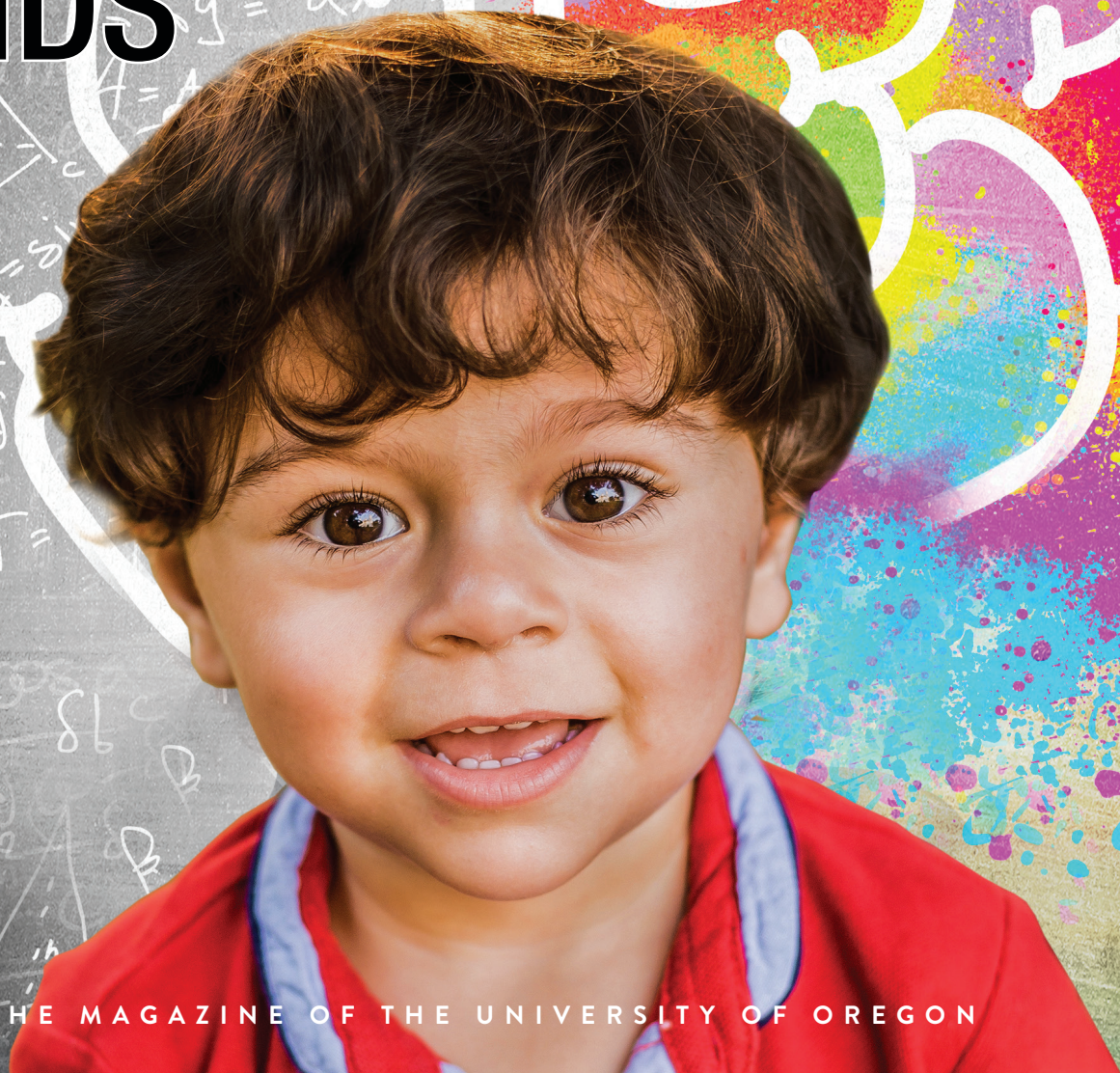


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Top Class

The first-year class that arrived this fall at the University of Oregon is one for the record books. It is the largest in our history. This class has the greatest number of students who identify as members of a minority group. This extraordinary cohort is also our most academically prepared, coming with an average high school GPA of 3.6 and average SAT scores of 1200. They bring with them more college credits than any class before them, earned through advanced placement courses or other dual-credit opportunities.

The most recently graduated class also broke records, graduating at a faster rate than ever before. The UO increased its four-year graduation rate to more than 60 percent (and its six-year rate to 74 percent) thanks to campus-wide investments in student success—meeting the goal to increase graduation rates by 10 percentage points a year early. We hope to continue improving this rate further with the addition of new advisors, career counselors, and tutors, and many more student success initiatives.

Our students—and, really, all children and teens—are the focus of the winter edition of *Oregon Quarterly*, which explores youth behavior and development. Let's face it, kids today are under immense pressure, given increased expectations at home and from society, and the growing power of social media. The extraordinary scholars at the UO are tirelessly fascinated with understanding those dynamics and exploring the intricate path youth take to adulthood.

Numerous faculty members are leading

research on youth development and in this issue, we feature four of them: Jennifer Pfeifer, Jeff Measelle, and Dare Baldwin—all from the Department of Psychology—and Justin Caouette, from the College of Education. They're examining questions about adolescent choices and well-being, family processes, how youth learn, and prevention science. This enlightening feature will resonate with you, whether you are a parent or simply have an interest in the betterment of the lives of youth.

Other stories in this edition of OQ explore the challenges youth and young adults face, and how they overcome them. You will find inspiration in the example set by students who have pursued altruistic goals. Some of them can accurately be called global scholars on the path to peace. And some of our former students offer a lighter side, as you will read in features on rock guitarist Dave Depper and professional photographer Sol Neelman, whose eye has captured a wide world of "weird sports."

I hope you will enjoy reading about these inspiring individuals who make up the UO community. Members of our latest, largest class in history will no doubt be tomorrow's scholars, rock stars, and influencers. I look forward to reading their stories one day.

Michael H. Schill
President and Professor of Law



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BOOM! BOX (MIDDLE); SOL NEELMAN (BOTTOM)

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Economics professor Whitelaw—master of the multiple-choice quiz—was profiled in the Autumn issue

Multiple Sides to Ed Whitelaw

Glad to see Ed “Economics Boot Camp” Whitelaw is still fighting the good fight (Autumn 2019). I took his macro- and microeconomics classes in 1987 and 1988; toughest B-/C+ I ever was proud to get, and I had to work like a dog to do even that well.

His weekly quizzes were multiple choice—great, I initially thought, I can ace those. Not so fast: Ed Whitelaw’s multiple choice tests consisted of choices A through J, or sometimes K, L, and even M. At the time I thought Professor Whitelaw was just pure evil, but in later years I appreciated the structure of these quizzes and tests that actually mandated that you learn the material—no faking it in Ed’s classes.

**Steven Angvick, BA ’89
(management)**
Burlington, Illinois

Remembering Mary Moody

Of our many accomplished alumni, there is one whom I personally hold in particular regard. I had the pleasure of meeting this young woman over meals taken in Carson Hall in 1978. The students, being almost entirely graduate students in some field of education, tended to sit in groups of 10 to 12 for breakfast and dinner and commune about everything from their children to their studies. It became evident early on, though the group was a collection of bright and ambitious students, that Mary Moody was a standout amongst standouts.

Mary was studying for her MA in special education by taking extremely heavy loads and she graduated after four summer schools (1976–79). Incredible! She was married to a very bright man by the name of Brian Moody. They were married for 43 years until Mary passed away May 1, 2014.

Mary was very productive in her professional life. She wrote books, ran a

company, and was a consultant to many school districts and businesses.

She and husband Brian owned a ranch in Onoway, Alberta, Canada, about 40 miles west of Edmonton. They had horses, cattle, and several dogs. She loved to ride horseback. She also produced much stained glass. Mary and Brian loved to backpack, hike, and camp. Mary would accompany Brian on fishing trips to remote areas. The following is an excerpt from Mary’s obituary:

Mary will be with us when we see the first crocus in spring, when we are inspired by a beautiful wash of flowers. She will be there as the light filters through the leaves on the trees and when we admire a piece of artwork. We will remember her engaging giggle, her cutting wit, and her deadpan look. If we are measured by our friendships, Mary had an amazing life. She was a true educator who excelled at teaching those who struggled with learning . . . Her love of animals was endless; her kindness and caring were experienced by all who knew her. She loved to learn, to plan, and to create . . . We are all better people for having known Mary.

Howard Hoffer, ’77, College of Education (principal certification)

Bandon, Oregon

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As a former dean of the School of Architecture and Allied Arts (1971–1981), I am consistently very pleased about the excellent development of the University of Oregon as an exceptional college, above many other universities. Of course, the students are engaged in the world!

Robert S. Harris
Los Angeles, California

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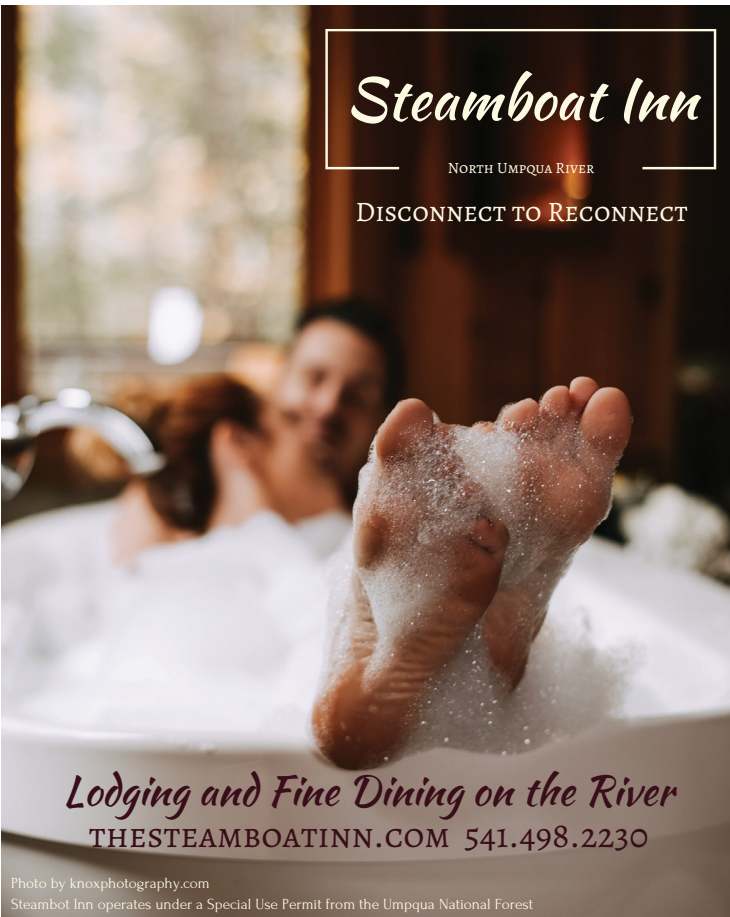
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intro



ANCIENT ACCENTS

Students enrolled in the fall humanities course Medieval Manuscript Culture didn't just study great medieval manuscripts—they practiced calligraphy to learn what went into making these ornate documents. They reproduced decorated letters following the style of manuscript artists of the 12th century.

See a video at [youtube.com/uoregon](https://www.youtube.com/uoregon)

NIC WALCOTT, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Hot Rock 'n' Roll



Most of us wouldn't think of going to an active volcano. So Leif Karlstrom is bringing these earth-bursting eruptions to us.

The UO geologist has launched a project to teach about volcanoes through sound. With funding from the National Science Foundation, Karlstrom—a 2006 Clark Honors College graduate with degrees in physics, mathematics, and music performance—is developing methods to generate sounds from data recorded at active volcanoes.

During an eruption, scientists gather photographic and video imagery and data on gas emissions, subsurface earthquakes, chemical compositions of erupted lavas, and more. Karlstrom, a longtime professional musician, and his collaborators have developed computer programs that translate this information into sound.

The result can be a sort of free-flowing jazz, if you will. For the three-minute track “Hotel Kilauea,” derived from data collected at Hawaii’s Kilauea volcano, Karlstrom and three other musicians used computer sounds as the basis for improvisation with violins, a guitar, and an upright bass.

Karlstrom is working on installations of the Volcano Listening Project that will debut nationally over the coming years. He’ll include educational materials on data “sonification”—the use of nonspeech audio to convey information—and will promote musical composition and performance based on volcanic data.

“Science is a creative enterprise, just like music,” Karlstrom says. “I am hoping that the Volcano Listening Project can help generate new knowledge about volcanoes as well as compelling new art.”

—Lewis Taylor, University Communications



Erupting

Newberry Volcano, an explosive natural wonder south of Bend (left), is a site for research in the University of Oregon Center for Volcanology.

With 13 scientists studying volcanoes across the globe, the center is now the nation’s largest academic center for volcanology. That follows the move by campus leadership in 2014 to grow this area of UO research excellence; the expansion was

made possible by a \$10 million gift from Gwendolyn and Charles Lillis that has funded new hires.

Stay tuned to the university—uoregon.edu—for an upcoming multimedia feature on the UO’s extensive interdisciplinary contributions to volcanology, the program’s history, and alumni who are now leaders in the field.

Care Package

Anxiety disorders are on the rise for University of Oregon students and their peers nationwide. Junior Nico Vargas and Pi Kappa Phi fraternity have hit on a novel way to help: grounding kits.

These kits redirect one from focusing on anxieties, phobias, or traumatic relapses to grounding themselves “in the moment” by engaging the five senses. The packets include everyday items such as cardboard coffee sleeves, chewing gum, and tea packets that appeal to touch, taste, smell, and more.

Vargas and his fraternity bought and assembled hundreds of kits as a philanthropy project and contributed some to student support services, which will hand them out as needed. Last year, the fraternity sent kits to University of North Carolina at Charlotte after a shooting there.

“The most memorable aspect of doing this event was the ability to engage each and every one of our brothers to develop a greater understanding for mental and physical disabilities that affect many people today,” Vargas says. “Our chapter was able to learn how to work for the betterment of our community and the communities of others through offering a simple gesture.”



DOG-WALKING DILEMMA

Your dog’s need to go potty can be hard on plants and soil, at least in urban environments.

So says Krista McGuire, an associate professor of biology, who tested the impact of canine urine on blue lily turf, a grass-like perennial used in New York City to help absorb storm water runoff that would otherwise be discharged into local waterways during sewer overflow events.

McGuire and her team found the urine substantially reduced the richness of soil microbes and the amount of water that was retained, which means greater runoff and more work for storm water management systems. Her recommendations: add barriers

to keep dogs from visiting green areas critical for runoff collection and adopt irrigation or filtration systems that will redistribute the excess nitrogen from urine, which can be a nutrient-fertilizing source if diluted.

A dog lover herself, McGuire hopes to adopt one in the near future and plans to practice what she preaches.

“Even small quantities of urine can negatively impact soil microbial communities over short periods of time,” McGuire says. “My advice to dog owners is to diversify urination spots when walking their dogs so that a single patch of soil or street-side planter is not repeatedly receiving the dog’s attention.”



UO By the Numbers: Special Freshman Class Edition

4,560 First-year students last fall, beating the record by more than 300 and representing growth of 8 percent over last year

9 Years of record diversity (1,571 domestic minority freshmen)

3.65 GPA for freshman class, up from 3.59 last year and besting the previous record, 3.61

1206 Average SAT/ACT score, the highest test scores ever recorded at the UO

64,000 College credits earned from high school advanced placement, international baccalaureate, or dual-credit programs, also a record

60.7% New four-year graduation rate, marking the accomplishment of a university goal

Regarding the record-breaking incoming class, Roger Thompson, vice president for student services and enrollment management, says,

“This is the equivalent of winning a national championship for us.”



Podcast for Parents

College is complicated—but a new UO podcast aims to make a smooth takeoff easier for first-year Ducks.

Flock Talk, a podcast for parents and families of new students, shares practical information about the transition to college, including academic advising, managing midterms, campus safety, preventing sexual violence, navigating university dining, and more.

“Parents and family members are a big influence in the way new students think about where they’re going to go to college,” says Cora Bennett (above), director of student orientation programs, who serves as podcast host. “They are the primary advisors, so it’s important they’re staying informed.”

The podcast is a great way to do that—parents can listen on their smartphones, laptop computers, or other devices while driving, taking a walk, or doing the dishes. Flock Talk, which can be heard free on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, and other sites that feature podcasts, has been downloaded about 3,000 times.

Easy Money

Anthropology professor Scott Fitzpatrick (right) had a hunch an ancient currency in some ways resembles bitcoin, the New Age digital money that exists only as data in a computer network.

He wanted to learn more about the latter, so he consulted an expert just a short stroll away—Stephen McKeon, a finance professor in the Lundquist College of Business who specializes in bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies.

The two collaborated on a study comparing bitcoin to rai, the famously giant limestone money of Yap, a small island group east of the Philippines.

The value of rai stones was based partly on size—some of the surviving round stones are 12 feet in diameter and weigh tons. But there are parallels to bitcoin: both allow people to own and use money without physically possessing it and both rely on a community ledger system that ensures transparency and security without a centralized bank.

The Yapese tracked the coins’ value and ownership changes orally—they passed this information along through conversation and stories open to everyone in the community. Bitcoin, similarly, relies on a digital ledger that verifies transactions that are available to everyone in the network.

The coauthors agree that additional archaeological studies could yield more insights into the future of cryptocurrency.

“The rai system is a conceptual precursor to cryptocurrency,” McKeon says. “By examining how the ancient system worked and the issues that led to its eventual demise, we can uncover lessons about potential pitfalls that bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies will need to guard against.”



TIM CHRISTIE, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS (TOP); JOHN TUN

5

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We are proud to have 18 University of Oregon alumni on our team.



Clockwise from left: A photograph display in a Srebrenica warehouse memorialized thousands of Bosniak men and boys killed by Serb forces in 1995. In Zagreb, Croatia, students encountered a mural depicting the fight for justice; in Belgrade, Serbia, they visited a NATO bombing site.

Path to Peace

Examining conflict and closure in the Balkans

BY JESSE SUMMERS

The wars of the 1990s in Yugoslavia resulted in political upheaval, the elimination of entire communities, scores of atrocities, and the deaths of some 130,000 people.

Last summer, 12 University of Oregon students traveled there to study how a war-scarred region works toward reconciliation.

Under the 10-week Human Rights and Peace Studies program, students visited the countries of the former Yugoslavia, known as the Balkans: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, and Kosovo.

They saw firsthand the challenges and possibilities of peace-building—as well as the range of often conflicting stories and cultural beliefs of the region’s history.

“Students join this program because they want to understand how to promote peace and

justice in the aftermath of violent conflict,” says Will Johnson, assistant vice provost in the Division of Global Engagement at the UO. “But the first thing they learn is that, like war, the process of peace-building involves a dangerously complex set of variables that almost never align in an ideal way.”

Johnson, BA ’10, MA ’14 (international studies), and JD ’14, led the trip alongside Emina Buzinkic, a longtime expert in human rights, peace, and political education in Zagreb, Croatia.

The program is a natural fit for students in international studies but also appeals to those in other programs.

“There’s not a better safe place in the world to learn about peace studies and rebuilding after a massive conflict,” says Zack Demars, a senior in journalism and political science.

“I’m of the opinion that everything is connected to journalism because everything deserves to be covered and every story deserves to be told.”

Students spent the first five weeks studying historical, philosophical, and international perspectives on human rights and peace studies. This was not an easy task, as the nations of the Balkans have conflicting perspectives on the past.

“It was really challenging to first learn all the information about the region because the history is so dense and each country has their own history that they project,” says Sarah Barr, a junior in international studies. “It was really eye opening.”

For example, students learn about the Srebrenica massacre, the killing of more than 8,000 Bosniaks in 1995 that is accepted as

a genocide by Bosnia and most of the world. However, the Serbian government has denied that the massacre happened.

After the course work, students spent four weeks developing research questions and interviewing leaders of human rights and peace-building organizations. A common theme among the student projects was how the conflict and its aftermath affected young people and how they related to the histories of the region.

Barr and another student explored how school content shaped youth perspectives. They found textbooks varied between countries and that segregation of students based on ethnicity persisted 20 years after the conflict.

“I learned it’s hard to dismantle a system that’s so set in stone and perpetuating off existing ideals,” says Barr.

Oksana Leontyuk, who graduated with a BA in international studies after the trip, researched youth identity. She interviewed teens and people who work with them in the cities the group visited.

She remembered a conversation with a young man in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who said, “All the young people just want to move on. We’re trying to get our lives together and move on.”

The students met with lawyers, human rights activists, and political leaders, including former Croatian president Ivo Josipović. He discussed his efforts to prosecute war crimes regardless of the offender’s nationality or supposed justification for the acts.

“Everyone thinks their guy is the good guy and the other guy is a war criminal. But war crimes were committed by all sides,” Josipović told the students in a lecture in Zagreb. “And you can’t have peace until you deal with war criminals.”

Students visited sites and memorials for war crimes across the region, including a memorial to the Srebrenica genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The site honors some 8,000—mainly men and boys—killed as part of the Bosnian Serb army’s ethnic-

cleansing campaign.

“It was a lot to take in,” says Leontyuk. “I would read the mini-stories and those were pretty rough.”

Before the trip, Leontyuk, a Pathway Oregon and Gilman scholar, thought she would pursue a job with the Peace Corps or a nongovernmental organization. Now, she plans to attend law school and become a human rights lawyer.

“After this trip,” she says, “it’s like, ‘Wow, I can make a difference, even if it’s small.’”

Jesse Summers, BA ’17 (journalism: advertising, Clark Honors College), is a staff writer for University Communications.



Oksana Leontyuk



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Gamer, On and Off the Field

World of Warcraft wizard recounts his adventures in leadership and the highest echelons of tech

BY MATT COOPER

*Stephen Gillett, BS '98 (political science), is the cofounder and former CEO of Chronicle, a cybersecurity company of Google. An avid gamer whose skills translated to the business world, Gillett—now executive advisor to the CEO of Google—led the technological transformation of Starbucks under Howard Schultz and worked with Bill Gates at Corbis, a digital content and licensing company. In **From Simi Valley to Silicon Valley: A Story of Hard Work, Serendipity, and Questing**, the former Ducks offensive guard imparts lessons learned, including these excerpts:*

ON BILL GATES AND PURPOSE: *Gillett's work with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation was peripheral but he was inspired by its purpose—working for the greater good of humanity:* When I make an employment decision for myself or recruit others, I lead with purpose. More important than how much money the company can make or what its stock price is, I am concerned with answering questions like why we are here, why we have this opportunity, and what problem we are solving for people and organizations.



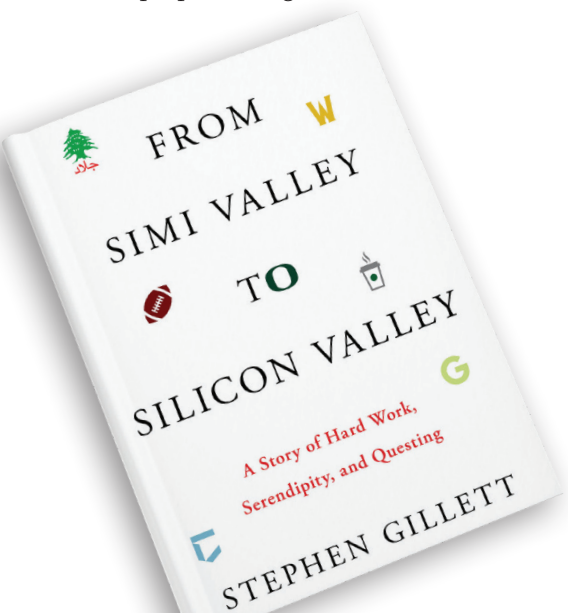
ON STARBUCKS' HOWARD SCHULTZ AND PEOPLE POWER: *Gillett wasn't initially sold on leaving tech for the coffee-making giant, especially given that in 2008, the company was struggling and in decline. But he was impressed by Schultz, who had returned as CEO and brought with him a crystal-clear understanding of the company's stakeholders—customers and employees:* In Howard's office, he had an org chart about the size of a big white board. There were two boxes on it. The top box said "customers" and the bottom one said, "all of us." That white board always acted as a reminder of who we were all there to serve every time we made a decision for the company: our customers and our people . . . Howard told me, "We can never expect our people to exceed the expectations of our customers if leadership doesn't exceed the expectations of our people." . . . The notion that, as a leader, I had to always work to exceed the expectations of our people really stuck with me . . . We weren't just making our customers' lives better; we were also making our people's lives better in very real and measurable ways.

ON SERENDIPITY: *Gillett's rise is due in part to being in the right place at the right time and always doing his best work—even when no one is watching:* [At Office Depot] one of our regular customers was a guy who looked pretty scraggly. "Might as well help anyone who walks through the door." That was my philosophy. One day, this [same] guy came in with his wife, wearing a suit and looking very clean-shaven. He was the chief administrative officer of the regional hospital that was on track to become part of a huge Northwest healthcare community called PeaceHealth Medical Group. He told me, "We're going to invest heavily in information systems for the hospital and clinics just south of Eugene. I'd like you to come be the IT coordinator."

ON THE VALUE OF THE QUEST: *Gillett is known as an innovative leader in the multi-player video game, World of Warcraft, which includes more than 15,000 quests to be completed—killing creatures or locating a hidden object, for example. Typically, the quests enable characters to gain new skills and explore new areas—all of which, for Gillett, translated readily to the tech world:* Gaming ended up being a great training ground for participating in the emerging digital economy. It's about how you engage and solve real-world tasks, whether they are business, market, talent, or culture related, or just general leadership. The questing disposition is about mindset and overcoming challenges in these areas.

Matt Cooper is managing editor of *Oregon Quarterly*.

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Snow Angel

An upcoming ski day celebrates a champion for people with disabilities

BY GRIFFIN REILLY

Not only was Ellie Bartlett an exceptional snowboarder, sometimes she'd do it while wearing a cow costume. As she sped down the slopes with the fleece tail flapping in the wind, those around her couldn't help but smile and laugh.

Bartlett loved adventure and being active outside and believed those were experiences everyone deserved to have, regardless of ability. She put smiles on countless faces through her volunteer work with Oregon Adaptive Sports (OAS), a nonprofit organization that provides outdoor recreation for people with disabilities.

Bartlett, who died in a car accident in the summer of 2017, always poured every ounce of effort and determination into each aspect of her life, be they personal or community endeavors.

She was a top-tier student in the Clark Honors College, and was awarded a posthumous bachelor of science in human physiology.

She was also a carefree kid who brought the same determination to snowboarding. That included the aftermath of a snowboarding accident circa 2011, when she broke her back.

"She got some air—and I'm talking serious air—and ended up landing on the upslope of the next jump. She was laid up in bed for two, maybe three months," says Jeff Walter, her stepfather. "The day she was given approval to go back to school, she went snowboarding. Keep in mind, this was the same day she got approval to walk without a brace."

That scare prompted Bartlett to realize the importance of programs such as OAS for people with disabilities. "She had that experience of realizing how that accident could have gone different," says Walter.

Bartlett became the liaison between the University of Oregon and OAS around 2015.

OAS, founded in 1996, had long been serving people with disabilities in the Willamette Valley but had never cemented a partnership with the UO. Bartlett galvanized that relationship, bolstering opportunities for UO students to volunteer with OAS and for UO students with disabilities to participate in OAS programs, says Pat Addabbo, OAS executive director.

Bartlett used her connections in the UO Outdoor Program to recruit students to help OAS participants. Today, OAS has 400 volunteers serving more than 450 people with disabilities; UO students are an integral part of that volunteer community, especially for programs at Hoodoo Ski Area near Sisters, Addabbo says.

Bartlett and other volunteers taught participants with disabilities to use equipment such as sit-skis. Just months after her death, OAS asked an incoming group of volunteers why they wanted to participate.

"It was outstanding how many people said they were there because of Ellie," says accounting major Claire Bjornson, a friend of Bartlett's and fellow OAS volunteer. "She brought out that same

At the 2019 memorial event, youth hit the slopes in sit-skis and instructors showed their flair for the costume contest



HONORING ELLIE

The second annual Junior Racers/ Ellie Ski Day is February 1 at Hoodoo Ski Area. The event is free to anyone under 25 with a disability; adaptive ski equipment and transportation will be provided by Oregon Adaptive Sports and the Ellie Bartlett Memorial Fund.



For information visit oregonadaptivesports.org

fun-loving energy in everyone at the program. They were excited just to have the opportunity to spend time with her."

An OAS event honoring Bartlett—the inaugural Junior Racers/ Ellie Ski Day—was the biggest of the 2019 season for the organization.

"From UO students to Ellie's family, OAS staff, and instructors, people from across Oregon came to celebrate her spirit and legacy, which brought positivity and joy to our organization," Addabbo says.

Bartlett showed everyone she met that nothing is more important than giving back and opening doors to get everybody involved in the experiences we love.

Griffin Reilly, a journalism major and member of the class of 2021, is the student intern for *Oregon Quarterly*.

The Oregon Duck mascot is shown from the chest up, wearing a green and yellow jacket with a yellow tie and a green cap with "OREGON" written on it. The duck is white with a large orange beak and is waving its right hand. The background is a blurred crowd of spectators.

O

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Fallers with Schafer Brothers Logging Company



Allies in the Woods

Study of timber conflict reveals loggers and environmentalists shared common ground

BY EMILY HALNON

As Steven Beda was fishing for steelhead and salmon over the course of a few recent seasons, he caught onto an unexpected pattern in the forests of the Pacific Northwest.

The University of Oregon assistant professor of history kept encountering timber workers who also ventured into the woods to fish, hunt, and enjoy the outdoors. As they traded small talk, Beda noticed the loggers discussed nature and the wilderness in a way that was very similar to that of environmentalists.

“We’d start off talking about whether the fish were biting and as we chatted, they kept emphasizing the aesthetics of the forest and their desire to protect it,” he says.

Beda was surprised, as it countered narratives that have associated loggers with clear-cut hillsides and clashes with environmentalists—especially in recent decades, as the groups battled over issues such as protections for the Northern spotted owl and its habitat in old-growth fir trees.

Beda, who specializes in labor and environmental history, realized there was an opportunity to turn these riverside chats into a research project. He started examining how loggers have shaped nature over the past century, and how nature has shaped their politics and values.

Beda will publish his findings in *Strong Winds and Widow Makers: A History of Workers, Nature, and Environmental Conflict in the Pacific Northwest Timber Country, 1900 to Present*. In this account, still being

scheduled for release, Beda turned to archives, timber union documents, memoirs, and interviews to explore these workers’ relationship to the forest and to ask how it has influenced their ideas and political actions.

His findings aligned with what he’d been hearing in the woods. He discovered that timber workers have a long and proud history of environmentalism and have helped advance landmark legislation and initiatives that preserved large swaths of forest and wilderness—including the 1964 Wilderness Act and the establishment of the Three Sisters Wilderness and Olympic National Park.

“Protecting the environment was and remains central to the identity and activism of timber-working communities,” says Beda. “The forests are part of who they are, places they’ve cared for as deeply as any friend or relative, and something they’ve fought to protect for deeper cultural reasons.”

It’s actually not all that surprising if you think about it, muses Beda. Timber workers are among the individuals most embedded in the forest—for both work and play. And if you spend nearly all of your days surrounded by colossal evergreens, forest floors blanketed in lush moss and ferns, and cobalt rivers charging through wild landscapes, it’s probably natural to develop a deep-seated affinity for the outdoors.

Timber workers’ meaningful relationship with the forests dates back generations, like many circles of tree rings. It’s rooted in the beginning of the 20th century, when most timber workers lived in remote logging

camps and company towns. Their bare bones, one-room shacks were encompassed by expansive forests that were a source of employment, sustenance, and recreation for them and their families.

Interviews and memoirs from this period reflect a deep love and appreciation for nature, with many references to camping, hunting, fishing, and just whittling away any free time outside.

“It was clear that their connection to the landscape ran much deeper than jobs,” Beda notes.

It was this sentiment that motivated workers to leverage their union—the International Woodworkers of America—to protect forests, in addition to their jobs, in the mid-20th century. The union helped workers partner with wilderness groups such as the Sierra Club to lobby for more land protections—even those that their employers opposed, like the Wilderness Act, which preserved 9.1 million acres of federal land.

Timber workers have always seen the forests as a source of jobs and economic opportunity, of course, Beda says, but it’s about balanced forest management.

“They see the forest as a place for work and economic security,” he adds, “but they also want to protect their access to the wilderness for recreation and to preserve its ecological health.”

Timber workers felt that balance go askew in the second half of the 20th century, which caused them to shift away from their environmentalist allies.

During the 1980s—when the spotted owl conflict emerged—the shared values of these groups were strained to the breaking point as environmentalists sought protections from sweeping logging projects and, as a consequence, timber workers faced the loss of tens of thousands of jobs.

The demographics of environmentalists had also been shifting since the 1960s, as rural Americans with a kinship for timber workers were increasingly outnumbered by city dwellers inspired by the aesthetics of the nature they absorbed during weekend backpacking escapes. But many of the new environmentalists failed to acknowledge that lumber was providing them shelter and warmth back home, Beda says.

Since then, the groups have remained more antagonistic than unified on most issues. But Beda notes the tensions between loggers and environmentalists are a recent development and the groups share a long history of working together to protect the environment.

“This project shows that coalitions between workers and environmentalists have been a reality in the past and can function as a foundation for collaboration in the future,” he says.

Emily Halnon is a staff writer for University Communications.



The image shows the front of a green Ford pickup truck. On the left side, there is a large white letter 'O' above the text 'ALUMNI ASSOCIATION' in white. On the right side, there is a close-up of the truck's grille and headlight. The license plate is yellow with the word 'Oregon' at the top, a cartoon duck in the middle, and the number '000000' in large yellow digits. Below the number, it says 'DUCKS'. There are also 'MONTH STICKER' and 'YEAR STICKER' labels on the plate.

Look as sharp on the road as the Ducks do on the field.
uoalumni.com/plate

Teens are notorious for arguing with their parents, resisting authority, and making decisions that stupefy adults. But “that conflict has a reason,” says Atika Khurana of the Counseling Psychology and Human Services department. Taking risks, making mistakes, and learning from life’s experiences are all part of the transition to adulthood.

Khurana studies the factors that drive teens to engage in risky or harmful behavior and interventions that can prevent them from serious, life-altering consequences. In her research, she’s found that adolescents with weak impulse control are more likely to start using drugs or alcohol at younger ages, develop addiction, and engage in risky sexual behaviors.

She also explores ways to improve adolescent self-control through cognitive training, mindfulness-based approaches, and parenting techniques.

At the root of her work, Khurana says, is a single question: “How do we better understand teenagers and allow them the space, the freedom, and the flexibility to explore and learn from their experiences, while as a society providing them a safe context in which to do that?”



Atika Khurana

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

BY EMILY E. SMITH, BA '10 (WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES, JOURNALISM: NEWS EDITORIAL)

PHOTO BY JULIA WAGNER, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

WHO'S AT RISK?

Experimentation is part of growing up, Khurana says—but it makes it difficult to tell whether a teen's risky behavior is a symptom of a comparatively normal drive of trying out new things or a sign of more serious problems to come. Khurana has found that teens with poor impulse control and an underlying weakness in working memory are more likely to be headed for problems that could include early drug use and risky sexual behavior.

"There's a subgroup [of all teens] that is indeed at greater risk for some long-term adverse outcomes," Khurana says. Identifying which teens are at risk is critical to lending support to those who need it.

MEDIA AND VIOLENCE

Khurana examines connections between teens' media consumption and their involvement in risky or harmful behaviors. Heavy exposure to violent movies and TV shows has long been linked to aggressive behavior during adolescence, Khurana says; she found the link is even more pronounced in adolescents with weaker self-control. She has also identified ways to protect teens from the effects of violent media; she recommends parents limit adolescents' exposure to certain forms of media and spend time with them, fostering communication.

A BIT OF A REBEL HERSELF

Youthful rebellion doesn't always announce itself through breaking rules or experimenting with drugs. As a teen, Khurana was defiant in another way: never satisfied with accepting things as they were, she constantly questioned her parents and authority figures. A child who wants to know the rationale for every rule might present a challenge for a parent or teacher but an inquisitive nature has served Khurana well. "There's a lot of value in questioning," she says.

BOOKMARKS

SHORT TAKES: Latest titles of interest from alumni and faculty authors. See more: oregonquarterly.com/bookmarks



1 *When We Were Shadows* by Janet Wees, MEd '90

2 *Eyes Up* by Terry Shea, BS '68 (sociology), MS '69 (counseling)

3 *Salmon and Acorns Feed Our People: Colonialism, Nature and Social Action* by Kari Norgaard, professor of sociology and environmental studies

4 *Letters from Turkey: A Peace Corps Volunteer's Story* by William Brockhaus, BA '67 (English)

5 *The Last Beach Night* by Richard Pruitt, BS '58 (journalism)

6 *An Imaginary Racism: Islamophobia and Guilt*, a translation of author Pascal Bruckner's book by Steven Rendall, professor emeritus of Romance languages

See page 20 for *From Simi Valley to Silicon Valley: A Story of Hard Work, Serendipity, and Questing*, by Stephen Gillett, BS '98 (political science)



DEVELOPING *Young* MINDS

Faculty members are gaining insights into the nurturing of a healthy mind, from newborns to teens

By Michele Taylor

Faculty photos by Dustin Whitaker, University Communications

Squeak a ball in front of a baby's face. Pop it up and catch it. Bounce it a few times and watch his eyes light up with joy. Big, round, happy eyes mean he is watching and assimilating these movements. By catching balls, playing with blocks, and banging on pots and pans, his parents and other caregivers are setting the foundation for healthy brain development.

This sort of motion—demonstrative, exaggerated, even theatrical—is essential for nurturing young minds. Another factor for brain development is the time parents spend interacting with their children. Then, as children become teens, their maturing brains are affected by interactions with peers, in person and through social media. Low self-esteem and cyberbullying can lead to mental health disorders such as anxiety and depression.

Four University of Oregon faculty members are making important inroads in our understanding of the growing brain. They're examining critical stages for babies and adolescents and advising caregivers on how to nurture young minds for healthy development.

THE CHEERIOS AIRPLANE NOURISHES LEARNING

There is a scientific reason why parents scoop Cheerios into a spoon, pretend the spoon is an airplane, and make airplane noises as it swoops, dives, and curves before landing in the hangar, otherwise known as their baby's mouth. Psychology professor Dare Baldwin dubbed this "motionese"—the language of motion—and found it promotes healthy brain development.

Says Baldwin: "It shows the power of social engagement for learning."

She is researching how mothers nurture their babies' brains through motionese. The term describes how adults instinctually exaggerate hand motions when playing with their babies. It slows down a complex stream of gestures so babies can understand them, Baldwin says—when babies understand movement, they can repeat it. In the example of the Cheerios airplane, the baby learns how to feed herself; later, she will watch her parents' exaggerated motions to learn more complicated movements, like how to tie her shoelaces.

Baldwin and her colleagues compared how moms and babies or moms and adult friends interact with toys.

When moms presented toys to their friends, they kept space between them and didn't maintain eye contact. When moms interacted with their babies, they moved closer before introducing the toys. They played with the toys near the babies' faces; their hand motions were slow, highly gestural, and repetitive. Moms looked at their babies with enthusiasm to make sure they were paying attention.

Baldwin found that babies' pupils dilate precisely when one motion stops and the next one begins. When babies watched the faster, more complex sequence of hand gestures used between adults, their pupils didn't change.

Dilation is a sign of cognitive engagement, Baldwin says. It shows that motionese focuses babies' attention to help them grasp motor skills.

"Parents might wonder: is motionese good for babies?" Baldwin says. "The evidence suggests a resounding 'yes!' It appears to help babies orient to and make sense of the complex stream of information. And communicating better tends to be a good thing, no matter how old you are."

RAISING CROPS, RAISING CHILDREN

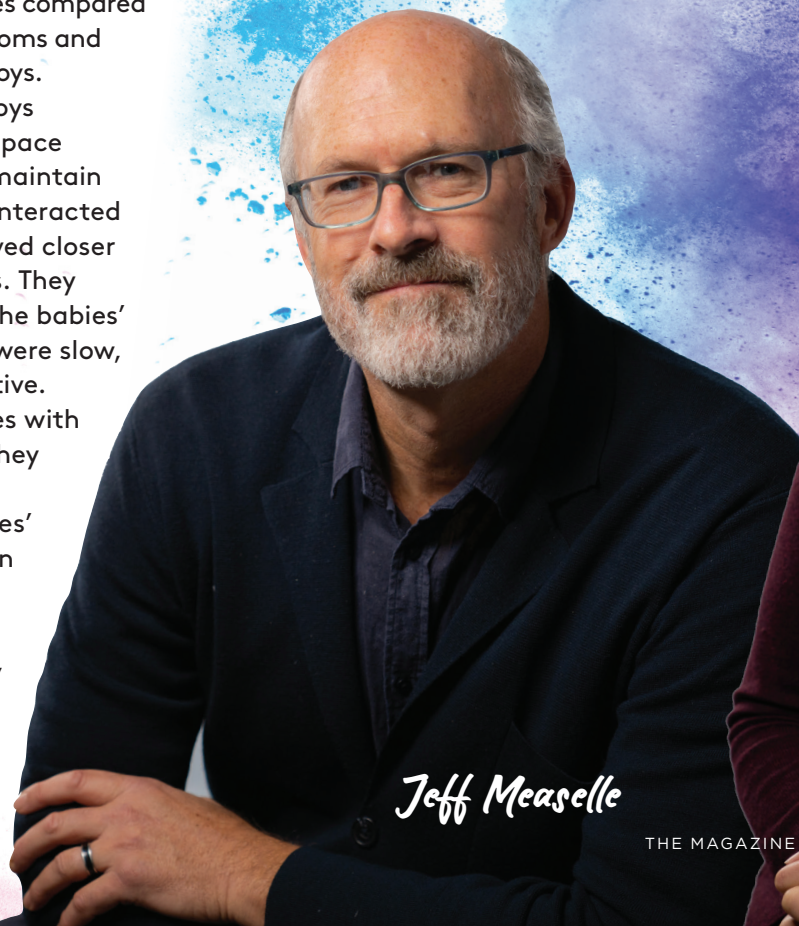
Because of poor nutrition and medical care, 40 percent of babies born in northern Lao villages die from diarrhea and respiratory diseases before their fifth birthday. There are no wellness centers providing day-to-day care and the drive to the nearest hospital takes hours. "The needs facing these children are immediate and in most cases can't wait until a child reaches a hospital,"

says psychology professor Jeff Measelle. "That's too late."

Like Baldwin, Measelle studies the importance of social engagement for healthy brain development. He's helping parents in rural Laos care for their babies to prevent premature deaths and cognitive impairment.

From infancy through early childhood, many babies in rural Laos spend most of their time tucked into baskets or on a caregiver's back as their parents tend to vegetable patches and rice paddies. But babies benefit from lots of interactive time with their caregivers, Measelle says, to set the stage for the development that follows. Without it, children are less likely to reach their potential.

In response, Measelle founded 400 Grams—www.400Grams.org—a nonprofit organization named for the weight of a healthy newborn brain. The goal: reduce the incidence of childhood death from preventable diseases and aid kids' cognition by working with villages to build daycare centers.



Jeff Measelle



Dare Baldwin



Justin Caouette

Measelle teamed up with Volun-Tour Laos, an organization that has served rural communities for 20 years, to ensure his assistance is sensitive to Lao people and culture. Measelle and Volun-Tour Laos designed a co-op system to provide daycare. Villagers dictate features they want in the centers—an adjacent garden or space for wellness check-ups—and families alternate between daycare duty and tending fields.

“We were not just going to throw money at this problem,” Measelle says. “We wanted to get it right culturally and scientifically by working hand in hand with families and village leadership.”

400 Grams and Volun-Tour Laos have built six daycare centers and four more are in development. Parents learn prenatal and neonatal care and caregivers play with babies to stimulate their growing brains. Over time, 400 Grams will taper its role while parents increase theirs.

Evaluations of the children attending the centers reveal that most suffer significantly fewer episodes of pneumonia or nutrition-related diarrhea than kids in nearby villages without these facilities, Measelle says. They have also scored higher on cognitive and language tests than the other group and have matched the results of peers in more developed countries.

One Lao mom told Measelle the center is helping her raise her children to be educated and intelligent. “Even though I am not a teacher,” she said, “I want to ask my daughter what she wants to be when she grows up and help her with that choice.”

AVOIDING THE STORM OF SOCIAL REJECTION

Decades ago, kids judged their popularity by the number of Valentine’s Day cards they received from classmates. Now, they count Twitter “followers,” Instagram “likes,” SnapChat “streaks,” and TikTok “duets.”

Unfortunately, one consequence of the connectedness provided by social media is the risk a user will suffer a powerful, amplified wave of rejection from peers. That sense of rejection can damage a young mind.

This constant evaluation, particularly when it’s adverse, may explain why today’s youth suffer from high rates of depression and anxiety, says Justin Caouette, associate director of the Prevention Science Program in the College of Education. Social media mania hits precisely when young brains are at maximum vulnerability to social stress, he adds—“it’s a perfect mental health storm.”

Caouette, previously a postdoctoral researcher and instructor with the Department of Psychiatry at Oregon Health & Science University, has studied the relationship between peer rejection and adolescent-onset anxiety and depression.

Working with collaborators at University of California, Davis, he found that when a teen is rejected on social media, there is a profound, negative impact on brain development. This manifests as kids “shutting down,” he says, which is a gateway to anxiety and depression.

Using an MRI machine to measure how teens’ brains processed rejection, the team observed in real time how chronic exposure to rejection dulled and desensitized the frontal cortices—the part of the brain responsible for emotional regulation, problem solving, and decision making.

Caouette’s expertise in social factors contributing to adolescent mental and behavioral health is complemented by the work of more than a dozen researchers in the prevention program.

They're making advances in areas including partner violence, alcohol and drug use among college students and young adults, unhealthy eating, issues facing Latinx adolescents, and more.

For his part, Caouette believes schools can do more to help teens get on track and keep them there. For example, he advocates for "brain education" classes—similar to sex education classes—so that teens and their families can begin to grapple with the complex social factors that influence the developing mind.

Says Caouette: "We can take what we learn about the growing brain and emotional health and change policies in schools to improve outcomes."

ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH AMONG TEEN GIRLS

When adults recall puberty, they often remember it as an awkward phase. Many changes happen all at once in adolescents' bodies, brains, and relationships. Also, teenagers vary in when and how fast they go through these changes—and that can affect their well-being, says Professor Jennifer Pfeifer, of the psychology department.

In a project funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, Pfeifer is examining physical, neural, and social development in teenage girls. By age 18, about one in five girls will suffer from mood or anxiety disorders and other mental health issues. These mood and anxiety disorders are about twice as common in adolescent girls as boys—and girls who go through puberty earlier or faster than their peers are at even greater risk for problems.

Therapy, Pfeifer says, can improve mental health and help the adolescent brain onto a better course. Even better, if scientists can identify predictors for mental illness, strategies can be introduced to prevent adolescents from developing a disorder.

Pfeifer is following almost 200 girls recruited from elementary

and middle schools in the Eugene-Springfield area. These girls were 10 to 13 years old at the start of the study; every 18 months, UO researchers in the Developmental Social Neuroscience Laboratory record their brain development, physical growth, and hormone levels. The girls complete a mental health interview and questionnaires about social relationships and how they see themselves. From this information Pfeifer gains an understanding of where the girls are in adolescent development and whether they are experiencing symptoms such as depression or anxiety.

Pfeifer uses neuroimaging to study development of brain structure, activity, and connectivity between regions. Among other things, she studies how the adolescent brain processes information about the self: while lying in an MRI machine, girls read positive and negative personality traits—such as "caring" or "bossy"—and report which ones describe them. Pfeifer simultaneously measures responses in different parts of the brain and compares this information to the girls' pubertal development, social status, and mental health, for example.

Teenagers—and girls in particular—need close friendships to protect against depression, anxiety, and peer rejection. However, sometimes girls get together and ruminate about problems, which can instead increase their risk for depression. So Pfeifer also examines brain activity while girls decide what to share about themselves with a close friend, and whether these decisions relate to their mental health.

There are very few studies of this nature, Pfeifer says, given

the many waves of data collected across multiple levels of study—hormones, brain development, social relationships, self-perceptions, mental health—that continue to change during puberty.

A deeper understanding of the social and neural processes linking puberty and mental health will identify critical ways for programs to better prevent and treat mood and anxiety disorders in adolescent girls, she says.

Michele Taylor, MS '03 (journalism: magazine), BA '10 (French), is a freelance writer in Eugene.



Jennifer Pfeifer



WEIRD SPORTS

Sol Neelman shoots athletics both beautiful and bizarre

Sol Neelman calls himself a failed athlete. But with a camera he's a sports-shooting superstar.

The 1994 graduate (BA, journalism) and pro photographer—bettercallsol.com—travels the globe documenting “fun sports.” That includes cheese rolling in England, Big Wheel racing in San Francisco, and Kaiju monster wrestling in New York City. His third book—*Weird Sports 3* (Kehrer Verlag)—publishes this summer.

Neelman was part of a team at the *Oregonian* that won a 2007 Pulitzer Prize for breaking news reporting, and his work

has appeared in publications ranging from *National Geographic* to *Penthouse*. Clients include Nike, Adidas, Clif Bar, and more.

“Someone asked me once what I love doing,” Neelman says. “The answer: travel, sports, photography, and weird shit. For this failed athlete and addicted traveler, life is good. And weird.”

Matt Cooper is managing editor of *Oregon Quarterly*.

Redneck Games, East Dublin, Georgia



TOP: *Bubble soccer, Dallas*

MIDDLE LEFT: *Bring Your Own Big Wheel, San Francisco*

MIDDLE RIGHT: *Color Run, Seattle*

BOTTOM LEFT: *Dodgeball, New York City*

BOTTOM RIGHT: *Frog jumping, Calaveras County, California*



THE DUCK IN DEATH CAB

How Death Cab for Cutie's
Dave Depper ran to rock stardom

BY DAMIAN FOLEY



On the afternoon of September 24, 2018, a lone figure laced up his scuffed Saucony Triumph running shoes and hit the streets of Eugene.

He ran down Agate Street, past the John E. Jaqua Academic Center for Student Athletes ringed with its clear pool filled with paddling ducks, and past the Counseling Center with its garden bed of yellow sunflowers craning their green necks skyward. His steps took him to Hayward Field, the legendary track-and-field venue where 20 world records have been set, and McAlister Hall, where he lived as a student.

From there he crossed the Frohnmayer footbridge over the Willamette River, cut through Alton Baker Park and across Pre's Trail, passed Autzen Stadium, and checked out Duck's Village—another place he'd lived while studying at the UO. The final stop on his magical history tour took him to a house behind Track Town Pizza that he'd rented while wrapping up his bachelor's degree. After logging several miles on his nostalgic run, he returned to his hotel to rest.

Several hours later, he stepped onto the stage in a packed Hult Center for the Performing Arts and launched into "I Dreamt We Spoke Again" with his eight-time Grammy-nominated band, Death Cab for Cutie. For the next two hours the band tore through a number of its biggest hits, keeping the raucous Eugene crowd singing along to "I Will Follow You into the Dark," "Soul Meets Body," "I Will Possess Your Heart," and more, just 1.5 miles from where he, the group's guitarist and keyboard player, once studied.

Dave Depper was home.

Well, in a manner of speaking, anyway.

Depper, BS '02 (computer and information science), hails from Bend and went to Mountain View High School, the alma mater of fellow Ducks great Ashton Eaton, BA '10 (psychology). The son of Linda and Joel—the latter a classical pianist—Depper began tickling the ivories at age five, with a brief break that began when he was, oh, about seven.

"My dad's a really amazing pianist, and he, bless his heart, signed me up for piano lessons," Depper says. "I hated them like every kid does, and stopped doing that after a year or two."

Instead, he picked up a guitar and immersed himself in the music of the Beatles, David Bowie, Stevie Wonder, Prince, and Pink Floyd. Depper went on to play in a number of garage bands in Bend, and once even opened for Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member Bonnie Raitt at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds.

That gave him a career goal: professional musician.

When the time came to choose a college, he only applied to one. His friends were going to the University of Oregon, and he liked what he saw in the School of Music and



The SOMD's keyboard skills classes were crucial to his development as a musician, Depper says.

Dance (SOMD), so he picked up his guitar and moved to Eugene—and, upon his arrival, promptly sat right back down at a piano.

“Their keyboard skills classes were amazing there, and were crucial to my development as a keyboard player,” Depper says. “Something I use constantly is chord inversion”—the relationship between notes in a chord—“and I learned that in class. It was something I had no concept of before, but I studied it intensely and now it’s become like a sixth sense to have when I play keyboard. It had a huge effect on my skills as a keyboardist.”

However, Depper soon began to feel burned out by music—“All I had done was eat, drink, and breathe music for two-and-a-half years,” he says.

So, he followed his interest in computers—he wrote his first computer script when he was 10, and says he enjoys writing code the way others enjoy doing the Sunday crossword puzzle—and changed majors, enrolling in the computer and information science program in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS).

After graduating cum laude in 2002, he went to work as a software engineer for an e-learning company in Portland.

“The education I got from the UO was world-class,” says Depper. “I got a great job immediately from it, and I directly used skills I had acquired there. It’s a really encouraging school, a good learning environment.”

But Depper maintained his love of music and soon began playing bass in a number of bands. “It was an instrument that seemed to have a lot of employment opportunities available,” he says. For the next decade he spent his days working at a desk and his nights working on stages throughout the Rose City.

But while putting what he learned in SOMD and CAS to good use in his dual careers, Depper was also spending his free time enjoying the thing the UO may best be known for.

“I got into running at the University of Oregon because I was dating a girl that I wanted to impress, and she was a very

talented cross-country runner,” he says. “She encouraged me to get in shape and join her on some runs, and then I joined an extracurricular cross-country club. There’s no better town on planet Earth to start running in than Eugene, and it just became an immediate lifelong passion of mine.”

And running—just as much as what he learned in his keyboard classes—is how Dave Depper ended up on stage at the Hult Center. And the Red Rocks Amphitheatre. And the Hollywood Bowl. And at Lollapalooza. And in Singapore. And in Japan. (You get the picture.)

Death Cab for Cutie, of Bellingham, Washington, has been hailed as one of the groups that helped define the “emo” genre of music. They have been nominated for eight Grammy Awards, won an MTV Video Music Award, released two gold albums and one platinum-selling album, and have 12 top-10 singles.

Depper met the group’s founder, singer-songwriter Ben Gibbard, through the close-knit Pacific Northwest music scene. When Gibbard started dating photographer Rachel Demy, a friend of Depper’s, the two musicians began spending more time together, and found they had more in common than just augmented scales and suspended chords.

“He was in Portland a lot visiting her, and we just started running together,” says Depper. “We went on a few really great, epic runs in Forest Park together, and that’s where we first started talking about working together.”

Gibbard was working on the album *Kintsugi* and during a run mentioned the band was looking for an additional member to help perform the album’s complex songs live.

“I meekly summoned up my courage and said, ‘Well, sorry, this is not my place to say, but if you ever do consider that person, I would be honored if my name could be in the hat for auditioning,’” says Depper.

Death Cab for Cutie,
September 6, Portland



Founding member Chris Walla left Death Cab for Cutie between the end of recording *Kintsugi* in 2014 and the start of the ensuing world tour in 2015—and Depper got the call to replace him. He strapped on his Fano guitar and, just one year from quitting his day job to focus on music full-time, hit the road with the group. Soon the Duck had racked up close to 150 gigs with DCFC, performing in Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Mexico—and even Bend, where Depper’s journey to stardom had begun with piano lessons as a child 35 years earlier.

While Depper and Gibbard do not run together as often any more, they each still lace up and hit the streets while on tour. The *Kintsugi* tour, Depper’s first with the band, saw him attempt his most ambitious run to date: 26.2 miles in Pittsburgh *on the day of a show*.

“I was in tip-top running shape and training for the Portland marathon,” says Depper. “So, I looked up the course of the Pittsburgh marathon and just ran it alone on a show day, and then three hours later played a two-hour rock show. While I got through the show, I would not recommend doing that. I was very pooped by the end.”

By the time DCFC hit the recording studio in 2018 for its ninth studio album, *Thank You for Today*, Depper was an integral part of the group. He is even credited with cowriting the album’s first single, “Gold Rush,” though he downplays his involvement.

“Ben is clearly the main songwriter of the band, and comes to the band with very fully formed songs,” Depper says. “In terms of my own contribution, they tend to be more of an arrangement variety, commenting on chords or the bridge or something like that.”

As for Depper’s own immediate future, he is eyeing a return to the studio this year to record a followup to his debut solo album *Emotional Freedom Technique*. He writes most of his songs on the keyboard, finding it more harmonically expressive than the guitar—news that would be music to the ears of the UO instructors who helped reintroduce him to the piano as a college freshman.

Fifteen years after his graduation, after he transferred out of the School of Music and Dance because he was burned out, Dave Depper is taking what he learned in the UO’s classrooms and applying it on stages around the world.

“The music program [at the UO] is amazing,” Depper says. “I learned so much of what I do now from it.”

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



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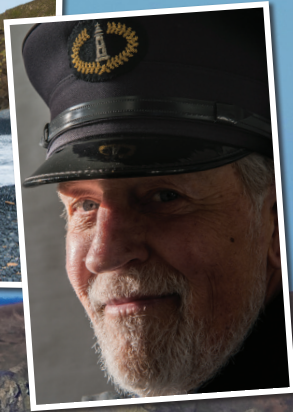
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OLD Oregon

ALL IN A DAY

Sunrise Sunset is a 50-foot-tall LED video installation in the EMU that animates the growth of a single Douglas fir from sapling to ancient giant over 24 hours, restarting at midnight every day. Annie Han, BArch '93, and Daniel Mihalyo, BArch '94—partners in the art and architecture practice Lead Pencil Studio in Seattle—traveled through the Willamette Valley, the Cascade Range, and the Oregon Coast to capture old-growth specimens at different points in their lifecycles; they used LIDAR technology, a surveying method based on measuring distances with laser light. The Oregon Arts Commission's Percent for Art program funded the installation.



EMMA ORAVECZ, COLLEGE OF DESIGN

A Rock for Kids in Need

An artist and arborist finds his calling in service

BY KELSEY SCHAGEMANN

Like any good teacher, Greg Ahlijian encourages his students to ask questions. Sometimes those questions stay with him, as did a query from a young boy who once asked, “How did you overcome your fear of being here—you know, with us?”

It was a reasonable question. Ahlijian, BS '71 (landscape architecture), is a volunteer instructor at Jasper Mountain, a comprehensive treatment center for emotionally disturbed children and their families. Located on a lush 90-acre campus outside Eugene, the center serves youth who have suffered severe trauma and abuse or exhibit antisocial and violent behavior, sexual issues, and other difficulties.

Ahlijian began volunteering at Jasper Mountain 12 years ago. On that day in 2018 when his student confronted him, Ahlijian answered in his usual calm and patient manner; he told him, “I never had any fear to be here with you. I feel very comfortable around you.”

It's intentional that Ahlijian does not know the histories of his students. “I'm not their therapist,” he says. “I want to have a relationship with each child in terms of what they show me.”

Each Thursday, when Ahlijian meets with his two classes, the students begin the session by reciting, “There is honor in meeting and overcoming life's challenges.”

Ahlijian practices what he preaches—and it's not reading, writing, or arithmetic. He designs his lesson plans around character development; his philosophy—for both his students and himself—is based on being honorable, engaging in self-discovery, and developing self-empowerment.

“These children had no control over the circumstances under which they were born or the environment they came into,” Ahlijian says. “What's important is how they accept the challenges that life throws their way.”

Ahlijian's assistance isn't limited to his role as a teacher—he's also raised substantial funds for the center and its youth.

Ahlijian, a longtime volunteer at Jasper Mountain, focuses on each student's potential, instead of their past



Inspired by his work with Jasper Mountain students, Ahljian in 2010 self-published a short story called *The Large Rock and the Little Yew*. In this illustrated book, a yew tree seed struggles to grow from within the crevice of a rock. The rock discourages the seed and presents obstacles but the seed demonstrates courage, perseverance, self-respect, and hope as it ultimately becomes a yew tree.

Ahljian has donated all proceeds—exceeding \$112,000—to the center, funding a multiuse courtyard. Ahljian contributed design elements, including a climbing wall, terraced steps, and large basalt columns engraved with virtues such as humility, pride, and faith. Proceeds also support the Gregory M. Ahljian Scholarship Fund through the Oregon Community Foundation, for youth who have been in foster care or residential treatment in Oregon. The scholarship can be applied toward a four-year university, community college, or accredited trade school.

“Greg represents a model for others as an individual who has offered his unique talents to troubled and deserving children,” says Dave Ziegler, executive director of Jasper Mountain. “He is the first to say that of all he gives to the children, he receives so much more in return.”

Ahljian and *Little Yew* are making an impact in other ways as well.

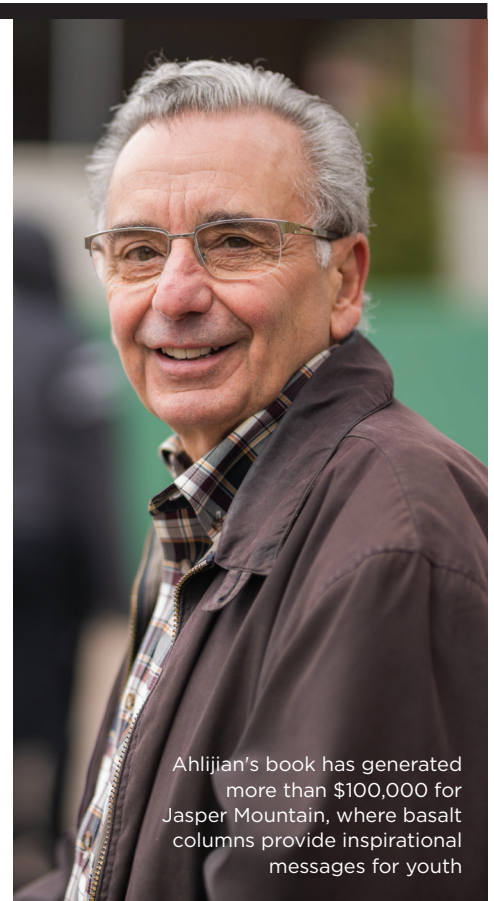
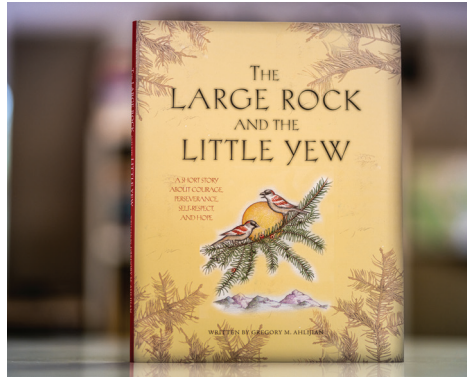
Beth Wheeler, an assistant professor in the School of Music and Dance who voluntarily runs a music program at Jasper Mountain, worked with students to write and perform a song based on the short story and another of Ahljian’s books, *Shine in Your Life’s Journey*. They played the composition at Beall Concert Hall and, Wheeler says, continue to “work very hard to build a community in the music classroom.”

Also, the Eugene Ballet in February will stage a performance adapted from *Little Yew*, with students from the ballet academy teaming up with professional dancers. Josh Neckels, executive director of the ballet, was inspired to add a performance to the lineup after a friend of Ahljian’s shared the book with him.

Ahljian met with the choreographer and costume designer but didn’t offer many opinions. “My attitude was to just get out of the way,” he says. “Let them do their magic.”

While dance may not be Ahljian’s forte, other art forms have sustained him—financially and creatively—throughout life.

“I never wanted a nine to five, Monday through Friday gig,” he says. “The only thing I could see myself doing that would provide that kind of freedom was being an artist.”



Ahljian’s book has generated more than \$100,000 for Jasper Mountain, where basalt columns provide inspirational messages for youth

“The children inspire me, they teach me, they give me purpose.”

In his twenties, Ahljian lived in an uninsulated barn in Eugene with no electricity or running water. He piled his abstract impressionist paintings into a beat-up truck and drove to Portland and Seattle, where he secured shows at galleries.

Later, Ahljian worked as an arborist, drawing on skills he learned at the UO. He ran a one-man arboriculture business, diagnosing diseased trees, designing landscapes, pruning trees, and educating clients.

Throughout, he never forgot a promise he made to himself as a college student: “When I’m on my deathbed, I don’t want to look back and say ‘what if?’” he says. “I want to pursue my passions and not question why I didn’t do this or that.”

One of Ahljian’s professors, the late John Gillham of landscape architecture, recognized his passion. He once told Ahljian that if the country were at war and Ahljian believed in the cause, there wasn’t anyone he would rather be next to on the frontlines.

But if the country were at war and Ahljian didn’t believe in the cause, there was no one from whom he’d want to be farther away.

“He seemed to have an understanding of me,” Ahljian says with a chuckle.

Given Ahljian’s commitment to a life of purpose and creativity, it’s not surprising that his retirement has been so fulfilling.

“My experience at Jasper Mountain has been the most rewarding part of my life,” he says. “The children inspire me, they teach me, they give me purpose.”

Ahljian had the center’s children in mind when he invented the yew seed character. But when the seed thinks to itself, “the greatest joy in life is found in small acts of kindness and giving,” it’s not hard to picture the author himself.

Kelsey Schagemann is a freelance writer and editor in Chicago.

The Eugene Ballet will perform *The Large Rock and the Little Yew* as a double feature with *Alice in Wonderland* February 8–9 at the Hult Center. Visit eugeneballet.org for more information.

Visit littleyewtree.com for more information about Greg Ahljian and his books.

Hollywood Ending

Artist Natalie Nourigat animated her career with a move to Tinseltown

BY MATT COOPER



Portland native Natalie Nourigat, BA '10 (Japanese, Clark Honors College) moved to Los Angeles in 2015. Now she's a story artist for Walt Disney Animation Studios, creating storyboards, comics, concept art, character designs, and animation.

Nourigat's studies were supported by a resident dean's scholarship and a Wentworth scholarship. She also credited her academic development to English professor Ben Saunders—who introduced her to classic American comics—and Professor Alisa Freedman of East Asian languages, for her instruction on Japanese comics called manga.

After graduation, Nourigat created storyboards for commercials and started drawing comics. One of her first projects: *Between Gears*, an autobiographical account of her senior year that was a finalist for a 2014 Oregon Book Award.

Nourigat also captured her pivotal relocation to California in a 96-page graphic novel, *I Moved*

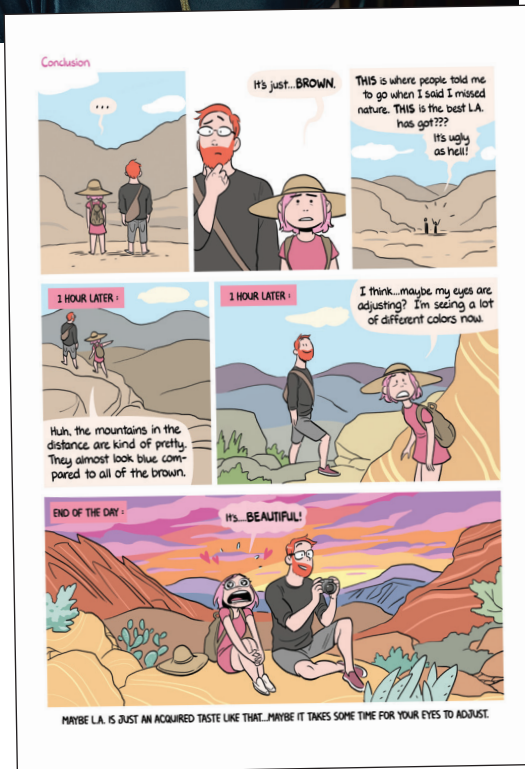
to LA to Work in Animation (right). "I get a lot of questions from people about this career path, and while I certainly don't know everything, I wanted to share what I *do* know from my first couple of years here."

Nourigat storyboarded the sequence below from Disney's *Ralph Breaks the Internet* (2018), in which characters Vanellope and Shank talk while Wreck-It Ralph eavesdrops.

One of Nourigat's more challenging recent projects was *Exchange Student* (bottom right), an animated short film that she directed for Short Circuit, Disney's new short-film program. "I really enjoyed learning to lead other artists, exploring how the production pipeline works, and seeing the film enriched by each of the departments that touch it."

Visit natalienourigat.com for more information about Nourigat and where to find her work.

Matt Cooper is managing editor of *Oregon Quarterly*.



BOOM! BOX (I MOVED TO LA); ©DISNEY

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Pictured: Co-owner Becky Jones planting a tree with the youngest member of her family, Ava (age 5)

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JANUARY

23 **PORTLAND DUCK LUNCH**
Hillsboro, Oregon

28 **IDEAS ON TAP**
The Science of Beer Making with Professor Jim Hutchison
Bend, Oregon

FEBRUARY

9 **UOAA AWARD RECOGNITION**
During the Women's Basketball game vs. ASU (ticket req'd)
Eugene, Oregon

12 **ETIQUETTE DINNER WITH UO STUDENTS**
Eugene, Oregon

13 **PORTLAND SCIENCE NIGHT**
Portland, Oregon

28 **DUCKS ON THE BEACH**
Honolulu, Hawaii

28 **LANE COUNTY DUCKS**
Taste of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon

MARCH

5-8 **Women's Pac-12 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT**
Las Vegas, Nevada

11-14 **Men's Pac-12 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT**
Las Vegas, Nevada

APRIL

1 **DUCKS IN TECH**
San Francisco, California

10-11 **PEAR BLOSSOM FESTIVAL**
Medford, Oregon

16 **WOMXN'S ROUNDTABLE**
Equity in the Workplace
Duck Career Network and UO Portland Career Services
Portland, Oregon

18 **DENVER DUCKS**
Beer Garden Festival
Denver, Colorado

18 **SAN DIEGO DUCKS**
Party on the Pond
Fairbanks Ranch Clubhouse
San Diego, California

CONGRATULATIONS to the UO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S 2020 AWARD WINNERS!



Tinker Hatfield, BArch '77
Distinguished Alumni Award

- Legendary designer responsible for the Jordan brand of Nike shoes
- 100 Most Influential Designers of the Century, *Fortune Magazine*
- Design work on display in the Smithsonian Museum
- 2008 inductee, Oregon Sports Hall of Fame for Special Contribution to Sport



Dennis Worden, BA '06
Outstanding Young Alumni Award

- Founder and host of NextGen Native, one of the first Native American podcasts
- Member of the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development's "Native American 40 Under 40"
- Co-chair of Walmart's Tribal Voices employee resource group

Please join us to honor them during the
UO v Arizona State women's basketball game at
Matthew Knight Arena on February 9.



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Class Notes

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



CLASS NOTABLE

Personal Perspective

She grew up with the agency that helped her mother get off drugs. Now she runs it. Ebony Sloan Clarke, BA '99 (education studies), was recently named director of Multnomah County's Mental Health and Addiction Services division, after 10 years with the agency.

As a child, Clarke was at her mother's side as Helen Sloan slowly kicked an opioid habit with the help of county services that included a residential treatment center and 12-step meetings.

What she learned from her mom's experience and throughout her upbringing shaped the way Clarke leads—with a deep faith in God, a passion for equity, and a willingness to be vulnerable, take risks, and carry on. "If you communicate, build trust, and cultivate relationships, you can do anything," Clarke says. "It's about creating a level platform where people can have a voice."

Clarke met her husband at the UO—Matt Clarke, BS '99 (political science), is a partner in the Portland law firm Landye Bennett Blumstein LLP—and the couple have two boys. Her path was also shaped by Dan Close, an associate professor in the College of Education. His instruction on the intersectionality of race and the experience of African Americans inspired Clarke to seek out and disrupt oppression in educational and human service systems.

The university "is the place where I found strength within myself and realized I could navigate the world," Clarke says. "I gained valuable tools and insight into the world before me that I would never have had otherwise."

—Matt Cooper, *Oregon Quarterly*

FLASHBACK

1920 In January, the *Oregon Emerald* announces the launch of "Lemon Punch," a weekly satirical column with the potential to become a magazine of its own, similar to the *Harvard Lampoon*.

Indicates UOAA Member

1940s

The late **JOHN DICK**, BS '41 (law), a star on the NCAA championship-winning basketball team in 1939, was named to The Dalles Hall of Fame.

1950s

KATHLEEN LANGMO, BS '58 (education), has written two novels, *Henrietta* and *Virginia*.

1960s

PENELOPE GROSS, BS '65 (political science), was elected to a seventh four-year term on the Fairfax County (Virginia) Board of Supervisors.

JIM BARNETT, BS '66 (physical education), moved to radio analysis for the Golden State Warriors after 34 years as TV color analyst for the NBA team.

The 26th edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*, a peer-reviewed ranking of US lawyers for professional excellence, included **PETER RICHTER**, BS '68 (sociology), JD '71; **CRAIG McCLELLAN**, BS '69 (economics); **PATRICK GREEN**, BS '70 (political science), JD '73; **KIRK JOHANSEN**, BS '71 (political science), JD '74; **ALBERT MENASHE**, BS '71 (political

science); **GILBERT FEIBLEMAN**, BS '72 (economics); **DON CORSON**, BS '76 (psychology), JD '85; and **MICHAEL McCONNELL**, BS '77 (psychology).

BRUCE BECHTOL, PhD '69 (geography), was named a 2019 inductee into the Oroville Union High School District Hall of Fame in California.

A painting by Portland artist **LESLIE ANN BUTLER**, BS '69 (speech), was chosen by the Ambassador to Brunei for a three-year exhibition at the US Embassy in Bandar Seri Begawan, and four of her other paintings were recently featured on the sets of the new series, *Pretty Little Liars: The Perfectionists*.

1970s

MARK THEISEN, BS '72 (political science), announced retirement after 27 years as a lobbyist in the California State Capitol and senior legislative assistant to a California congressman.

CLARK KOKICH, BS '73 (finance), was appointed a nonexecutive chairman of the board for LiveRamp, a San Francisco-based tech platform.

LESTER FRIEDMAN, BS '74 (speech: telecommunication and film), was named a recipient of the 2019 Oregon Association of

Realtors' Distinguished Service Award for his work as a principal broker with Coldwell Banker in Bend.

For her work for the Natural Resources Defense Council, **ANN NOTTHOFF**, BA '76 (community service and public affairs) was named to the Top 100 of *Capitol Weekly*, a California-based publication covering state government and politics.

PATRICK RAND, MArch '77, won the UNC System Board of Governors award for excellence in teaching at North Carolina State.

1980s


DANIEL HARRIS, JD '82, and his wife Susan recently finished an 18-month stint in Russia working as legal volunteers facilitating humanitarian projects.

The Oregon Substitute Teacher Association named **MAX WHITE**, a member of the class of 1985, the Oregon Substitute Teacher of the Year.

BRIAN SMITH, BA '88 (political science), was named chief ethics and compliance officer at the University of California, San Francisco.

CODY YEAGER, MA '88 (comparative literature), has retired from a deanship at Southwestern Oregon Community College and lives in The Dalles.



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

DUCKS AFIELD

LARRY FRANZ, BS '83 (chemistry), took a camel ride to an overnight stay in the Sahara Desert.

1990s

When We Were Shadows, a novel by **JANET WEES**, MEd '90 (talented and gifted program), was published in 2018 as part of the series, Holocaust Remembrance Books for Young Readers, and has been shortlisted for the Rocky Mountain Book Award 2020.

FRED LOVINGIER, BS '92 (political science), has been appointed district manager for the Las Vegas office of

Insperty, a provider of human resources and business performance solutions.

TIFFANY MILLS, BA '92 (Clark Honors College, dance), who is celebrating 20 years as artistic director of her New York City-based dance company, Tiffany Mills Company, has been invited to the Summer Festival Residency at the NYU Tisch School of the Arts.

MICHAEL HORNE, MBA '93 (business), has been appointed

executive vice president of worldwide sales for San Francisco-based tech firm Swift Navigation, which provides positioning technology for autonomous vehicles.

ERIKA JOSTAD, BA '93 (philosophy), chief ranger at Denali National Park, Alaska, recently completed a term as president of the National Park Rangers Association, where she received visits from then-president Barack Obama and Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

After almost 20 years as a deputy public defender in Napa County, **JOSEPH SOLGA**, JD '93, was appointed to fill a vacancy on the county's Superior Court.

Clackamas Community College hired **JOHN CHANG**, BS '95 (economics), as

executive director of the college's fundraising foundation.

KYLE MCGOWAN, BS '96 (marketing), was appointed vice president for university advancement at Idaho State University.

CHAD STEWART, BS '98 (biology), was named the new forest supervisor for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests on the western slope of the Colorado Rockies.

FLASHBACK

1930 Johnson Hall administration installs a "telephone exchange" that allows a single operator to connect callers to 133 different offices, departments, and faculty members across campus.



CLASS NOTABLE

Grave Undertaking

Pete McDowell knows he can't undo history's hate crimes. But he can help repair the damage—literally and figuratively.

McDowell, BS '75 (psychology), has spent the last four summers volunteering with others from around the world to restore the last surviving Jewish cemetery in Bialystok, the largest city in north-eastern Poland. The cemetery was desecrated by the Nazis during World War II and later looted by thieves seeking gravestones for building materials.

As a member of the Bialystok Cemetery Restoration Project, McDowell has worked with a crew using heavy equipment to repair and reattach vandalized headstones, then lift and reposition them. They've restored 1,500 headstones in a cemetery with more than 30,000 plots, and set up a gofundme site.

The work is, in one sense, personal for McDowell, whose great-grandparents were Jewish. The genealogy buff found that one set of them emigrated to the US from Bialystok in 1890; McDowell doesn't know if any of his ancestors are buried in the cemetery but he's nevertheless felt satisfaction in honoring and restoring dignity to strangers who died more than 100 years ago.

"We've had people come into the cemetery looking for headstones of relatives the last few years," McDowell says. "They'll let us know what it means to them and we say, 'Glad you came, glad we could do this for you.'"

—Matt Cooper, *Oregon Quarterly*

DAWN THOMPSON, PhD '98 (biology), was appointed to the drug discovery team of Massachusetts-based LifeMine Therapeutics, developing medicines based on genomic research.

2000s

TRAVIS HUMBLE, MS '00, PhD '05 (chemistry), a scientist with Tennessee-based Oak Ridge National Laboratory, was named coeditor in chief of a new quantum computing journal, *ACM Transactions on Quantum Computing*, published by the Association for Computing Machinery.

ADRIENNE DOWD, BA '01 (English), was named an instructor of English at Manchester Community College in Connecticut.

COBI LEWIS, a member of the class of 2001 and senior vice president and director of corporate responsibility for Umpqua Bank, was recognized nationally as a top influencer in finance and was featured in a *Portland Business Journal* story for her work in economic empowerment.

PAIGE COGNETTI, BA '02 (English, Clark Honors College), was elected

mayor of Scranton, Pennsylvania—the first female mayor in the city's history—and will run for re-election in 2021.

Board-certified plastic surgeon **AUSTIN HAYES**, BS '02 (general science), established a cosmetic surgery practice in Portland.

JOSH LIEBERMAN, BS '02 (economics), was hired as a renewable project developer for NW Natural, a natural gas company based in Portland.

FLASHBACK

1940 Dr. Delbert Stanard is named president of the alumni association in January, via a first-ever mail-in ballot election.



DUCKS AFIELD

ROBIN GARDNER, BS '74 (transportation and business environments), brought her green-and-yellow to Banff National Park's stunning Moraine Lake in Alberta, Canada.



DUCKS AFIELD

A Duck trio in Scotland! Sisters VERONICA (left), BS '13 (anthropology), and ELAINE MILLER (right), BA '13 (psychology), traveled with YVONNE SMITH, BS '86 (psychology), to the Calanais Standing Stones.



DUCKS AFIELD

STEVE WOLF (left), BS '73 (general social science), his wife Sherri, and friends Jeff and Cara Brown enjoyed a 108-degree mud bath at the Sulfur Springs in Saint Lucia.



Willie Tykeson visited Willie and Donald Tykeson Hall in October with her children, Ellen and Eric

IN MEMORIAM

WILLIE TYKESON, 1929–2019

Rilda “Willie” Steigleder and Don Tykeson were UO students in the late 1940s when they met on a blind date. They became two of the university’s most cherished supporters.

They married in 1950 and Don, BS '51 (business administration), went on to success in the communications industry. Over the decades, the couple gave tens of millions of dollars to education, health care, and the arts, and the UO has been a special beneficiary of their generosity.

The couple received the UO Presidential Medal in 1997 for their service to the university. Among their many contributions was the lead gift of \$10 million to launch a new campus hub for academic and career advising, Willie and Donald Tykeson Hall. Don Tykeson died in 2017 just before the building broke ground, but Willie celebrated the recent opening of Tykeson Hall, a next-generation approach to student success that embodies the couple’s passion for education.

“We explored the new building with Willie and her family right after it opened,” says Andrew Marcus, former Tykeson Dean of Arts and Sciences. “It was moving to see how delighted Willie was with the building and what it will accomplish for many generations of students. She was extremely proud of Tykeson Hall and eagerly anticipated its opening.”

—Matt Cooper, *Oregon Quarterly*



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DUCKS AFIELD

INGRID MARTINI (left), BA '90 (English), and JENNIFER ARCHER, BA '91 (journalism: advertising), road-tripped last summer through Saskatchewan, Canada, visiting the Legislative Building in Regina (pictured) and the University of Saskatchewan.



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FLASHBACK

1950 Chapman Hall and images of the UO are featured in full-color photographs on menus used on Union Pacific passenger trains.

AUBREY McCAULEY, BS '02 (education studies), was promoted to talent solutions manager with ProFocus Technology, a tech staffing and consulting firm in Portland.

BRAD WILKINS, PhD '03 (exercise and movement science), was hired as vice president of science and innovation at Amp Human, a producer of athletic recovery and training products based in Park City, Utah.

After serving as caregivers for their mothers during cancer treatment, **MATT McCARRICK**,

BA '05 (business administration), and his wife Sarah launched MCCARD clothing, providing comfortable and practical clothing for cancer patients.

NICK SHANMAC, BA '05 (political science), was hired as communications manager for Educational Service District 112 in Vancouver, Washington, where he'll provide support services to school districts throughout southwestern Washington.

Travel Oregon's **HEATHER PLATANIAS**, BA '05

(psychology), and her husband Alex welcomed their first child, a son, in August.

RICHARD ALMEIDA, BEd '07 (family and human services), won 2020 School Counselor of the Year in Oregon for his work in the Salem-Keizer School District.

CYNTHIA NUSTAD, MBA '07 (general business), joined the board of directors at Denver-based NextHealth Technologies, an analytics company that optimizes healthcare affordability.



George Washington was a leading African American pioneer of the Pacific Northwest, founding a town in Washington state that became the city of Centralia, south of Olympia. Jim Stafford (pictured) grew up near there, and after studying sculpture at the UO and graduating with a master of fine arts in 1968, he launched a career in the craft that has sustained him for 50 years. His most recent sculpture, *The Washingtons*, depicting George and Mary Jane Washington and the family dog, was dedicated in downtown Centralia in conjunction with the city's celebration of Washington's 200th birthday in 2017.

Will Power



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Haley Case-Scott
BA '18 (political science)

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FLASHBACK

1960 In January, Max Robinson celebrates 25 years of ownership of his bar, Max's, a staple of the campus-area community.

2010s

NICOLE FREITAG, BS '10 (journalism: news-editorial), was hired as assistant coach for cross country/track and field at the University of Virginia.

VIRGINIA BEAVERT, PhD '12 (linguistics), was honored with the Twanat Award by the Museum at Warm Springs in Yakima, Washington, for a lifetime of efforts in revitalizing the indigenous languages of the Columbia River system.

DAN STRAUSS, MPA '12, was elected city councilman for Seattle's District 6.

RYAN KROON, BA '13 (general social science), was hired as day-to-day manager for Nashville-based country music collective Big Loud/Maverick.

ALYSHA WEBB, BS '13 (sociology), joined CNBC's *Make It* as a content producer.

AMANDA MCGRAW, BS '14 (public relations), was named program director for California iHeartRadio stations

102.7/The Wolf, in Fresno, and 92.9/The Big Dog, in Modesto.

Massachusetts-based Worcester Polytechnic Institute hired **CRYSTAL BROWN**, MS '16 (political science), as an assistant teaching professor in the Department of Social Science and Policy Studies.

LINDSAY CREVOISERAT, BS '16 (business administration), was named head cross-country coach and assistant track-and-field coach at the University of Connecticut.

RACHEL NICHOLSON, BA '16 (political science), MS '19 (conflict dispute and resolution), became an assistant ombudsperson with the Staff Ombuds Office at University of California, Berkeley.

LINDSEY LeMAY, a member of the class of 2017, was hired as head lacrosse coach at Northern Michigan University.

BILL BELCHER, BS '18 (music), was appointed conductor of the Carson Chamber Singers and the Carson

City Symphony Chorus by the Symphony Association Board of Nevada.

JESKE GLENN, BS '18 (mathematics), was chosen for the 2019 Cohort of Teaching Fellows of the Knowles Teacher Initiative, and teaches at Fremont High School in Sunnyvale, California.

For her work as a first-year teacher at Lincoln Middle School in Cottage Grove, **HALLI ROUSSELL**, BS '18 (biology), MEd '19 (curriculum and teaching), was awarded

the 2019 Outstanding Early Career Classroom Teacher Award for Region 3 by the Oregon Science Teachers Association.

KAYLA FUNK, BArch '19, was hired as a junior designer by Woodblock Architecture, a design and architecture firm based in Portland.

Known by her stage name Wynne, **SINA HOLWERDA**, BA '19 (music), released her first full-length rap album project, *If I May*.

FLASHBACK

1970 UO geology professors Gordon Goles and Daniel Weill are two of 130 scientists in the world to receive lunar rock samples—an estimated two to three billion years old—from astronauts on the Apollo 11 mission.



DUCKS AFIELD

Beta Omega Kappa Gammas (from left) **ALYSON ROWDEN**, BA '87 (journalism), **BETH BARRETT**, BA '88 (English), **LAURA MILLHAM**, BA '86 (psychology), **WENDY KELLEY**, BS '87 (speech: telecommunication and film), and **CLAUDINE PAYNE**, BS '86 (psychology), gathered in Newport Beach, California.



DUCKS AFIELD

Six members of the Oregon Law Class of '15 were recently reunited as attorneys at the Portland office of law firm Miller Nash Graham and Dunn. Left to right, seated: **MAX FORER**, **IVÁN RESENDIZ GUTIERREZ**; standing: **JOHN CLARKE**, **TYLER BOWLIN**, **ERIN BURRIS**, and **RYAN HALL**.



IN MEMORIAM

URBANA ROSS, 1957-2018

She earned bachelor's and master's degrees while raising four children alone. That was one way Urbana Marie "Toto" Ross inspired others inside and outside her tribe, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs in central Oregon.

Ross, BS '96 (political science), MS '99 (public affairs), mentored Native students while a student herself, serving as codirector of the Native American Student Union. She continued to lead after college and throughout life, including stints as the tribe's chief operations officer, secretary of the Oregon Indian Education Association, and realty officer for the Warm Springs office of the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs.

A passionate Ducks fan, Ross was equally dedicated to the creation of the UO Longhouse and to maintaining ties between the Oregon Indian Education Association and higher education institutions including the UO.

"She was always a fierce champion for education, particularly for Native youth," says Howie Arnett, her longtime partner and a professor at the law school. "Her positions over the years reflect not only her will to succeed but her resolve to make tribal communities successful."

—Matt Cooper, *Oregon Quarterly*



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DUCKS AFIELD

MICHAEL LANDES, MEd '91 (special education), and his wife Nancy Callaghan biked around Bruges, Belgium, last summer.



DUCKS AFIELD

MAX AHMAD, BA '82 (sociology), and his family visited the Kaminarimon Gate in Tokyo last summer.

FLASHBACK

1980 The UO Drug Information Center in January publishes a fact sheet detailing the potentially negative psychological and physical effects of an ingredient found in coffee: caffeine.

BRENT ROCHELEAU, JD '19, became an intern in the office of Cass County Prosecutor Victor Fitz of Michigan.

ASIA ZELLER, BA '19 (journalism), became an education reporter with the *Lake Oswego Review*.

IN MEMORIAM

ROBERT CARNEY, BL '49 (law), died October 1. A baseball fan and avid traveler, he received a Purple Heart during US Navy service in World War II and practiced law for 52 years, including stints as assistant attorney

general, assistant district attorney, and assistant US attorney, and in private practice at Dunn Carney.

CELESTE GIESECKE, BS '49 (political science), died August 3. A dedicated member of Alpha Delta Phi, she taught sixth grade in Fairfax County Public Schools and, after her retirement, English as a second language at Abiding Presence Lutheran Church in Burke, Virginia.

RALPH HIMMELSBACH, BS '49 (psychology), died

October 3. The FBI agent was one of the first on the scene of the 1971 D. B. Cooper skyjacking, spent the last years of his career trying to find Cooper, and authored *Norjak: The Investigation of D. B. Cooper*.

ROBERT SANDERS, BS '51 (business administration), died November 12. The three-year football letterman, who ranked in Oregon's top 10 in career rushing and points scored for more than three decades, was president of RSG Forest Products in Molalla, and was the driving force behind

Jane Sanders Stadium, donating \$16 million to the softball stadium project.

THOMAS WHITE, BBA '53 (business administration), BEd '63, died December 1, 2018. He served in a US Army band, joined Delta Upsilon fraternity, and studied bagpipes throughout his life. A sailor and skier, he taught in Portland and Bogota, Colombia, and was a psychologist for the Medical Lake School District in Spokane.

GLENN SKINNER, BA '59 (mathematics), MA '64 (interdisciplinary studies), died August 19. He was a math teacher and coach at Mohawk High School in Marcola, and math department head for Bainbridge High School, Bainbridge Island, Washington, until retirement in 1990.

PAUL GEIS, BS '75 (finance), died October 30. The distance runner was an NCAA champion in the three-mile run in 1974 and a 1976 US Olympian, and is sixth on Oregon's career list in the 5,000-meter event.

SCOTT CHAMBERS, BS '82 (management), died November 3. He led Chambers Communications and KEZI-TV for more than 30 years and managed the Chambers Family Foundation, which contributed more than \$15 million in grants and gifts to organizations and nonprofits in the Willamette Valley.

ANGELO SEMINARY, BS '90 (political science, economics), died October 2. He was a director of sales for IT Motives in Portland and president of the Lane County chapter of

the alumni association. He coached Little League baseball and loved cooking, gardening, music, and travel.

MARY GAUTREAU, MS '97 (public affairs), died September 20. The dedicated environmentalist planted trees and fought fires for the US Forest Service and served as Deputy State Director for Senator Ron Wyden, who called her "the Eighth Wonder of Oregon."

SAM KLONOSKI, BS '09 (biochemistry), died September 23. The son of federal judge Ann Aiken, BS '74 (political science), JD '79, and the late Jim Klonoski, a UO political science professor, Sam was a beloved member of the general surgery family at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago.



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DOUG MCKAY BS '59 (business administration), died December 4. A tremendous advocate for education and the Eugene-Springfield community, he served on the UO Foundation Board of Trustees from 2010-18 and was a member of the Lane Community College board. His financial support touched athletics, presidential scholarships, the Ford Alumni Center, and the Lundquist College of Business, where his faculty fund supports the McKay professorship and the

technology center is named in memory of his parents.

NEIL SKILL, MS '62 (political science), died April 1. Skill retired as Oregon Associate State Forester in 1988 after nearly 35 years with the department. He served 30 years in the Air Force Reserve, retiring with the rank of colonel. He also served with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, responding to hurricanes and other disasters for 17 years.

FACULTY IN MEMORIAM

DAVID SCHUMAN, JD '84, a professor of practice at the School of Law and a former justice on the Oregon Court of Appeals and deputy attorney general, died October 8. An avid bicyclist, he taught constitutional law, criminal procedure, legislation, and administrative law, and received the Ersted Award for Distinguished Teaching.

FLASHBACK

2000 University administration in January announces the opening of the ethnic studies department, offering a major and minor.



DUCKS AFIELD

PETER PHAM, BA '86 (mathematics), MA '88 (applied mathematics), stopped by the Burj Al Arab Jumeirah hotel while visiting Dubai, United Arab Emirates.



DUCKS AFIELD

While climbing a mountain in Rwanda to celebrate his 70th birthday, **JOHN LA LONDE**, BS '71 (psychology), ME'd '72 (secondary education), shared Ducks pride with a silverback gorilla.



DUCKS AFIELD

PEGGY, BS '72 (art education), and **BOB RHEN**, BS '72 (mathematics), left, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary alongside longtime friends and OSU graduates Jeff and Jeanette Graham in Budapest.

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FOR THE ULTIMATE ANNIVERSARY

A Sacrifice for Science

Edgar McClure was a leader on campus and among climbers

BY TIM CHRISTIE



Three members of the 1897 climbing expedition on their way to the summit of Mount Rainier

Samuel Edgar McClure was the son of Eugene pioneers, handsome and mustachioed, a man of science and a man of adventure.

He was the first chair of the UO chemistry department and a member of Portland's Mazamas mountaineering organization, scaling Cascade volcanos with heavy scientific gear on his back to take the measure of the mountains.

His death near midnight on July 27, 1897, high on the icy slopes of Mount Rainier, at the too-young age of 34, made national news.

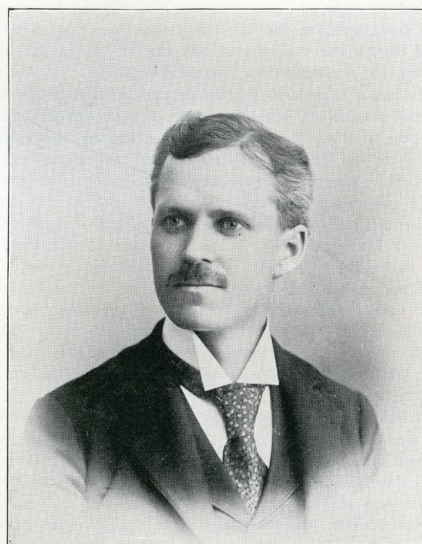
His was the first recorded climbing death on the iconic Washington volcano, and a rocky outcropping at 7,385 feet near Paradise Glacier is named for him.

There once was a McClure Hall on campus, but it was demolished in 1953 to make way for Allen Hall. Today, a wing in the Earl housing complex bears his name.

Born in Eugene on New Year's Eve, 1862, to Andrew Samuel McClure and Sarah Jane (nee Dillard) McClure, he earned a bachelor's degree from the UO in 1883 and a master's in 1886. In the interim, he spent a year studying at Harvard.

McClure became one of the most expert mountaineers in the Northwest, according to a July 31, 1897, story in the *Eugene Guard*, headlined "Eugene Mourns Her Favorite Son."

He brought a scientific bent to his expeditions, carrying on his back an unwieldy mercurial barometer to the summits of Mount Adams, Middle Sister, and Diamond Peak.



PROF. EDGAR MCCLURE.

On that fateful summer day, McClure was a member of a huge Mazamas party that had climbed the flanks of Rainier. Fifty-eight of the group's members summited the mountain, then the largest number to have accomplished that feat in a single day.

After using his barometer to measure Rainier's elevation in the afternoon, McClure was part of a small party that elected to descend the mountain after dark. Trying to find his way down, McClure ventured to a rocky outcrop and quickly realized his mistake.

Standing on a ledge, his large instrument strapped to his back, he yelled his final

words to companions higher up the slope: "Don't come down here; it's too steep." Moments later, he lost his balance and tumbled down the icy, rock-strewn pitch.

The headline in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* grimly summed up McClure's demise:

HIS LAST ASCENT

- Edgar McClure perishes on Mt. Rainier
- Falls Over A Precipice
- His Bruised and Mangled Body Found Among the Rocks

McClure's death was not in vain. The measurement he took of Mount Rainier that day, 14,528 feet, was used until 1914 when the US Geological Survey took a new measurement and pronounced Rainier to be 14,408 feet high.

Writing later that year in the *P-I*, Herbert Bruce said McClure was regarded by his friends and students "as a born high priest of nature, whose chief mission in the world was to reveal her secrets to mankind."

"He offered up his life virtually a sacrifice to the cause of popular and practical science, and in as lofty a sense as ever dignified a Roman arena, he was a martyr of the cause of truth."

Tim Christie is a staff writer for University Communications.

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