo, “Imogen and Twinka in Yosemite,” (page 23, Autumn 2014), the same is true regarding “A Demolition.”

Thankfully, *Oregon Quarterly* upholds a proud history at the UO that goes back maybe even further than the days of social upheaval and protest regarding the Vietnam War, a time when the student body and the community

made its strong dissent known in no uncertain terms. As a middle school and junior high student, I remember following the antiwar demonstrations on TV, and eagerly reading the excellent, often strident reporting in the *Daily Emerald*, which was representative of the majority of UO students and voters in Eugene. I felt proud to be from Eugene and decided that I would someday attend the UO.

Apparently, Mr. Clack would rather see the approach taken by far too many comparably budgeted and produced university publications, which may as well be entitled *Town & Country Lite*. If something is a little edgy, but newsworthy, I am glad to see *OQ* err on the liberal side, as is our tradition at University of Oregon.

Phil Bevans, BS '87
Portland, Oregon

Gottfredson’s Legacy

I disagree with the “Editor’s Note” in the Autumn *OQ*. Editor Ann Wiens assesses Michael Gottfredson’s short presidential tenure in a far too positive light. I have stayed active in UO matters since graduating, having

served as president of the UO Law School Alumni Association, and on the board of the UO Alumni Association. I found President Gottfredson to be distant in dealing with the public, alumni, and donors.

I especially disagree with Wiens giving Gottfredson credit for bringing about “a long-sought change in governance structure.” That change was nearly fait accompli when Gottfredson arrived. The credit for the heavy lifting in bringing about the independent UO board goes to former presidents Dave Frohnmayer, Richard Lariviere, and interim president Robert Berdahl.

David Jensen, JD '69
Vida, Oregon

We want to hear from you.

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intro



Rim Shot

Last year's surprisingly harsh winter will not be repeated. So says the *Old Farmer's Almanac*, which predicts higher than normal temperatures and lower than usual snowfall. So probably no need to get snow tires for your bike.

Curbing Cravings

Why do we find it so hard to say no to fatty, processed foods? How do we reverse the spiral of negative outcomes that occur later in life as a result of early adversity? New research from University of Oregon assistant professor of psychology **Elliot Berkman** aims to answer both of those questions.

Berkman recently received grants from the National Institute on Aging and the National Cancer Institute to support his work. As the director of the UO's Social and Affective Neuroscience Lab, Berkman conducts research examining the behavioral, motivational, and neural factors that contribute to human success or failure in achieving long-term goals.

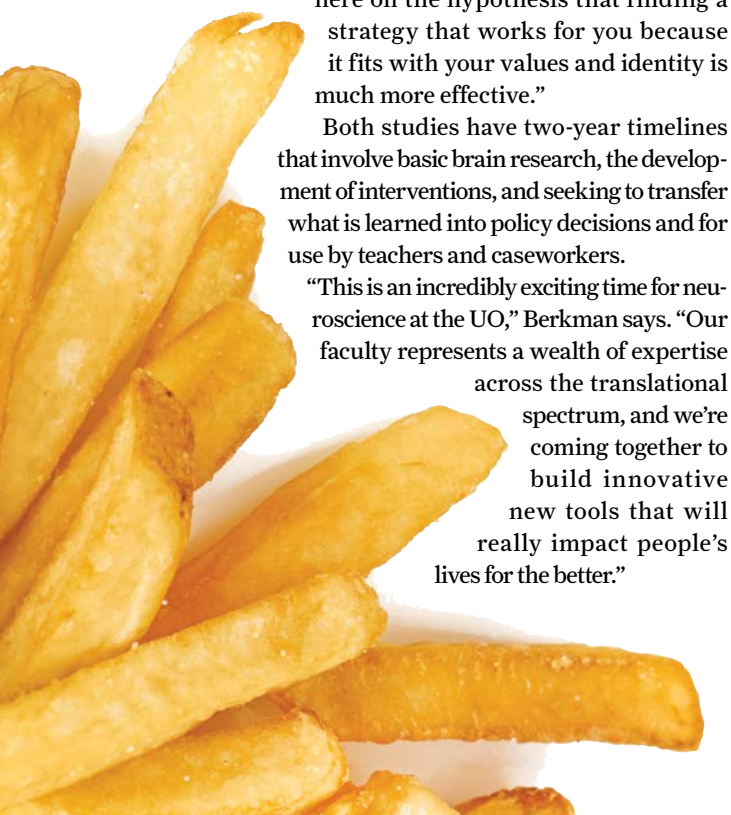
"We will look at people's brain activation as they attempt to reduce their cravings," Berkman says. To do this, subjects will enter an MRI machine, where they will be shown images of food and asked to practice "cognitive self-regulation techniques"—essentially trying to change the way they think about the tasty foods—to reduce their cravings. Their self-reported cravings as well as their brain activity will be recorded.

Since research has shown that craving is a strong predictor of eating, the study can be applied to diet. Just as subjects will select their own foods, they will also choose their own self-regulation techniques based on what works best for them. For some, this may mean finding a way to distract the mind long enough for the craving to go away. Others may find that they can reduce cravings by thinking more broadly about how eating junk food conflicts with their self-image as health-conscious individuals.

"In the past, we would just assign someone to a particular regulation strategy," Berkman says. "We're working here on the hypothesis that finding a strategy that works for you because it fits with your values and identity is much more effective."

Both studies have two-year timelines that involve basic brain research, the development of interventions, and seeking to transfer what is learned into policy decisions and for use by teachers and caseworkers.

"This is an incredibly exciting time for neuroscience at the UO," Berkman says. "Our faculty represents a wealth of expertise across the translational spectrum, and we're coming together to build innovative new tools that will really impact people's lives for the better."



WELCOME TO THE ACADEMY



Doe

University of Oregon professors **Chris Doe** and **Mary Rothbart** were among the 204 new fellows inducted into the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Sciences this year, bringing the total number of current or retired UO faculty members named to the group to 15. Doe is a member of the UO's Institute



Rothbart

of Neuroscience and Institute of Molecular Biology and is a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator. He studies the central nervous system, particularly how stem cells make neurons, with research using fruit flies and zebrafish. Rothbart is a professor emerita of psychology and is still active in research in developmental psychology at the UO. A parent-report tool that she introduced in 1981, the Infant Behavior Questionnaire, is now one of the most widely employed measures of infant temperament.



Beyond Black and White

In the mid 20th century, geneticist R. Ruggles Gates developed a color chart designed to assess race based on skin tone. This astonishingly simplistic measure was used for years to classify people by the shade of their skin, with overtly discriminatory results. In *Shades of White* (pictured above), a site-specific installation for the Jordon Schnitzer Museum of Art, Portland artist Geraldine Ondrizek uses the Gates chart as inspiration for an exploration of eugenics, ethnic identity, and Oregon's troubling history of genetic and racial discrimination. The installation is on view through December 14. Information at jsma.uoregon.edu or 541-346-3027.

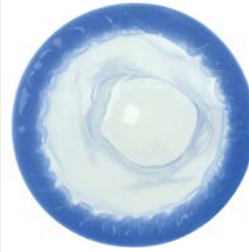
A Second Act for Old Theaters?

With grant support from Travel Oregon, the UO-based Community Service Center is cataloging the condition of historic theaters across the state, many of which have fallen into disrepair. Center director **Robert Parker** hopes the project will be the first step in maintaining or improving these facilities, many of which are shuttered or on the brink of closing. "They're tremendous community assets," says Parker. "For small communities, those particular facilities have the capacity to be really significant anchors for downtowns that have been struggling."





Building Better Condoms



Richard Chartoff, polymer laboratory director for the Center for Advanced Materials Characterization in Oregon, is leading a project that aims to build better-fitting and more-effective condoms to improve public health.

With funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Chartoff and his fellow researchers are developing a new polyurethane material that changes shape when activated by heat; the next-generation prophylactic would be less than half the thickness of the best current condoms and would accommodate nanoparticles containing drugs that combat sexually transmitted diseases.



Life on Mars Looks More Likely

UO geologist **Greg Retallack** couldn't quite believe what he was seeing. During two conferences with scientists directly involved with photos and data being relayed from the Martian rover *Curiosity*, Retallack kept observing telltale indicators of ancient fossilized soil emerging from deep inside the Gale Crater. After looking more closely at *Curiosity's* images and data published earlier this year, Retallack reports in the journal *Geology* that the Martian soils, which date to 3.7 billion years ago, have the same features of paleosols he's seen on Earth in the Antarctic Dry Valleys and Chile's Atacama Desert. "The pictures were the first clue, but then all the data really nailed it," he says. He's now urging soil collection in strategic locations during future exploration efforts on Mars. In an e-mail to Retallack, Malcolm Walter of the Australian Centre for Astrobiology said the potential discovery of paleosols in the Martian crater raises the likelihood "that there is or was life on Mars."

Safe at Work



Trudy Ann Cameron's paper, "Demand for Health Risk Reductions," was named article of the year by the *Journal of Environment Economics and Management*. Cameron, the Raymond F. Mikesell Professor of Environmental and Resource Economics, investigates the value placed on small reductions in the risk of illness or death. Such calculations help quantify the benefits of medical research, environmental regulation, or workplace safety rules. "The idea is to think about the things we value, like risk reduction or free time or access to recreational sites, just like any other thing we might buy."

BLING BANG THEORY

Research at the Center for Advanced Materials Characterization in Oregon contributed to a study that offers new credence to a much-maligned theory that an exploding comet or asteroid about 12,800 years ago triggered the ice age and drove numerous species of plants and mammals into extinction. Instrument manager **Jim Ruznick** used the center's Titan microscope to identify and characterize nanodiamonds associated with comets and asteroids. Ruznick joined scientists from 21 universities on the study, which analyzed samples from 11 different countries. Findings were published in the *Journal of Geology*.



Historical Marker

Artifacts found in Oregon's Paisley Caves, including dried human excrement dating to 14,400 years ago, have helped rewrite what is known about early North American settlement. Now the site, near Paisley in Lake County, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. "Archaeologists have worked at the site

since 1938," says archaeologist **Dennis Jenkins** of the UO's Museum of Natural and Cultural History. "As we have used increasingly sophisticated scientific techniques in recent years, our understanding of the cultural and megafaunal remains at the site has grown dramatically." In 2008, Jenkins's team documented the discovery of coprolites, or dried human feces, that contained DNA. More coprolites have since been found and tested at multiple independent laboratories to

confirm the presence of human DNA. Also discovered—and detailed in the journal *Science* in 2012—were Western Stemmed projectile points, suggesting the presence of a human culture that may have preceded Clovis on the continent. The National Register is maintained by the National Park Service under the authority of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

UO #1 in Sustainable Design

The UO's architecture program is ranked first in the nation for sustainable design, the issue considered most significant by both educators and professionals according to a poll conducted by *Design Intelligence*. The UO also ranks in the top 15 undergraduate architecture programs, the top 10 graduate interior architecture programs, and the top five landscape architecture programs in the West. The rankings were published in *America's Best Architecture and Design Schools 2015*.

How Will Your Garden Grow?

UO scientists are manipulating growing conditions at three sites in the Pacific Northwest to test how 12 species of native grasses and forbs, as well as invasive plant species, will adapt, change, or potentially go extinct under climate conditions projected by the end of the century. The sites—one in southern Oregon, one in Eugene, and one near Olympia, Washington—are being subjected to wetter winters and longer, hotter summers, says project leader **Scott D. Bridgham**, professor of biology, director of the Environmental Science Institute, and a member of the Institute for Ecology and Evolution. Under a new \$2.3 million grant from the National Science Foundation, infrared lamps generate warmer temperatures and dry the soils, and an irrigation system, which recycles captured rainfall, increases precipitation by 20 percent. "We are making the Washington prairie site more like what projections are for the end of the century, which are more like southern Oregon is now," Bridgham said. "By then, southern Oregon will be more like much of California."



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French Twist

Francophone fur traders, Native American explorers, and Oregon before the Corps of Discovery

Professor of English Gordon Sayre studies 18th century accounts of interactions between French fur traders and Native Americans. This image, "Canada: Fur Traders 1777," is a line engraving after a detail from Gauthier and Faden's "Map of Canada, 1777."

If you ask most Oregonians about French pioneers in Oregon, you will probably be met with confusion and blank stares. Yet until the Oregon Trail brought a wave of English-speaking settlers into the territory, French-speakers made up a sizable portion of the European population. Even the name Oregon may be French. The historian T. C. Elliott has theorized that Oregon was a bastardization of the French word *ouragan*, meaning hurricane or windstorm. So how is it that the French legacy in Oregon has been forgotten by so many people? University of Oregon professor of English Gordon Sayre feels that this part of the state's early history has been poorly covered.

"The Oregon Trail and the covered wagon have an important role," he says, "because they're part of the popular imagery. What came before that seems unknown to most Oregonians."

Sayre first discovered a love of colonial literature while completing his doctoral studies at the State University of New York at Buffalo. Narratives of exploration were full of exciting descriptions of the American wilderness and

Native Americans. One such book, *Nouveaux Voyages dans l'Amerique Septentrionale* by Louis Armand de Lahontan, "steered my interests from French enlightenment literature toward exploration narrative and ethnography," he says. "I could see how this book had contributed toward the myths of the romantic primitive that influenced Diderot, Rousseau, and others later in the 18th century." Yet, the interest was personal as well: "I was also drawn to exploration narratives because I loved reading about the American wilderness and the native people." He wrote his dissertation on Samuel de Champlain and John Smith, two explorers of Virginia in the early 17th century, and the way that these two men constructed their personas. Since then, Sayre has focused on ethnohistory, natural history, colonial cartography, and, of course, exploration. His most recent book is *The Indian Chief as Tragic Hero: Native Resistance and the Literatures of America, from Moctezuma to Tecumseh*.

In the 18th century, North America was effectively divided between the British, who controlled the Atlantic seaboard, and the French, who controlled much of the interior and maintained close relations with the native peoples.



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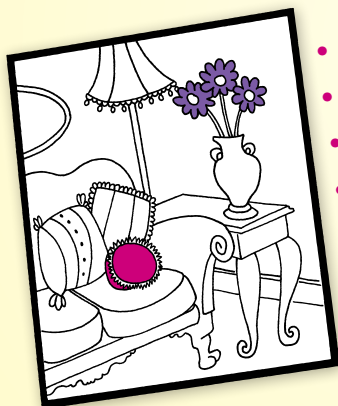


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While the Pacific Northwest was outside of French control, French explorers and trappers sometimes ventured into the territory or heard tales of the region from the tribes they interacted with. Many accounts were not documented, as fur traders regarded knowledge of the country they worked as a trade secret and jealously guarded the information. Nevertheless, some stories survived.

Sayre was honored with the UO's Outstanding Research Career Award last spring, and in this capacity delivered a Presidential Research Lecture in March. He related the story of Antoine-Simon Le Page du Pratz, a Francophone explorer and ethnographer who lived in French Louisiana. Sayre became interested in Le Page du Pratz when he was work-

“Native Americans were just as likely as later Euro-American explorers to be curious about the land and their own history and could have indeed explored the continent.”

ing on his dissertation. Pratz's *Histoire de la Louisiane*, written in 1751, was one of the most significant histories on the subject.

Le Page du Pratz recorded the journey of a Native American named Moncacht-Apé of the Yazoo tribe in Mississippi. Compelled by curiosity and the desire to know where his tribe had originally emigrated from, Moncacht-Apé journeyed up the Missouri River until he reached the Kansas nation. He then found a west-flowing river, which took him to the Otter nation of Indians and then to a land described only as being grassy and full of dangerous snakes.

After spending the winter there, Moncacht-Apé continued down the river until he reached what he called the “Great Water,” which may have been the Pacific Ocean. He met a tribe of fishermen being attacked by slavers with strange beards and firearms, and Moncacht-Apé helped the tribe ambush and defeat these men. He then continued farther northwest until he reached a

place where the days were very long, in what is now northern Washington or British Columbia. One tribe told him a story of a land bridge that once existed—and that led far away. Satisfied, Moncacht-Apé returned home to tell his story.

Moncacht-Apé's story is impossible to verify, and historians have raised the possibility that Le Page du Pratz invented Moncacht-Apé or that Moncacht-Apé exaggerated his travels. Still, Sayre thinks that we shouldn't dismiss Moncacht-Apé's account out of hand. When Lewis and Clark led the Corps of Discovery, they brought Le Page du Pratz's book with them, suggesting that they gave some credence to the account. And, Sayre says, Native Americans were just as likely as later Euro-American explorers to be curious about the land and their own history. They could indeed have explored the continent. Sayre has written that Moncacht-Apé's story "has the potential to steal the limelight from those iconic figures of Manifest Destiny, and to inspire a debate about Lewis and Clark analogous to the controversies about Columbus, the supposed discoverer of America."

The French presence in the Northwest goes beyond Le Page du Pratz's early ethnography, however. A few years later, when John Jacob Astor wanted to establish Fort Astoria on the lower Columbia River, he started by recruiting French fur trappers from Montreal, and Sayre notes that around three-quarters of those employed were Francophone. One of those was Gabriel Franchère, who had signed on as a clerk with Astor's expedition. Franchère remained with Astor's Pacific Fur Company until the War of 1812 broke out and Astor, facing vigorous competition, sold his operation.

Franchère eventually returned to Montreal on an overland trail, bringing along the diary he had kept regarding Fort Astoria and life in the Northwest. He had accompanied Astor's expedition from beginning to end, and his account was published in 1820. Washington Irving relied on Franchère's account in writing his novel *Astoria*, though he brought his own peculiarly American sensibilities to the novel. Sayre notes that Americans and Brits thought little of the French. He quotes Sir Alexander, who says "experience proves that it requires much less time for a civilized people to deviate into the manners and customs of savage life, than for savages to rise into a state of civilization. Such was the event with those who thus accompanied the natives on their hunting and trading excursions; for they became so attached

to the Indian mode of life, that they lost all relish for their former habits and native homes."

Sayre's insights regarding Franchère and Moncacht-Apé tell us a great deal about our own history, and how we have collectively forgotten the French. Sayre notes that "Anglophone colonization was about the land ownership, farms, clearing the land"—quite a different focus than that of the Francophone fur traders. The fact that the French intermarried

with Native Americans also clashed with American notions about being white. And the story of Moncacht-Apé raises the very real possibility that natives were the first to complete these voyages of discovery, an idea that challenges a Eurocentric view of history and literature. **ZEB LARSON**

Zeb Larson, formerly of Portland, is a doctoral student in history at Ohio State University.



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New Board Order

An interview with Chuck Lillis, PhD '72, chairman of the UO's new board of trustees.

On July 1, an independent board of trustees assumed governance of the University of Oregon for the first time since 1929. We asked Chuck Lillis, who brings a wealth of academic, corporate, and board experience to his role as chair, to share his thoughts on the challenges and opportunities facing the university, and the role the new board will play.

Oregon Quarterly: This shift to an independent governing board has been described as “a watershed moment.” Why is it so important?

Chuck Lillis: This is a recognition that the universities in the state are unique, and if we expect them to excel—which we do—we need the benefits of unique, focused, disciplined supervision of each of those universities. There aren't many public universities in the country that have this kind of latitude in their trustee group. I think it is historic, and it took some courage, on everyone's part, to get there.

What will be the most immediate effects of the new governance structure?

You'll see changes that give the university more freedom to be as creative and as unique as possible. You'll see much more in-depth support for what the administration and the faculty are trying to do. You'll see more direct support of those ambitions and goals because we'll be able to address them at a more detailed level than the previous board

was able to. And I think you'll see an activist board, very interested in understanding the academic excellence of the university and making an impact on where money is spent and how much is spent to support and reinforce those goals, ambitions, and aspirations.

What are some of the board's biggest challenges?

The number-one challenge will be funding the academic plan, which reflects the strategic intent to move this university from good to great. We know exactly what we need to do: Hire more great tenure-track faculty members. Increase scholarship support to make it easier for students to come, particularly Oregon residents. Build additional lab, teaching, and research facilities. We just have to fund it.

How will the board facilitate that?

It's imperative that the board be involved in actively supporting the fundraising campaign. What is it we're trying to achieve? How much money do we need for what? What are the sources of those funds? We need to discipline ourselves to prioritize and invest in a few areas where we're already excellent, and where that investment will put us among the best in the world. We set a campaign target [\$2 billion] that supports our aspirations for excellence. Now it's up to us to make that happen.

What influenced your decision to accept the role as chairman of the board?

I was a first-generation student. I have benefited from a great education from public universities that allowed me to fundamentally change my life, both in terms of knowledge



and opportunity. It opened the world to me. I had such a good experience as a PhD student at Oregon that when I was asked, it was a pretty easy decision for me to want to be a trustee.

One last question: What do you love about the University of Oregon? What is it that drives your commitment to its future success?

Certainly the people, the individual faculty members I've known over the years, are a major influence. I like the style of the university, that we are aggressive, we are fast, we have a big focus on undergraduate education, we embrace the importance of environment. Those are features about Oregon that I really align with and associate with. I've been around this university since I got my PhD in 1972, and I've never seen a better time. It's just a cool time to be here, and it's an important time. We better not blink, and we need to move quickly. This is not something we can do casually, but I do think we can all hold hands and get this done.

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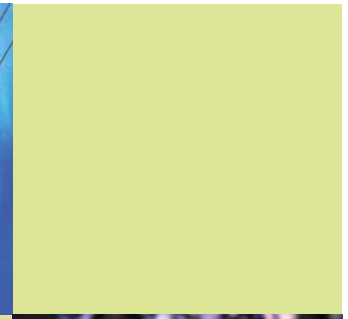
In his memoir, *My Life as a Foreign Country*, poet and army veteran Brian Turner, MFA '96, reflects on his life as a soldier—in and out of combat.

I am a drone aircraft plying the darkness above my body, flying over my wife as she sleeps beside me, over the curvature of the earth, over the glens of Antrim and the Dalmatian coastline, the shells of Dubrovnik and Brčko and Mosul arcing in the air beside me, projectiles filled with poems and death and love. I am 32,000 feet over the Atlantic seaboard. The fields, the orchards, the woodlands below press together the way countries on maps

do, coursing waterways, paved roads and dirt tracks and furrows cutting through. Countries touching countries. Bosnia and Vietnam and Iraq and Northern Ireland and Korea and Russia pressed together in the geography below. Cumulus scattered above them, their shapes authored by sunlight on the ground beneath. The Battle of Guadalcanal emerges from the shadows where my grandfather lives. Now Bougainville. Guam. Iwo Jima.

Highway 1—Iraq's Highway of Death—stretches through desert on one side and California's San Joaquin Valley on the other. The eucalyptus trees of my childhood line the sides of the highway. In places I can see the scorch marks on the asphalt where transport trucks were left to burn. My dead Uncle Paul steals oranges in the night groves there, just as he did when I was eight years old, while fresh dark

Excerpted from *My Life as a Foreign Country: A Memoir* by Brian Turner. first American edition 2014, with permission of the publisher WW Norton & Company, Inc. All rights reserved.



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Roy Lichtenstein (American, 1923–97). *Bull Profile Series*, 1973. Published by Gemini G.E.L., Los Angeles, CA: *Bull II*. Lithograph and linecut; *Bull III*, Lithograph, screenprint, and linecut; *Bull IV*, Lithograph, screenprint, and linecut. Collection of the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation. © Courtesy of the Estate of Roy Lichtenstein

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earth covers the newly dead on the other side of the highway. Owls perch on their grave-stones calling out for water. Each night I do this, monitoring heat signatures in the landscape, switching from white-hot to black-hot lenses as I bank and turn, gathering circuit by circuit the necessary intelligence, all that I have done, all that we have done, compressed into the demarcations in the map below.



“Here’s the situation,” Sergeant First Class Fredrickson said, gesturing to the tiny plastic red and blue flags driven into the ground on thin metal poles. There must have been 30 or 40 of them arrayed in the grass around us, in no discernible pattern. It was September 2003, and, like some of the others gathered around SFC Fredrickson on that clipped green field outside our classroom, I’d been scanning the scene to gauge what the flags might represent. On the big-screen television in the company dayroom, the war waited for us. Fighters who shot at American soldiers in Baghdad and Samarra and Tikrit were perfecting their trigger squeeze for us.

“We are surrounded by the dead. And by parts of the dead,” Fredrickson said, emphasizing the word parts. “Your unit has come upon the scene of a possible ambush. Everybody’s dead. This is not a mass casualty exercise. So. What’s the first thing we should do?”

One of the students in the back said, “We better start scrounging up a shitload of body bags.” Fredrickson smiled.

“No. Like everything else, the first thing you do, the first thing: set up security. Create a perimeter, and then you can get to work.” He went on to explain that a certain number of soldiers would be needed to deal with the task at hand, especially if time was of the essence, as it always was in these situations. “You’ll want to photograph the scene from several angles, if you have a digital camera and if you have the time. That’s why the flags are here. You have to place one flag at the spot of each body, or body part, that you find. If you don’t have a camera, do a field sketch.” We practice drawing hasty field sketches in our pocket notebooks, creating small legends in the margins, crossed lines with tiny arrowheads: a rough guide to the cardinal directions.

He tells us to use a certain Department of Defense form to label and keep track of

the dead sealed up in their body bags. “And remember, this is very important: never place two separated parts into the same bag.” He pauses. “I’ll give you an example.” He points to the nearest soldier and tells him to lie down and act like he’s dead.

Sergeant Gordon kneels on the damp grass and then lies down prostrate, with his right arm stretched out from his side, as if pointing to something beyond us. His mouth is open and at first he stares blankly at the few clouds above. Then, he closes his eyes and assumes the role of the dead.

A few of us joke about Gordon and his ability to sham, to loaf, no matter the circumstances as Fredrickson steps closer to the body. “Imagine that this arm,” he says, gesturing toward Gordon’s outstretched limb, “has been blown off, here at the armpit. And there’s no other body nearby, and you can plainly see that it’s the same uniform and everything. Still, you have to put his body in one bag and give it a number and then you have to put this arm in another bag with a different number.” He looks across our faces. “Don’t assume anything. They’ll figure it out back home. They’ll test for DNA and all that jazz.” A pause, and then he continues: “Let me tell you something—you don’t want to be the one who makes some poor family bury their soldier with somebody else’s body part. Roger that?”

As he carries on explaining the work at hand, my eyes wander over the grassy field and the bright flags stationed in the earth around us. It’s a rare day of sun in Fort Lewis, Washington State, and the early morning light illuminates the translucent nature of the grass in its subtle gesture toward infinity. The dead assume their positions. Some of them lie on their sides, others rest on their backs, their faces lifted toward the sky. Each with a numbered flag beside him. Some turn their heads slowly toward me, their eyes crossed over into the landscape of clouds as they call out with hoarse voices, quietly, asking for a drink of water.

A small sip, they say. Just a sip of water.

The 1st Platoon of Blackhorse Company sits on the tile floor of the weight room cleaning weapons with CLP (cleaning, lubricant, and protectorant) and bore snakes and dental tools after running lanes in the woods and conducting live-fire exercises. The men are dirty and exhausted. They laugh and shout out their orders as bags of burritos are delivered from the 24-hour Taco Bell off post. I’m in

the adjacent room with my squad leader, Staff Sergeant Bruzik, and Sergeant Zapata, my fellow team leader. We watch more of the war on television. Several Marines rush under fire to a bridge in Nasiriyah, Iraq.

They crawl on the concrete and asphalt of the roadway as the invisible trails of bullets zip

“Let me tell you something—you don’t want to be the one who makes some poor family bury their soldier with somebody else’s body part. Roger that?”

past them from the far shore of the river. They return fire, shooting at what I’ve been trained to think of as known and suspected enemy targets. The Marines rush the bridge over and over as the newscast replays the scene.

The television is on mute. I don’t know what Bruzik and Zapata are thinking, but I’m looking at the far shore and trying to make out the muzzle flashes. Those on the other side of the river are honing the same fundamentals of marksmanship we’ve studied at the rifle ranges of Fort Lewis. It isn’t something I mention to Bruzik and Zapata. I feel remote, somewhat cold, my mind working out the possible trajectories that might bring me home. I’m Sergeant Turner and I’m a team leader preparing to deploy to combat. But there’s something echoing through the branches and channels of my central nervous system.

On the other side of that river, Iraqis continue to crouch along walls and lie on rooftops in the prone. Even when I fall asleep tonight, they’ll continue to fire their weapons. The news anchor will narrate the action. On replay. Figures in the distance. Soldiers running toward the bridge. The sight picture placed over them as I dream and sleep in the state of Washington. The Iraqi men, again and again, pulling the trigger.

Brian Turner, MFA '96, directs the MFA program at Sierra Nevada College. *My Life as a Foreign Country* is included in the Barnes and Noble Discover Great New Writers series.



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A Capital Idea

Oregon's most ambitious fundraising campaign to date seeks to raise \$2 billion to support "access, excellence, and the UO experience."

The cafés are closed and the Fishbowl is quiet on this sunny October Saturday when Dave Petrone, BS '66, MBA '68, arrives sporting a bright green Oregon Ducks hoodie and even brighter yellow Nikes. It's four hours till kickoff against Washington, and Petrone, in his game-day gear, is clearly ready to win the day (which the Ducks will do handily, beating the Huskies 45-20). But before he heads to Autzen, he'll head this afternoon's meeting of the university's Campaign Cabinet, which he's agreed to chair. It will be the first meeting of this group of fundraising volunteers, a group Petrone hopes will set the tone for the levels of engagement, excitement, and relationship-building that will make the campaign successful.

The night before, at a gala celebration for more than 750 of the UO's most magnanimous volunteers and supporters, Interim President Scott Coltrane publicly announced the university's intent to raise \$2 billion—the largest fundraising campaign goal in the state's history. "Does \$2

Dave Petrone is chairing the UO's Campaign Cabinet. He and his wife, Nancy Petrone, have been generous donors to the university, most recently committing \$1 million to restore the Fishbowl.

billion sound ambitious?" says Petrone. "Absolutely it does. Will we accomplish it? I feel we will . . . and hopefully we'll do better."

Petrone speaks from a place of passion for his alma mater—he has served on multiple volunteer boards, and he and his wife, Nancy Petrone, have donated millions to the UO over the years to support such endeavors as the Women in Flight program and the James F. Miller Theater Complex. Their most recent gift, announced just a few days earlier, is \$1 million to restore the Fishbowl, where Petrone now sits at a small table next to the bank of large, curved windows that gives the space its name. "Everyone who ever went here spent time at the Fishbowl," he says, recalling that he was there nearly every day as

“It was clear that many of us were interested in scholarships, student life, building graduate education, and faculty support.”

a student, studying, getting coffee, or meeting friends. “Everyone remembers it, and it makes people smile. And you think about not only the people who’ve been here, but all the people, the young people, who are going to go through here. It’s a fun gift to be associated with.”

But when Petrone talks about this campaign, he also draws on considerable expertise. After earning a BS in economics and an MBA in finance at the UO, he built a successful business career, including a long tenure at Wells Fargo, and more recently as chairman of Housing Capital Company. A trustee emeritus of the UO Foundation, he chaired the leadership committee for the UO’s first major capital campaign. “In 1992, when I got involved,” he says, “we’d never had a campaign. We knew little about fundraising, and we didn’t have buy-in from the faculty, the trustees, or anybody, really. But the team came together, and it succeeded. We set a stretch goal of \$150 million, which the consultant said should have been \$125 million. We ended up with \$250 million.”

The UO’s next campaign, which launched in 2001 and ended in 2008, exceeded its \$600 million goal by more than 30 percent. So a pattern has been established. Still, what gives Petrone confidence that Oregon can do it again, and can do it now?

“For me,” he says, “it’s always about the people. I don’t think a university could have a better leadership team than we do. They all have the mission of making this place excellent. We have the theme, we have the brand—this is a very popular school—and we have the collaboration. Look at the new sports product management program. It includes almost every part of this university. It’s mostly triple-A [Architecture and Allied Arts] and business, but it also includes law, journalism, green chemistry, and human physiology. The teamwork inside the university is much different than it was in 1992, *much* different.”

COLLABORATIVE CULTURE

Frances Bronet is acting senior vice president and provost, a temporary departure from her role as dean of the School of Architecture and Allied Arts. She echoes Petrone’s confidence in the level of teamwork among faculty members and administrators, describing the process used to determine the campaign’s priorities, which are concentrated around support for students and faculty members, as intensely collaborative. Last year, the leaders of each of the UO’s schools and colleges, as well as many administrative, outreach, and research units, developed individual lists of fundraising priorities for their areas. “Then the leaders came together,” says Bronet, “and we kept presenting and re-presenting them to each other.” As they shared documents and ideas, overlapping missions and goals emerged. “It was clear that many of us were interested in scholarships, student life, building graduate education, and faculty support, which shows up in named professorships or chairs, fellowships, research support. We kept sharing our documents, honing them down, so that we had common purpose.

“It’s something I take totally for granted in this institution,” continues Bronet, who came to the UO from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York in 2005. “But I realize, when I speak to colleagues across the nation, that this level of collaboration and engagement is unique. We have a level of mutual respect, as well as an understanding of what is going on in other people’s units. We all think it’s critical, not just relevant, to know what’s going on in the professional schools, in science, in humanities and social sciences, and in the daily patterns of our students’ lives—because there might be some incredible synergy or mode of discipline-specific learning that we could tap to completely change the nature of education.”

FOCUSED ON EXCELLENCE

The recognition that the UO’s culture of cross-disciplinary collaboration could be key to achieving success is reflected in a new faculty hiring initiative that underpins the campaign’s stated focus on “access, excellence, and the UO experience.” Last year, Senior Vice President and Provost Scott Coltrane (who is currently serving as interim president) put out a call to the faculty to submit proposals for “clusters of excellence.” He explains, “We have targeted areas where, by hiring three to five new faculty members, we can be competitive with the most

ALREADY ON A ROLL

A flurry of significant gifts in recent months created a strong momentum leading up to the announcement of the campaign’s \$2 billion goal on October 17. Among the most recent are:

5-17-2014

\$7.25 MILLION to create the Berwick Academy, an immersion program within the Oregon Bach Festival that will support historically informed performance practice of music from the 17th through 19th centuries
Phyllis Berwick, BEd ’56, and Andrew Berwick, BBA ’55

6-6-2014

\$8 MILLION to support construction of the new Allan Price Science Commons and Research Library
Lorry I. Lokey

6-7-2014

\$10 MILLION to construct a new softball stadium
Robert Sanders, BS ’51

6-7-2014

\$8 MILLION to fund scholarships for students who plan to teach in the public school system
Anonymous

9-18-2014

\$10 MILLION to support construction of the new College and Careers Building to house the College of Arts and Sciences
Willie Tykeson and Don Tykeson, BS ’51

10-13-2014

\$1 MILLION to restore the historic Fishbowl, a popular gathering spot in the Erb Memorial Union
Dave Petrone, BS ’66, MBA ’68, and Nancy Petrone

11-12-14

\$50 MILLION to increase access to higher education for Oregonians, fund new faculty positions in health promotion, obesity prevention, and human development, and elevate awareness of the UO.
Connie Ballmer, BS ’84, and Steve Ballmer



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cutting-edge research programs in the country.” Of the 34 proposals received, 10 were identified as priorities, with such diverse foci as obesity prevention, volcanology, sports product design, and sustainable materials.

“As a research university,” says Coltrane, “we can provide our students the experience of being able to work directly with the knowledge-producers. Our faculty members are the scientists and creative artists and scholars who are actually creating new fields and discovering new ways of thinking about and understanding the world in ways that are just phenomenal.” The degree of targeted investment this campaign will make possible is new for this university, says Coltrane, who also emphasizes that the campaign is being launched at “a historic moment” for the UO, as it transitions from statewide to institutional governance and adapts to a reality in which state support of public universities is significantly lower than in the past. “One of the main emphases is on increasing the endowment,” he says. “We’re looking at the long-term security of the university, to stabilize the university for the well-being of generations to come.”

AUDACIOUS BY DESIGN

The emphasis on building the university’s endowment speaks to another key focus of the campaign, access to high-quality higher education for more students, especially Oregon students. “This campaign is heavily focused on student access, the quality of our faculty and support of research and scholarly work, and our commitment to the community—those are the core virtues and values of a public university,” says Mike Andreasen. As vice president for advancement, Andreasen oversees the teams of strategists, development officers, communicators, and many others who will devote the next several years to hitting the \$2 billion goal. He likes what such an aspirational—some would say audacious—goal represents for the UO. “It’s a bold declaration of what the future of the University of Oregon should be, what we intend it to be,” he says. “This university is fully committed to being among the very best public research residential campuses in the country, and we intend to deliver on that promise to our students and faculty.”

ANN WIENS

In February, the UO will launch an 18-month campaign roll-out, visiting cities across the country and around the world. For more information on the campaign, visit giving.uoregon.edu.



THE BEST...

Statue on Campus

On the fridge in my grandmother's kitchen is a small photo from the '80s of my aunt, then a student, perched on the shoulders of the UO's iconic pioneer statue. That grainy shot was my first glimpse of campus.

Hustling down 13th Avenue on the first day of classes, I felt confused and increasingly frantic in the unfamiliar landscape. Casting a nervous glance about my surroundings, I caught sight of the face I had seen so many times while playing with magnets on my grandmother's fridge. With about two minutes to make it to my next lecture, I paused in the midst of busy foot traffic and took solace in the confident gaze of the bronze pioneer man. I thought about how my aunt had posed for a picture on the same statue 30 years before, and figured that if she could rock being a Duck, so could I.

Several weeks into fall term I noticed that the buckskin-clad pioneer wasn't missing out on any late-night festivities—someone had updated his rugged attire with a glow-in-the-dark necklace. Rumors were circulating that the pioneer statue had served as a model for Jebediah Springfield, the fictional founder of Homer Simpson's city in *The Simpsons*. After catching a glimpse of the statue in the opening credits of *Animal House*, I realized that the stoic frontiersman was distinctly entrenched in the culture and history of the UO.

The buckskin-clad pioneer wasn't missing out on any late-night festivities—someone had updated his rugged attire with a glow-in-the-dark necklace.

In 1918, a Portland lawyer named Joseph N. Teal commissioned renowned American sculptor Alexander Phimister Proctor to create a statue for the UO campus that would serve as a reminder of the pioneers whose legacy "should ever be an inspiration to the youth of the country." Proctor had been searching for over a decade to find the perfect model, hoping to convey the real spirit of the Old West. He befriended grizzled fur trapper Jess Cravens, who agreed to lend his figure to the piece.

Although the statue depicts a man fully clothed in buckskin garments and rustic accessories, Cravens posed entirely in the nude and Proctor added the apparel later. The two moved to Oregon around the same time, and Cravens actually married his wife in Proctor's backyard.

The first statue to grace campus, *Pioneer* was installed in the spring of 1919, and unveiled before a crowd that included several Oregon pioneers and their descendants.

It wasn't until later that I realized the pioneer man had an equally stoic friend, a statue known as *The Pioneer Mother*, who represents the symbolic end of the journey. The two statues stare at one another in eternal silence, anchored in the beginning and the end of pioneer history.

To me, *Pioneer* is less a celebration of Manifest Destiny and more a reminder of our individual legacies on the UO campus and beyond. I hope that the thousands of students who walk past that statue are inspired by the courage and hard work that it embodies, but it is also comforting to know that this noble bronze pioneer was a naked Davy Crockett-esque character at one point—just as human as the rest of us. **CHLOE HUCKINS**

"The Best ..." is a series of student-written essays describing superlative aspects of campus. Chloe Huckins is a junior journalism and anthropology major from Portland.

5
10
∞

5 Airlines

10 Nonstop Destinations

Infinite Connections

Fly Easy...
fly EUG

EUGENE AIRPORT Eugene

Bike Patrol

When a nine-year-old from her neighborhood was killed by a speeding car, Hilda Cohen, who studied urban design at the UO, joined with fellow Brooklyn parents to start Make Brooklyn Safer, an organization that champions street safety by promoting secure places to take kids biking and telling police about problem intersections. “The core people in the group had a personal connection to the boy. When the child was killed, we decided, let’s put together all these resources,” says Cohen, who had been working for street safety prior to the child’s death. Since then, thanks in part to the advocacy of Cohen and others, the speed limit on major thoroughfares such as Lafayette Avenue has been lowered to 25 mph. Inspired in part by activists like Cohen, Mayor Bill de Blasio has launched Vision Zero, a plan that aims for zero traffic deaths in New York City. Says Cohen: “I do feel that people don’t always see that traffic safety is public safety. If you start talking, you realize, I’m not alone, I’m not the only one that feels this way.”

BY CATHERINE ARNOLD

Hilda Cohen



While used to thinking of herself as simply the concerned mom who rides her bike everywhere, Cohen now sees that there are inroads for making change. She has become an advocate for more equitable use of public space.

Cohen hosts Kidical Mass bike rides in NYC, including a recent one across the Brooklyn Bridge, which get kids involved in drawing the public's attention to traffic safety. "It's always about having fun," she says. "Let kids play for 15 minutes, and they're ready for anything."

Cohen believes that safer streets can be an economic boon for communities, with families much more likely to visit businesses—and spend money—if they believe that it is safe to do so.

"UO urban design has [the] attitude that you're trying to make change in the world. And I met my husband through the UO. Being around him is always a fantastic reminder; we only have good thoughts of the UO."

PHOTOGRAPH BY GUS POWELL

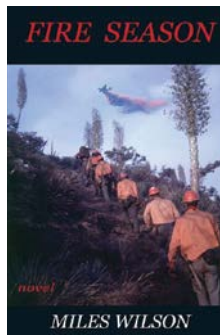
BOOKMARKS

Fiction, poetry, and even an alphabet book. We received an amazing array of new titles by alumni authors in the OQ offices this fall. See more at OregonQuarterly.com.



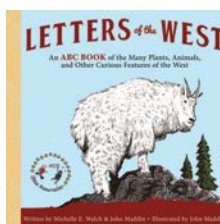
BASTARD HEART
(SILVERFISH REVIEW PRESS, 2014)
BY RAPHAEL DAGOLD, MFA '93

Winner of the Gerard Cable Book Award, *Bastard Heart* explores the importance of family and community, particularly within the Jewish diaspora. As a reviewer in the *Salt Lake Tribune* put it, "intimate experiences become the microscope and the telescope for considering larger concerns."



FIRE SEASON
(STEPHEN F. AUSTIN UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2014)
BY MILES WILSON, MFA '68

This novel follows an elite "hotshot" fire crew battling blazes in Southern California during the 1960s. One reviewer called it "a welcome and rewarding contribution to wildland fire and its literature." The book had its genesis in a story the author wrote while studying for his MFA at the UO.



LETTERS OF THE WEST
(CRAIGMORE CREATIONS, 2014)
BY MICHELLE E. WALCH, BA '93, ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOHN MADDIN

"A is for Alpenglow," "Z is for Zigzag, Oregon!" This illustrated alphabet book for very young readers celebrates plants, animals, and other natural wonders of the West. The book includes beautifully detailed illustrations by the author's husband.



CRAZY
(EERDMANS, 2014)
BY LINDA VIGEN PHILLIPS, BA '70

Crazy—a novel in verse—follows 15-year-old Laura as she grapples with her mother's mental illness while growing up in the 1960s. Described by one reviewer as "absorbing, tender, and often heartbreaking," the book is a Junior Library Guild Selection. It is Phillips' debut novel.



fostering

success

For former foster kids in Oregon, college dreams are coming true thanks to a new tuition-and-fee waiver program.

**By Melissa Hart
Photographs by Steve Smith**

H. (a student who asked not to be named or photographed) woke up in a shelter surrounded by kids just released from a juvenile detention center. Like her, they sat in the stark building in the Oregon coastal town of Siletz with no parents present. Like her, some of them had just started high school, barely 14 years old.

That's where the similarities ended.

When the slim, athletic, straight-A student had returned home from school the previous day, her mother had attacked her in an all-too-familiar rage. This time, H. fled to a friend's house, and the friend's parents called the police. Concerned teachers had already filed reports, suspecting parental neglect and abuse; now, authorities removed her to the only open bed they could find—in the detention center with young people in trouble for theft and drugs and violence—before relocating her to a foster home.

"Leaving was a good thing." Now 20, H. speaks with quiet self-assurance, her matter-of-fact tone punctuated occasionally by wry laughter. "I'd raised myself a lot of my life," she says. "I thought, 'I'm safe now. I can be excited about sports and school.'"

Her teachers, impressed by H.'s 3.94 GPA and her position as student council president, encouraged her to apply to the University of Oregon. Once accepted, however, she struggled with how to fund her education on her own. "My foster parents are great," she says, "but they're not going to pay for anything."

She learned to navigate financial paperwork, to apply for scholarships and loans. She attended the UO's summer orientation program for new students and resigned herself to massive postcollege debt. Then, assistance arrived. During H.'s sophomore year at college, financial aid employees told her about a new fee-and-tuition waiver pushed through state legislation by a group of savvy and determined young adults—people who'd grown up in foster care, just like her.

The Foster Youth Tuition and Fee Waiver (House Bill 3471) went into effect for the 2012–13 school year, and serves students legally removed from their biological parents. Teens who have spent at least 180 days in foster care after age 14 can access the waiver, which, combined with other grants and subsidies, enables undergraduates without parental support to attend in-state community colleges and universities. In return, they volunteer on campus and in the community in positions ranging from Sunday school teacher to student government executive to senior mentor for incoming freshmen just out of foster care.

Elevating Foster Youth

As associate dean of students, Sheryl Eyster works daily with people who've experienced barriers to academic and personal success. A year before the tuition-and-fee waiver was passed, she sat in her office in Oregon Hall with a UO senior who'd grown up in the foster care system—a young woman she describes as a "tireless advocate for other foster youth."

"Her story and her experience were quite different than many students I work with," Eyster recalls. She listened to the senior's stories of watching parents and families moving freshmen into her residence hall, of staying behind in her dorm room as other students left for holiday breaks to go home to families or travel. "She opened up my world view," Eyster says, "into the lives of foster youth on our campus and across the state."

Believing the UO can do more for them, Eyster has challenged herself to become familiar with this often-underrepresented population, and to connect with them authentically. "These students deserve the same opportunity to learn as other students," she says, "to succeed, and to go on to make contributions to Oregon and the greater global community."

The student who expanded Eyster's view was Jamie Hinsz, BA '11. Now a policy specialist for Foster Club Inc.—a national network that serves young people in foster care—she learned to work with the state legislature while still an undergraduate, earning degrees in political science and public policy at the UO. In 2007, she and several other young people began work to legalize a tuition-and-fee waiver for former foster kids living in Oregon.

Hinsz attended classes, then drove to Salem for discussions with legislators, returning home to Eugene in the evenings for work and homework. "You didn't know if you needed to testify in an hour," she says. "A couple of times, we spent the night in the car in the parking lot of the capitol building in case we needed to run in." She and colleagues researched cost analyses and visited legislators' home offices to explain to them that foster youth are an invisible population who benefit from a postsecondary degree.

The main points of their argument: Educated people vote more, they're more civic-minded, and they're less of a burden on the state. Kids in foster care who find themselves out on their own after their 18th birthdays without going to college are more likely to face unemployment, poverty, and incarceration.

This is what Hinsz and colleagues in their teens and early 20s attempted to convey at a senator's home office one day. They explained what it was like to survive physical and emotional trauma from biological parents, and described the sadness and discomfort of growing up in a foster home . . . or several.

The senator responded with anger. He, like some others, argued that plenty of people have a tough time growing up and have to make it on their own. "Maybe I should put my kids in foster care," he snapped, "so they can go to college for free."

"My colleague was in tears," Hinsz recalls. "That freaked me out. People can get so personal. We're sharing our experience so that other foster kids don't have to go there."

Her own experience includes poverty and abuse during the first 10 years of her life in Yamhill County. She went into the foster care system and lived in six different homes before graduating from high school and entering the University of Oregon. She funded her freshman year through a combination of work, grants, and scholarships, but found herself taking out loans her sophomore year, terrified to ask her foster parents for assistance. "I began to wonder," she says, "how other foster youth dealt with paying for college."

Taking Care of Each Other

Hinsz dislikes one promotional flier for the tuition-and-fee waiver—a picture of a hand reaching for a diploma emblazoned with the words "Go to College for Free!"

"I hate that word 'free,'" she says. "This isn't free college. It's elevating foster youth to the same level as their peers with parents."

While the legislation does waive tuition and fees, students still need to pay for books, housing, food, and other living expenses. Most achieve this through a combination of other grants, scholarships, loans, and employment. Many, as Hinsz did, hold down one or two jobs while maintaining a full load of classes.

Rosemary Lavenditti, independent living coordinator for the State of Oregon, helps current and previous foster youth navigate housing options, the job market, money management, and opportunities for higher education. She says marketing—specifically the phrase "Go to college for free"—is responsible for some of the backlash against the fee-and-tuition waiver. "People are working hard to put their kids through college," she says, "and they're winding up with large loans. They don't understand where foster youth are coming from."

She explains that even if the general population can't afford to send their kids to a university, they're still providing a roof and food if a child is staying home or attending community college. "Many of our youth aging out don't have that support," she explains. "They're having to come up with rent money and money for food."

The term "aging out," familiar to anyone involved in foster care, refers to life after age 18. Young people who haven't found a permanent adoptive home may find themselves

Once accepted, H. struggled with how to fund her education on her own. "My foster parents are great, but they're not going to pay for anything."

without health care or a place to live. Some become homeless. Some find employment and exist below the poverty line. A few attend college.

Maxwell T. (last name omitted by request) was one of the lucky ones. He got to stay with his foster mother during his first term at the UO. She helped him purchase a backpack and school supplies. Then, he moved out of her house. Once out on his own, he developed depression and PTSD. He also began work as a youth leader for Oregon Foster Youth Connection, an advocacy group made up of current and former foster youth between 14 and 25 years old. Members of the group were instrumental in getting the tuition and fee waiver signed into Oregon state law in 2012.

Both Lavenditti and Hinsz note that other states have been implementing a similar waiver for years. The University of Alaska, in conjunction with the Office of Children's Services, offers tuition waivers annually to 12 full-time students who maintain good academic and code-of-conduct standing. Washington has the Passport to College Promise Scholarship Program, which provides former foster kids enrolled at least half-time with financial aid, services such as a technology library, where students may borrow laptop computers, and supplies with which to set up their dormitory room.

The day Oregon senators voted on H.B. 3471, Hinsz and her colleagues waited in the gallery of the state capitol building. "You're overlooking all of the legislators," she says, "and

"This isn't free college. It's elevating foster youth to the same level as their peers with parents."

there's a huge scoreboard with the votes—green if they've voted yes, and red if no." The final count: 25 to 4 in support of the bill. In that moment of decision, legislators looked up into the gallery where they knew the group of foster youth were sitting. "You can't talk in the gallery," Hinsz says, "so we rushed outside to cheer."

She has a photo of some of the young people on the day the governor signed the bill into law. A few sport business-casual

Maxwell T., a junior in digital arts, works as a youth leader for Oregon Foster Youth Connection.



dresses or button-down shirts. Others wear blue jeans. Their smiles range from euphoric to disbelieving. Hinsz remembers the day with joy. “Okay,” she told herself as she accepted a pen from Governor Kitzhaber, “what we’re doing is working.” None of the students involved in getting the bill passed could use the waiver; they’d already graduated from college by the time it went into effect. But their work empowered and inspired current students to testify in favor of the Oregon Foster Children’s Bill of Rights, 2013 legislation requiring the Department of Human Services to hire a state foster youth ombudsman, and educate those in foster care about the rights they have under state law.

“We’re foster youth taking care of each other,” Hinsz says.

Challenge and Opportunity

Maxwell T. used the tuition-and-fee waiver during his first two years at the UO—years marked by mental health issues, academic challenges, and a powerful desire to succeed as an animator. Slight and red-haired, often toting his serene black cat Kitsch in a quilted pet carrier, he describes a childhood full of sexual abuse and neglect.

“We had no vaccinations, no medicine,” he says of his family, who moved from Arizona to Holland to Oregon. In high school, a girlfriend urged him to talk with a counselor, saying that his family wasn’t behaving normally. “I spoke with a mandatory reporter,” T. remembers, referring to an adult required by law to report to Child Protective Services a minor’s disclosure of abuse.

That day after school, administrators told him to go to the principal’s office. T. walked into a room and found himself face to face with police officers. Instantly, he began to deny what he’d told the counselor, terrified that his parents would come to school and confront him.

They didn’t. Instead, T. found himself living with a foster father and mother, expected to be a role model for four young girls in his new home. “I wasn’t in any position to do that,” he says. Still, he grew attached to his foster parents, and when his caseworker—after six months—told him the placement was only temporary, he wept.

Over the next few years, he lived in several homes. “A lot of people feel that foster teens will simply get adopted,” he says, “but that almost never happens. The most they can hope for is a guardianship so they don’t have to switch homes again.”

Some people, he says, don’t realize the challenges that exist for people like him. “No familial contribution, no help finding a job, no emotional support.” He explains that many foster youth don’t even try to finish high school because they don’t see college as an option. “More and more though,” he adds, “they’re going into higher education because of the waiver.”

Hinsz says that at the UO, 18 students have received a total of \$30,867 in tuition-and-fee waivers since 2012. When T. learned about the aid available to him, he recalled his father’s love of anime and his own discovery of the Japanese-French animated film *Interstella 5555*, inspired by an album

“A lot of people feel that foster teens will simply get adopted, but that almost never happens. The most they can hope for is a guardianship so they don’t have to switch homes again.”

by the band Daft Punk. Now, he’s a junior in the Digital Arts Program. Though he’s estranged from his father, he spends holidays with his mother and stepfather, who have begun to contribute financially to his education.

Lavenditti believes the tuition-and-fee waiver could do even more for foster youth. Students who take the waiver can’t keep their Pell Grant or Oregon Opportunity Grant. In this case, a basic need such as eating can become a problem. “If you’re a full-time student and not working,” she says, “you don’t usually qualify for food stamps.”

Still, she insists, funding is out there. Foster parents may or may not know about grants and scholarships available for teens in their care. Students who enroll in a chapter of the Independent Living Program—available to foster kids across Oregon—learn about what high school classes they need to take in order to prepare for college, and how to search for scholarships and other funding streams. Lavenditti lists groups that offer assistance: the National Foster Parent Association, the Fostering Connections to Success Program, the Chafee Education and Training Grant and Housing programs, the Independent Living Housing Subsidy Program, the Dream Scholarship. “Funding,” she says, “should not be what keeps these young people from going to college.”

Guiding Them to the Finish

Patrick Kindred stands in the Marché Café at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art and spontaneously recites a poem he wrote, a tribute to the foster youth he mentors. “I believe true light will shine and guide me to the finish,” he says. “A fire will ignite and in my heart pain will diminish.”

Kindred, Class of 2015, serves as external vice president of the Associated Students of the University of Oregon (ASUO) on campus. He moves fast, a blur in a green hooded sweatshirt and black sweatpants, short dreadlocks bouncing as he strides across campus. A philosophy major pledged to Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, he also volunteers for Oregon Foster Youth Connection.

At four years old, Kindred’s mother took him, along with his older brother and sister, to Northern California for a family barbecue. Midway through the celebration, his mother approached him. “I’m going out to another party,” she told him.

She never returned. Kindred, then in preschool, went to live with his aunt before entering foster care in high school. He describes an adolescence filled with anger

Senior philosophy major Patrick Kindred is contemplating graduate school.



She describes her sadness as a freshman, attending IntroDUCKtion alone, watching other students on campus and in dining halls with their parents.

and resentment—and always, a love of reading. “*Eragon, Guardians of Ga’Hoole, Harry Potter.*” He flashes a broad smile. “I loved books about kids who started life in an orphanage and had the strong will to make it through.”

Kindred credits his Independent Living Program mentor—with him for 14 years—for much of his success. Despite financial and emotional challenges, he balanced high school academics with success in football, track, and baseball. During his first four years of college, he received funding from Pathway Oregon, which waives tuition and fees for Federal Pell Grant-eligible recent high school graduates with a 3.40 or higher GPA. He also took out loans—\$34,000—to supplement financial aid and wages from his work as a customer service representative at a rental car company.

Ordinarily, he enrolled in summer classes on his dime. Last year, as a fifth-year senior, he was able to use the foster youth tuition-and-fee waiver. “That was the first summer I didn’t have to struggle,” Kindred says.

He’s contemplating a PhD in linguistics and a career in law, including work on policy that will allow foster youth to thrive. “I worked on the Foster Care Bill of Rights,” he says, “and I’m a counselor every spring break for a foster youth camp in Polk County. I volunteer much more than my 30 hours.”

Students who use the tuition-and-fee waiver are required to volunteer 30 hours a year on campus or in the community. Eyster, as associate dean of students, oversees their community service and asks them each to fill out a six-page stapled notebook in which they identify goals they’re hoping to achieve as volunteers, aspects of the experience that prove frustrating or rewarding, and those at the service site who might offer them additional support.

Students volunteer at a variety of locations. “We have one student at the Many Nations Longhouse,” Eyster says. “Another has been involved in a backpack program, helping to fill backpacks with school supplies for children.”

Maxwell T. has volunteered at the Survival Center—a campus resource center focused on social and environmental justice—as well as at the Mount Pisgah Arboretum Wildflower Festival. H. works with junior high and high school students at the University Fellowship Church. She’s also working with Eyster on developing a mentorship program for incoming foster youth at the UO.

She describes her sadness as a freshman, attending IntroDUCKtion alone, watching other students on campus and in dining halls with their parents. She wishes she’d known more about campus resources when she arrived. “Foster kids,” she says, “don’t go on college tours.”

Hinsz believes that along with the tuition waiver, foster youth need adults to connect them to campus and the community. “You need someone asking, ‘How’s class going? Is there a service you need that I can help you find?’ If you’re invisible,” she says, “You’re going to disappear.”

Hoping to encourage visibility, H. and Eyster organized an informational session for incoming students from the foster care system. They printed up a list of campus resources

and planned to match freshmen with upperclassmen who’d grown up in foster care. “Maybe you don’t have parents,” H. reasons, “but you can talk with a senior.”

One Thing in Common

On a Friday afternoon in mid October, three Track Town pizzas and four bottles of soda stood untouched in a campus conference room. Around tables arranged in a large square, 10 campus and community employees ranging from academic advisors and financial aid administrators to multicultural inclusion support specialists sat and waited for former foster youth to appear.

They never did.

Eyster sat beside a bag full of welcome packets she’d prepared and listened to H., there as sole representative of the demographic they’d all hoped to assist that afternoon. “They work,” H. said, “sometimes more than one job. I start my day at 7:00 a.m. and don’t end until 10:00 at night.”

Rather than abandon their efforts, however, the group in the conference room began to talk about how to best serve these students. The state may be a generous parent, but it can have trouble communicating its good intentions to a population that continues to remain largely invisible.

Maybe it’s possible to identify them at IntroDUCKtion, someone suggested, or during Week of Welcome. Someone else pointed out that, ideally, students feel most empowered if allowed to identify, or not identify, themselves as coming from foster care. Maybe informational tables at Looking Glass Youth and Family Services would be beneficial, someone suggested, since the independent living coordinator there works with former foster kids transitioning into the UO.

H., poised and articulate even with a bad cold, offered insight to the staff and administrators in the conference room: “They all have different stories and different needs.”

Some may have a relationship with their biological parents, she explained. Others might maintain contact with their foster parents. Some are proud of surviving their childhood challenges, and some want to put the past behind them.

“Whatever the story . . .” She paused, gazing around at the empty seats as if they held the former foster youth she’d hoped to help, then continued: “. . . we all have this one thing in common.”

Melissa Hart is an adjunct instructor in the University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication and the author of *Wild Within: How Rescuing Owls Inspired a Family* (Lyons, 2014).



TAKKING ROOT

In Lebanon, people of various faiths and backgrounds are nurturing new forests in the dry and rocky soil. An international initiative to foster fresh seedlings is thriving, thanks in part to experts like Darin Stringer, BS '93.

BY JONATHAN GRAHAM | ILLUSTRATION BY RAKEFET KENAAN

WHEN A COLLEAGUE ASKED Darin Stringer to participate in a reforestation project in Lebanon, he agreed right away. The founder of Pacific Stewardship, a forestry consulting firm in Bend, thought they were talking about Lebanon, Oregon.

“And then the guy said something about Beirut and asked if I had an up-to-date passport,” Stringer recalls with a chuckle.

At first, Stringer was daunted by the idea of applying forestry practices in a country perhaps best known to Americans as a war zone.

It took some convincing to assure his family that he would be safe in the region. But Stringer decided that he wanted to lend his expertise in a country where the science of forestry is a foreign concept.

Stringer, who majored in political science at the University of Oregon and earned a master's in forestry at Oregon State University, has a predilection for finding the middle way. He was an undergraduate at the height of the spotted owl controversy, and even then, he says, he was more interested in making forestry practices more sustainable—both ecologically and economically—than in taking an extreme position on either side of the debate. He drew on that background as he began to ponder how his experiences in the forests of Oregon and Washington could be applied to a strikingly different landscape.

Stringer has now made several trips to the small Middle Eastern country, which is so dry and rocky that locals are understandably skeptical that growing forests there is even a possibility. With support from the European Union, the World Bank, The US Forest Service (USFS), and the US Agency for International Development (USAID), millions of trees are taking root. It now seems conceivable that Lebanon may one day have great forests again.

A Legacy of Trees

Centuries ago, lush forests covered much of what is now Lebanon. It's hard to believe now, observing the barren landscape that is more desert than wood. History and literature, however, tell another story.

Documents from the early days of Egypt and Mesopotamia (as far back as 2600 BCE) are filled with notations related to valuable timber from the region. A Phoenician account from the third millennium BCE describes “a vast forest whose branches hide the sky.” Biblical references to cedars from the region abound. *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, from the second millennium BCE, includes this passage:

“When they had come down from the mountain, Gilgamesh seized the axe in his hand: he felled the cedar. When Humbaba heard the noise far off, he was enraged; he cried out, ‘Who is this that has violated my woods and cut down my cedar?’”

Since Humbaba's time, the violators have been legion.

Solomon's temple was built from wood harvested in Lebanon. So were ships, temples, and crypts of Egyptian pharaohs. Massive bas-reliefs from the palace of Sargon II (722–705 BCE) depict trees being chopped down and transported all the way to the Euphrates River. The list goes on.

The people of Lebanon have depended on wood fires for heat and cooking for centuries. Humans have cleared these forests for hundreds of years, and the resulting expanse of sandy soil dotted with a few trees and scrubby shrubs is testament to just how much humans can alter a landscape. Given the rocky soil and the dry climate, attempts to reforest the country have failed.

Until, maybe, now.

New Growth

Stringer has joined the Lebanon Reforestation Initiative (LRI), an effort sponsored by USAID and the USFS that is taking reforestation techniques developed in the Pacific Northwest and adapting them to the conditions in Lebanon. In partnership with local residents—including farmers, recent college graduates, and even goat herders—Stringer and his colleagues are making progress in bringing significant numbers of new trees back to Lebanon.

Those involved with LRI hope that reforestation will encourage increased biodiversity in Lebanon. Trees, of course, can offer many

benefits, ranging from shade and reduced erosion to the capture of carbon dioxide and creation of potential cash crops—like pine nuts—for local farmers. Beyond establishing tree nurseries and forest-planning programs, LRI is also working to reduce the risk of wildfires. Stringer hopes that the current project will help establish an enduring approach to forestry in Lebanon.

“The extreme challenges of reforesting Lebanon demonstrate that good stewardship of forest ecosystems is wiser and more cost-effective than trying to restore a forest after heavy exploitation,” he says.

According to a recent report, half a million trees have been planted in project sites over the past three years. The seedlings, all native species, include the cedar that is so closely associated with Lebanon—the tree that appears on the country's flag—but also juniper, pine, oak, and others. So far, the project has covered 1,500 acres, and that is only the beginning. For the coming year, a million seedlings are growing as part of a long-term initiative that could eventually lead to the planting of 40 million trees.

This is a lofty goal for areas of the country where, as Stringer puts it, it is not evident that trees ever grew. As of 2005, only 13 percent of the country was forested—a 35 percent decline in 40 years. Given the progress so far, Stringer is cautiously optimistic the trend can be reversed.

“When you plant a seedling, there is a strong chance that it won't survive unless you make all the right moves,” he says. “But we believe our efforts are making a positive difference.”

A big difference, as it turns out.

According to Chris Soriano of the USFS International Programs office, in past reforestation efforts in Lebanon, one-year survival rates were only about 25 percent. The current effort has yielded survival rates of about 80 percent. Soriano believes the project has great potential for future success.

It Takes a Village

So why has this project seen success, while others haven't? It's complicated. Stringer and his LRI colleagues have provided training, follow-up, and equipment that were not available before. But in large part, the success is due to slow and deliberate efforts to build community around a common goal.

“The key to our success is citizens who are passionate about bringing back forests,” says Stringer. “What's going to make the difference is the local farmers who plant and monitor the trees. So it is important for us to provide training and tools that work within the established culture.”

Soriano agrees. He notes that the Lebanon effort has been particularly successful in linking the latest science with the particular needs of the local region. While the US Forest Service has active programs in about 70 countries, this is one of the few that is focusing on growing new forests rather than preventing illegal logging or similar defensive measures, he says.

The LRI program sponsors nurseries where seedlings are grown and provides education in proper planting techniques. Stringer and colleagues have also trained recent Lebanese university graduates with backgrounds in science or engineering to monitor the planting, making sure that proper techniques are followed and any mistakes—like seedlings that are not planted deep enough in the ground, or that are planted too close to rocks—are quickly corrected. They have also developed new planting tools, made by welding together existing picks and hoes, so that volunteers have effective equipment made from familiar parts.

“We tried having them use hoedads,” says Stringer, referring to a tree-planting tool popular in the Pacific Northwest. “But it’s difficult in extremely rocky soils, very expensive to import those from the US, and a hoedad has limited use to a farmer in Lebanon. By creating a tool that is similar to what the farmers use in their daily work, the tool becomes much more utilitarian and appealing.”

Trickier still has been to get farmers to follow sustainable irrigation practices based on those Stringer has used in the Pacific Northwest.

“The farmers are so used to irrigating everything they grow with systems of tanks and surface-level hoses, it is hard to convince them that with high-quality trees, good planting and maintenance practices, irrigation is not always necessary,” says Stringer.

One alternative is underground irrigation systems wherein small amounts of water are delivered to the root systems of trees through buried PVC pipes. Each tree receives a few liters of water during the critical first year, and then the pipes can be unearthed and used in another location. Stringer says that the ultimate goal is to understand what conditions require irrigation and then apply systems that are cost-effective and use minimal amounts of water.

Culture, as well as nature, can work against the project taking root. For those who raise goats, reforestation seems like an imposition, requiring them to change long-established travel patterns in order to protect trees. This can be a tough sell, but a necessary one.

“Goats can destroy trees at any stage of their lives,” says Stringer. “Young trees are most at risk, but goats can even kill adult trees by stripping the bark. It’s been critically important for us to communicate with shepherds about the benefits of these trees and to gain their cooperation.”

One of the most important successes of the program thus far is that it has brought together people of different faiths and disparate interests to work together on reforestation.

“It’s amazing to see communities with different religious and cultural values coming together to share ideas on how to restore their forests,” says Stringer. He notes that he and colleagues have collaborated with Christian, Druze, Shia, Sunni, and mixed communities.

“Restoring forests in such degraded and politically unstable areas is no small task. While the knowledge and practices we have brought to the project have been key, success really hinges on the Lebanese resolve to steward these plantings with a long-term vision.”

Navigating Danger

The daunting realities of reforestation in Lebanon go far beyond climate and soil conditions. Lebanon is also, of course, the site of significant political tensions and war. The small country shares borders with Israel and Syria and has long been considered of “strategic importance” by the US government.

“One of the reasons that location has thrived is that nobody wants to take their goats through a minefield.”

When Stringer was first asked to participate in the LRI project, the US State Department was officially discouraging Americans from traveling to Lebanon. When he arrived in the Beirut airport for the first time, Stringer discovered fellow travelers gathered around a television, watching news coverage of a bomb blast. He assumed the report was from Iraq, but he soon found out that the explosion was less than a mile from his current location. Shortly after he made his way to his lodgings, he learned that the airport had been closed for security reasons.

“I really don’t want to paint a picture of Lebanon as a dangerous place,” Stringer says during a telephone interview from his office in Bend. “I always felt safe during my five trips there. We had a driver and could travel freely around most of the country. But all the Americans, and the Lebanese we work closely with, take precautions. We don’t stay in one location for very long, and generally we keep a low profile. We are careful about those things.”

Sometimes in the course of his work in Lebanon, however, Stringer could not help but be reminded of the country’s predicament. One of LRI’s most successful plant sites is a former minefield. The location has been cleared of explosives, but Stringer reports that he still finds himself jumping from rock to rock, just in case.

“One of the reasons that location has thrived is that nobody wants to take their goats through a minefield,” he says.

Another of the LRI planting sites is less than half a mile from the Syrian border, and he has seen Syrian soldiers watching him work from a distance.

“The border is fairly porous and poorly delineated in some of the areas where we are working,” he says. “On one occasion we were told we were too close to the border and needed to leave the area immediately.”

“At the same time, the people of Lebanon have generally been very friendly,” he says. “We feel like we have made good strides and gotten a lot of people interested in the project. The difficult thing is that everything needs to go right in order for these trees to survive.”

For the time being, many trees are surviving, and the Lebanon project is inspiring similar efforts in countries elsewhere. A delegation from Armenia recently traveled to Lebanon to study the growing techniques used there. Stringer believes that the techniques used in Lebanon are applicable to any areas where ecosystem degradation and a drying climate present serious challenges to reestablishing forests.

“The Lebanon project drew on the latest science, and it benefitted from experts, like Darin, who brought a wealth of experience,” says Soriano, of the Forest Service. “But Darin recognized that the local community has a lot of knowledge to contribute and that they are the ones who will ultimately determine the success of the project. I am very hopeful that with the planting protocol we have put in place and with effective monitoring techniques, that reforestation efforts will continue long after our project is over.”

Jonathan Graham is the managing editor of *Oregon Quarterly*.



AN OPERA IS BORN

The development of an opera by Ethan Gans-Morse, MMus '13, provides a template for how new works can be created for a 400-year-old art form.

BY BRETT CAMPBELL





In the spring of 2010, Ethan Gans-Morse faced a big decision. The composer had completed extensive course work for his master's degree in composition at the UO School of Music and Dance. All that remained was his thesis, which he supposed would be a 20-minute oratorio—a combination of music and words favored by Baroque composers such as George Frideric Handel, whose *Messiah* is the most famous example. Gans-Morse was inspired by the 2007 world premiere of music professor Robert Kyr's "environmental oratorio," *A Time for Life*, in Portland. That piece showed Gans-Morse it was possible to touch listeners' souls with music about contemporary topics (in this case, ecological destruction). When he enrolled at the UO in 2008, the opportunity to work with Kyr was a major motivation.

He even had a story to set to music. In 2010, the twin dramas of the environmentally catastrophic BP oil spill and the mounting stories of war veterans coming home from Afghanistan with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) had seized his imagination and that of his life partner, Tiziana DellaRovere, whose father had suffered from PTSD after fighting for Italy during World War II. A poet and teacher, DellaRovere began writing a story about a war veteran who came home from Afghanistan to Louisiana to find himself

struggling with his memories and his relationship with his wife and home. The intersection of personal tragedy and larger social issues (the devastating effects of war and environmental degradation) seemed to cry out for something more directly impassioned than a short oratorio.

"Like a sculptor finding the figure that already exists inside the marble, *The Canticle of the Black Madonna* chose its own form and structure," Gans-Morse recalls. "Opera is a unique vessel for communicating psychological and emotional worlds. You can explore not just words and thoughts, but also go deeper into the nonverbal, the emotional."

Kyr agreed. But, he warned them, creating an opera was a long and complex process that encompasses much more than just writing music. The most complicated and expensive art form to produce, opera involves musicians, composers, writers, directors, lighting and sound designers, costumes, props, and often choruses.

In most graduate music composition programs, a thesis project is written and evaluated based on the score—and then remains on a shelf, unperformed. But "at the UO, every thesis and dissertation is actually performed. It's important to artistic and professional development," says Kyr. "We never have a 'shelf piece.' It's always produced as



a living work of music and the student takes an active role in that production.”

Writing, rehearsing, producing, and performing an opera would take at least another year, maybe two, with no guarantee of success. In Kyr’s memory, no other UO student had ever completed a master’s project of such ambition.

On the other hand, if Gans-Morse stayed at the UO, he and DellaRovere could seize a rare opportunity: creating a new opera that spoke directly to events happening in the moment of its making. So after a long talk with Kyr, he made a decision: he wanted to leave Eugene with not just a diploma, but with an opera.

But even if he fulfilled his degree requirements, how could a student who’d never composed anything create a work of such scope—something that even some of the most experienced contemporary composers had tried and failed to produce?

MAKING MUSIC THAT MATTERS

Growing up in southern Oregon, Gans-Morse took voice and piano lessons, played clarinet in his high school marching band, sang with choirs, and served as a professional accompanist for choral groups and soloists. At Minnesota’s Macalester College, he split his studies among linguistics,

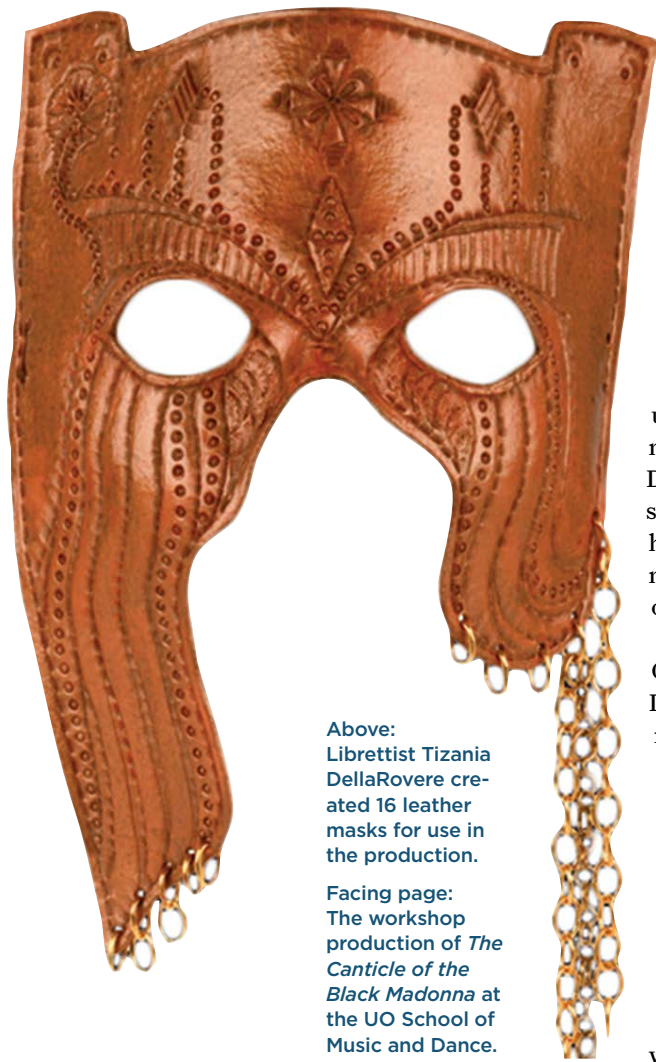
performance (clarinet, voice, piano), and composition. Although he knew he wanted to compose, he wasn’t ready to commit to a career of writing music. After college, he taught linguistics in Mexico. One day, while visiting the southern city of San Cristóbal de las Casas, he felt the craving to make music again. He learned that one of only two Steinways in the city resided in a three-century-old Spanish chapel and cultural center, whose director told the young American visitor that he was welcome to practice on the instrument—if he would agree to give a public recital. Gans-Morse’s performance of Spanish music drew a crowd representing a broad socioeconomic spectrum—a greater range than anyone could remember. It was firsthand evidence of music’s power to bring diverse people together.

A few months later, while visiting family in southern Oregon, he met DellaRovere, who shared his ideas about making art that mattered to people. “For me as an artist and for my place in the world as a human being, there had to be something that had meaning, a place where I had something

Previous pages: Gwendolyn Brown as the Black Madonna, Michael Mayes as Adam, and Lindsey Cafferky as Mara in *The Canticle of the Black Madonna* at the Newmark Theatre in Portland.

This page: The cast—including Michael Mayes as Adam, Lindsey Cafferky as Mara, and Sean Davis as Sergeant Bryan—in the Portland production.

Composer Ethan Gans-Morse and his life partner and librettist Tiziana DellaRovere formed the nonprofit organization Anima Mundi Productions to fund the production, which featured professional performers and elaborate sets and costumes.



Above:
Librettist Tiziana
DellaRovere cre-
ated 16 leather
masks for use in
the production.

Facing page:
The workshop
production of *The
Canticle of the
Black Madonna* at
the UO School of
Music and Dance.

THE OPERA FEATURED 30 ORIGINAL COSTUMES,
PROFESSIONAL SETS, 16 GALLERY-QUALITY
LEATHER MASKS, A 14-PIECE ORCHESTRA,
A 16-VOICE CHORUS, SIX PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS,
AND A COMBINATION OF PROFESSIONAL
AND UNIVERSITY PERFORMERS.

to give,” Gans-Morse recalls. He resolved to pursue graduate study to learn how to make meaningful music. Discovering Kyr’s music showed Gans-Morse that he could compose classical music “to tell stories about our culture today.”

As a graduate student, Gans-Morse worked with DellaRovere to write and rewrite the libretto, matching the words to the structure of his music. Under Kyr’s guidance, they were able to develop the opera through a series of workshops at the UO. These included a staged reading, which focused on perfecting the libretto, and sessions with singers and a pianist to fine-tune the music.

Gans-Morse learned other skills needed by a 21st-century composer in the UO’s program, which followed an entrepreneurial model well before most other academic programs recognized the need to teach composers more than just how to write music. As Kyr says, “In today’s world, composers teach, they direct new music ensembles, they have lives as performers as well as composers, and they’re also arts administrators in an academic setting or in their own non-profit organizations.”

Accordingly, Gans-Morse created his own new music group, Ambrosia Ensemble, one of a half-dozen student-run groups the UO music school sponsored during his stay. The group played and sang new music by Oregon composers and also formed the core of the *Canticle* orchestra. Gans-Morse and DellaRovere also established Anima Mundi Productions, a nonprofit organization dedicated to “healing the soul of the world through the arts.”

Gans-Morse credits the school, and especially Kyr, with providing unprecedented support. “The integrity of a work of art is everything to him,” Gans-Morse says of his mentor. “He has a total dedication to the soul of the artwork that transcends all ego and money and logistics. Whatever it took in terms of access to resources, he fought for it.” From choral director Sharon Paul (who let him cherry pick her best students) to opera director Karen Esquivel and building

manager David Mason (who bent rules to afford the cast the rehearsal time needed for the final week of preparation, performance, and a recording session), “they all went to bat for me,” Gans-Morse recalls.

Each night after rehearsal at Beall Concert Hall, the team had to deconstruct the huge wooden centerpiece of the set, reassembling it on stage the next day. Gans-Morse poured his life savings and another two-and-a-half years of his life into completing his opera. It wound up using 30 original costumes, professional sets, 16 gallery-quality leather masks (handmade by DellaRovere), a 14-piece orchestra, a 16-voice chorus, six principal characters, and a combination of both professional and university performers.

At its February 2013 performance, the completed UO version of *The Canticle of the Black Madonna* drew raves from observers, but just as important was its educational impact. “Ethan’s opera is the ideal example of what has become the core of our program, which focuses on both artistic and professional development,” says Kyr. “It exemplifies the process we’ve worked so hard to create and sustain over the past two decades. His opera was an incredible journey of creativity for everyone involved. At every step, it was very moving to witness what the work needed to unfold and be fully realized, and how it emerged from deeply held convictions of both Ethan and Tiziana.”

But it was only a first step. Degree in hand, Gans-Morse now turned to the next task: taking *Canticle* beyond the classroom to the world.

A BIGGER STAGE

As the lights went up in Portland’s Newmark Theatre last Labor Day weekend, audience members might have thought they were seeing one of Portland Opera’s glittering productions. The \$300,000 budget was evident everywhere: an elaborate set that variously evoked the Louisiana bayou and the Afghan desert; printed programs; projections by an Oregon Shakespeare Festival video designer; a Portland-based stage director whose many national credits include New York’s Metropolitan Opera; a chorus and instrumental ensemble that each included a two dozen or more performers.

Over the following two-and-a-half hours, the audience beheld a visual spectacle led by powerful performances by the four professional lead singer-actors and a chorus led by one of Portland’s top choir directors. DellaRovere’s gripping story recounted the troubled homecoming of Adam, a veteran whose wife Mara finds her companion more attached to a whiskey bottle and memories of his lost Army comrades than to their marriage. When the BP oil spill threatens to wipe out the oyster business they inherited from his father



(which she's been running in Adam's absence), their crisis hits a cracking point. Healing ultimately comes in the form of the mystical title spirit (a medieval hybrid of pre-Christian nature deity and Catholic icon who here represents the healing power of maternal love) and another Army veteran friend. The opera draws a parallel between healing people scarred by violence and healing a planet endangered by pollution and other human causes.

The performances drew unanimous critical praise, particularly for Gans-Morse's choral writing. "*The Canticle of the Black Madonna* opened my heart and brought new healing to me, 44 years after I returned from Vietnam," said Silver Star medal winner and former West Point instructor Bill Ritch, echoing the thoughts of other veterans, many of whom saw a preview performance for free, with a counselor present to help them manage any PTSD episodes.

In addition to combat vets and their families, the audience included other first-time operagoers who were drawn to a subject that spoke directly to their lives. (Veterans had been involved in the production from the outset, including playing nonspeaking roles and building the set.) The newbie audience and modern subject matter distinguished *Canticle* from the usual opera-house fare. Most

American companies endlessly recycle the same handful of European classics. *Canticle* provided a new university-based model for renewing the genre by spawning American operas that address contemporary concerns.

While continuing to pitch *Canticle* to regional opera companies around the country, Gans-Morse and DellaRovere are already thinking about their next collaboration. Just as *Canticle* loosely follows the classic story of Odysseus's return to his wife Penelope, their as-yet-untitled new opera uses the myth of Persephone to tell a story about child trafficking set in the Pacific Northwest. "We have this live performing art, opera, developed through great geniuses for the last 400 years, and we have institutions—opera houses, performers, musicians—to use that art form to tell stories about our culture today," Gans-Morse says. "There's so much potential in the art form to do something of value."

More information about *The Canticle of the Black Madonna* is available at CBMopera.com.

Brett Campbell, MS '96, lives in Portland, teaches journalism at Portland State University, and covers the arts for such publications as *Oregon ArtsWatch* and the *Wall Street Journal*.

We've got issues.

News Seven Days a Week.



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OLD Oregon



Undersea Ducks

Mark A. Theisen, BS '72, and his wife, Denise Delmatier Theisen, have been scuba diving together for 25 years on trips to celebrate their wedding anniversary. The couple is shown off the banks of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Self-Evident

In his new memoir, UO assistant professor Alex Tizon, BA '84, explores Asian American male identity.



Former *Seattle Times* and *Los Angeles Times* correspondent Alex Tizon is used to telling other people's stories. With the publication of his memoir, the University of Oregon journalism professor became the story.

Big Little Man: In Search of My Asian Self is Tizon's examination of the Asian male experience in America. He describes growing up in a culture where Asian women

were seen as sexy, subservient, and desirable, while Asian men were viewed as small, cowed, obsequious, utterly sexless, and nearly invisible. He writes about coming of age ashamed of his skin color, his height, and his face.

His words struck a chord. Dozens of newspaper, radio, TV, and digital journalists interviewed him and reviewed the work. "Searingly honest," said the *New York Times*. "A devastating critique of contemporary American culture," trumpeted the *Seattle Times*. "Well-paced" and "engaging," noted *Publishers Weekly*.

Not everyone sang such praises, however. One especially harsh commentator—an Asian American male who is a contributing editor at *New York Magazine*—hit a nerve, writing, in a review that ran in the *Los Angeles Times*, that the book was preoccupied with body-size issues.

Tizon briefly debated his critic on social media—then moved on.

"I've been reminded what it's like to be asked deeply personal questions and to have your insides revealed in public ways, and not always in a flattering light," Tizon says. "It's good to be reminded of that kind of vulnerability. It makes me more sensitive and sympathetic to the people I write about."

Tizon writes about people a lot. After earning a graduate degree from Stanford University, he carved out a national reputation as an immersion journalist, a long-form narrative nonfiction writer. For two decades, he provided dispatches, essays, and observations from 35 states and half a dozen countries. In 1997, he was corecipient of the Pulitzer Prize in investigative reporting for his story on corruption and inequities in a federally sponsored housing program for Native Americans.

Tizon's own story details his family's immigration from the Philippines. Initially, they struggled to gain a foothold and moved frequently, with stints in Los Angeles, New York, and Seattle. After crisscrossing the country, he spent his adolescence in Umatilla and Salem,



At age 14 I began keeping files. Figurative files in my head, but also actual file folders with headings such as “Great Orientals” and “Asians in the News” and “Oriental vs. Asian?” scribbled in big Sharpie letters. Whenever I ran across anything fileable related to Asians, in particular pertaining to race and manhood and power and sex, I would make a note and tuck it away in one of the folders. I would clip articles from newspapers and magazines, make copies of reports, tear out pages of books. The folders became fat and unwieldy. They sprouted subfolders. The collection outgrew its ratty cardboard box and ended up in two metal file cabinets that my mother and I picked up at a garage sale. One was beige, the other black, and they sat side by side in our garage like two miniature office buildings.

—from *Big Little Man: In Search of My Asian Self* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014)

Oregon. Later, he settled into undergraduate life at the UO. In college, he wrote, he got “used to being the only Asian in class.” On campus, it seemed, Asians were “dots in a white sea.”

It was at Knight Library that Tizon, as an undergraduate, first began researching Ferdinand Magellan, the Portuguese explorer who was killed on the island of Cebu in the Philippines. Tizon opens his memoir with a

“I’ve been reminded what it’s like to be asked deeply personal questions and to have your insides revealed in public ways, and not always in a flattering light.”

visit to that island to make a point: “Men like me,” he writes, “yellow- and bronze-skinned sons of Asia—could stand up to the power of Western men.”

As a newspaper journalist, Tizon wrote stories that covered an enormous range of contemporary characters, historically significant events, sensitive subjects, and places—from presidential campaigns to homeland security, the aftermath of 9/11, and weather disasters. He also told stories of outcasts, oddballs, true believers, and orphans. At the *Seattle Times*, Tizon was a “high-end general assignment writer,” the “resident storyteller” and “narrative essayist,” says Jacqui Banaszynski, the paper’s former associate managing editor.

“He wasn’t restricted in subject matter,” Banaszynski says. “He is not a narrowly focused talent. Some subcultures are of interest to him. He loved to go into those and learn them or understand them. He was drawn to stories of underdogs, but he’s more nuanced than that.”

“Alex wrestles with the humanity at the center of any story. He is driven to explore undercurrents of the human condition,” notes Banaszynski, now the Knight Chair in Editing at the Missouri School of Journalism.

In September, the UO School of Journalism and Communication published *Interviewing: The Oregon Method*. Tizon contributes a poignant essay about interviewing trauma victims. He shares personal insights into his interviews with a father whose daughter was raped and murdered. He tells of his relationship over time with that source, and the unexpected connection he felt with that story.

“Whatever strength I have as a journalism teacher comes from having done, for 25 years, the work of a journalist,” Tizon says. Students can sense the difference between learning theoretical approaches to interviewing and “hearing what it’s really like to take notes in the rain, on a dark street, while standing face-to-face with a scarred-up, tattooed Black Gangster Disciple who would just as soon rob you as answer your questions.”

“I draw from my experiences interviewing heads of state, killers, victims, activists, gang members, poets, and lots of ordinary folk,” Tizon says. “I spent my working life telling stories of other people, and now, for a little while and on a smaller scale, I’m on the other side of the process.” **STUART GLASCOCK**

Get Your Duck On!

The UO Alumni Association is sponsoring regional events in the following locations this

For detailed information, visit uoalumni.com/events
E-mail: alumni@uoregon.edu
Telephone: 800-245-ALUM

D.C. DUCKS HOLIDAY PARTY

Washington, D.C.
December 3

DUCK NIGHT AT THE SAN FRANCISCO FOOD BANK

San Francisco, California
December 10

DUCKS AT THE UNITED CENTER

Chicago, Illinois
December 13

OREGON DUCKS AT THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

San Francisco, California
December 17

DUCKS ON THE BEACH

Honolulu, Hawaii
February 20

Also, stay tuned for Bowl Game Tailgate Party information!





Beyond Words

The Children's Healing Art Project helps kids with serious illnesses relax and express themselves.

In a sunny room in Doernbecher Children's Hospital, located in Portland's Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU), a two-year-old girl and her mother are enjoying an art group. The little girl, Ida*, is wearing a pink tutu and purple smock, and her bare hands and feet are covered with blue and green paint. She and her mom are making a gift for her grandpa: an apron covered with the girl's handprints and footprints.

The cheerful room is decorated with children's paintings, a quilt patterned with whimsical dogs, and a folk art textile embroidered with flowers. Children and adults alike perch on tiny chairs, ready to get to work at tables covered with drop cloths. A cart holds bottles of paint, paper, and other inviting art supplies. Two women run

Mary Miller Doyle, BS '77, (above) shares her love of art with children facing medical challenges.

the group, greeting the kids and their friends and family members, suggesting projects, and providing art materials. They are teachers from Children's Healing Art Project (CHAP), a Portland nonprofit dedicated to providing hands-on art experiences for kids with illnesses and disabilities. Family members are also encouraged to participate, and today I've been invited as a guest.

One of the teachers is Mary Miller Doyle, BS '77, who's wearing jeans covered with bright, hand-painted flowers. She has a friendly smile and relaxed, respectful presence, and it's easy to see why kids would want to create art with her.

Doyle, who studied fine art at the UO, has worked with CHAP for eight years. Along with the art groups for children and their families at Doernbecher, Doyle leads groups for adolescents and young adults at OHSU's Knight Cancer Institute and for children at the Harold Schnitzer Diabetes

“Once you meet these kids, they get in your soul. They give you so much more than you give them.”

Health Center. Kids sometimes stay in the Doernbecher unit for many months, and these groups provide opportunities for families to form friendships and support each other. A lot of this job is to witness what families and parents are experiencing, says Doyle, to let them know that “I see how strong you are. I see how hard this is for you.” She explains that for the kids, art groups are an opportunity to have fun, to make their own decisions, and to have an identity based on something other than illness.

Maggie* is an eight-year-old girl with short and thinning hair. Like several of the kids here today, she has her IV pole at her side. Maggie decides to make a painting that looks like brightly colored hills in a landscape. Even though a monitor on her IV pole occasionally beeps, summoning nurses to make sure it’s functioning properly, she continues to work, intent and calm. As Doyle refills the child’s paint tray, she reminisces about a time when Maggie and her brother made a picture together. “It looked like a map of your imagination!” Maggie smiles as she paints.

Art has been a constant and cherished presence in Doyle’s life since she was a child; she remembers happily making art as a little girl while listening to her parents’ LP collection. She describes her experience at the UO in the 1970s as full of opportunities to explore interests from creative writing to printmaking and graphic design. She has particularly fond memories of the art department: “I loved the classes, I loved the smells. The art store in a little old house was one of my favorite haunts.”

After graduating, Doyle moved to Boston. She studied illustration at the Art Institute of Boston, and began to achieve recognition following a show at the Harvard Book Store café. In addition to being shown in galleries, her work was reproduced on cards, posters, and magazine covers. After Doyle married, she and her husband moved back to Oregon to raise their three children.

Not all of the kids in today’s group are happy, at least at first. Katrina*, 13, is withdrawn when



A patient at Doernbecher Children’s Hospital creates a “puppet” sculpture with modeling clay. Kids can choose from painting, clay, or beading projects.

she arrives, but reluctantly says she might want to make something. Doyle suggests various projects—a decorative lantern night light, an apron, a painting—but whether it’s due to physical discomfort from her illness, too much going on in the room, or adolescent self-consciousness, Katrina begins to complain that no one is paying attention to her, she doesn’t like any of the projects, and everyone should just leave her alone. Doyle gives her support and kind attention, at the same time addressing the needs of the other folks in the room. It’s clear that Katrina feels heard and accepted, and before long her hurt feelings are soothed. Soon she is intent on making a clay sculpture.

Doyle’s interest in CHAP is personal and passionate. One of her sons (now 19 and healthy) needed two open-heart surgeries before the age of two. When her children were grown, Doyle decided that she wanted to use art to help kids confronting medical challenges, as her son had done. Her first thought was of Doernbecher. She made a call, met CHAP’s founder, and in short order was on board as the organization’s first employee.

In the time she’s been with CHAP, Mary has found a balance between time spent teaching and time spent in her own studio. At present, she uses watercolor pencils to make richly colored landscapes and still lifes, but her eyes light up as she describes wanting to explore oil painting. She finds inspiration in the children that she works with, and talks admiringly of their ability to make wonderful artworks despite health challenges and less-than-ideal materials and working conditions. “Once you meet these kids, they get in your soul,” she tells me. “They give you so much more than you give them.”

When it’s time for me to leave, Doyle walks with me down a hallway lined with patients’ rooms. She invites me to look into one belonging to an 18-year-old. The walls are filled with art, his own and gifts from other patients. Dragons, tropical islands, slogans, and superheroes cover every surface. Next to the bed is one of the decorated colored paper lanterns that the kids love to make. It’s nice to know that these warm and comforting little lights shine in so many rooms every night.

STEVE HOHENBOKEN

** All patient names are fictitious.*

Class Notes

Do you ever wish we printed more notes from your class? Your classmates feel that way, too. E-mail your news to quarterly@uoregon.edu or mail it to Editor, Oregon Quarterly, 5228 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-5228.



Clyde Thrift, BS '64, in his dorm room, perhaps typing a love letter to his dear Diane (Kingsley) Thrift, BS '64—the beauty in the framed photo on his desk.

The Class of '64

“Clyde Thrift is probably the only guy who ever tried to flood his own room,” says Dick Rapp, BS '64, MS '66. As freshmen, the two shared a room next door to the counselor at Hale Kane Hall. “So we had to behave,” says Rapp. Except when they didn't.

“While I was out one night, Dick replaced my bed springs with empty Kleenex boxes,” recalls Thrift, BS '64. “I came in (perhaps a little drunk), got into bed, and crashed to the floor!” A chase ensued, with Rapp eventually locking Thrift out of the room. “So I filled a trash can with water and was throwing it under the door when the counselor arrived. When he asked what was going on, I said, ‘I'm trying to drown my roommate!’”

As the former classmates and their families—including many couples who, like Clyde and Diane (Kingsley) Thrift, BS '64, met on campus—recall pranks, parties, and mischief, they also share more serious reflections. Patricia Merz Campbell, BA '64, remembers those first years of the 1960s as difficult ones for women. “We had to have a lot of determination,” she says. “Maybe that's what gave us the power, four or five years later, to say, ‘Women Now!’”

“That, the pill, and the free speech movement,” adds her husband, Joe Campbell, with whom she founded Elk Cove Vineyards, one of Oregon's first wineries, in 1974.

As the reception winds down, Diane and Clyde Thrift look around the room, sharing a smile stirred by more than half a century of friends and memories. “It really is an amazing class,” says Clyde, as they walk out, arm in arm.

INDICATES UOAA MEMBER

1950s

CARRIE HEILBRONNER BROWN, BA '59, is proud to head a legacy of Ducks. Her three grandsons, Joey McRobert, and Adam and Nathan Brown, are currently juniors studying at the UO.

This fall, Oscar-winning director **JAMES IVORY**, BA '51, introduced his film *Maurice* (1987) at the Hollywood Theatre in Portland to launch Mid-Century Oregon Genius, a two-day event celebrating the first generation of independent filmmakers from Oregon.

ROBERT L. LOEFFELBEIN, MS '57, celebrated his 90th birthday on June 24 and is currently writing several books: two works of nonfiction concerning the humorous history of baseball and the techniques of scammers and con men, as well as his first novel.

NANCY GOODMAN TAYLOR, BS '53, received the Thomas Jefferson Award for outstanding service from the US National Weather Service in recognition of 40 years of volunteer work for the Cooperative Observer Program.

1960s

CARL FINWALL, BA '65, was named chairman of the board of Loring Smart Roast Inc., a manufacturer of commercial-size coffee roasting equipment for the specialty coffee market.

DICK MORTEN, BS '62, joined the board of the Borneo Project to develop short documentary videos about the implementation of mega-dams in Sarawak that threaten to cause species extinction and mass displacement of indigenous populations. Morten also joined the board of Growing Up



FLASHBACK

1984 What can we say? It was 1984. Hair was big. Styles were preppy. Duck cheerleaders (above) were enthusiastic. Has it really been 30 years? This gem is from an apparel ad in the December 1984 issue of *Old Oregon*.

Farms, a nonprofit aquaponics project in urban San Francisco.

JOE M. FISCHER, BS '60, MFA '63, produced a painting of the Cape Disappointment lighthouse, which was acquired by Karen Higginson, editor of *48° North* magazine, for her art collection. The piece is number 72 in a series of original paintings.

PHILIP K. PIELE, MS '63, PhD '68, former head of the Department of Educational Methodology, Policy, and Leadership at the UO, began a two-year term as president of the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art Leadership Council in July.

1970s

JASON CARROLL, MBA '77, was awarded All-American honors as Veterans of Foreign Wars state commander at the 115th national convention in St. Louis this summer. His leadership helped place Oregon's VFW program among the top three states and departments in the world.

MICHAEL ERICKSON, BA '68, MA '71, PhD '73, has been appointed to the California Board of Psychology.

THOMAS FULLMER, BS '78, is the new executive director of the National Sanctuary of Our Sorrowful Mother, a Catholic shrine in Portland known as the Grotto. Fullmer is humbled to contribute to the legacy of one of his family's favorite retreats.

JAMES HERMAN, MFA '72, has spent several years studying, documenting, and classifying driftwood forts along the Oregon coast. His book *Driftwood Forts of the Oregon Coast*, featuring his photographs and sketches, was published in April.

DEBORAH SLANER LARKIN, BA '74, was appointed CEO of the Women's Sports Foundation, an educational nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of girls and women through sports.

PETER O'BOYLE, MS '68, PhD '72, was featured



DUCKS AFIELD

Duck this Way Lady Gaga (right) and her front-row fan **ANITRA EVANS TYKESON**, BA '85, display their Duck pride after a performance at Los Angeles' Staples Center in July.

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

in the Yaquina Art Association's two-week spotlight show last May. O'Boyle's work combines found objects, mixed media, paint, and collage with the intent to evoke a reinterpretation of life through environmental and political contexts.

DAVID GEORGE SURDAM, BA '79, recently completed two manuscripts that examine sports and leisure through an economic lens, *The Big Leagues Go to Washington: Congress and the Sports Anti-Trust, 1951-89* and *Century of the Leisured Masses: Entertainment and the Transformation of Twentieth Century America*.

MICHAEL E. WALSH, BFA '72, produces socially conscious art influenced by his global travel. His

2014 project, "India Series," depicts different cities and political events expressed through handmade structures. His pieces were displayed in the Jacobs Gallery of the Hult Center for the Performing Arts in Eugene.

LAWRENCE C. WILSON, MBA '76, retired after a varied and successful 45-year career that started at South Carolina Industries and International Paper Company, and ended with Washington Inventory Services and the Boeing Company. He and his wife live in Marysville, Washington.

1980s

MARY L. FORAN, BA '80, recently became an Oregon notary public.

Foran also serves as US bureau chief for *Guidepost Magazine*, Spain's oldest English-language publication, for which she began writing when she moved to Madrid in the 1980s. Her novel, *The Salamanca Ring*, is set in Spain and is currently pending publication.

The Honorable **JAN ERIC FRYDMAN**, BBA '80, recently became a partner of the Swedish law firm Ekenberg & Andersson. Previously, he served as head of international affairs at the European Commission's Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry in Belgium.

MARTHA GUISE, BA '87, became Poynter Middle School's newest principal after many dedicated years

of work in public education throughout Oregon.

KERRY HEINRICH, JD '83, was appointed CEO of Loma Linda University Medical Center in California. He will oversee day-to-day operations of the six hospitals that form the medical center and serve as executive vice president for hospital affairs of Loma Linda University Health.

JAMES LUND, BS '83, cowrote *Kidnapped by the Taliban* (Thomas Nelson, October 2014), the story of Dr. Dilip Joseph's 2013 abduction in Afghanistan and rescue by the US Navy SEALs.

ANNA MARIA PONZI, BA '87, was named president of her family's company,

FLASHBACK

1974 In the winter of 1974, *Old Oregon* highlights an archeological dig at Dirty Shame Rock Shelter in far southeastern Oregon. Students and faculty unearthed a house with a thatched dome dated to AD 300 as well as artifacts more than 9,800 years old.



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CLASS NOTABLE

Cutting-Edge Dance

TIFFANY J. MILLS, BA '92, will be celebrating the 15th anniversary of the Tiffany Mills Company, her New York City-based modern dance company. Mills has created more than 21 works to date and tours nationally and internationally. Called a "modern dance innovator" by the *New York Times*, Mills collaborates with theater directors, designers, and filmmakers to create works that exude what one reviewer termed a "fearless sense of freedom and exhilaration."

Ponzi Vineyards, in August. She has been involved in all aspects of the family business for more than 20 years, and is a prominent figure in Oregon's wine and tourism communities.

ED PORTNOY, BS '70, retired after 14 years as the Arizona grants program director for the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. During his career he helped distribute more than \$200 million to Arizona non-profit organizations and led the formation of a funders collaborative to help combat hunger and homelessness during the recession.

DR. LEE G. SALTZGABER, BS '88, was named chief medical officer at

Wilkes-Barre General Hospital in Pennsylvania.

LEXIE MILLER WYMAN was inducted into the UO Athletics Hall of Fame in September for her achievements on the track while she attended the university in 1980-83. Her 400-meter hurdle mark of 57.08 seconds still stands today.

1990s

Real estate consultant and lawyer **LAILA MACHARIA**, BA '92, was named to directorships with several firms in just under a year. The firms include Barclays Bank Kenya, Capital Markets Authority, Centum Investment Company, and the Kenya Private Sector Alliance.

Macharia is the CEO and founder of Scion Real Estate Ltd.

UO associate professor of music **BRIAN MCWHORTER**, BMus '98, starred in a documentary about edgy creativity, *I Live for Art: A Journey into Meaning and the Creative Process*, which premiered at the Bijou Metro cinema in Eugene during the Oregon Independent Film Festival.

LORI MURPHY, JD '98, joined Miller Nash LLP as a counsel in the Bend, Oregon, branch. She is also a new member of the Bend Chamber's Leadership Bend Class of 2015, which helps establish community leaders.

BRITT RIOS-ELLIS, BA '87, MS '89, PhD '92, is the founding dean of the new College of Health Sciences and Human Services at California State University, Monterey Bay.

JANICE D. RUBIN, MS '93, was hired as an instructor at Oregon State University to teach housing policy in the School of Design and Human Environment during winter term of 2014.

BRIAN SANDY, BA '91, was appointed president of the Portland Thunder arena football team in July.

KERRY SZYMANSKI, MBA '97, published the book *Seduce Your Customers: An Entrepreneur's Guide to Marketing*. Paralleling the phases of a romantic relationship, Szymanski constructs a new model for marketing success.

MATTHEW THOMAS, PhD '97, a faculty member at State College of Florida, was promoted to associate professor and appointed program manager of the Biotechnology Program. His time at the UO's Institute of Molecular Biology helped shape the experience he offers students training to be laboratory technicians.

LORENA TURNER, MFA '99, published *The Michael Jacksons: An Ethnographic Monograph*, a collection of photos and interviews that seeks to reveal the personalities and depth behind MJ impersonators.

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FLASHBACK

1964 The Winter 1964 issue of *Old Oregon* offers a timeless report from alumni-land: "I haven't been in this business long," the young graduate said. "Just long enough to become opinionated."



DUCKS AFIELD

Roommates Forever As students, **MIKE SHEPHERD**, BS '65, and **PAUL CORMIER**, BS '65, were roommates in the Chateau Erb, a sleeping and study room located in the Student Union, where they worked. They were featured in the housing section of the 1963-64 *Oregana* yearbook (above, left and right respectively). Fifty years later, the two reunited in Prague, where Mike currently resides. They spent the day touring churches, parks, and monuments before striking a pose in front of Prague Castle, the largest ancient castle in the world.

Will Power

“Thank you.”

Robel Haile
Scholarship recipient



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FLASHBACK

1984 The December issue of *Old Oregon* includes a profile of Stephen Cannell, BS '64, a veteran television producer. Among his best known shows are "The A-Team," "The Rockford Files," and "Baretta." Cannell says in the profile, "I feel says the most fortunate guy in the world to be able to do something that I love this much and be paid for it."

2000s

ARLIE ADKINS, BA '02, is now an assistant professor in the College of Architecture and Planning and Landscape Architecture at the University of Arizona, after receiving her PhD from Portland State University last year.

NATALIE BALL, BA '05, was featured in the Goudi'ni Native American Arts Gallery at Humboldt State University for her mixed-media installation art that explores themes of Native American identity.

JASON HARTMAN, BS '04, a top American finisher in the Boston Marathon for two consecutive years, will assume a position as an assistant distance and cross county coach at Saginaw Valley State University.

PETER HOLLENS, BMus '05, known for cofounding the UO's popular male

a cappella group On the Rocks, recently signed a recording deal with Sony.

The Honorable **CATHERINE JEANE HOSKINS, JD '01**, was appointed to the Syracuse City Justice Court in Utah. She also operates her own law practice and is cochair of the Second District Pro Bono Committee, a nonprofit organization that helps provide legal services for those who are unable to afford it on their own.

ERIK NICOLAISEN, BA '02, founder of the firm Old City Artists, was hired to paint a mural in downtown Springfield, Oregon, commemorating the fictional setting of the popular cartoon series *The Simpsons*.

TRACI RAY, JD '07, was named a 2014-15 American Bar Association Law Practice Fellow and will provide leadership in the continued development of legal practices.

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<p>Mapping Rome: Portraits of a City Presidential Research Lecture by James Tice Professor of Architecture</p>	<p>Friday February 6, 2015 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>177 Lawrence Hall 1190 Franklin Blvd. Eugene, Oregon Live stream broadcast</p>

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DREW CRAWFORD SMITH JR., MArch '05, is founder and president of the new firm Tesseract Design & Architecture LLC, which specializes in building information modeling (BIM) services and 3-D printing for architectural design.

2010s

CODY FRANZ, BS '12, and **MELISSA J. BERG**, BA '11, JD '14, are engaged and planning an October wedding in Eugene.

FINN J. D. JOHN, BA '91, MS '10, recently published his 300th piece for the weekly newspaper column and podcast "Offbeat

Oregon History," which highlights especially fascinating nuggets of the state's history.

DILLON PILORGET, BA '12, has joined the Portland-based newspaper the *Oregonian* as a features reporter after a three-month internship with NBC News in New York.

IN MEMORIAM

SHARON M. ALLENDER, BA '68, JD '71, died on August 5 in Richmond, Virginia. After graduating from the UO School of Law, she worked as an attorney specializing in natural resource law for

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DUCKS AFIELD

Duck Veterans Loyal fans **MARVIN DUNN** and Cathryn Dunn, both military veterans, pose beside the National WWII Memorial in Washington D.C. on their 53rd wedding anniversary, which happily fell on a game day.

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FLASHBACK

1954 An advertisement in the Winter 1954 issue of *Old Oregon* magazine trumpets the University of Oregon record album, which it describes as ideal for afternoon parties or get-togethers. “A perfect gift for all Oregon students and alumni, attractively priced at \$3.00.” Anyone out there still have one?

the Office of the Solicitor, US Department of the Interior.

VIC ATIYEH died in July at age 91. Atiyeh served as Oregon’s governor from 1979 to 1987. He is credited with leading the state out of the 1982 recession. While attending the UO, he was a member of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity and played as a guard on the football team.

NICOLE SANGSUREE BARRETT, BA ’03, died in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in July at the age of 34 while attempting to cross the superhighway on foot. A Portland-based activist, poet, and artist who wrote and performed her own music, she received a degree in leadership for sustainability education from Portland State University.

HARRIET KATHERINE BOWLUS, BA ’58, died on January 24 in Eureka, California, at age 76. A member of the Delta Gamma sorority, she went on to receive her master’s

degree in psychology from Humboldt State University. She worked as a high school counselor until her retirement.

DAVID GRAHAM CHARLES, MS ’09, died in New Westminster, British Columbia, on July 27 at age 44. A husband and father, he was also a popular teacher and coach at Scott Creek Middle School in Coquiltam.

MEREDITH MARIE CROWELL, BS ’90, died in Boulder, Colorado, at age 46. She graduated a member of the Delta Gamma sorority and spent the last 15 years as the Property and Operations Manager for Boulder Valley Real Estate and Nomad Theatre in Colorado.

MARY ANN DAVID, Class of 1969, died on July 16 in Lake Oswego, Oregon, at age 67. A journalism major and member of the Alpha Phi fraternity, she married her high school sweetheart and later owned and operated an art and calligraphy boutique.

RALPH EGGER, BS ’53, died on July 31 at age 83. He served in the US Army for two years and then worked for the firm Price Waterhouse & Co. for 26 years, retiring as a partner in 1983. Although he and his wife lived in Arizona, they spent every summer in Springfield, Oregon, enjoying the great Northwest.

CARL EUGENE FREEZE, BS ’64, died on August 9 in West Linn, Oregon, at age 74. He served in the Peace Corps in Jamaica and then worked with ZGF Architects in Portland for 38 years. He also ran a custom berry harvesting business with his wife.

GERTRUD PLAMBECK GLAUNER, BA ’51, died on July 18 in San Antonio, Texas, at age 84. She attended Cotley College in Nevada, where she met her husband, and finished her education at the UO as a member of the Alpha Xi Delta fraternity. She volunteered for the Red Cross in Germany, St. Michael’s Episcopal Church in Colorado Springs, and PEO International.

LOO-ANN FROST GROVE, BA ’82, died on September 1 in Seattle, Washington, at age 81. After getting married and raising two children, she fulfilled a lifelong goal and graduated from the UO at age 50 as a member of the Phi Beta Kappa society.

WILLIAM SYDNEY HARRIS, BA ’53, died on August 5 in Napa, California, at age 82. After

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 astrophysicist | writer
 Thursday, February 19, 2015 7:30 p.m. • UO in Eugene

 **Frans de Waal**
 primatologist, Emory
 Tuesday, March 10, 2015 7:30 p.m. • UO in Eugene

 **William Deresiewicz**
 writer | cultural critic
 Wednesday, May 13, 2015 7:30 p.m. • UO in Eugene
 Thursday, May 14, 2015 7:30 p.m. • UO in Portland

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meeting his wife and graduating a Phi Beta Kappa, he received a PhD in physics and chemistry from the University of California at Berkeley. He worked at a naval weapons center and developed lead-acid batteries for submarines, as well as other devices. His talent for diagnosing auto problems over the phone was well known, but he had a wide variety of interests, including books and bamboo horticulture.

AARON JONES, BS '47, died on September 22 in his home in Oregon at age 92. World War II interrupted his undergraduate education at the UO, and although he graduated in

1947, he insisted on being recognized as a member of the Class of 1944. He founded the Seneca Sawmill Company in 1953 and the Seneca Jones Timber Company in 1992. He held more than 25 patents in sawmill technologies, and later launched a second successful business breeding and racing Thoroughbred horses. A generous philanthropist and avid Ducks fan, Jones was awarded the UO Presidential Medal in 1989.

JUNE MCKNIGHT MERCER, BS '59, passed away on July 3 in Danville, California, at age 77. A dedicated member of the Delta Gamma sorority,

she taught in schools throughout California. She is remembered as a world traveler, devoted grandmother, and active community member.

JOHN RODDA, JD '73, died on September 18 in Seattle, Washington, at age 67. He was a partner in the law firm Butler, Husk & Gleaves. A Stephen minister, he led Bible study groups and worked to help recovering addicts.

PAIGE JEAN SHERMAN-DE BEER, BS '01, died on September 9 in Burlingame, California. Her love for her wife, family, and animals was boundless.

KEN SHORES, MFA '57, died on July 30 in Portland, Oregon. He served as director of the Museum of Contemporary Crafts and established a new ceramics facility at Lewis and Clark College. During the 1950s, he helped change the use and perception of clay as an artistic medium. Much of his work is included in both private and public collections throughout the United States.

E. GENE SINCLAIR, BS '51, died on August 24 in Corvallis, Oregon, at age 86. He served as an army medic in Berlin during World War II, and later entered the grocery business. He owned the Philomart in Philomath, Oregon, for 22 years and was an avid Ducks fan.

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DUCKS AFIELD

When in Rome RYAN LACEY, BS '14, throwing the "O" in front of the Colosseum in Rome on September 6, 2014. With no gladiators or mock sea battles to be seen, he found a bar playing the UO vs. Michigan State game at 12:30 A.M. and cheered the Ducks on to victory.



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FLASHBACK

1994 The Winter 1994 issue of *Oregon Quarterly* notes that students enrolled in a historic preservation class got to put their knowledge to use by participating in the restoration of Deady Hall, the oldest building on campus. Working with skilled tradespeople from the UO Physical Plant, students replaced wooden details, shingles, and brackets as part of a much-needed facelift for a national historic landmark.

MICHAEL DENNIS SUTTON, BS '79, died of cancer on January 29 in Salem, Oregon, at age 69. Before attending college, he was captain of the Roseburg Fire Department. He later worked as a real estate broker. He developed a passion for holistic and energetic wellness and became a quantum biofeedback technician. Leaders in their church, he and his wife, **DIANE SUTTON** '71, MEd '72, founded the Empowerment Center to help others communicate and actualize their goals.

RONALD P. SYMONS, BS '52, died on August 25 in Portland, Oregon, at age 84. Before graduating college he served in the US Navy Reserve. He worked in real estate and partnered with his son to build homes in Oceanside. He loved the beach, dancing with his wife, and his many friends.

FACULTY AND STAFF OBITUARIES

ROBERT DUBIN, a former research professor and head of the sociology department, died in June at age

97. He received a BA, MA, and PhD in sociology from the University of Chicago, where he met his wife, with whom he enjoyed 72 years of marriage. He left the UO to serve as both professor of administration and head of the sociology department at the newly formed University of California at Irvine in 1969, where he flourished as a respected researcher and author of nine books.

KENNETH W. DUCKETT, curator of Special Collections and University Archives, died in July at age 90. A World War II veteran, he also worked as an archivist at Southern Illinois University. During his time at SIU, he acquired a collection of love letters exchanged between President Warren G. Harding and his married mistress, Carrie Phillips. He spent much of his life laboring to publish the letters, despite the Harding family's reservations. He died two weeks before the letters were released to the public on July 29.

ROSARIA HODGDON, the first female professor in the UO's architecture department, died at age

92. She graduated from the University of Naples in 1945. During the Allied invasion of Naples, she fell in love with an American ambulance driver and they moved to the US after the war. She held positions with Shepley Bulfinch and CBT Architects, and helped develop the Great Books Foundation's adult education program.

JON L. JACOBSON, a professor in the UO School of Law, died in September at age 75. He spent more than 30 years in the law school and founded the UO's Ocean and Coastal Law Center. A two-time Fulbright scholar at the University of Oslo's Scandinavian Institute of Marine Law, he also served as editor of a leading marine affairs journal.

DONALD P. VAN ROSSEN, former professor and head coach of the men's swimming team, died in July at age 85. He spent 20 years with the team, leading them to finish second at the 1965 Pac-8 Swimming Championships. Many of his swimmers went on to compete on national, international, and Olympic levels.

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Former track coach Bill Bowerman (right), with unidentified runners in the early 1960s.

Jogging Memories

Even before Steve Prefontaine came to the university in 1969, Oregon was a running school. NCAA collegiate champions in men's track and field in 1962 and 1964, and source of the jogging craze that swept the country in the 1960s (courtesy of track coach legend Bill Bowerman), Oregon was synonymous with running. Where else would you get 5,000 to 10,000 people to watch a dual meet at Hayward Field, and have the meet broadcast live over the radio for those who couldn't attend?

BY FRED DELCOMYN, PHD '69

My favorite runs involved winding our way from campus through the city up to Hendricks

The public loved the Ducks. It didn't hurt that some members of the team were, shall we say, characters. In one meet, for example, Wade Bell was scheduled to run the final lap of the mile relay. The athlete who was to run the final lap for the opposing team had seriously annoyed Wade earlier in the meet. Wade took the baton with a substantial lead. Rather than simply cruising to an easy win, however, he stopped dead on the track and waited for his opponent to catch up with him. He then took off and simply smoked the hapless runner. The crowd loved it. I doubt Bowerman was as forgiving!

Park and back, roughly five miles the way we went. It was a quintessential Oregon run: through neighborhood streets, up a substantial hill, through a park with spectacular rhododendrons and towering fir trees, down the hill again, then back to campus. It encompassed just about everything that was the experience of running in Eugene, from the challenging terrain to the wonderful taste of nature in the park. That no one in Eugene thought anything at all of a group of guys running around in shorts (and they really were short in those days) was part of what made the experience so great. In the 1960s, running through most cities would have elicited quite different reactions.

In this environment, it's no surprise that running permeated the entire community. As a biology student in the late 1960s, I did not join Bowerman's 6:00 a.m. jogging club, but I did run regularly. Most every noon, rain or shine, I was out there.

One Hendricks Park jaunt epitomized another factor that made running in Eugene such a satisfying and memorable experience. I was running alone on my way back from the park when I met a street cleaner truck coming up the hill. The road was narrow, there were no sidewalks, and he had his water on full blast, covering the entire street. With nowhere else to go, I forged on, resigned to being doused with water. To my astonishment and delight, however, the driver gave me a grin and shut off the water as I ran by.

I ran with an eclectic group quite typical of those running at the time. There were graduate students like me, students doing postdoctoral study, faculty members, and even the occasional townie. The fact that in a race some would have finished far ahead of others was irrelevant. We were out for fun and camaraderie, not competition.

What could have been more perfect? A gorgeous, sunny day, the exhilaration of running downhill after a run through the park, and a random act of kindness from a complete stranger, a symbol of the acceptance of running as part of life in Eugene. Even after all these years, the event lingers in my mind as a symbol of the way that running was accepted by the community as a natural thing to do, even by those who may not have run a step in their adult lives. The incident buoyed me for the rest of the day.

Most runs were about five miles, but occasionally on weekends we took much longer runs. I particularly liked the run around Spencer Butte Park. About a 14-mile round trip, the route took us through the beautiful wooded area south of Eugene, out on South Willamette Street and back along Fox Hollow Road. It was not for the faint of heart. The elevation change was around 800 feet, which took some effort to overcome no matter how beautiful the scenery.

I loved my time in Eugene, but I do have one regret. I got my degree and left the same month Steve Prefontaine enrolled as a freshman. Consequently, I never got to watch one of the greatest American runners ever.

Fred Delcomyn is a professor emeritus and director emeritus of the School of Integrative Biology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The tradition of midday runs he describes has endured at the UO, and "the noon runners" continue to this day.



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