

Oregon

QUARTERLY
AUTUMN 2020



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TWEETING
the Pandemic

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Youri Benadjaoud

Senior, *University of Oregon*
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HONORING NATIVE PEOPLES AND LANDS

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

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As I write this message, horrendous wildfires burning across the West Coast have taken lives, destroyed homes and forests, and temporarily robbed us of our crisp, clean air. It may be months before the last embers are extinguished in Oregon. This is my third consecutive *Oregon Quarterly* letter in which I am addressing a seemingly unparalleled calamity. On top of COVID-19 and the systemic racism laid bare by the killings of George Floyd and other Black Americans, the fires may seem like the final straw.

However, there is plenty of evidence that our University of Oregon community will emerge strong from these horrible events. I see it in the resilience of our alumni, faculty members, staff, and students as they weather each hardship by innovating, problem solving, volunteering, donating, and working through challenges I couldn't have imagined just a year ago. I also see this in the excited (and slightly apprehensive) faces of our first-year students and their parents as they move their belongings into Justice Bean Hall just as many of you did in years past.

We persevere and *will thrive* because we are a community, bound by our belief in the university's mission of education and research. As we teach the next generation, create knowledge, and witness our alumni and scholars use these experiences to overcome challenges, it is a reaffirmation of humanity and the future.

Which brings me to where we foster this resilience—in our classroom, labs, and studios. In this and every autumn issue of *Oregon Quarterly*, we celebrate the tremendous research done by our undergraduates. If exceptional classroom instruction is the root of an education at the UO, then thought-provoking research projects are the branches—the opportunities for students to take what they've learned and extend themselves in any direction they choose, exhaustively exploring whatever question motivates them, working independently or with a faculty member.

Odalis Aguilar-Aguilar, for example, examined the 1940s-era Bracero guest worker program and its impact on the Mexican families whose fathers and sons went north for seasonal work and promises of a better life that too often went unfulfilled.

Shane Cooney, a 2020 philosophy graduate, during his senior year studied writings on the meaning of life by philosophers Albert Camus and Immanuel Kant—and emerged with a novel-but-inspiring approach for overcoming drug addiction that may one day be distributed widely.

Donna Hooshmand, meanwhile, balanced a demanding academic project in computer science with the personal challenge of attending school 7,000 miles from her homeland Iran. Her story captures all that is so formative about undergraduate research projects—perseverance, coping with adversity, learning from failure, and building patiently toward success.

Other students pursued topics as diverse as the reds, yellows, and oranges of the falling leaves. Among them: the history of Black student protest at the university, an area where we've made progress recently but still have much work to do; surface conditions of organic molecules, which contributes to knowledge in the electronics industry; and use of Twitter to explore the response to the coronavirus pandemic by officials in populous Los Angeles County.

In this suddenly uncertain world, I take comfort in the certainty that we are training the next generation of leaders to ask—and answer—the critical questions of our time. I hope their stories instill the same confidence in you.

Michael H. Schill
President and Professor of Law

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OUR COAST
YOUR AQUARIUM

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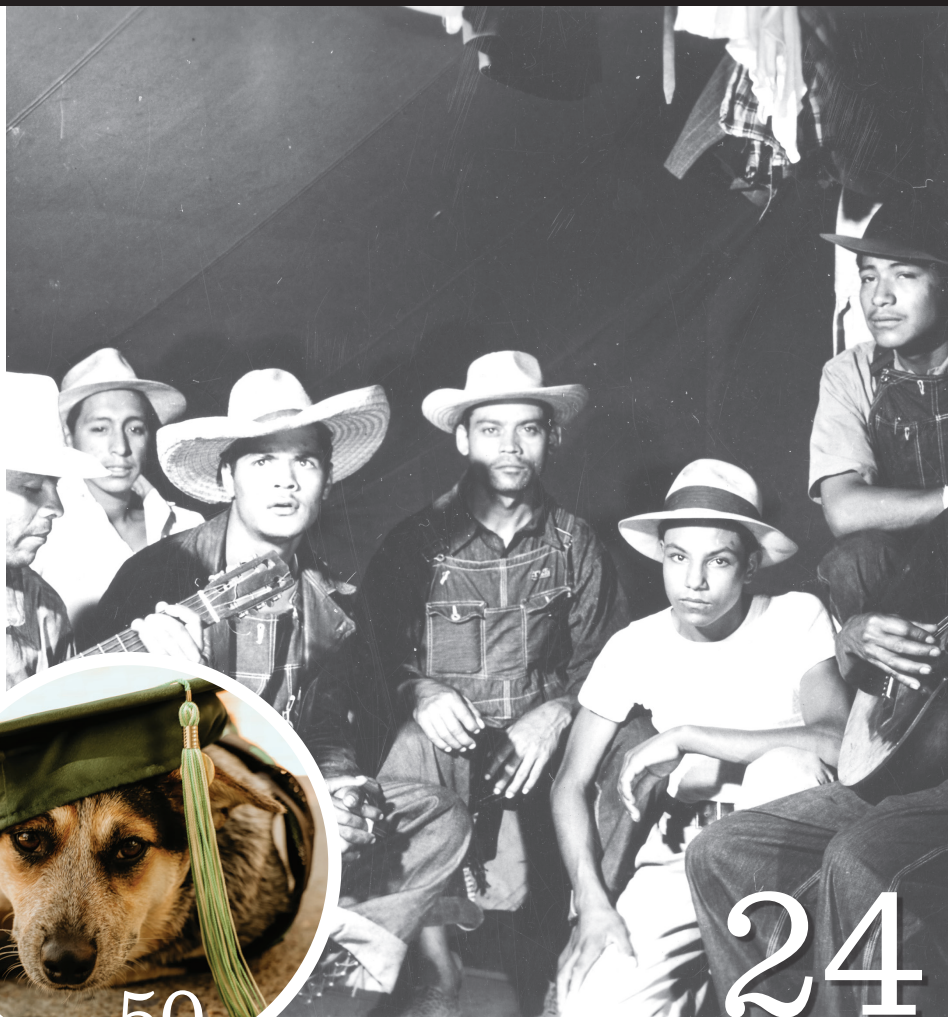
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ON THE COVER

These undergraduate researchers found Zoom invaluable for all aspects of their projects, from meeting with advisors and peers to presenting their findings on YouTube

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY OREGON MEDIA



WORKERS PLAYING GUITARS. EXTENSION BULLETIN ILLUSTRATIONS PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION (P.020), OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES RESEARCH CENTER, CORVALLIS, OREGON; ALEXIS MCKENZIE STEURY; ANS PHOTOGRAPHY (DOG); JBOY PHOTOGRAPHY

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TETHEROW - TOP 100 - #63



The Board of Trustees decided June 24 to rename Deady Hall

continually evolving and improving by recognizing past mistakes. Many of the individuals in our history who are being condemned today saw the error of their ways and should be recognized for that.

Susan Allen
Powell Butte, Oregon

Denaming Deady

Now that U of O has stripped Matthew Deady's name from its loveliest building, we eagerly look forward to the day when it rids its campus and its curriculum of the scripted dogma of Deady's racist Democrat political party.

However, until that time, we already have plenty of statue-toppling mob violence and sanctimonious white-liberal infantilization of Blacks up here in Portland. We don't need to be reminded that it extends in a straight line back to the Democrat propaganda that U of O dispensed to us in lieu of an education 35 years ago.

Kindly stop sending *Oregon Quarterly* to our house.

Katherin Kirkpatrick, BA '86 (linguistics)
Christopher Johnson, BA '85 (history)
Portland, Oregon

Race Matters

In the Summer *Oregon Quarterly's* "UO Voices on Racism," Associate Professor Charise Cheney smugly—and I suppose unassailably—asserts that the attack by Minneapolis cop Derek Chauvin on George Floyd was "Same white shit, different Black bodies." In my view, that assertion—not to mention the facile assumptions behind it—is racist.

Stephen Thom, BA '73
(Clark Honors College, English)
Waterloo, Illinois

The first sentence of your Summer *Oregon Quarterly* mixes facts with opinion. Your writer begins, "COVID-19 and a painful coming-to-grips with systemic racism . . ." The first item (COVID-19) is a fact. Systemic racism, whatever that means and whether it "exists," is an opinion.

Please don't mix facts with opinion going forward.

Gary Wolf, BS '72 (business administration), MBA '74 (finance)
Bend, Oregon

As a woman of Hispanic heritage, I take issue with the first sentence of your message (Summer 2020). I do not believe the United States is guilty of SYSTEMIC racism. Rather, some INDIVIDUALS in the US are guilty of racism. In fact, I believe it is blatantly racist for you to characterize our entire country as racist because of the bigotry of some.

It is my opinion that racism is both individual and multifaceted, based on personal experience. For example, I have been witness to white-on-Black racism; but I have also witnessed the reverse, as well as many other iterations of racism relevant to Asians, Hispanics, Italians, Irish, etc. There are individuals within every race and ethnicity who are racist—those who choose to judge people by the color of their skin or their heritage, rather than the quality of their character.

Racism will not be eradicated through renaming buildings, tearing down statues, or creating new policies that benefit one group over another. I believe it will only be overcome through education, and by improving the condition of every individual.

We must teach our country's unbiased history—warts and all—and show how, as a country and as individuals, we are

Who will be next? Anyone with Spanish heritage whose ancestors were responsible for hiring native Africans to hunt and capture other native Africans, then march them to ports to be sold and shipped to not only America, but to other countries?

Or perhaps anyone who had grandparents in Poland who may, just may, have "assisted" the Germans in WWII by not taking up arms in resistance, but just trying to survive another day! Are we to call them out as traitors and punish their kin?

We all live in "times" that are constantly changing—that is a fact of life, handle it! We should all strive to live by the Golden Rule and look forward, not look backwards. You cannot realistically "erase" history, but you can learn valuable lessons by studying history and learning to do better in the future.

Allen Parelius, MS '62 (education), DEd '69 (special education)
Midland, Michigan

How convenient to not mention Deady was a Democrat!

Herb Taylor, MBA '82 (accounting)
Bakersfield, California

Statues Topped

“Dad, are you glad we moved to Canada to get away from all the people that had to leave their homes because of the coastal flooding?”

“Yes son.”

“Dad, don’t you think it’s too bad what is happening to America?”

“Yes it is son.”

“Dad, did you try to make things better in America when you were younger?”

“I tried.”

“What did you do?”

“On my college campus, I protested police brutality of Blacks and I helped tear down some statues that reflected oppression and racial injustice.”

“And that helped make it go away Dad?”

“Well, people didn’t have to be reminded of the statues’ hypocrisy.”

“So when you walked by where they used to stand, you didn’t have to think about racial injustice?”

“Son, I think you should go up and do your homework.”

Steve Dossey, BS ’71 (psychology)

Santa Fe, New Mexico

How do you move forward? Just like you have been. Give in to the mob and soon the only useful purpose for the university will be to serve as a landfill.

Stephen Bellotti, BS ’75 (accounting)

San Jose, California

As an alum, I am saddened that UO has succumbed to allowing radicals to topple statues and has nothing to say but suggest that these actions are part of necessary change. You state, without citing examples, that our systems are inherently racist. You’d think a higher education institution would inquire and endeavor to understand what groups they are supporting and the generic assertions they are making before sending out emails and taking long-lasting stances. There is this thing called due process and freedom of speech, and that does not encompass mob thuggery and vandalism, which last I checked were unlawful. Standing by and allowing these tactics to normalize turns a blind eye to justice and the rule of law,

which I was taught when I attended. Is there anyone there paying attention?

Christi Pavia, JD ’93

Bend, Oregon

I am disappointed at the lip service regarding dismantling systems of oppression and systemic racism—when the activists and advocates who removed visible symbols celebrating our legacy of oppression are called “vandals” in the same opening line. *Oregon Quarterly* and its writing staff and editors have work to do to unpack what it means to be antiracist, or they will continue to make visible the toxic racism and oppression they’ve imbibed in their coverage of this movement.

**Kimberlee Pelster, MEd ’20
(educational leadership)**

Eugene, Oregon

Vandals!?! Did you need to call them “vandals”? That was a despicable editorial decision.

**Jerry Rosiek, professor,
Education Studies**

Eugene, Oregon

Track Stars

I thought your recent “Miler’s Memoriam” (Summer 2020) eulogizing Jim Bailey missed an opportunity to enlighten readers about Bill Dellinger, who was also pictured in the photo of the two UO Ducks running on the Hayward Field track. While Mr. Bailey’s achievements were indeed noteworthy, Dellinger was an American, an Olympic bronze medalist at 5,000 meters, and a UO track-and-field head coach (specializing in long-distance runners) for decades thereafter.

**Mark Lansing, BA ’79
(Clark Honors College, journalism)**

Grants Pass, Oregon

Big-Time B-Baller

I was delighted to read the article about Jim Barnett (Summer 2020). Loved watching his passion on the floor in the old Mac Court in the ’60s.

Owen Panner, Jr. BA ’69 (English)

Riddle, Oregon

Picture(s) Perfect

As always, I found your Summer 2020 issue of *Oregon Quarterly* a good reading companion for a quiet hour. The photographs of the (almost deserted) campus by Jasper Zhou were especially

evocative and brought back memories of a “more peaceful” time.

**William D. “Bill” Brewer, BA ’65
(Clark Honors College,
chemistry, mathematics)**

Berlin, Germany

Norm Van Brocklin

I found it perplexing in a time of social change and racial awareness that the Old Oregon section featured a book about Norm Van Brocklin (Summer 2020). His football fame aside, Van Brocklin was an abrasive, profane, and openly racist individual. In David “Deacon” Jones’ autobiography *Headslap*, he recounts several times that Van Brocklin used the N-word in reference to him. One need only review old NFL Films footage of Van Brocklin to witness him insulting people based on ethnicity and race which—even for that time—is offensive and shocking.

At a time when buildings are being renamed and statues that generically represent a period in time are being vandalized, the University of Oregon’s own publication needs to be consistent in its values and avoid hypocrisy.

Greg Ingold, BA ’05 (medieval studies)

Eugene, Oregon

Editor’s note: Karen Vanderyt, author of The Dutchman and Portland’s Finest Rose and daughter of the late Gloria and Norm Van Brocklin, writes: “I wrote the book to provide a more balanced look at my parent’s earlier years, before fame and media painted their own narrative. Chapters 49–51 deal with racism in 1948, as the Ducks football team voted unanimously to accept the ’49 Cotton Bowl bid only if their African American teammates Win Wright, Chet Daniels, and Woodley Lewis were guaranteed to play.”

Visit oregonquarterly.com for more letters on our coverage of the George Floyd protests and the repercussions nationwide and at the university.

We want to hear from you.

Submit your letters at OregonQuarterly.com, by email to quarterly@uoregon.edu, or by mail to Editor, *Oregon Quarterly*, 5228 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403-5228. Published letters may be edited for brevity, clarity, and style.



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intro



UNPRECEDENTED UNPACK THE QUACK

Housing volunteer JP Routen welcomed Ducks students and families to campus September 21 for Unpack the Quack, the annual move-in into residence halls for the incoming class. Social distancing and other safety measures were practiced and the approximately 3,000 students who plan to live in the halls this term were required to have a COVID-19 test with a negative result before moving in. They'll be tested at least once more during the fall term.

Mission to Mars?

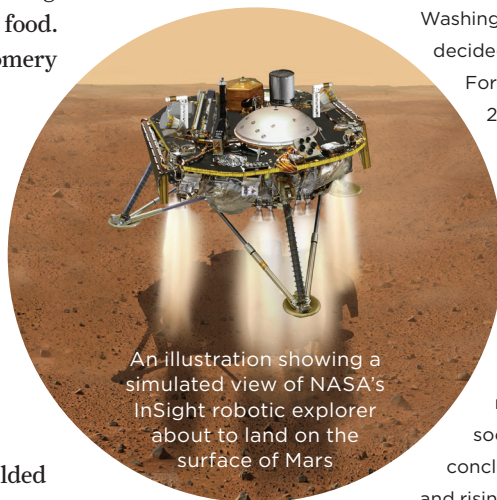
Human exploration of the Red Planet will require an energy-efficient way to manage mission waste, such as discarded food.

Biology major Alexandria Montgomery might have the answer: anaerobic digesters.

Within these systems, bacteria break down food waste and other organic matter and produce biomethane, a common fuel. Working with Oregon State University, Montgomery tested the ability of bacteria found in wastewater to produce biomethane by using the gases of Mars' atmosphere. The results yielded impressive amounts of the fuel.

But how did Montgomery test the gases of Mars? Welding suppliers, she learned, can produce cylinders with gases mixed to a customer's specifications—in this case, Mars' climate, which is 95.32 percent carbon dioxide, 2.7 percent nitrogen, and small amounts of argon, oxygen, carbon monoxide, and more.

"It's hard to figure out how we're going to make our plans for the Red Planet work logistically," says Montgomery, who launched the project because she is fascinated by space exploration. "It was exciting to see we might have an answer to one of the questions."



An illustration showing a simulated view of NASA's InSight robotic explorer about to land on the surface of Mars

RACE AND SPACE IN TACOMA

Joe Moore has seen big change in the Hilltop neighborhood in Tacoma, Washington, since the 1990s. He decided to examine those changes.

For his senior-year thesis, the 2020 sociology graduate explored the question of gentrification in Hilltop, which the city identified for community development in 2014. Moore reviewed case studies, city documents, records of residents' comments, and socioeconomic data. His conclusion: "urban revitalization" and rising property values have forced out many low-income residents, who are predominantly Black or Hispanic. A remedy would have to include more affordable housing, he concludes.

City information shows that, along with redevelopment, efforts to improve livability for low-income Hilltop residents are also underway, including hundreds of affordable-housing projects. Also coming to

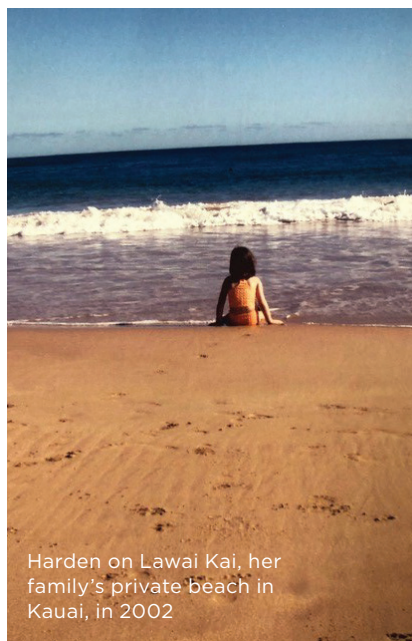


Victorian homes in Hilltop

Hilltop: a \$17 million medical center; housing vouchers; library and family services; city-business partnerships; code changes that enable work-live spaces; and light rail, bringing related job and business opportunities.

Moore received departmental honors for his thesis, which was a requirement of his McNair scholarship, a federal program that prepares first-generation students and underrepresented groups for doctoral studies. He hopes one day to work in community redevelopment as an urban planner or policymaker.

"I want to make the playing field level," Moore says. "I don't know that it's ever been level, especially for people of color."



Harden on Lawai Kai, her family's private beach in Kauai, in 2002

Reclaiming Hawai'i

When Jordan Kalani Harden talks about her homeland Hawai'i, she often finds people are unfamiliar with the state's troubling history—Native land, culture, and language lost in an invasion of Western "settlers" that has reduced Hawai'i to a tourist attraction.

In her 90-page thesis, the 2020 English and Clark Honors College graduate—a Native Hawaiian or *Kānaka Maoli*—examines the impact of colonialism and the deep spiritual connections between her people and their land, or *āina*, as represented in *Kānaka* literature, the hula dance, and stories passed down by a beloved aunt.

"Settler-colonialist ideology did not and does not permit a kinship with land in the same manner that is inherent to *Kānaka Maoli*," Harden writes. "The colonialist treatment of land is based upon constructs of ownership, positing land as a political commodity and as an object to be owned and controlled."

Working with Kirby Brown, an associate professor of English and the Norman H. Brown, Jr. Faculty Fellow, Harden completed the project over her senior year, ultimately graduating with honors. It was named the best thesis in English and received a Knight Library undergraduate research award. "Everyone has a responsibility to learn the real history about Native Hawaiians and Indigenous people in the United States," Harden says. "To be able to reclaim—not only for myself but for my family and Native Hawaiians—some dignity in telling our true history is so powerful."

Black life on campus, a history unchanged

BY MATT COOPER

In 1968, Black student anger with the University of Oregon boiled over. Protesters demanded change, including more Black faculty members, more Black scholarships, and more courses in Black studies.

In 2015, Black students made many of the same demands. In her examination of the two movements, 2020 sociology graduate Desirae Brown found that history repeated itself—and found herself frustrated with the slow pace of progress.

To satisfy the research requirements of the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program, a federal program that prepares first-generation students with financial need and underrepresented students for doctoral studies, Brown spent her senior year developing a paper on the history of Black student protest at the UO. She focused on demands made in 1968 by the Black Student Union and those pushed in 2015 by the Black Student Task Force, following protests against racism at the University of Missouri and the growing Black Lives Matter movement.

Brown scoured online resources and print and digital archives in the Knight Library and Special Collections and University Archives. Among her sources: the manuscripts of Arthur Fleming, university president from 1961 to 1968, who responded to demands by creating a committee on racism. “Fleming established the committee with the hope that they would ‘serve effectively each Black student or other minority group student who becomes a part of our university community,’” Brown wrote, citing a 1968 memorandum from the president.

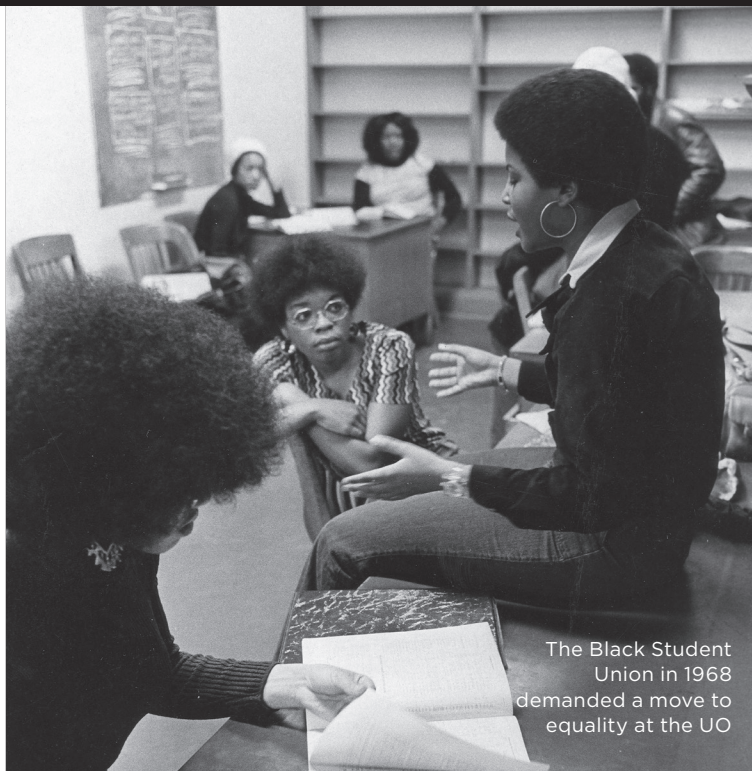
Gains from the 1968 effort included an uptick in Black student enrollment and Black resident assistants and, in 1973, the opening of a Black student center in Fenton Hall, Brown says. But the changes were not sustained, she adds, and by 2015, Black students were citing needs voiced by predecessors nearly 50 years earlier.

“To change the narrative, the UO must actively commit to engaging the needs of Black students,” Brown says. “It’s not too late to stand on the right side of history.”

Kevin Hatfield, McNair interim program director, says Brown produced new knowledge about why Black student demands presented to the institution nearly 50 years apart addressed almost identical antiracism and anti-Black issues.

“Desirae’s research will continue to meaningfully impact the lives and experiences of current students,” he adds.

Brown, a PathwayOregon scholar, was encouraged by the university’s 2019 opening of the Lyllye Reynolds-Parker Black Cultural



The Black Student Union in 1968 demanded a move to equality at the UO

Center—a direct response to the task force demands in 2015—and by the recent creation of a minor in Black studies. But in a larger context, Brown says, it was “upsetting” to reiterate needs that have gone unaddressed for decades.

That’s not to say she feels hopeless. Brown is energized by the attention being drawn to Black student issues at the UO by groups such as the Black Student Task Force, Black Student Collective—a recent university offshoot of the Black Lives Matter movement—and social media efforts such as the Instagram page, Black at Oregon.

She is also inspired by her research. Perhaps the most exciting find among the archives of UO Libraries, Brown says, was a campus newsletter called *Black Talk!*, which circulated in the 1970s. The publication covered the local, national, and international landscape of the African diaspora, in articles ranging from “Blacks Discuss Survival in Eugene” to civil rights commentary. Though dismayed by what she called broken promises, Brown was thrilled to unearth records of a vibrant, united Black community that shared her goals for equity at the university.

“To read all of that old work, to hear those voices—it was just really exciting,” Brown says. “It gave me a strong sense of community. It made me feel proud to be a Duck—to see that I’m a part of history at the University of Oregon.”

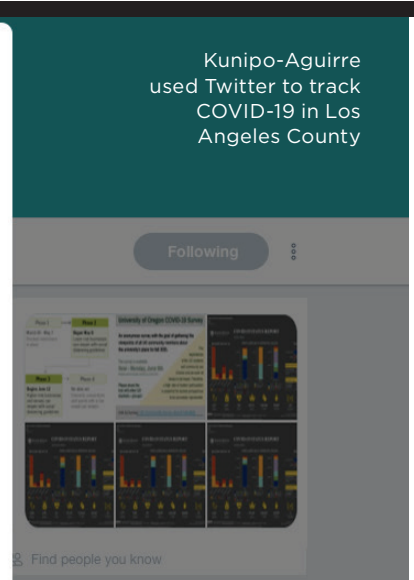
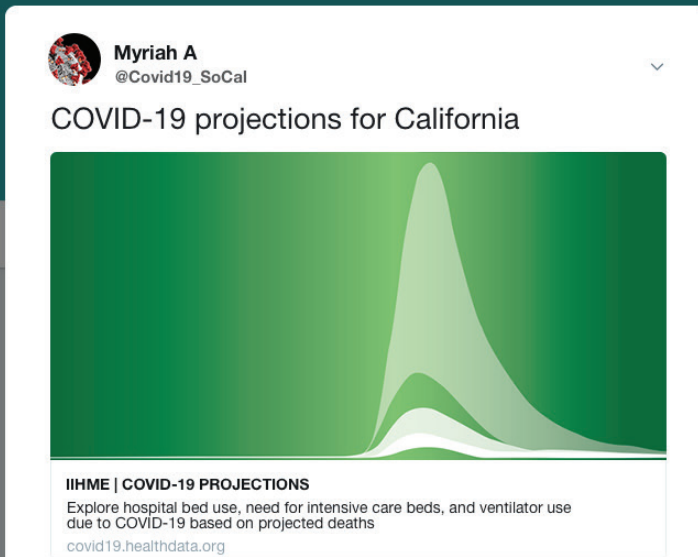
Matt Cooper is managing editor for *Oregon Quarterly*.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHER

Desirae Brown

BA '20 (SOCIOLOGY)
PORTLAND, OREGON





Fighting the “Parallel Pandemic”

Student’s Twitter feed is vaccine for rapid spread of COVID-19 misinformation

BY TIM CHRISTIE

As spring term approached in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, University of Oregon senior Myriah Kunipo-Aguirre found herself hunkered down at her parent’s house in Carson, California.

She needed to complete field work for her global health minor, but the UO canceled travel and internship programs as it grappled with the spread of COVID-19.

Kristin Yarris, director of the Global Health Program, recognized the problem confronting Kunipo-Aguirre and other students. She quickly launched a course called Global Health Crisis to give students a chance to complete required field experience where they resided.

Kunipo-Aguirre tracked the outbreak in her own backyard—Los Angeles County—using Twitter to report on the emergency response of state and county officials. With 10 million residents, Los Angeles County is the most populous county in the country, and among the first to impose lockdown measures intended to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Kunipo-Aguirre created a Twitter feed and posted news that drew from myriad sources, including state and county health departments, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, elected officials, and news outlets. She also kept track of how the pandemic was hitting various industries, such as sports and tourism, both huge drivers of the Southern California economy.

“It’s been very overwhelming with all the news,” she says. “I wanted to create an accessible, organized information outlet for anyone in the community.”

Along with links to news stories and press releases, Kunipo-

Aguirre included her own commentary and observations. When an Orange County supervisor pushed back against the governor’s order to close beaches, calling it an overreaction, she tweeted, “We will never know if we overreacted, but we will know if we didn’t do enough. #FoodForThought #COVID19”

Once a week, she compiled an update on the latest developments. The feed reads as a real-time chronicle of an unfolding pandemic, from the state’s efforts at closing and opening beaches, to a running tally of canceled events and festivals, to news you can use, such as the latest public testing sites.

Kunipo-Aguirre, who graduated in the spring with a degree in human physiology and minors in anthropology and global health, plans to pursue a graduate degree in public health this fall at the University of San Francisco.

Yarris was impressed by Kunipo-Aguirre’s use of Twitter, which allowed the student to develop her own voice and analysis of the pandemic.

“It is crucial that young voices use social media platforms to spread sound public health information to counter the widespread misinformation circulating on these platforms,” says Yarris, “which some observers have called a ‘parallel pandemic.’”

Kunipo-Aguirre presented her work at the UO Undergraduate Research Symposium, which was held online due to the pandemic. President Michael Schill participated, posing a question about what university presidents should consider in reopening campuses.

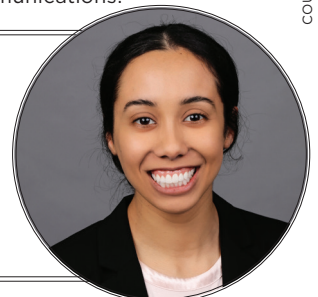
“Myriah handled the question like a pro, pointing out aspects of public health prevention from a student’s point of view, and balancing health, economic, and social concerns,” Yarris says.

Tim Christie is a staff writer for University Communications.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHER

Myriah
Kunipo-Aguirre

BS '20 (HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY)
CARSON, CALIFORNIA



COURTESY OF MYRIAH KUNIPO-AGUIRRE, BS '20 (HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY)

Lighting the Way

Talented researcher paves a path for future scientists

BY LAURIE GALBRAITH

When Madi Scott chose to double major in chemistry and physics at the University of Oregon, she thought she was breaking new ground in her family. Quickly, she discovered that the pull to the sciences might have been based in her DNA.

“Right after I started college, I learned that my grandma graduated from Wellesley College in Massachusetts with a degree in chemistry,” says Scott, a 2020 graduate. “She dug up this analytical chemistry paper that she’d published back in the 1950s or ’60s when she worked for Oregon Health and Science University doing primate research.”

That heritage is alive and well in Scott—an emerging scientist who is headed to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and also champions efforts to help all groups excel in science.

Scott was a researcher for Cathy Wong, an assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry. One of her lab’s research areas is laser spectroscopy—examination of the interactions between light and matter.

Scott studied the effect of factors such as temperature on the composition of organic semiconducting films, used in electronic devices such as solar cells and LEDs. She sought to quantify the impact of such factors on the formation of crystals on the surface of the film. Creating highly crystalline organic semiconductor films is vital to achieving high performance in electronic devices.

To conduct her research, Scott built a specialized microscope to image the surfaces of a sample. To interpret the data, she also learned to write code in the computer-programming language called Python.

“It’s not like the tabletop microscope you think of for high school biology. It’s actually a couple of lenses and a sample holder on a rail,” Scott says. “We have a camera hooked up to a computer. I move the sample around and take images by clicking my mouse.”

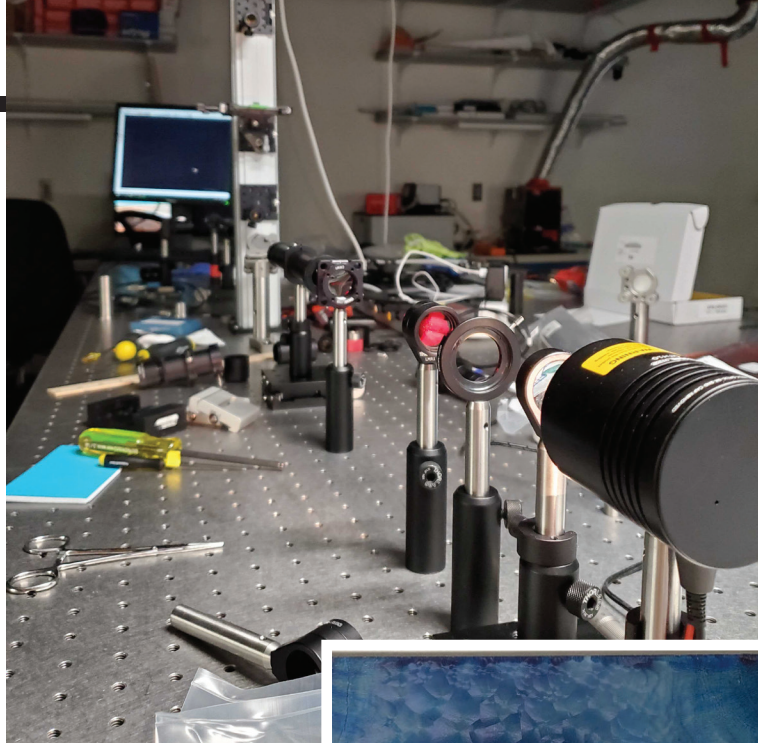
Scott’s creation of her own microscope stood out to Wong, who says the student cultivated expertise that distinguished her from her peers.

Scott, Wong notes, learned to use a femtosecond laser, which can perform precise measurements by emitting pulses of light that last no longer than 50 millionths of a trillionth of a second.

“Madi is one of only a handful of undergraduates across the country who is well-trained in this difficult measurement technique,” says Wong.

As Scott’s confidence grew, so did her successes—and the recognition for them.

The Clark Honors College student was a Goldwater Scholarship recipient; awarded to approximately 200 US sophomores and juniors each year, Scott received one of three presented to the university in 2019. She also received a National Science Foundation Graduate



For her research, Scott built this microscope and worked with samples of organic semiconducting molecules (right)

Research Fellowship—as an undergraduate. This fall, she begins her PhD in physical chemistry at MIT.

The accolades and opportunities are important to her. But it was her work in another capacity that helped ensure students of all backgrounds also get opportunities in STEM research.

As president of the local chapter of the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science, Scott organized professional development and social events for undergraduate STEM students, ranging from resume-building and science-poster workshops to STEM-themed trivia nights.

Inspired by both her grandmother and Wong, Scott has served as an example to underrepresented groups in science and research. She is mindful of the responsibility.

“It’s nice to know that because I’m here,” she says, “maybe that gives more women the opportunity to be here in the future.”

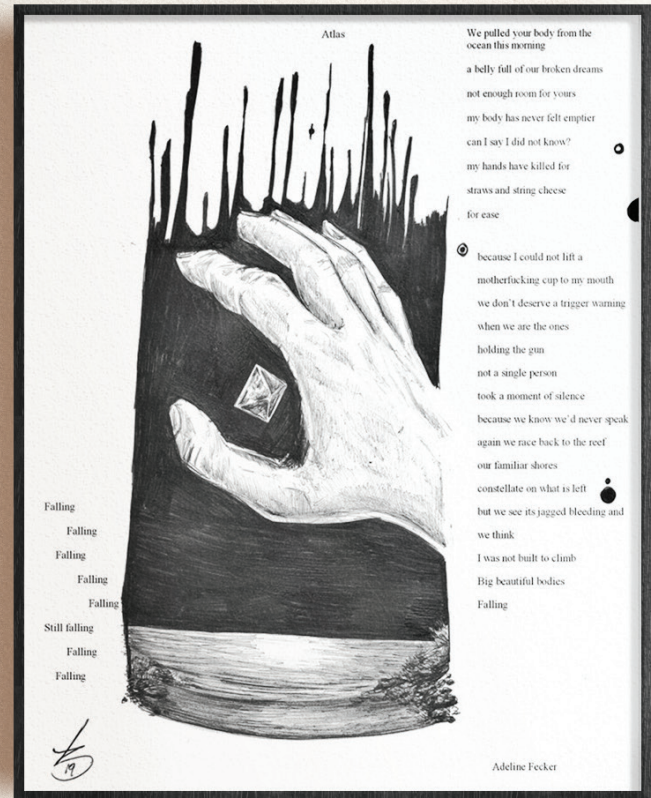
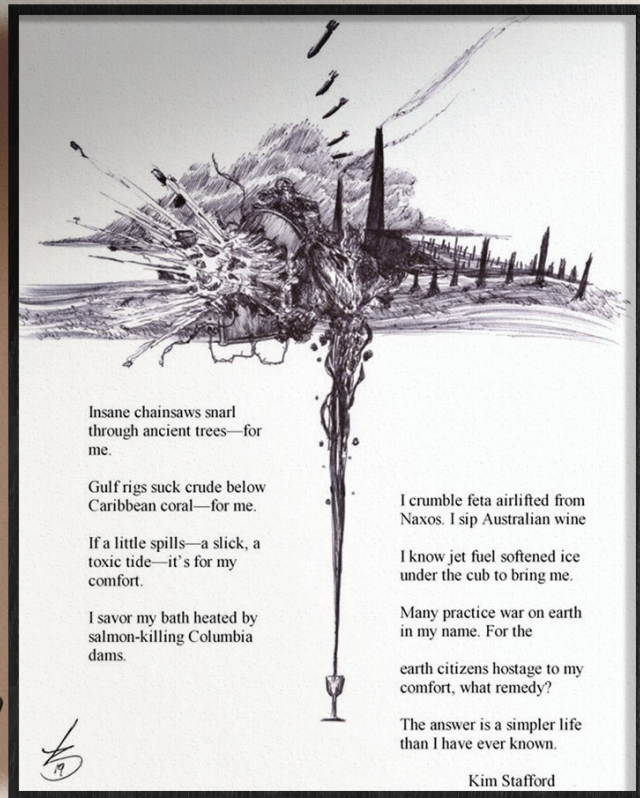
Laurie Galbraith, MS ’20 (journalism), is a staff writer for the Clark Honors College.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHER

Madi Scott

BS ’20 (CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS)
JACKSONVILLE, OREGON





Ecopoetry and Us, an installation by Fecker for the 2019 Undergraduate Research Symposium, featured poems and ink illustrations addressing climate change

Foundations of a Holistic Healer

BY ASHLEY LORRAINE WIESNER

Adeline Fecker's work seems to exist in disparate worlds—humanities and science. She's artistic but at ease in a lab. She's a poet but wants to be a doctor. To Fecker, humanities and science inform each other. The great mysteries of the world fascinate poets and scientists alike, she says.

Fecker explored some of those mysteries on her way to earning a degree in biology last spring and graduating with honors from the Clark Honors College. She researched ecopoetry and zebrafish behavior and brain activity—pursuing change as a poet and a scientist.

In 2018, Fecker was struck by the gravity of the climate crisis and wanted to raise awareness in an engaging way. She turned to

ecopoetry, which focuses on the natural world and our place in it.

"Humanities can move us in a way science cannot," Fecker says. "Especially with such an existential threat as climate change."

Fecker and fellow students Nolan Kriska and Hailey O'Donnell teamed up with Barbara Mossberg, a professor of practice in literature in the honors college, to create an ecopoetry installation for the 2019 Undergraduate Research Symposium.

The display featured original and reimagined ecopoems—some by students—paired with natural objects, such as seashells. Fecker sees poetry as a vessel to inspire action and the installation encouraged viewers to do just that—

consider how they might react to the environmental crisis.

To bring her vision to life, Fecker put in about 100 hours organizing art, writing poetry, and overseeing the design of the project.

At the core of Fecker's work, says Mossberg, was "writing poetry that invoked healing and addressed suffering."

Fecker's effort to inspire change through the humanities was preceded by a scientific project on the social behavior of zebrafish.

In 2017, Fecker began working with Philip Washbourne, a professor of neuroscience and biology, to examine which sensory system in zebrafish is most important to social behavior and brain activity; they analyzed how senses such as sight and smell related to social

“ I want to emphasize a holistic, empathic approach to care and a journey through illness.”

behavior. This work can help inform therapies for autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Fecker was attracted to the project because it was interdisciplinary, combining psychology and biology. She spent nearly 2,000 hours on it, learning lab skills such as labeling antibodies and dissecting tissue during research supported by an Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program minigrant and a Vice President for Research and Innovation Undergraduate Fellowship.

“Adie is highly motivated and not daunted by challenging experiments or workloads,” Washbourne says. “It says a lot about her work ethic.”

Fecker fulfilled her honors college thesis requirements through this project but that wasn't her primary motivation. The idea of improving the lives of autistic people kept her inspired. Fecker notes it wasn't her goal to help cure autism because, she says, people who are “neuro-

atypical” don't need to be cured. Instead, she says, her work should be viewed as paving a path for holistic therapies.

“I liked answering questions about ASD from two directions: brain to behavior and behavior to brain,” Fecker says. “From an educational standpoint, I learned a lot more.”

Her desire to promote change continues to be an influential force in her life. In the wake of COVID-19, Fecker has become an emergency room scribe and a Red Cross volunteer. She plans to attend medical school, write poetry, and become a doctor who advocates for holistic care. Science and humanities will be the foundation of her practice.

Says Fecker: “I want to emphasize a holistic, empathic approach to care and a journey through illness.”

Ashley Wiesner, MS '20 (journalism), is a staff writer for the Clark Honors College.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHER

Adeline Fecker

BS '20 (BIOLOGY)
PORTLAND, OREGON



RESEARCH IN ACTION

Check out the projects of these student researchers in videos produced by the UO's Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Visit youtube.com/UOUndergraduateResearchSymposium, click the 🔍 under “UO Undergraduate Research Symposium” and enter their name:

Alexa Montgomery, biomethane production on Mars

Desirae Brown, Black student protest at the University of Oregon

Myriah Kunipo-Aguirre, US outbreak COVID-19 research

Madi Scott, quantifying the spatial morphology of organic films

Adeline Fecker, influence of sensory conditions on zebrafish social behavior and brain activity

Alina Salagean, defining the roles of conserved DNA repair complexes in *C. elegans*

Nina Kerkebane, the impact of higher tuition on low-income students

Donna Hooshmand, analysis of major video streaming services in the US

youtube.com/UOUndergraduateResearchSymposium





Two Americas

Assistant Vice Provost's young adult novel on systemic racism comes at a pivotal moment

BY SHARLEEN NELSON

When Kim Johnson started writing a young adult novel in 2014 about the death penalty and systemic racism, she thought it might be a narrow read that wouldn't garner a lot of interest. "People don't like to talk about the death penalty, let alone our criminal justice system or any kind of critique of police or even any critique of communities that have had racism embedded in their entire system," Johnson says.

That all changed in 2020.

"These issues have always been timely," she says, "but we are in a moment."

Historically, pivotal moments like the murder of Emmett Till and Rosa Parks refusing to give up her seat on the bus have forced requisite change to the forefront.

The moment that awakened public interest in 2020 came amid a global pandemic, increased political division, and the brutal killing of George Floyd and other Black citizens at the hands of

police, sparking Black Lives Matter protests across the country.

"All of these moments of time seem to have led to this awakening, of people paying attention to these things that have always been there but now it's in the media, it's in the news, it's on television, and it's in books," says Johnson, an alumna and advising administrator for the University of Oregon.

Whether it was her experiences as a precocious child growing up Black in predominantly white Eugene, or being a student activist at the UO, or helping young people as a student advisor, advocate, and mentor, each shaped *This is My America*, a book Johnson says she "had to write."

Released in July, the book follows 17-year-old Tracy Beaumont, who is determined to keep her father and brother from becoming statistics. Facing long-embedded bigotry in her hometown and discrimination in the criminal justice system, she races against time to exonerate her father, who is sitting on death row for a crime he didn't commit, and to save her big brother, who unexpectedly finds himself facing a similar fate.

As an undergraduate, Johnson, BS '01 (ethnic studies), shared traits of her book's strong female protagonist. A self-proclaimed "doer," she pursued leadership roles in the youth arm of the local NAACP chapter, was a codirector of the Black Student Union, and joined a Black sorority.

"The traits for people who are involved in service organizations are people who question and fight for truth, for justice," she says. "I wanted to embody a protagonist who had a lot of those characteristics."

Although her mother encouraged her to choose what she considered a "practical" major she had no interest in, she followed a liberal arts approach after being inspired by a first-year ethnic studies class and a visit to campus from philosopher-author-activist Cornell West. Among the first group of students to graduate with the ethnic studies major in 2001, Johnson says it opened doors for her to get involved in Black advocacy and activism.

"I was very vocal about the lack of Black faculty that were on campus and the things that I wanted to see," she says. "But I think you can love a place and critique a place at the same time. I loved my experience at the UO."

Growing up, Johnson says weekly visits to the library with her mom and sisters were a happy staple of her childhood. She loved mysteries; Nancy Drew books were "her jam." But in high school, Johnson stopped reading for pleasure, she says, because "there weren't many characters that were Black. They were all these amazing stories about other people that didn't look like me or have friends like me."

This lack of representation informed Johnson's interest in writing books designed to help young readers not only identify with the characters, but also engage with real-life issues. "It's a way to grip a reader, especially a young adult reader, because it is so fast-paced and page-turning," she says, "but using that as a mechanism to actually tackle complex, difficult issues that people have a hard time having conversations about."

Ultimately, Johnson would like to see *This is My America* and

more literature by Black authors incorporated into classroom curriculums to educate students about the Black experience. Combining her passion for activism, advocacy, and writing with a career in education, she is perhaps perfectly positioned to build a larger platform for Black issues.

As assistant vice provost for advising, Johnson oversees advising initiatives for student success and advising supervisors in the Division of Undergraduate Education and Student Success units: the Office of Academic Advising, PathwayOregon, TRIO Student Support Services, and Tykeson College and Career Advising. Johnson is also director for the Center for Multicultural Academic Excellence in the Division of Equity and Inclusion.

These programs provide support ranging from academic and career advising to “wraparound services” for first-generation, Pell Grant students needing additional support, and underrepresented students. Johnson received the Officers of Administration Leadership and Service Award in 2016.

“I love my work here at UO,” Johnson says. “My job is to help students be successful, to pursue the majors that they’re interested in, and to thrive in those experiences.”

Johnson is the UO graduate advisor for her old sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha, the first historically African-American Greek letter sorority; she was also an inaugural board member for the Black Alumni Network.

“My commitment to UO is not only trying to find good experiences for students,” she says, “but to also unify and connect Black alumni to help build a better future for the young students coming in.”

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



Johnson’s debut is a look at the American justice system through the eyes of a 17-year-old seeking to save her father, an innocent Black man on death row

Johnson is scheduled to speak February 9 for the 2020-2021 African American Workshop and Lecture Series; see [Inclusion.uoregon.edu/2020-21-african-american-lectures](https://inclusion.uoregon.edu/2020-21-african-american-lectures) for more. She plans to release her second young adult book next spring; visit kcjohnsonwrites.com for more information about that project or *This is My America*.



FAST RISE IN THE LAB

Alina Salagean knew she wanted to study reproductive biology at the University of Oregon—and for a powerful reason. Her parents emigrated from formerly communist Romania, where her mother could not access the medical services necessary to become pregnant; it was not until the couple reached the United States in 1997 that she was able to find the care she needed to conceive Alina. Her parents' fertility challenges drove Alina's determination to study reproductive biology at the UO.

But the Clark Honors College student wasn't sure what to do with that drive until she met Diana Libuda, an assistant professor of biology who specializes in DNA repair and recombination in developing sperm and eggs. Salagean (pictured with Libuda, six feet apart) discovered a fascination for research while working in Libuda's lab—and quickly became one of the most promising undergraduate researchers Libuda had mentored.

Salagean, who has worked in the Libuda lab since 2018, displayed "an incredibly high-level ability to think about science and conduct research," says Libuda. "And her fascination for biology just keeps growing exponentially."

FORTY HOURS A WEEK AND WANTING MORE

Salagean studies DNA damage repair, a corrective process that occurs in sperm and eggs to avoid issues such as infertility, birth defects, and cancer. Among her contributions to the lab: research examining which biological mechanisms and interactions can preserve the genetic integrity that avoids DNA damage.

It was at the conclusion of her fellowship through the Summer Program for Undergraduate Research last year that Salagean realized she wants to make a career out of reproductive biology research.

"I'd been spending 40 hours a week in the lab all summer," she says—"and I didn't want it to be over!"

LIKE TEACHER, LIKE STUDENT

Libuda credits her own undergraduate research experiences at UCLA and the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in San Diego with helping her realize she wanted to pursue a career in DNA research. She recalls a professor telling her, "you could be sitting in my chair"—and her eyes opening to a career she'd never considered.

She chose the UO over other institutions for the opportunity to mentor undergraduate students in a public university setting and empower them to have their own eye-opening, life-changing moments.

FEAR NO FAILURE

Salagean has learned to embrace failure as a learning opportunity.

She even dressed up as a failed experiment for a lab Halloween party—she went as "dead mutant worms" to represent a genetic experiment she was struggling to understand.

That resilience is one of her most promising qualities, says Libuda, and it will empower her to continue making exciting advances—and productive failures—in reproductive biology.

"I always leave the lab wanting to ask more questions!" Salagean says. "I've realized that the more you learn, the more you realize just how much you don't know. And that's so exciting."



Alina Salagean & Diana Libuda

PROFESSOR AND PROTÉGÉ FIND RESEARCH IS IN THEIR DNA

BY EMILY HALNON, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS
PHOTO BY CHARLIE LITCHFIELD, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

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BOOKMARKS

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



1 *The Joy of Running qua Running* by Scott F. Parker, BS '04 (Clark Honors College, general science, philosophy)

2 *Madam Arbitrator: Working Toward Social Equality and Employment Justice* by Sandra Smith Gangle, MA '68 (French)

3 *King Here: Never Too Old, Too Rich or Too Anything to Meet Jesus* by Trish Porter Topmiller, BS '84 (marketing)

4 *Le Norme Traviate* by Sergio Rigoletto, associate professor of Italian and cinema studies

5 *The Wright Sister* by Patty Dann, BA '75 (art history)

6 *Farmscape: The Design of Productive Landscapes* by Roxi Thoren, professor of architecture and landscape architecture, and Phoebe Lickwar, associate professor in the School of Architecture at the University of Texas at Austin

UNTOLD Stories

BY ALICE TALLMADGE

INTERVIEWS WITH WIVES AND CHILDREN OF BRACERO FARM WORKERS REVEAL THE IMPACT OF THE PROGRAM ON MEXICAN FAMILIES

While growing up in the Portland area, University of Oregon junior Odalis Aguilar-Aguilar, whose family is from the Mexican state of Oaxaca, attended public schools, but wasn't taught about her home country's culture or its shared history with the US. She wanted to know more about her own and other Latin American cultures. The omission also made her keenly aware of the voices of those who helped shape America but remain unheard.

At the UO, Aguilar-Aguilar chose to major in Latin American studies and Spanish. When history professor Julie Weise invited her to work on a research project that involved the Bracero farm worker program, Aguilar-Aguilar jumped at the chance to learn more. She especially wanted to examine a group that had been largely ignored—the wives, women, and children whose husbands, fathers, brothers, uncles, and cousins went north seeking better-paying work on US farms, fields, and ranches.

“Women’s and children’s lives were definitely impacted after their fathers or siblings or other family members left,” says Aguilar-Aguilar, who

has family members who were farm workers in the US under different types of contracts. “Women were forgotten in the shadows, and it’s important for their stories to be highlighted, as well as the men’s.”

RICH PROMISES, HARSH REALITIES

The Bracero (meaning “a man who works with his arms”) program was instituted during World War II to assure plentiful, cheap labor for a US agriculture industry facing a shortage of workers. Lured by promises of high wages, basic health care, and other benefits, between 1942 and 1964 more than four million Mexican farm workers left their rural homes and headed north. Once in the US they encountered the program’s far harsher realities—month-long waits for job assignments, paltry wages for back-breaking work, rationed water, men and teenagers packed together in sweltering Quonset huts without adequate sanitation, water, or medical care.

Researchers have documented the program’s extensive abuses and complex legacy. Less



Odalis Aguilar-Aguilar

examined, however, was the impact of the program on the thousands of wives, mothers, and children left behind—mothers waiting for promised money that never arrived, children who grew up fatherless, families that spent months not knowing the whereabouts, or condition, of their loved ones.

Aguilar-Aguilar wants to hear their stories and plans to share them in a research paper she hopes to submit for publication.

She has reviewed hundreds of oral histories in the Smithsonian’s Bracero History Archive, a digital project about the program that includes documents, images, history, and other resources. She first read synopses of

SERGIO ZURBITA LUNA (AGUILAR-AGUILAR); ALL OTHERS COURTESY OF OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES RESEARCH CENTER (CORVALLIS, OREGON); HARVESTING CUCUMBERS (ABOVE) AND WORKERS PLANTING CUCUMBERS (RIGHT); JUAN EXTENSION BUREAU ILLUSTRATIONS PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION (P. 020); SLEEPING QUARTERS (TOP RIGHT) AND CAFETERIA SERVICE, EXTENSION AND EXPERIMENT STATION COMMUNICATIONS PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION (P. 120)

200 or so transcribed interviews, most of which are in Spanish, and made notes of those containing relevant material. As her research develops, she will review these interviews closely, tagging them for specific themes such as “the emotional toll of migration” or “what the program meant for men and their families.”

Amongst the transcripts, she has found wrenching testimony from sources, such as Elsa Murillo Rodríguez, who remembered how it felt growing up with an absent father:

“My childhood was sad because the majority of it, my father was not with us because he was working for us in the United States . . . We needed him at home with my mother and my siblings. We were six siblings. He would spend his time [in the US] and we would be alone at the ranch.”

INFECTIOUS ENTHUSIASM

Weise and Aguilar-Aguilar are collaborating using an approach more often seen in science research than in the humanities. In this model, Weise explains, “a student takes on a piece of a professor’s research and contributes to a larger project, but also develops their own publication out of the same data.”

Weise, an associate professor of history, studies identity, citizenship, migration, and race in the US, Latin America, and globally. Currently she is examining post-WWII labor migration between several countries, including Mexico and the US, with a focus on labor contracts, working conditions, and family relationships. The two met when Aguilar-Aguilar was in Weise’s Latinos in the Americas class in January 2019. Aguilar-Aguilar’s academic chops, enthusiasm, and commitment were immediately apparent, and when Weise came up with the idea to collaborate with a student on a research project, she knew Aguilar-Aguilar was the “perfect person to think about developing a project together.”

Aguilar-Aguilar says she felt an immediate draw to working with Weise: “I had already taken classes and knew some of the history [of the Bracero program]. The work I am doing will benefit both of us.” Aguilar-Aguilar received a research fellowship from UO’s Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation, which enabled her to spend her summer on the project.

“A VERY INTENSIVE MENTORSHIP”

Aguilar-Aguilar’s tagging of the oral histories will serve Weise’s work, as well. The student will flag material that fits her professor’s research questions — quotes pertaining to themes such as decisions by the farm workers or “Braceros” to join the program rather than migrate without the necessary entry documents, for example, or actions Braceros took when employers did not honor their contracts.

Aguilar-Aguilar also receives “a very intensive mentorship in research methods,” Weise says. This past summer, the two met weekly over Zoom. Weise guided Aguilar-Aguilar to the relevant literature and worked with her to compile research questions to use when reviewing the oral histories. Aguilar-Aguilar drafted a paper this summer, will take a senior research seminar with Weise next spring to learn about advanced research methods, and will then expand the paper, possibly into an honors thesis.

“She is so motivated, to change the world, to learn,” Weise says. “She cares so much, and is smart about the way she thinks about these things. She’s a rising star.” Aguilar-Aguilar has received a PathwayOregon scholarship, the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, the Mills Study Abroad Scholarship, and a Global Education Oregon Scholarship for First-Generation College Students.

“I really enjoy doing this type of research,” Aguilar-Aguilar says. “I’m not going to lie—it’s been a bit of a challenge as I have another full-time job, which means I work 12-hour days, Monday through Friday, and also work on the weekends. But I could listen to the interview recordings all day. I find their stories fascinating and believe immigrant workers, whether documented or not, deserve much more recognition for their great contribution to this country.”

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



OPPOSITE: Mexicans harvesting cucumbers in Columbia County, circa 1942–47, were part of a program that generally offered only paltry wages for backbreaking work.

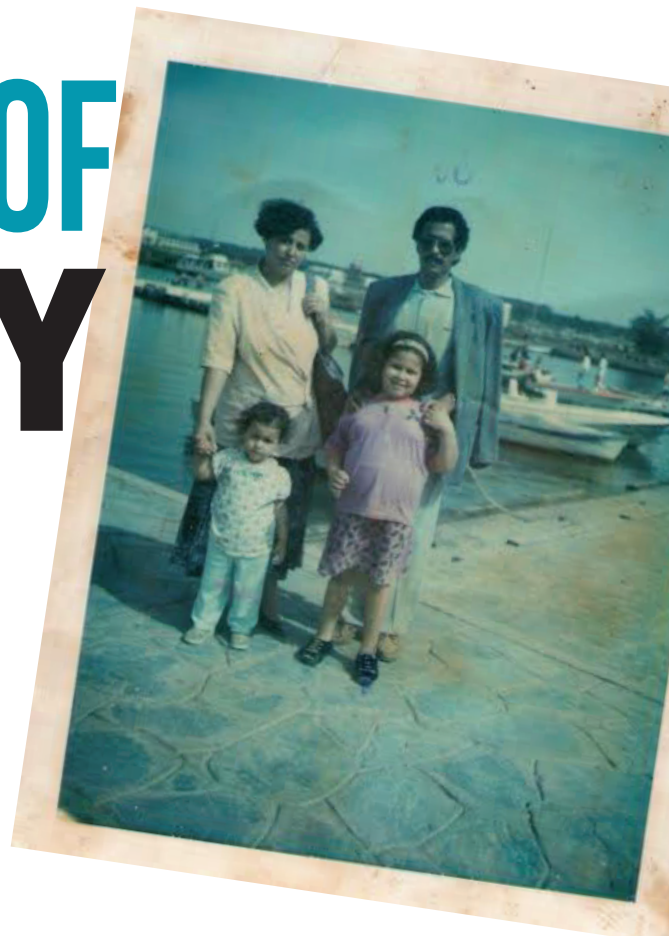
TOP: This dormitory in Klamath County was typical of the sleeping quarters provided, and during down time some workers played music.

BOTTOM: Men were served cafeteria-style, as shown in this photograph from Hood River County.

THE ECONOMICS OF EQUALITY

BY SARAH LORGE BUTLER

PERSECUTED IN ALGERIA, NINA KERKEBANE IS DEVOTED TO HELPING MARGINALIZED GROUPS



Nina Kerkebane in 2015 was working as a loan officer at a credit union in Roseburg, Oregon, helping customers qualify for mortgages. She says she got a firsthand look at how the American banking system is stacked against low-income groups and those without a high degree of financial literacy.

Kerkebane was shocked to learn that on paper, customers could qualify for loans that they would have a hard time repaying.

“I tried to educate clients as much as I could,” she says. “But you need the system to change.”

Kerkebane understands what it’s like to not fit into a system. She was born in Algeria and grew up chafing against the repressive government. The state religion is Islam and women are expected to wear a hijab and be home before dark. Kerkebane, who is not Muslim, resisted. Harassed for her beliefs, she sought asylum in the United States. She put herself through a community college and the University of Oregon, where she studied economics—and took on an ambitious project about low-income college students and tuition.

Kerkebane is intent on ensuring financial systems work for those who need help the

most. “I was convinced economics was how you can make change,” she says.

IMPERILED IN ALGERIA

Kerkebane first experienced America as a 16-year-old high school exchange student in 2006, in what was to be a defining period of her life. That summer, she arrived in Myrtle Creek, south of Roseburg, where she bonded with a host family for several weeks.

She then moved to an international high school in Minneapolis. Coming from Algeria—closed off to the world, under the rule of a dictator—she says her US experience opened her eyes. “It was like, wait a second. People actually have these kinds of freedoms?” Kerkebane remembers thinking.

When she returned home, she was never able to reintegrate fully into Algerian society. University professors ridiculed her. Riding on buses, crowds of men jeered: “Wear a hijab!” One day, she wore a bracelet with a small American flag in it, a gift from her Oregon host family. As she held onto the pole, a man spotted it and screamed at her: “How dare you? Affiliate of the Western

world! Traitor!” The bus was filled with menacing men. She fled at the next stop.

Her parents urged her to leave the country, fearing she could be killed. In 2012, on a tourist visa, she returned to Oregon and the family who had been so kind to her six years earlier.

Kerkebane, then 22, applied for asylum. The process took three years. She couldn’t work or go to school, but she kept busy volunteering and teaching herself Spanish, her fifth language.

Granted asylum in 2015, Kerkebane got the job at the credit union, earned an associate degree from Umpqua Community College, and arrived at the UO as a junior in 2018. Her boss at the credit union, however, persuaded her not to quit—so she worked every Saturday out of the Albany branch. The job kept her close to the real-world implications of economic policy.

OPENING DOORS THROUGH ECONOMICS

At UO, Kerkebane immersed herself in economics. She also became a Ronald E. McNair Scholar, joining the federally funded program

that prepares juniors and seniors from underrepresented groups for graduate work.

A requirement of the program is completion of a research project, so Kerkebane chose to study inequality and how it plays out in higher education. “We know that education is the main path of socioeconomic mobility,” she says—but the doors are not open to all groups equally.

She began with a review of the literature, to get a sense of previous work on low-income students and the costs of higher education. There wasn’t much to go on, and many studies were at least 10 years old.

Next, she had to find a data set. She reviewed the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, which contained statistics from 2,400 two-year and four-year colleges in the US. Once she saw this data, she was able to narrow down the question: how do tuition rates affect low-income students?

Over the summer of 2019, Kerkebane took a graduate-level course in coding to learn how to use R, a language for statistical computing. Her work was overseen by Jonathan Davis, an economics professor who had taught Kerkebane in an intermediate class (which she aced).

That fall, she carved out time to do the research, on top of her regular classes. An independent study course last spring provided her with the flexibility in her schedule to finish. Along the way, she fought her perfectionist tendencies. “I kept thinking, ‘This is not good enough. I need to add this and learn this,’” she says. “You keep comparing it to studies that are published, which is unrealistic. I’m an undergrad.”

NOTHING STOPPING HER

But her thesis project—“The Impact of Tuition Increases on the Enrollment of Low-Income Students”—yielded stark results.

Kerkebane found that students who are eligible for federal Pell Grants—an indication of financial need—are less able to absorb tuition increases than other students. If tuition rises by 10 percent, the total college or university enrollment will fall by about five percent, Kerkebane says; for Pell Grant students, that same 10 percent increase in tuition causes a 10 percent reduction in enrollment.

“It’s a pretty depressing result,” Davis says—especially because students with Pell Grants are typically eligible for other financial support to keep them in school. Kerkebane’s work, he adds, suggests a need for more research examining whether lower-income students are aware of all financial aid available to them.

Kerkebane plans to continue to study disadvantaged groups in the future. For now, she’s gaining experience in her field. After graduating in June, she moved to Chicago to begin a research position in economics at the University of Chicago. After two years, she’ll apply to doctoral programs.

Davis can’t imagine anything stopping Kerkebane, especially after what she’s been through—fleeing her homeland and leaving her family, then putting herself through college. In 10 years, Davis expects her to be a professor at a research university, bringing valuable insight from her background to teaching. His hope, he says, is that she will “help train future generations of economists and do important policy-relevant research.”

It’s Kerkebane’s hope, too. She plans someday to be at the head of a classroom, and also examining education and race. Says Kerkebane: “I want to do research that can impact policy to better the lives of marginalized communities.”

Sarah Lorge Butler is a freelance writer in Eugene.



LEFT: Kerkebane (in purple) with father Mustapha, mother Kacima, and sister Rima, at Sidi Fredj Port, Algiers, circa 1996

ABOVE: As a loan officer for Northwest Community Credit Union, Kerkebane gained an appreciation for the banking challenges faced by low-income groups

RIGHT: Kerkebane with friends in the Algerian Sahara desert, circa 2011

An interpretation of Sisyphus, condemned for all eternity to climb a mountain carrying a boulder, inspired Cooney to “struggle toward the heights”



OVERWHELMED AND UNDERMINED AND OK WITH IT

BY ROSEMARY CAMOZZI

RESEARCH YIELDS A PHILOSOPHY FOR OVERCOMING ADDICTION

When we casually say something is “absurd,” we don’t give the word much thought. “She tried to climb Mount Everest in flip-flops? That’s absurd!” we might say.

We use the word to describe something ridiculous, but it originally meant “out of tune” or “discordant.” This perfectly describes what it means to be human, according to French philosopher Albert Camus. We expect a grand meaning to life, and when we discover—or unknowingly feel—that there isn’t, we find ourselves out of tune with an irrational universe. In his essay *The Myth of Sisyphus*, Camus called this state—which often encompasses anxiety and boredom—“the absurd.”

It may seem like a bleak perspective, but discovering the concept led to a life-changing awakening for one philosophy student at the University of Oregon. “When I first read Camus, I went home and

cried,” says Shane Cooney, BA ’19 (philosophy), BA ’20 (political science). “Camus gave me a beautiful articulation of the way I found myself in the world, and everything came together in a profound and intense way.”

STRAIGHT A’S, BOREDOM, AND DRUGS

A member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Cooney grew up in Bend. He was a straight-A student, but found school boring. Boredom led to smoking pot at 14, alcohol at 15, and then prescription drugs.

He left high school during sophomore year to pursue a tuition-free associate degree from the community college where his dad, a veterinarian, taught. “Then my drug use took off, and I threw a

perfect opportunity in the trash,” he says. He went back to high school for junior year to play varsity soccer, but left as soon as the season was over. He tried once more as a senior, but left again—this time for inpatient rehab.

Sobriety lasted for a while. Cooney earned his GED and went to Lane Community College to study business. But again, school was boring, and again, he considered dropping out. It was a philosophy course taught by Caroline Lundquist, who now teaches at the Clark Honors College, that sparked a turnaround. “Philosophy speaks to everything that I’m about,” he says. “It was the first time I really found my place.”

Cooney transferred to the UO after earning his associate degree in June 2017, but began using drugs again during the summer before classes began. “Unfortunately, you can’t get away from the human situation,” he says. “There are always things that come back to haunt us or that throw us off balance.”

THERAPY WITH KANT, CAMUS, AND FRANKL

He started school anyway, and after a stint in rehab, finished the term with straight A’s. He went on to earn two undergraduate degrees over the next three years. “I’m so glad I stayed,” he says. “If I had left behind philosophy, I would probably still be using today.”

Cooney wrote his philosophy honors thesis, “Overwhelmed and Undermined: The Use of Psychoactive Substances and the Problem of Meaninglessness,” on how a lack of meaning in life can help explain addiction. “The thesis was a long, drawn-out therapy session between me and these other thinkers,” he says. “It involved a lot of self-reflection and thinking about the reason for my actions.”

In the paper, Cooney describes how he was first drawn to German philosopher Immanuel Kant’s “categorical imperative,” hoping he could stay off drugs if he adhered to a supreme principle of morality. “But I found that it doesn’t work,” he says. “Human life is way too nuanced to have one formulation that can encompass human or moral life in general.”

After a thorough reading of Camus, he writes, he realized that his drug use was an attempt to address a fundamental lack of meaning in life. “I began to see my story as one of the individual struggling with the absurd,” he says. “At times the recognition of the absurd can be felt very viscerally, but sometimes it is more of a constant humming that we feel or hear that we can’t put a finger on. Every person experiences it differently.”

Cooney goes on to discuss the limitations of Camus’ viewpoint, but

he finds hope and inspiration in the work of Austrian psychiatrist and Holocaust survivor Viktor Frankl.

“Frankl still believed you can create meaning in the world, even when you’re given every reason to believe that there can be absolutely no meaning,” Cooney says. Years in therapy taught him that “pain is inevitable and suffering is a choice,” but he now has a different take. “Suffering is inevitable, and life depends on the attitude you take toward that,” he says. “Whether it’s watching a sunset on the beach, hugging a friend, or doing something creative, these all bring meaning to life.”

JUST AT THE BEGINNING OF HIS STORY

Cooney looks forward to sharing his research with others struggling with addiction. “Understanding the root cause is the only way you can go forward and take appropriate action,” he says. “Boredom and pain are inescapable, and once the high wears off, they are still there. To negate that part of yourself is especially dangerous.”

Senior instructor Steven Brence, who served as Cooney’s thesis coadvisor along with Lundquist, has encouraged him to expand the work into a book that could reach a wide audience. “Shane has a novel approach to the problem of substance abuse,” he says. “This project could reach far beyond scholarly discussion and give therapists another tool to work with.”

Brence sees in Cooney a true philosopher with a bright future. “It’s not just an avocation or pursuit for him—it’s a way of being,” Brence says. “He’s just at the beginning of his story.”

With plans for a PhD, Cooney is applying to graduate schools. Along with furthering his work on the philosophy of addiction, he hopes to

bring attention to Native American philosophies, which, although taught at the UO, are largely absent from academia, he says. “We should let these voices speak for themselves as opposed to framing them in a Western construct,” he says.

He is also interested in helping tribal members dealing with addiction. “My grandma lived on the rez and has told me many stories of addiction,” he says. “I want to do what I can to help these communities.” In his thesis, Cooney quotes the penultimate line in *The Myth of Sisyphus*: “The struggle toward the heights is enough to fill a man’s heart.”

“If life was easy,” he adds, “I don’t know if it would be as meaningful as it is.”

Rosemary Camozzi, BA ’96 (journalism: magazine), is a magazine editor and writer in Eugene.



“I BEGAN TO SEE MY STORY AS ONE OF THE INDIVIDUAL STRUGGLING WITH THE ABSURD.”

'NET TRACKER

ANALYZING USAGE OF NETFLIX AND HULU— AND ADJUSTING TO LIFE FAR FROM HOME

BY KELSEY SCHAGEMANN

Like many students at the University of Oregon, Donna Hooshmand enjoys watching shows on Netflix.

But television and movie streaming sites aren't quite as relaxing as they used to be, thanks to research she is conducting in the computer and information science department. "It's ruined Netflix for me a little bit," Hooshmand says with a laugh. "There's a part of me that wanders off and starts thinking about new topics and questions I could ask with this research."

Hooshmand, a junior in computer science and mathematics, is experiencing all the highs and lows of a demanding undergraduate research project. It's testing her mettle—but as someone whose home is 7,000 miles away, Hooshmand knows something about mental fortitude.

Born in Portland, Hooshmand and her twin sister, Donia, moved with their family to Kerman, Iran, when they were six months old. The girls attended a competitive high school there, then returned to Portland at age 16 for better stateside college opportunities. They were students at Portland Community College for a year before enrolling at the UO in fall 2018. (Donia is majoring in architecture.)

Research isn't new to Hooshmand. As a high school student at the National Organization for Development of Exceptional Talents, Hooshmand, her sister, and their friend, Hasti Darabi, collaborated on an innovative chemistry project.

Inspired by the desert climate and water-guzzling pistachio farms in the region, the students spent three years developing a Jell-O-

like compound to save 70 to 75 percent of the water typically wasted during the agricultural process. Made entirely of natural and degradable ingredients, their product is a much more efficient way to water pistachio crops.

Hooshmand is only half-joking when she says they came up with the award-winning project as an excuse to ditch school, forgoing classes to head to the Ebne Sina Research Center and Laboratory in Kerman, a research institution associated with the Ministry of Education.

"We had the whole lab to ourselves, and we would get very bad street food and have these late nights working on our research," Hooshmand says. "It might not sound like fun, but just the fact that we were doing something with our knowledge and learning was very intriguing."

Innately curious and always self-motivated, Hooshmand was drawn to the UO in part for its challenging research opportunities.

Last spring, Hooshmand started collaborating with Professor Reza Rejaie on an analysis of video streaming providers, including Netflix and Hulu. Using captured data for exchanged traffic between the internet and UOnet, the university's campus network, Hooshmand is exploring internet usage by the UO community.

"There are a lot of things we can check," she says. "For example, we can see what percentage of user traffic comes from Netflix or Hulu." Hooshmand would also like to track time spent with specific providers, how the quality of delivered video from providers has changed, and usage across years and also at different hours of the day.



Donna Hooshmand

DONIA HOOSHMAND, CLASS OF 2022, ARCHITECTURE

For this analysis, Hooshmand needs to “train” a computer model to recognize the digital signature that a connection from Netflix or Hulu leaves on a network to identify related connections from each provider with the matching signature. This process is “machine learning,” a form of artificial intelligence that is driving technology today.

“In simple terms, it’s about making the computer learn what a video stream is and asking it to identify the video streams for me,” Hooshmand says.

Throughout the spring and summer, Hooshmand focused her efforts on writing an algorithm—essentially, a series of instructions for the computer—to capture the desired data. The process hasn’t been easy. Her first attempt didn’t crunch the data quickly enough. The coronavirus pandemic also slowed her down, hampering Hooshmand’s ability to obtain in-person feedback or bounce around ideas with faculty members and other students.

“To be honest, I’ve been stumbling at every step,” Hooshmand says. “This is very different from studying for class or for a test, or even doing a project for a class.”

Despite these struggles, Hooshmand has distinguished herself as an outstanding student, receiving the Phillip Seeley Scholarship in Computer and Information Science. Rejaie describes her as “very goal-driven and hard-working” and says she is handling the challenges of the project with composure.

“We always tell students that they need to be emotionally strong to deal with the ups and downs of a research project,” Rejaie says. “When they get stuck somewhere, we encourage them to try new ways to push forward to deal with the problem at hand.”

When Hooshmand begins to feel overwhelmed or homesick, she turns to UO’s Persian Student Association, an apolitical group she cofounded in fall 2019 as civil unrest swept across Iran. The 10 or so members meet to speak Farsi, drink tea, and plan holiday celebrations and other events.

An unofficial ambassador for her country, Hooshmand is eager to educate people about Iran. “There are a lot of misconceptions,” she says, but “Iran is an incredible place.”

For her academic focus, Hooshmand credits her parents, Reza Hooshmand and Bita Karamooz. A civil engineer and architect, respectively, both parents are finishing

PhDs in construction management at Tehran University. Reza is also a professor at the Kerman branch of Islamic Azad University.

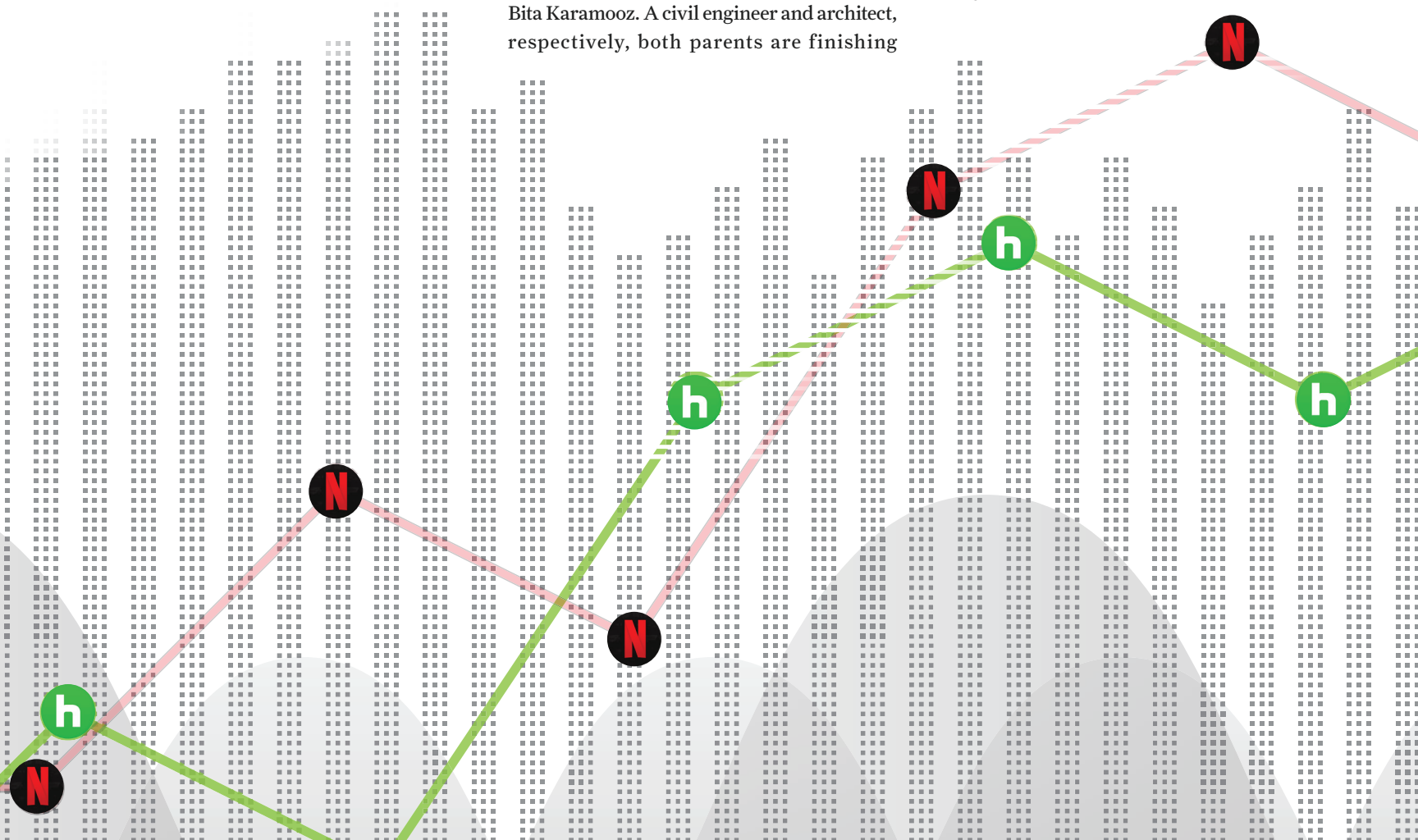
Karamooz followed her daughters to Oregon and is living in Portland while working on her thesis, but Hooshmand hasn’t seen her father since December 2018 because of immigration regulations. Their regular conversations through WhatsApp are essential, even though the signal often falters, leading to dropped calls and frustration.

“We’ve always been very close,” Hooshmand says. “He’s been my academic coach for as long as I can remember, and the possibility of not having him here when I graduate is very daunting.”

On her toughest days, when Hooshmand misses her father and faces setbacks in the research, she makes Persian food to remind herself of home. Then she thinks about the many steps that brought her to an apartment in Eugene and the educational opportunities that still await.

“My family made a lot of sacrifices for me to be here,” Hooshmand says. “I want to make their sacrifices worth it.”

Kelsey Schagemann is a writer and editor in Chicago.



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- 34 Fighting for the Favela
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OLD Oregon



PANTHER POWER

The Black Panther Party was on campus circa 1969 for “Stop the War Week” protests against the Vietnam War, according to itsabouttimebpp.com, official website of Black Panther Party alumni. There is a long history of African American activism at the university—see page 15 for more—and the UO celebrates a milestone this month: the one-year anniversary of the Lyllye Reynolds-Parker Black Cultural Center, where Black students can harness resources necessary to navigate their social, cultural, and academic experience. The donor-supported center brings to fruition demands for a campus space for Black students made by the Black Student Union in 1968 and echoed in 2015 by the Black Student Task Force.

Fighting for the Favela

Finding inspiration—and a calling—in a struggling Brazilian neighborhood

BY EMILY E. SMITH



Garcia during her study abroad research trip to Brazil in 2013 and today, with Run4Salmon

Calabar, a poor, neglected neighborhood or “favela” in a city of eastern Brazil, has long been cast as a slum gripped by violence and drug traffickers. But Niria Alicia Garcia found something else entirely when she traveled there in 2013.

“There is this stereotype that ‘favelas are dangerous, favelas are where the criminals live,’” she says. “There is so much beauty that lives there—so much music, culture, camaraderie, laughter, kids playing. Yes, there’s a lot wrong, but there is much more beauty, strength, and resilience.”

As part of a study abroad program on social justice and sustainable development, Garcia examined how Afro-Brazilian women have fought for this historically marginalized neighborhood in Salvador, the capital city of the state of Bahia. This chance to do field-based research was a draw for the trip.

Her host mother and other women she met in Calabar were activists and advocates, fighting government neglect. Through interviews, observation, and existing research, Garcia examined the women’s long record of activism and their fight against systemic oppression and the history of slavery in Brazil.

She found that as Salvador’s urban development in the 1970s threatened to quash Calabar, residents organized to resist displacement. They sparked a movement that pressured the city to deliver electricity and running water to the favela.

The women of Calabar helped bring a

school, library, and after-school programs to the neighborhood. They pushed for investment in youth programs to improve education and reduce unemployment.

Soon after she arrived, Garcia realized the importance of dropping preconceived ideas about her project and following the women’s lead instead.

“The moment I started listening, I realized none of the questions that I wanted to research were relevant,” she says. “You really just gotta listen and just tell the story that is there already.”

She volunteered in her host mother’s classroom, learned to dance samba, studied Portuguese, and developed lasting relationships with the women. She ultimately produced an ethnographic research paper for Latin American studies detailing how the women of Calabar took the well-being of the community into their own hands and created stability and progress.

The 2016 environmental and Latin American studies graduate says the biggest challenge of her project was securing the funding. She received a \$500 grant but covered most costs herself. “It’s just about [the university] making it a priority and giving time and energy to creating programs that can allow all students to pursue their own research interests,” Garcia says. “Students should be supported by the institution.”

In the last six years, the UO has made major strides in support of undergraduate

research, says Josh Snodgrass, an anthropology professor who recently completed a five-year stint as associate vice provost for undergraduate research and distinguished scholarships. Among them: the launch of a program that offers up to \$1,000 in support of student projects and a center that connects students with research opportunities.

“We still have more work to do,” Snodgrass says, “but we’ve seen a massive increase in attention to undergraduate research opportunities and to funding students to engage in them.”

Garcia was inspired to dedicate her career to society’s most marginalized people. Based in Oakland, she now serves as a lead organizer with Run4Salmon, working to protect waters, restore endangered salmon runs, and revitalize Indigenous lifeways. She was recently accepted into the human rights studies graduate program at Columbia University.

“The strongest people are the people who are the most left out by society, who are the most oppressed, because they understand struggle,” Garcia says. “And they are the experts on what needs to change in society—for us to live in a better way, in a more dignified way as the collective of humanity.”

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



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Burning Question

Do forest fires hurt public health? An economics student finds an answer, and a future

BY EMILY E. SMITH

Matthew Dodier always knew he wanted to work in international development or public policy. But early in his undergraduate years, his destination—and the path to get there—was unclear.

What was clear—at least to economics professor Ben Hansen—was that Dodier in 2014 displayed an impressive curiosity and work ethic in Hansen’s intermediate microeconomics course.

Hansen, whose work in applied microeconomics focuses on crime, health, and labor, is always searching for standout students to undertake research projects for academic and personal growth. He quickly recognized Dodier’s talent. “Matt was one of those students,” Hansen says, “who was always attentive, interacted, and then would come to office hours and ask me more questions.”

Hansen enlisted Dodier’s help as a research assistant. Then, in 2015, Dodier was selected as a Ronald E. McNair Scholar, joining a federal program that prepares first-generation students with financial need and underrepresented students for doctoral studies. He was required to complete a research project of his own, and Hansen served as his mentor.

The topic emerged from Dodier’s interest in development economics and environmental economics: conducting research on how forest fires impact public health.

Wildfires in Oregon were particularly intense in 2014, and as Dodier and Hansen kicked around ideas related to air pollution, “the idea of looking at forest fires came up,” Hansen says. “That’s something that is salient to everybody, but nobody had studied the impact on hospitalizations or its impact on pollution.”

Dodier examined the effect of wildfire smoke on respiratory health. He collected statewide data on hospital admissions for respiratory problems, forest fire statistics from the Oregon Department of Forestry, unemployment numbers from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, population data from the National Cancer Institute, and land data from the US Department of Agriculture. He then looked at

the origin, size, and location of forest fires and data on local particulate matter—or air pollution—to measure whether forest fires resulted in more pollution.

The research showed that the wildfire smoke emanating from forest fires indeed increased air pollution and caused hospitalizations to rise. That finding, Hansen says, “speaks to one of the potential costs of a warmer, drier climate where we have more of these fires. And more broadly, it speaks to the role of pollution affecting the health of the local population.”

The issue takes on new relevance as researchers examine the connection between air pollution and COVID-19. A recent study from Harvard, for example, found that Americans living in more polluted areas are more likely to die from the disease than those in clearer regions.

The research was Dodier’s first taste of a complex, fast-moving project with tough deadlines. The first big hurdle Dodier encountered was accessing the wealth of data he needed in a short amount of time. Then came the arduous task of merging all those disparate data sets to measure the impact of forest fires.

“Some of it was just frustrating,” Dodier says. “It was really stressful, and it taught me to deal with that.”

It also ignited a passion that still burns in the 2016 graduate today, as a PhD candidate in public policy at Harvard Kennedy School.

Dodier now has a clear path: he’s set his sights on a career in academic research as a professor, perhaps not unlike Hansen, who helped Dodier discover where he could go with economics.

“I could talk to him about anything, not just econ,” Dodier says. “He was always encouraging and he gives real, honest feedback.”

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



Matthew Dodier



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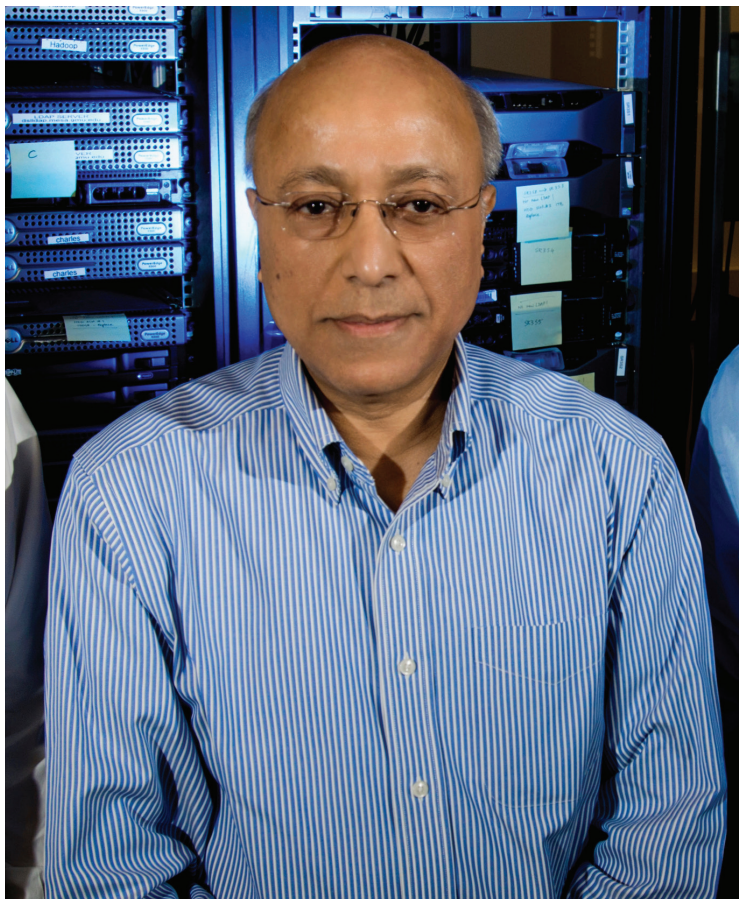
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Duck Masterminds Breakthroughs in Cybersecurity

PhD graduate earns one of the industry's highest honors

BY MELODY WARD LESLIE



He says he is an optimist, but Sushil Jajodia spends his time imagining the worst things hackers might come up with, from stealing information to stymying anything from financial systems and power grids to government agencies and the “internet of things.”

Now Jajodia, a cyber defense expert and 1977 PhD mathematics graduate of the University of Oregon, has received one of the most prestigious honors available to the world’s computer scientists.

For his “contributions to the scientific and engineering principles that enable adaptive cyber defense,” the IEEE Computer Society has recognized Jajodia with the 2020 W. Wallace McDowell Award. His

research helps vast enterprises such as the Department of Defense and the IRS become more adept at identifying and defeating hacking attempts in real time.

“The award was a surprise to me,” says Jajodia, who is also an IEEE Fellow. “Emmys are given every year, tons of them, but there is only one McDowell Award. If you look at the number of computer scientists to actors, it is easier to appreciate the rarity of this honor. I feel humble and grateful.”

As founding director of the nation’s Center for Secure Information Systems, Jajodia helps create and constantly improve systems protecting military secrets, intellectual property, business plans, and financial information. His center is housed in George Mason University’s Volgenau School of Engineering, where he holds two endowed faculty positions, University Professor and BDM International Professor.

“I am a professor,” he says. “That is what I love. Research is my driver. I had good training at Oregon in how to think, and in how to identify and tackle problems. All of that is critical in my career.”

Jajodia also is founding director of the National Science Foundation’s Center for Cybersecurity Analytics and Automation. This center, part of the NSF’s Industry-University Cooperative Research Centers Program, focuses on building a healthy cyber ecosystem by providing predictive analytics and proactive mitigation against sophisticated advanced persistent threats and malware attacks.

In each of his roles, Jajodia leads international research teams working to anticipate the needs of a world where the complexity of IT systems is increasing exponentially. “Most of my work involves securing your information,” he says. “For example, we must secure the Internal Revenue Service’s assets so that outsiders cannot gain access to them.”

He also leads efforts to protect the US from nation-states trying to harm Department of Defense systems. “I am trying to come up with ways to secure systems used by the US Army,” he says. “That is a huge challenge, but that is what makes it fun. My students and colleagues continue to make progress.”

There is, he says, a distinction between privacy and security. “Privacy is that you do not want your personal information to be disclosed. Security is that I want information to be secret, which is next to impossible because we must give information to others so they can help us.”

Jajodia came to the US as an international student from Kolkata, India, where his family had been engaged in business for generations. “Somehow I became interested in pure mathematics,” he says, and he has fond memories of six years spent in Eugene while completing his doctoral thesis.

He went on to faculty positions at the University of Oklahoma, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, and University of Missouri before being lured to build a “test bed” database for the Reagan administration’s Star Wars initiative. Next, he directed the Database and Expert Systems Program within the Division of Information,

“Emmys are given every year, tons of them, but there is only one McDowell Award. If you look at the number of computer scientists to actors, it is easier to appreciate the rarity of this honor. I feel humble and grateful.”

Robotics, and Intelligent Systems at the National Science Foundation, an experience that clinched his desire to settle in the DC area.

In 1988, he joined the faculty of George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. “I love living in the tri-state region,” he says. “I like the excitement of being surrounded by highly driven people who are successful go-getters. You are only limited by your imagination. If you have an idea, you can get support.”

He arrived in Fairfax determined to do something about the then-new threats posed by hackers. In less than two years, he won funding to launch the first academic center for information security at a US university. “I was working on databases, and I realized that no one was focusing on security problems,” he says. “I wanted to create a critical mass so we can produce students trained in security, while doing research on it, and working on solutions for business, industry, and government.”

Since then he has won 23 patents, mentored 27 students to their doctorates, authored or coauthored seven books, edited 52 other books and conference proceedings, and published more than 500 technical papers. One of his newest grants, from the Department of Defense, funds a joint project with Dartmouth University to develop a machine learning-based defense model and implement a toolkit to automatically find and generate secret security patches.

He and his wife, Kamal, share all that success with the UO through gifts including a scholarship fund that helps support three students a year from India. “I received the Ghent Scholarship when I was a student at the UO, and it meant a lot to me at that time,” he says. “I feel that education is the best thing anyone can do for another human being because you make a difference not only in their life, but also that of their family for generations after.”

As busy as he is, he makes time to follow the Ducks and he stays in touch with his dissertation adviser, UO Professor Emeritus Allan Sieradski. In fact, he looks forward to installing one of Sieradski’s abstract sculptures in his home soon. He says it is based on a mobius strip, or the infinity symbol, or two people, depending on one’s frame of reference. “I am so honored to have a sculpture from my advisor,” Jajodia says. “He has a wonderful visual imagination.”

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



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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

Tweeting at 200 mph

If you enjoy NASCAR's lighthearted yet informative presence on social media—think Kevin Harvick trying to make sense of his car's millennial paint job—you can thank Tyson Winter, class of 2011 (journalism: public relations).

While taking Senior Instructor Kelli Matthews' Principles of Public Relations class, Winter realized he could make a career out of helping athletes and sports leagues promote themselves on social media.

Winter worked at the Pac-12 Network, where he coined the viral hashtag #Pac12AfterDark to describe the conference's wild football games, typically played well after East Coast fans had gone to bed. After a stint at Fox Sports, he moved to North Carolina to work for NASCAR, where he is now the company's social media strategy manager.

With only drivers and crew allowed at the racetracks this season due to the pandemic, Winter covers the action from the comfort of his apartment in Charlotte.

That's quite a change from his past race week routine, during which he was typically onsite posting content showing the personality of each racetrack and spending time with fans. During races, he historically shot footage on his mobile phone for instant posting, and on a camera for higher-quality photos that he edited and posted later.

"Sports fans aren't just into the highlights of the race," Winter says. "They're into the mystique of what makes each event interesting. The more I can do to bring that flavor to our social channels, the better."

—Damian Foley, University Communications

FLASHBACK

1920 Fall welcomes the faculty athletic club, a group of professors dedicated to promoting and sponsoring intramural sports.

Indicates UOAA Member

1950s

RONALD RANSOM, BS '54 (accounting), is retiring after careers with the US Air Force, Continental Can Company, and DBA Crown Cork and Seal.

1960s

GARY GIANNINI, BA '61 (business administration), a member of Sigma Chi fraternity, retired after 55 years with his private law practice in San Jose, California, and was sworn into the bar association for the US Supreme Court.

SANDRA SMITH GANGLE, MA '68 (Romance languages), who has retired from the practice of law and labor arbitration and lives in Camas, Washington, with her husband Gene,

recently published *Madam Arbitrator*, about her life as a French teacher at Oregon State University and as a civil rights attorney and labor arbitrator in Salem.

1970s

JJ JONES, MS '70 (physical education), launched the Las Vegas Bowl's Playbook for Success, an interactive online initiative aimed to help kids stay active and healthy.

SUSAN IMMER, BS '72 (history), was recognized as a Petco Foundation National Foster Hero for making a difference in her community and demonstrating the life-saving impact of fostering pets.

Since retiring in 2016, **JOHN "JACK" MINAN**, JD '72, professor of law emeritus at the

University of San Diego, has published more than 50 articles in the California *Daily Journal* dealing with the intersection of law and politics, and four law review articles dealing with international and domestic environmental law.

KATHERINE AIKEN, MA '74 (history), received the Esto Perpetua award from the Idaho State Historical Society, the state's highest honor for the field of history.

1980s

REGINALD GRANT, BS '80 (speech: telecommunication and film), published his 10th book, *Entrepreneur: Your Guide to Starting Your Business: The Required Mindset and Skills*.

FLASHBACK

1930 The UO in late summer hosts an annual conference for the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Pacific division.

MICHAEL TEVLIN, MA '81 (journalism), published his first book, *Sockeye*, in March.

STEPHEN COHEN, BA '82 (fine and applied arts), has digitally reissued two of his older guitar albums, *The Three-Handed Man* and *30 Years Ago*.

MELINDA OWEN LEWIS, BS '83 (journalism), who lives in Tucson with her husband, ophthalmologist **RICHARD LEWIS**, BS '83 (Clark Honors College, biology), recently published her second fantasy novel, *Darzarada*.

JP MAHAR, BS '83 (physical education), was appointed president of the Lake Forest Park Rotary in King County, Washington.

PATRICIA N. McLAUGHLIN, BA '83, MA '87, PhD '95 (English), published a book of poems, *The Bastard*, and her first volume of collected poems, *The Hierophant*.

PATTY SCOTT, BS '84 (sociology), received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Lane Community College for her work as president of

Southwestern Oregon Community College.

RANDI MILLMAN-BROWN, MA '88 (art history), retired after 27 years as the visual resources curator in the Department of Art History at Ithaca College, New York.

1990s

BRET JORDAN, BS '90 (speech: rhetoric and communication), was promoted to regional president for Ryan Companies, a Seattle-based commercial real estate services firm.

MARK BYRUM, class of 1994 and CEO of Urban Restaurant Group, plans to open two restaurants next spring with the expansion of 5th Street Public Market in Eugene.

LYNNE DEARBORN, MArch '94, was appointed president of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture.

ANTHONY MILLS, BS '94, MS '96 (political science), was appointed chair of the Board of Property Tax Appeals for Washington County, Oregon.

Former criminal deputy prosecutor **CAMARA BANFIELD**, BA '95 (international studies), JD '02, was appointed to the Vancouver Public Schools board in Washington.

The Eugene City Council voted unanimously to appoint 24-year city employee **SARAH MEDARY**, BLArch '95, to serve as city manager.

APRIL BRENDEN-LOCKE, BA '96 (Romance languages), was elected president of the US Board of Directors of Hogar Infantil, a children's home in Chiapas, Mexico.

PATRICK GAMMAN, BS '96 (geological sciences), was appointed superintendent at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park in Georgia.

For her role in the comedy *Flipped*, **KAITLIN OLSON**, BS '97 (speech: theater arts), received a 2020 Primetime Emmy nomination for outstanding actress in a short form comedy or drama series.

FLASHBACK

1940 Members of the Class of 1890—which included just 15 students—gather on campus over the summer for their 50th anniversary reunion.

Former *New York Times* deputy weekend editor **KALY SOTO**, BS '97 (news editorial), has joined the *Times'* international desk in London.

2000s

PAUL MOUCHAKKAA, MBA '00 (general business), was hired as a managing partner at BentallGreenOak, a Toronto-based real estate investment firm.

KEVIN CRONIN, MCRP '01 (community and regional planning), was hired as city manager of Mount Angel, Oregon.

NICK LELACK, MCRP '01 (community and regional planning), MPA '01 (public policy and management), was appointed as a commissioner

on the state Land Conservation and Development Commission.

TRICIA MARTIN, BLArch '03, MLA '03, was appointed to the board of directors of Bridge To a Cure Foundation, a Florida-based charitable organization raising funds for childhood cancer research.

JEFF CASTAGNOLA, BS '04 (geography, sociology), joined the coaching staff of the Western Oregon University Wolves soccer team in Monmouth.

MELISSA J. HEALY, BA '04 (political science), a labor and employment partner at business law firm Stoel Rives LLP, was recognized as one of the *Portland Business Journal's* "Forty Under 40" for her career achievements, leadership, and

influence in industry and the community.

KIRSTEN SCHMIEDING, BA '04 (psychology), MEd '11 (teaching and learning), was promoted to retirement plan consultant at the Standard Insurance Company, and will be based in Dallas, Texas.

NATALIE BALL, BA '05 (ethnic studies, art), received the 2020 Ida Applebroog Grant, awarded to an emerging artist whose work challenges artistic conventions.

BENNETT SAPIN, BA '05 (history), joined Bend-based BBT Architects as a project architect.

LEA KEAR, JD '06, has been hired as an associate attorney at Angstman Johnson, a law firm in Boise, Idaho.

FLASHBACK

1950 In September, construction begins on a new science building, now Pacific Hall, featuring a ventilation system that filters out harmful gases.

FLASHBACK

1960 Popular pianist Roger Williams and trombonist Buddy “Night Train” Morrow headline the entertainment for Homecoming in October.

JORDAN KENT, BS ’06 (business administration), became play-by-play announcer for the Portland Trail Blazers.

CEFE QUESADA, MS ’07 (applied information management), was hired as managing director of core services at Parametric Portfolio Associates in Seattle.

CALLISTA BUCHEN, MA ’08 (English), announced that her first poetry collection, *Look Look Look*, was shortlisted for the Indiana Authors Awards, which honors the best books written by Indiana authors.

MONICA VAUGHAN, MS ’08 (communication and society), was hired as a water and land use reporter at the FresnoLab, a new reporting and engagement project of the *Fresno Bee* in California.

MARCUS LOWE, MActg ’09, was hired as a senior accountant at Opsahl Dawson,

a certified public accounting firm based in Vancouver, British Columbia.

WALTER THURMOND III, BS ’09 (political science), became the director of operations at Jump Global Technology Advisors, a telecommunications services company in Los Angeles, California.

2010s

SANDEE MCGEE, MFA ’10 (photography), was selected as the interim executive director of the Umpqua Valley Arts Association in Roseburg.

SUNNY DAY REAL BIRD, MEd ’10 (curriculum and teaching), was hired as director for the Native American Achievement Center at Montana State University Billings.

JULIANAH MARIE, BA ’13 (environmental studies), received the Bloomberg American Health

Fellowship to address environmental challenges after her admission to the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

JAMES PUERINI, BS ’13 (political science), in June published an opinion piece in the *Los Angeles Times* on improved healthcare for California firefighters.

JAMES BETZ, BS ’14 (geography), published his first book, *Ralston Heights*, based on the origins of the Ralston Purina Company and combining elements of historical fiction and supernatural horror.

ANTHONY PALLADINO, BS ’14 (business administration), was appointed vice president of Institutional Property Advisors, a commercial real estate firm in Portland.

2020

Fourteen graduates from the class of 2020 in the School of Law joined the prestigious Order of the Coif national honor society, one of the highest honors a law student can receive: **CALLAN BARRETT**, **AARON BECKER**, **GEENAMARIE CARUCCI**, **SCOTT CUMMING**, **CATHERINE GELBAND**, **CLIFFORD GLEAVES**, **ABIGAIL GORE**, **AMY HOOVER**, **SEAN MCKEAN**, **ANNIKA MERRILL**, **MATHEW ROUNDY**, **AMBRIEL SANDONE**, **CHARLES SARKISS**, and **ELIZABETH STUBBS**.

JEREMY EBERSOLE, MS ’20 (historic preservation and conservation), was selected as executive director of the Milwaukee Preservation Alliance in Wisconsin.

DAWSON QUINTON, BS ’20 (Clark Honors College, economics), was hired as the business advisor for Grant and Wheeler counties for the Eastern Oregon University Small Business Development Center.

SASHA RUBINSHTEYN, BArch ’20 (architecture), joined Boise, Idaho-based architecture firm CSHQA as an architect-in-training.

TIM TRAINOR, MS ’20 (multimedia journalism), was hired as editor of the *Herald and News* in Klamath Falls.

IN MEMORIAM

HARRY GLICKMAN, BA ’48 (journalism), died June 10. He served in the Army, fighting in the European theater in World War II. He founded the Portland Trail Blazers in 1970 and served as the team’s general manager in 1977, the franchise’s only title-winning season.

DONALD SEYMOUR, BA ’54 (political science), BL ’59 (law), died March 16. Seymour was an avid cyclist and outdoorsman, and specialized in taxation for the Oregon Attorney General, where he worked in public utilities and as an administrative law judge for the state workers compensation department before retiring in 1989.

JOSE ARMILLA, BA ’56 (psychology), died April 8, 2016. Born in Cebu, Philippines, he worked in academia and served as a diplomat in the US Foreign Service with the United States Information Agency. The devoted son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, and friend was an advocate for the National Alliance on Mental Illness and author of *Negotiate with Feng Shui*.

TRENA MAUREEN PELOQUIN, BS ’57, died May 3. This teacher, lover of history, and lifelong Ducks football fan,

FLASHBACK

1970 Scenes for the 1971 film, *Drive, He Said*, directed by Jack Nicholson, are filmed in McArthur Court and around campus throughout summer and fall.

Breaking New Ground

Fighting climate change is about more than reducing emissions—it's about pulling carbon out of the atmosphere.

So says Deanna Lynn, a 2020 graduate of the Master of Landscape Architecture program, who received a research honor award from the American Society of Landscape Architects for a project on landscape design for carbon sequestration. She provided a framework for the design, installation, and management of complex adaptive landscapes for carbon sequestration.

"Landscapes have a natural ability to pull carbon out of the atmosphere," Lynn says. "My project focuses on how landscape architects can harness the natural processes of landscapes to store carbon, especially in the soil."

Landscape Architecture Professor Bart Johnson, who advised Lynn, says her project demonstrated that the sequestration of carbon and benefits of carbon storage in the soil—increased soil fertility, greater water-holding capacity, enhanced ecosystem resilience to stress—"make it a win-win proposition for designers and their clients."

Lynn continues to push her carbon sequestration research and climate activism forward in the Monterey Bay area where she grew up.

She joined an initiative that challenges landscape architects to design projects that generate less carbon and is also taking her fight against climate change to the ballot box: Lynn is the campaign coordinator with the nonprofit LandWatch for Ballot Measure Q, which would preserve the urban growth boundary in her hometown of Marina, California. "Preventing urban sprawl in our city will protect fragile ecosystems, help revitalize blighted land, and reduce our climate impact," Lynn says.

—Alex Notman Cipolle, College of Design



COURTESY OF DEANNA LYNN, M.L.A. '20

IN MEMORIAM

EHRMAN GIUSTINA, 1920-2020



Eрман Giustina, the wood products entrepreneur whose passion was creating opportunities for future generations of Oregonians, died June 21. He would have turned 100 on July 19.

Born in Portland, he was a decorated World War II flying ace who went to work after the war helping expand the business founded by his father and uncles, Italian immigrants.

Giustina was within a few months of earning a degree in business when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Though service to his country ended his college career, few alumni have made a greater impact on the University of Oregon during the last seven decades.

He joined the UO Foundation board in 1966 and helped guide the university through periods of rapid growth alternating with economic recessions. He was a charter member of the Lundquist College of Business Advisory Council.

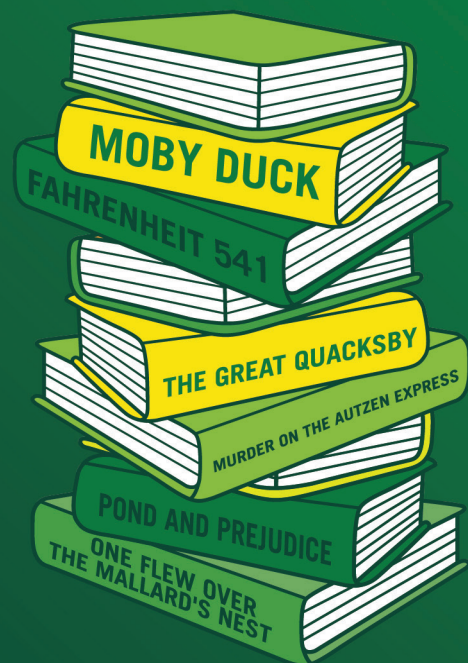
With his late wife Lee Barlow Giustina, a 1945 journalism graduate, he created an endowment that supports 40 UO students each year, made gifts to create other endowed scholarships and professorships for the college of business, helped fund building projects across campus, and loyally supported the Ducks.

His survivors include sons Nick, Dan, Greg, and Tom, daughter Gennifer, four grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and a forever-expanding number of UO alumni supported by Giustina scholarships.

—Melody Ward Leslie, BA '79 (humanities),
University Communications

University of Oregon
Alumni Association

Book Club



Discussion for *A Gentleman in Moscow* kicks off on October 15. For more information on how to join the Alumni Online Book Club, visit the sign-up page!



www.pbc.guru/uoregon

FLASHBACK

1980 A yearlong exhibit of the UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History, showcased in Alton Baker Park, features early human artifacts found in eastern Oregon and Idaho, dating back more than 10,000 years.

who was active in the community with the Boy Scouts, elections boards, Yamhill Christian Church, and more, treasured her Swiss heritage and was an avid reader who enjoyed watching, identifying, and feeding wild birds.

KAYE CHESTER ROBINETTE, BS '58, BL '60 (law), died May 19.

SUSAN HARRIS WUTH, BA '63 (sociology), died January 21. She worked in administration, most recently in human resources for El Camino Hospital in California, and enjoyed reading, cooking, tending to her roses, and travel with her husband Lewis, especially to Maui.

GEORGE CINTEL, BArch '65, died June 15. He worked

for several firms in San Francisco, opened his own firm in San Mateo, California, and was a member of the American Institute of Architects. George and his wife, Marilyn, enjoyed travel, visiting more than 80 countries.

TOM JERNSTEDT, BS '67 (political science), MS '73 (curriculum and instruction), died September 5. Nicknamed "Father of the Final Four," he transformed the NCAA basketball tournament into the billion-dollar March Madness success it has become and is a member of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. He received the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2001.

JAMES SCOTT DOUGLAS, BS '68 (general social

science), died May 7. Douglas worked in social services and loved jazz festivals, world music concerts, and watching his grandchildren perform in recitals and sports competitions.

DOROTHY MARIE CYRUS, BS '71 (psychology), died January 28, 2017. Cyrus served as a patrol officer and a school liaison police officer for the police department in Anchorage, Alaska. An animal lover who adopted 17 dogs over her life, she enjoyed gardening, feeding wild birds, watching sports on TV, and was a longtime member of St. Andrew Catholic Church in Eagle River.

RUSSELL NORMAN HAMBURG, DEd '71 (curriculum and instruction), died May 1. An active member of the community, he worked for the Puyallup School District of

FLASHBACK

1990 In October, the Knight Library and Memorial Quadrangle are entered into the National Register of Historic Places.

IN MEMORIAM HANS LINDE, 1924-2020

It's been said Hans Linde had so many ideas for improving the law he didn't have the time to work on all of them.

The former Oregon Supreme Court justice and professor at the University of Oregon School of Law was committed to human rights and civil liberties. During his UO tenure between 1954 and 1977, he taught federal constitutional law, legislative and administrative law, and torts. He then served 13 years on the Oregon Supreme Court, helping change the nature of state constitutional law.

"Justice Linde was truly a legal giant," says law Dean Marcilynn A. Burke. "We at Oregon Law will continue working to help ensure that the next generation of legal professionals have his same dedication and passion for upholding civil liberties."

A prolific scholar, Linde published more than 100 articles, lectures, and reviews. He served as the UO Wayne Morse Chair of Law and Politics and in 1987 received the Oregon Law Meritorious Service Award. In 2012, the law school established the Hans Linde Fellowship in his honor, supporting student research on regional, national, and state issues at the intersection of law and public policy.

"Oregon was fortunate to have him serve on its highest court, as well as shaping the minds of generations of lawyers at the University of Oregon," says US Sen. Ron Wyden, JD '74. "Justice



Linde will be deeply missed, but his legacy will continue through those he taught and inspired."

— Rayna Jackson, School of Law

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CLASS NOTABLE

Water for Life

“Everybody needs water,” says Cheyenne Holliday, BS ’18 (psychology), MA ’20 (conflict and dispute resolution). “It’s vital for all ecosystems—including our communities.”

For Oregon Water Futures, a research project led by the University of Oregon and several nonprofits, Holliday is organizing six community gatherings to consult rural indigenous peoples and communities of color about water issues.

Originally planned as in-person events, the forums will happen online because of the pandemic. Ultimately, Holliday hopes these diverse perspectives will influence important decisions about water resources.

“We’re talking about water with people who haven’t been a part of the conversation,” she says.

Climate change, deteriorating infrastructure, and dwindling resources will make that conversation more crucial in the years to come. Rural and low-income communities will be affected most profoundly by the difficult decisions that must be made, according to Oregon Water Futures.

Holliday will hear from rural Marion County residents who rely on well water (not regulated or tested by the state), members of the Chinook Indian Nation, which is working to become federally recognized and revive traditional watershed habitats, Latinx field workers who face health hazards related to water contamination, and others.

Holliday grew up on her parent’s horse rescue farm in rural Boring, Oregon. At the UO, she competed with the acrobatics and tumbling team. “It taught me so much,” she says. “Interpersonal skills, discipline, and how to show up for work. It prepared me for the next part of my life.”

—By Ed Dorsch, BA ’94 (English, sociology), MA ’99 (journalism), University Communications

FLASHBACK

2000 Prior to the fall term, the UO Foundation and the development office launch an innovative website that enables alumni to make donations digitally.

Washington for 31 years as a teacher, principal, and administrator and will be remembered for his sense of humor, his devotion to Oregon Ducks football, and his love of grilled salmon, Tillamook ice cream, and marionberry pie.

JOANNE CAROL VALENTINE CLARK, MA

’72, PhD ’77 (psychology), died June 1. She worked for the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and as a legal and regulatory affairs officer for the Northern California Cancer Center. Clark loved nature and music festivals and sang in her church choir.

MIKE GRAVINO,

class of 1975, died May 30. The managing director of the Next Gen TV Coalition,

Washington, DC, empowered independently owned TV broadcast licensees nationwide. He was lauded for his endearing charm and tireless determination, and “always began and ended every meeting with me with a smile,” says Ajit Pai, chairman of the Federal Communications Commission.

MATTHEW J. MATTHEWS,

BA ’80 (Chinese), died May 20. A leader and mentor, he most recently served as the United States Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, and spent more than 30 years representing the US in countries and coalitions across Asia and Oceania.

NEAL STEINHAUER, BS ’67 (fine and applied arts), died September 7. He was thrice selected outstanding track-and-field performer by his teammates and won the Emerald Athletic Trophy for combining athletics, scholarship, and citizenship. Steinhauer led Oregon to the 1965 NCAA championship with the individual shot title and in 1967 set an indoor world record in the shot put. A three-time all-American, he was inducted into the UO Hall of Fame in 1995.

FLASHBACK

2010 Vexed by uncertain state funding, the UO in the spring proposes each of the public universities be empowered to elect its own public governing board overseeing operation and financing.



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Ducks Afield

1. NELS “JEFF” ROGERS, BA '93 (German), avoided the crowds and enjoyed the views atop 14,439-foot Mount Elbert in Colorado **2.** Looking for fun “in the time of COVID,” **BILL FOSTER**, BA '75 (economics), and his wife, **DIANE MASKE**, BS '81 (finance), shot for the flagsticks in Idaho **3.** While waiting for the sun to set at Beverly Beach near Newport, **TERESA POPE WOODS**, BS '86 (psychology), displayed Ducks pride **4.** **DUANE REEVES**, BS '56 (business administration), showcased a prized quilt featuring the 1954 baseball team—he pitched for the only Ducks squad to make the College World Series **5.** **JAKE ELWELL**, majoring in German and international studies, hiked to Abiqua Falls near Silverton **6.** **ALEXIS HO**, majoring in pre-business administration, found Tamolitch Falls (Blue Pool) “breathtaking” during a July hike near McKenzie Bridge **7.** **YOURI BENADJAUD**, majoring in human physiology and psychology, and his dog Arlo also hiked to Blue Pool



We love Duck migrations! Send photos of you, classmates, family, and friends showing UO pride worldwide. Visit OregonQuarterly.com and submit a high-resolution JPEG image.

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Caring Companionship

BY KATELYN SWARRINGIM

In a senior-year assignment for Environmental Studies 411: Multispecies Studies and the Anthropocene, Katelyn Swarringim, BS '20 (environmental studies), wrote a paper reflecting on her relationship with Miley, her blue heeler puppy. She derived this essay from that piece.

If I've noticed one thing about my deaf dog Miley, it's this: other dogs tend to treat her normally. People, on the other hand, react quite differently.

I have experienced insensitivity from people suggesting that Miley is incapable of interaction because they don't understand that it's still possible for us to communicate. People often say they feel sorry for her or ask me how I handle having a dog with a disability. I have to remind them that Miley doesn't know any different and that her deafness is not a burden unless it is treated as such. Miley is happy and healthy and was born without her hearing, so it is just a part of our reality. Her deafness is not an inconvenience for her or me; it just changes the way that we do things.

In fact, because of Miley's hearing disability, I have really begun to value the relationship that we have developed. Donna Haraway describes this kind of companionship in her book, *When Species Meet*. Haraway explains that companion species not only develop a bond but they change one another. Miley and I have changed each other through our companionship. Her deafness simply influences the way we interact.

Miley is often nervous in new places or situations; she knows that when I put her harness on she is going to go somewhere outside the safety of our yard. She communicates this by putting her ears back and avoiding eye contact with me. But the more places I have taken Miley, the more she has become conditioned to new environments, and the more comfortable she has become with leaving the yard.

Miley often barks at me when she wants her food or wants me to play ball. Many people are surprised that deaf dogs bark but Miley understands that this instinctive behavior gets my attention.

Originally, one of the tools I used in training

was a vibrating collar that got her attention when she wasn't looking at me. I have taught her several hand signals for the commands "sit," "stay," "come," and my favorite—"look at me," where she looks me in the eyes (too cute).

Heelers are often good at interpreting body language as well as facial expressions. I know Miley understands when I am happy or upset with her because of the way she responds to my body language and expressions. For example, when I am sad about something my body language is different; Miley can sense this and reacts by licking my face and climbing into my lap.

I still struggle with getting Miley's attention when she is not looking at me, as well as when she chooses to ignore my hand-signal commands. Getting Miley's attention will always be a challenge and at times I find myself frustrated with the way our training is going. I have to remind myself that it will be a lifelong process and not something that happens overnight.

Miley has changed me as a person and has transformed my life for the better. I am grateful for the lessons and patience she teaches me daily.

More, Miley has boosted my overall mental health—every day she does something that makes me smile and laugh.

Katelyn Swarringim, BS '20 (environmental studies), plans to work in sustainable transportation and infrastructure. She and Miley continue to hike wilderness areas across the state.

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