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Building On Our Strengths

The University of Oregon recently celebrated the Class of 2021's graduation with our first large-scale campus event since the start of the pandemic. Watching our jubilant graduates parade down 13th Avenue was glorious—a sign of better times to come. This extraordinary year challenged us like never before and revealed the depths of our resilience and ingenuity as a community. As we prepare to come back together in fall, we will tap into this strength and draw from all that we learned to create a better normal—one that helps our community recover and prepares our students to help shape a brighter future.

Likewise, this issue of *Oregon Quarterly* showcases areas in which the UO is building on strengths to create new and innovative programs to serve the state, region, and world.

Our work on the environment is one example. The University of Oregon is known throughout the world for its commitment to the environment and sustainability. Indeed, these principles are enshrined in our mission statement. Teaching and research occur in virtually every school and college, yet we have never been able to pull all of the activity together in a way where “one plus one equals three.”

Recognizing our strength in environmental concerns, Provost Patrick Phillips and faculty members from across the university are working together to build and collaborate on new ways to teach, conduct research, and serve the state of Oregon and beyond. This effort is one of a series of academic initiatives

that build on the UO's academic strengths to meet students' and societal needs, and contribute to the greater good. Read about these efforts starting on page 26.

In addition to advancing new curriculum and research, universities of the future need to be committed to providing students with the tools necessary to use their educations to create fulfilling lives. Another article in this edition describes how the Lundquist College of Business is putting fresh energy into career readiness and financial literacy. New course requirements and networking platforms are providing students with the guidance and the means to identify promising careers and connect with alumni and professionals in them.

The business college is also teaming up with the financial aid office to provide students with unprecedented support in developing money-management skills and other budgeting savvy best described as “financial wellness.” That support includes peer financial coaches, workshops, and access to faculty and alumni expertise in tax planning, investing, and even car buying.

Our ability to build on strengths owes in part to the success of our \$3 billion fundraising campaign. Powered by more than 146,000 donors, it's the most ambitious and successful fundraising campaign ever undertaken in Oregon, and we intend to sprint right through the goal and keep going. As Bill Bowerman once said, “There is no finish line.”

Also in the summer issue: a wonderful collection of essays from a student-poet in our rigorous Kidd creative writing workshops program, which is celebrating 30 years; a profile of Raoul Liévanos, a sociologist who is laser-focused on inequalities in how people experience their environments; and features on alumni Michael Govier—winner of an Academy Award this year—and Jerica Pitts, who is on the frontline of pandemic response as director of science media relations at Pfizer pharmaceutical corporation.

These Ducks underscore ways in which the UO contributes through research, creativity, and professional expertise. Building on these strengths and others across our beautiful campus promises an even brighter future for us all.

Michael H. Schill
President and Professor of Law

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HONORING NATIVE PEOPLES AND LANDS

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

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Through fresh collaborations on academic strengths, the UO will reimagine public service for a new era

BY ANNA GLAVASH MILLER

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CREATING THE WRITER

As the Kidd creative writing workshops turn 30, a poet reflects on a year in the program

BY ANDI BUTTS

ON THE COVER

As UO graduates of the class of 2021 embark upon their life's journey, new academic initiatives are taking shape that will offer greater contributions to students and society.

On Instagram: #DuckGrad21

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BOB DELSOL (TOP); OH GOOD PRODUCTIONS (INSET); DUSTIN WHITAKER, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

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Anne Helen Petersen



Calling Out *Can't Even*

On reading author Anne Helen Petersen's

observations (Boosting the “Burnout Generation,” spring 2021) about the plight of Millennials, I was outraged to learn that someone had crippled them with huge college loan debts. Whoever did this should be forced to pay for it—in full. Who forged their signatures on financial aid applications? Who lied to them about the ease of paying off student loans? And who spent all of that money for what apparently was not a very good return on investment?

I must confess that I don't recognize any of my four children or their friends in Petersen's description of Millennials. Perhaps because my children and their friends avoided as much as possible taking out college loans, instead creatively and persistently finding other ways to pay for their education. They have also not been surprised by the precariousness of the economy or the misguided economic policies of politicians bent on saddling them and their children with debt in perpetuity because they learned about these issues in their youth. Consequently, they soberly pursued educations that would position them to lead productive AND fulfilling lives and were well-prepared upon graduation to make their way in the world. Life can often be challenging. There is prudence in being

prepared, though it certainly can take some of the fun out of college life.

Allan Bird, PhD '88 (management)
Forest Grove, Oregon

I'm looking forward to reading Anne Helen Petersen's book *Can't Even*, about how Millennials might be misperceived. They were the first generation to be wholly raised in the antisocial world of social media, a world dominated by very little face-to-face interaction; I hope Petersen addresses this in her book. It was telling that her [academic] focus was on “celebrity and celebrity studies.” Perhaps it's the Millennials' obsession with how celebrities live—and the absurdity of pursuing a career as an “influencer”—that has led older generations to denigrate Millennials. However, every generation derides up-and-comers as lazy and not as formidable as folks were “back in the day,” right? Millennials aren't unique in being called out for this. Writing a book about it seems to strengthen the very assertions the author is trying to dispel.

Matt Emrich, BS '94 (political science)
Cottage Grove, Oregon

Making a Difference by Design

Congratulations on the fine spring 2021 *Oregon Quarterly*. There are several articles that captured my interest; however, “An Explorer by Design” about Dr. Adrian Parr stood out. Her work looks to be very

multidisciplinary. Please congratulate Dr. Parr for her work. It touches many topics that are of real importance in today's world.

Clarence Baer, PhD '75 (health education)
Lakewood, Colorado

The Physics of Perseverance

I thought the spring 2021 *Oregon Quarterly* was excellent! I particularly found Ed Dorsch's outstanding article about physicist Nicole Wales and her personal struggles to attain academic achievement entirely inspirational. It was a moving and brilliant piece of journalism, but Ms. Wales's personal story really brought me to tears of joy. Wow! Summation, great reading. Keep up the great work.

Daniel Borsuk, BA '70 (journalism)
Pittsburg, California

Praise for “12 Words”

A belated thank you for a magnificent piece of writing, “12 Words,” by Brian Trapp [winter 2021]. I read it and sobbed. Months later, I discovered it in a pile on my desk and read it again. And again I cried. Thanks for keeping us alums updated and interested.

Susan G. Phinney, BS '63 (journalism)
Seattle, Washington

Athletics or Academics?

I worked my way through college, graduating in 1972 with bachelor's degrees in anthropology and psychology. I deeply resented being forced to pay a fee to support the athletic department every term, since I had no interest in sports events and needed to be careful with my money. It's almost 50 years later, but removing that fee will be a relief to students who don't follow sports. There are a few of us who attend college for academic reasons.

Julie Reynolds, BA '72 (Clark Honors College, anthropology, psychology)
The Dalles, Oregon

We want to hear from you.

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

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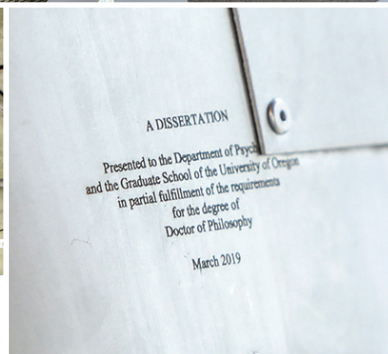
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intro



MAKING A SPLASH

New in the Allan Price Science Commons and Research Library: *1116 Pages*, commissioned through the Oregon Arts Commission Percent for Art program, is a two-ton, steel waterfall-shaped sculpture that appears to pour from the wall. It's composed of laser-engraved, aluminum-sheet facsimiles of student and faculty lab notes, thesis title pages, numbers, and diagrams—1,116 pages of them—from the library repository. The installation, which spans two floors, celebrates our pool of knowledge, says Eugene sculptor Lee Imonen, MFA '96 (sculpture).



QUICK QUACK QUIZ

Mathematician Daniel Hothem, who received his University of Oregon master of science in 2019 and in June completed his PhD here, recently represented the UO in a national intercollegiate academic quiz tournament. Who better to challenge with OQ duck—and Duck—trivia?

OQ: Name the two categories of ducks.

DH: There are diving ducks and, um, let's see—bobbing ducks?

OQ: Very good! Diving and dabbling.

DH: It's all good, we're just dabbling a bit in duck trivia here.

OQ: Name this domestic duck, originally bred as a decoy to draw flying mallards down into hunters' traps.

DH: Call ducks. I don't hunt, personally, but just some old hunting knowledge.

OQ: Correct! Next question—which five Ducks are depicted on the Hayward Field Tower?

DH: Steve Prefontaine and Bill Bowerman are on it, but there's a couple more . . . if I wanted to cheat, I could walk outside, I can see the tower from my house . . . I know one other track-and-field athlete—Otis Davis, so maybe Otis is on there, too.

OQ: Well done! Also: Raevyn Rogers and Ashton Eaton. Next question: this Duck won an Emmy for her reporting on the Darfur crisis.

DH: You know, I studied for this quiz last night, but I do not know this one.

OQ: How long did you study?

DH: About 20 minutes.

OQ: Ann Curry, BA '78 (journalism). Last question: what are the names of Donald Duck's children?

DH: His children, or his *nephews*?

OQ: Ahem. What are the names of Donald Duck's nephews?

DH: Huey, Dewey, and Louie. That's payback for the Ann Curry question.

PROUD PAPAS

Seahorses, pipefishes, and seadragons are different from other vertebrates in a critical way: among these fish, it's the male that becomes pregnant.

Why have the fish evolved this way? That's the million-dollar question—or rather, a \$1.6 million National Science Foundation grant that will fund collaborative University of Oregon and University of Idaho research on genetic and developmental changes in the fish over millennia that produced this evolutionary innovation. Researchers will also examine how microbes and their vertebrate hosts interact in this novel

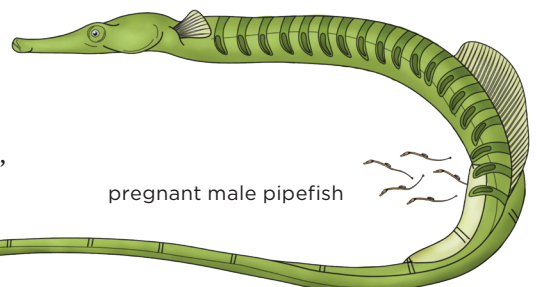
pregnancy environment: the brood pouch.

Researchers will collect genomic data from dissected pouch tissues. They will also gather imaging data from virtual dissections—no actual cutting involved—using an x-ray microscope, a powerful, ultra-high resolution 3D imaging system. This microscope was recently acquired with a grant to UO researchers from the MJ Murdock Charitable Trust and is housed in the Phil and Penny Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact.

The study may eventually inform our understanding of health and disease. But according to Bill Cresko, evolutionary biologist, the project is, first and foremost, about gaining

knowledge for knowledge's sake.

"This is science for the joy of understanding the world, because we're human and we're curious and we sometimes just want to discover," Cresko says. "These are simply beautiful and fascinating organisms. Sometimes research is worth doing simply to know how the diversity of life evolves."



pregnant male pipefish

ON THE MOVE

It's a national first and it's coming to the University of Oregon this fall: a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in dance that requires mastery of both African- and European-based dance forms.

Ten years in the making, the new program—the only BFA dance degree offered in Oregon—is “worthy of the UO’s heritage as the first school in the United States to offer an academic dance program beginning in 1914,” says Sabrina Madison-Cannon, Phyllis and Andrew Berwick Dean of the School of Music and Dance. “We will immerse our students in a complete program covering everything from ballet to hip-hop, and we look forward with great anticipation to seeing what they create from this diverse training.”

The degree will prepare students for dance-related careers such as performing and teaching, arts administration, technical fields such as lighting design, and opportunities in health fields involving somatics, a practice that helps heal the body through movement. In addition to the BFA, the school will continue its popular liberal arts degree in dance.

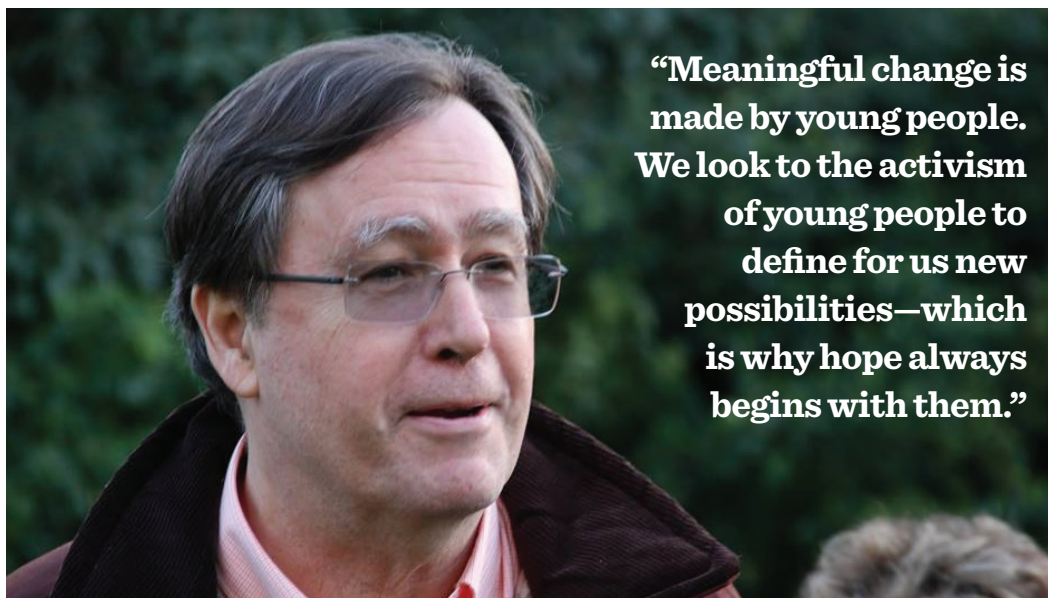
Concurrent with the new program, the school hired Hannah Victoria Thomas, a hip-hop and urban dance specialist, as an assistant professor. Trained in styles including contemporary dance, jazz, ballet, modern, and African, she earned an MFA and teaching



Thomas brings hip-hop and urban dance expertise to the UO

certificate in dance from Arizona State University and a bachelor's in interdisciplinary studies from Georgia College.

The dance department is also excited about summer improvements to its home in Gerlinger Annex, including renovation of the student lounge and costume area, made possible by a generous gift from the Giustina Foundation.



“Meaningful change is made by young people. We look to the activism of young people to define for us new possibilities—which is why hope always begins with them.”

—Cheyney Ryan, Clark Honors College professor emeritus of philosophy and law, during his May commencement address at Quinnipiac University, Connecticut, which awarded Ryan an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters for his “impact as a leading scholar on the frontier of peace and conflict studies and numerous awards for human rights activism.”



Starks is helping the UO explore Indigenous and Black concerns

Technologies of Resistance

BY MATT COOPER

As a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma and a Black American, 2003 alumna Amber Starks is immersed in issues important to many Native Americans and African Americans.

She has devoted her life to sovereignty for Indigenous nations and liberation for Black people. She believes partnerships between Black and Indigenous peoples—and all people of color—can dismantle the beliefs that drive anti-Blackness and white supremacy and redress the damage wrought by settler colonialism globally.

Now she’s helping the University of Oregon examine these issues.

Under a grant from the UO Savage Endowment for International Relations and Peace, Starks is in residence through 2022—virtually as necessary—with the UO Common Reading program. The Portland resident is working with stakeholders to explore intersections of Indigenous and Black concerns through the Common Reading selections *This Is My America*, by Kimberly Johnson, BS ’01 (ethnic studies), vice provost for the Undergraduate Education and Student Success division (UESS); *The 1619 Project* podcast, by Nikole Hannah-

Jones of the *New York Times* magazine; and *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

Starks, who earned a bachelor’s degree in general science, is ferreting out common threads of the works for university-wide conversations, academic collaborations, and other exercises to better appreciate Black, Indigenous, Afro-Indigenous, and related racial identities.

Says Starks: “I hope to contribute to the ongoing conversations within and across the Black and Native communities around decentering white supremacy and settler colonialism”—the ongoing replacement of Indigenous populations by an invasive settler society.

“Hopefully, in doing so,” she adds, “we can fully realize that our movements for Black liberation and Indigenous sovereignty are parallel technologies of resistance. They are interconnected. They are compatible. And without romanticizing our complex histories, hopefully we can acknowledge the ways our peoples have managed to build community and invest in kinship modalities with one another despite the oppression we’ve both endured under the US project.”

An activist, model, and owner of Portland-based Conscious Coils salon, Starks drew broad media attention in 2013 while leading a legislative effort that legalized the work of natural hair stylists, whose use of braids, twists, and other styles is a cultural tradition among Africans and African Americans. She has worked with the Urban League of Portland, a Black civil rights organization that supported her legislative campaign, and has led racial-awareness activities through the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation of Washington, Seattle’s Indigenous People Festival, and the Center for Race and Gender at University of California, Berkeley, among others.

Julie Voelker-Morris, director of UO Common Reading, a program of UESS, says Starks is essential to Common Reading’s goal of building community, enriching curriculum, and engaging research through the shared experience of important literary works.

“Amber Starks is a living embodiment of the UO Division of Equity and Inclusion’s LACE model,” she says. “She absolutely leads with ‘love, authenticity, courage, and empathy.’”

Professor Kirby Brown, director of Native American and Indigenous Studies at the UO and a partner with Common Reading, says Starks will help the UO community to better understand the Kalapuya people, the Indigenous nation on whose traditional land in the Willamette Valley—called Kalapuya Ilihi—the university is located.

“Situated at the intersections of Indigenous and Black history and experience, Amber’s art and activism importantly center, celebrate, and affirm those relationships,” Brown says. “At the same time, her work challenges us to reckon with the complicated histories, relationships to place, and responsibilities to each other and to the Indigenous peoples, lands, and other-than-human relations that have long called—and continue to call—Kalapuya Ilihi home.”

Matt Cooper is managing editor for *Oregon Quarterly*.

For more, visit FYP.UOREGON.EDU/COMMON-READ

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THANK YOU, DUCKS!

Since the UO began its fundraising campaign with a silent phase in 2010, **146,698** donors have given **548,834** gifts exceeding **\$2.72 billion**.

As of May 31, 2021

Thriving with Help from Friends

BY MONIQUE DANZIGER

What can Ducks do in a decade? In the last 10 years at the University of Oregon, much has happened: a record increase in four-year graduation rates, a dramatic expansion of facilities, and the formation of an independent governing board. There was also the UO's community-focused response to a pandemic that fundamentally changed university life.

Through it all, the UO's alumni and friends have strengthened the institution by donating to the current \$3 billion fundraising campaign—the largest such effort by an organization in the history of the state. The unprecedented generosity of donors has touched every corner of campus and energized key areas.

FOR THE STUDENTS

Student success is a defining priority of the campaign. With students in mind, nearly 40,000 Ducks have given to scholarships, advising, internships, emergency funds, and more.

A pivotal \$25 million gift in 2015 from Steve and Connie Balmer, BS '84 (journalism), ensured long-term stability for PathwayOregon, which provides tuition, fees, advising, and—most of all—opportunity to Pell Grant-eligible students from Oregon. In the last 10 years, about

2,000 donors have contributed to an innovative program that has assisted more than 6,500 students.

At the heart of campus, the new Willie and Donald Tykeson Hall houses an academic support hub made possible by gifts from the late Willie and Don Tykeson, BS '51 (business administration), and Shirley Rippey, BA '53 (psychology). Students meet with academic and career advisors to plan course schedules, build résumés, and make informed decisions about their academic path. They're connecting with guides virtually during the pandemic, but in-person conversations return this fall.

These efforts and more contributed to a significant milestone in 2020: the university achieved the goal of increasing the four-year graduation rate by 10 percentage points, reaching a record 61.3 percent.

EXPANSION INTO APPLIED SCIENCE

The UO's traditional research strengths in fundamental science have been bolstered by campaign gifts such as the Lillis family's \$10 million pledge to increase faculty in volcanology and the Boyles' \$10 million investment in zebrafish and genomics. With the launch of the Phil and Penny Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact, donors have also ushered in a new era of applied science at the UO, in which discoveries from the lab or field quickly become applications, such as medical devices and findings about human behavior that could lead to policy changes.

One example of this work is materials scientist Jonathan Reeder's research on pain management.

Modern pain management techniques rely largely on the same method that has endured for thousands of years: oral delivery of an opioid. Reeder is studying the efficacy of miniaturized, implantable

devices that automatically detect and eliminate pain signals, potentially improving the lives of patients with chronic pain with an alternative to opioids.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY

The University of Oregon Portland Internship Experience is supporting post-pandemic economic recovery efforts.

Students participating in the donor-funded program earn a \$5,000 stipend and gain professional experience while assisting small businesses and nonprofit, civic, or educational organizations in Portland.

Interns work up to 40 hours per week for 10 weeks from late

June through early September, while participating in professional development and social activities.

Under this year's theme, Student Recovery Corps, participants are focusing on areas such as social justice, community building, racial equity, and economic revitalization. Students are building career skills and connections while assisting employers with projects, outreach, and other work.

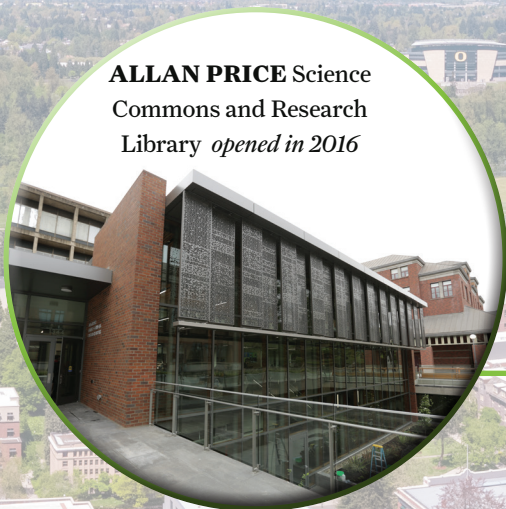
Monique Danziger is director of Development Communications.

Articles on the following pages feature new and improved programs bolstered by the generosity of Ducks. Visit uoregon.edu/give-to-uo for more stories of impact.

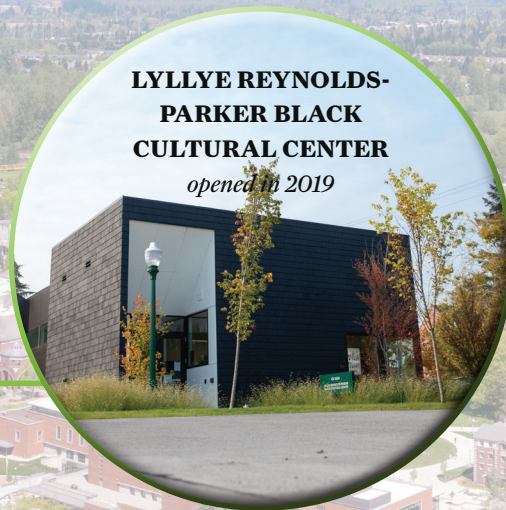
PACIFIC HALL
and new science labs
renovation started in 2016



ALLAN PRICE Science
Commons and Research
Library *opened in 2016*



**LYLLYE REYNOLDS-
PARKER BLACK
CULTURAL CENTER**
opened in 2019



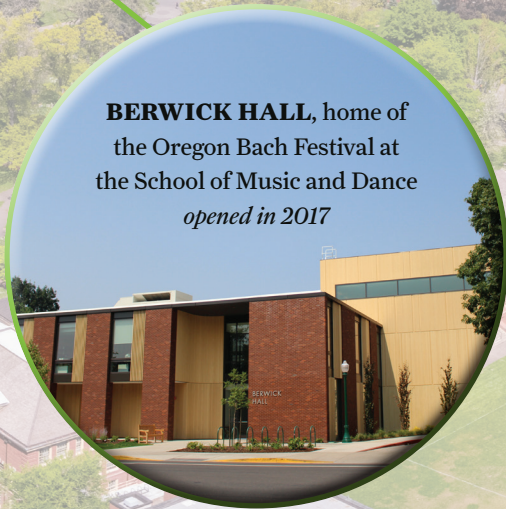
TRANSFORMING CAMPUS

Lead gifts from friends have spurred new construction and updates to facilities

TYKESON HALL, a
campus hub for student
success *opened in 2019*



BERWICK HALL, home of
the Oregon Bach Festival at
the School of Music and Dance
opened in 2017



CHARLIE LITCHFIELD, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS; TYKESON: ALLAN PRICE, PACIFIC; JUSTIN WHITAKER, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS; (BLACK CULTURAL CENTER); COURTESY OF OREGON BACH FESTIVAL



The relocation of career services to the first floor of Lillis underscores the commitment to students

On the Job

Prioritizing career readiness in the business school

BY EMILY E. SMITH

The Lillis Complex, home of the Lundquist College of Business, is iconic on the University of Oregon campus. With its floor-to-ceiling solar glass, a giant “O” on its south façade, and a light-filled atrium, it’s been a photogenic hub for Ducks since opening in 2003.

A recent reconfiguring of the complex underscores a driving focus of the college: career readiness. Visitors entering Lillis from the south now see Lundquist admissions on the left side of the atrium and Mohr Career Services on the right. The message: careers are not the byproduct of higher education, they’re the destination—and students begin carving

their path as soon as they enter the building.

The reorganization of space in Lillis isn’t the only evidence of the emphasis on job preparation in the business school. New initiatives, networking platforms, and gifts are connecting students, alumni, and employers like never before.

Mohr Career Services recently unveiled Lundquist Career Fundamentals, mandatory course work embedded in specific core courses that requires every student to give serious thought to the future and take steps toward their professional goals.

For example, students in the business analytics class of instructor Erik Ford learn to navigate Microsoft Excel—and the job market. Jessica Best, senior associate director of Mohr Career Services, visits weekly and assigns students to brainstorm careers, contact alumni in those careers, and prepare for informational interviews.

Those activities, says Ford, BS ’13 (general social science), MBA ’15, help students

discover careers, land internships, and build the professional skills that will make them competitive job candidates.

“If you have those kinds of things along with your college degree, then you’re walking tall into an interview,” he says. “You’re definitely feeling good about marketing yourself and standing out from the pack.”

Last September, Mohr Career Services also launched Lundquist Connect, an online platform where students can connect with alumni, employers, recruiters, and peers. Students can meet professionals, ask questions, and find mentors, and the platform uses an algorithm to suggest professionals and others who share students’ interests. About 800 alumni and 800 students participate.

Bailey Hartwick, a junior in business administration and a first-generation college student, says connecting with professionals is vital to building her career.

Hartwick often reached out to people on the online employment service LinkedIn for

“My goal is that our students leave with a job, with that next step in place.”

networking, but the response rate was low: for every 10 people she contacted, she might hear back from one. The first time she used Lundquist Connect, she messaged 20 people; within days, 18 of them replied—and all agreed to participate in informational interviews.

“I wanted to learn about people’s career paths, how they got into the positions they were in, why they chose to take those paths,” she says. “The next couple weeks were insanely fast, just talking to all of these amazing people.”

Hartwick credits those conversations with helping her land an internship as a social media marketing manager for Rituals + Alchemy, a holistic wellness brand in San Francisco.

For Joel Wyman, who is pursuing an MBA in sports business, Lundquist Connect makes the act of sending messages to strangers a lot less intimidating. “People are already signed up and are interested in talking to current students or other professionals in the industry, so you get that awkward part out of the way,” he says.

Sarah Nutter, Edward Maletis Dean of the business college, has set a goal for every undergraduate business student to amass one year of professional experience before they graduate.

To that end, the college hosts more than a dozen groups where students can gain leadership experience—among them, the Oregon Consulting Group, Women in Business Club, UO Investment Group, and Warsaw Sports Business Club.

For Nutter, student success is not just about earning a degree—it’s about preparing for what comes after graduation.

“My goal is that our students leave with a job, with that next step in place,” she says. “When they leave, they have a plan for what they will do, and that gives them a solid step

into who they are going to become throughout the rest of their life.”

Many of the school’s career-readiness efforts are made possible with the help of donors, most notably Jay Mohr, BS ’76 (marketing), and his wife Kim.

A major donation from the Mohrs in 2018 bolstered career services, funded scholarships, and allowed the school to implement Salesforce, relationship management software that helps the school stay engaged with employers.

For Mohr, the new location of career services on the first floor and the new career-preparation programs are important moves that will prepare students for their next steps in life.

“Get in there early—start thinking about it,” he says. “Begin with the end in mind and then work toward it.”

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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Dollars and Sense

New financial wellness program helps students manage money

BY MELODY WARD LESLIE

Every fall on campuses across the country, a new crop of students experiences the exhilaration of being on their own, often for the first time in their lives. Right off the bat, they encounter a battery of information tables loaded with free stuff. Some of those freebies come with expensive strings, as Gilbert Rogers learned the hard way.

Rogers is an expert on personal finance now, but as a first-generation, first-year student at Western Kentucky University, he was an easy mark for banks handing out T-shirts. “All you had to do was sign up for a credit card,” he says. “Pretty soon I am walking around campus with four or five shirts, not thinking about what it will mean when all these credit cards arrive in the mail.”

As director of the University of Oregon’s new Financial Wellness Center, Rogers is developing the student financial literacy program he wishes had existed when he naively collected those “free” shirts. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience, from working in the US Army’s financial counseling program at Fort Knox to launching a

financial literacy program at the University of Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he quickly became known as a rising star in the financial wellness world.

“Students are investing both their time and energy to attain their degrees,” says Rogers, whose doctoral dissertation analyzed the need for financial literacy programs. “As they take on more and more debt, universities need to help them make an easier transition to the real world after graduation. The Financial Wellness Center enables the investment in their education to start paying off much earlier in life.”

Rogers says what made it worthwhile for him to move his family from Oklahoma to Oregon during a pandemic is the vision for a culture of financial wellness at the UO, a vision made possible by a gift from Nancy and Dave Petrone, BS ’66 (economics), MBA ’68 (business environment).

“We are reaching students by getting into the spaces where they are, explaining how financial literacy will help them all their lives,” Rogers says. “The support from the Petrones allows us to do this the right way.”

In contrast to schools that offer only a simple website with tips and tricks for managing money, the UO center provides peer financial coaches, delivers workshops to student and campus organizations, and taps into faculty and alumni expertise in tax planning, investing, and even car buying. The center, a joint project of the Lundquist College of Business and the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships, expands on its predecessor, Financial Flight Plan.

Dave Petrone says the couple’s gift comes from noticing over the years that many young people struggle with financial literacy.

“If I could come up with one set of lessons that students should get before earning their diplomas, so that they can leave the university ready to succeed and take care of themselves, this is it,” says the



Webster



Escorcía-Nuñez

former Wells Fargo senior vice president.

Rogers says the UO program is special because the Petrones' gift provides funds to pay a large, diverse team of student coaches. "Most universities that I have seen offer students volunteer financial coaching positions," he says. "Recruiting coaches from a wide variety of academic majors, personal backgrounds, and interests will help us reach more students."

Still, he leaves nothing to chance. Of the 20 students working as coaches, four were chosen for their social media and design skills. They operate as an in-house marketing agency.

"We look forward to holding in-person meetings, but for now we are engaging students in a virtual environment," Rogers says. "Getting people to want to come to another Zoom event is challenging."

Angel Escorcía-Nuñez, a sophomore from Albany majoring in journalism and communication, is glad he made the effort to add one more Zoom to his schedule, a one-on-one with a peer coach. Although he has PathwayOregon and Diversity Excellence scholarships, he ranks financial worries among his greatest sources of stress.

"I want to learn how to be smart with my money," he says. "I found out the main thing is to address your financial situation, whether you are having issues or doing well, and reach out for help when you are ready for future steps, such as investing."

Carly Kleefeld, of Fair Oaks, California, is running track for the Ducks and working as a peer coach while she earns a master's in prevention science, a College of Education program focused on interventions to help children and families. "I love our budgeting worksheet," she says. "That's my favorite

resource because when it's all written down, students can see how much they will save by cutting things out."

Kleefeld speaks from experience. It was only after filling out the worksheet during training that she realized canceling her unused Hulu account would save \$12 a month. "I didn't even remember I had it," she says. Her training, combined with her paycheck, is already easing her anxiety about making ends meet.

Peer coach Alexandra Webster, a business major from Houston, says the students she counsels who report feeling the most stress have taken out loans that began charging interest the minute they signed on the dotted line.

"We can help them find ways to manage monthly payments, so this interest won't pile up while they are in school," she says. "But I hope other students will contact us before they take out loans, so we can talk them through all their options, including loans that do not accumulate interest until after graduation. Now that I have learned so much from my training, I feel like I can have a better future for myself and my family without money problems down the line."

For his part, Rogers gets up every morning focused on helping more students avoid missteps, from paying a premium for a loan to risking their future credit rating for a T-shirt.

"No one talks to students about money management unless they're lucky enough to have financially savvy parents," he says. "This is an area where a mistake early on can impact your life a lot."

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

GILBERT ROGERS'S TOP FIVE FINANCIAL TIPS

1

YOUR BUDGET IS YOUR BFF
Budgets are the foundation for money management and by far the most important skill for students to master.

2

BUILD YOUR CREDIT WHILE IN COLLEGE
By taking a few easy steps to graduate with a higher credit score, students can realize significant savings down the line.

3

PROTECT YOUR IDENTITY
Students need to monitor their credit reports for fraud and protect their online accounts by setting up multifactor authentication.

4

UNDERSTAND YOUR CURRENT LOAN SITUATION
Students should know their current loan balances and how much they will owe after graduation.

5

INVEST IN YOURSELF
Attend financial education workshops and seminars. Read, listen to podcasts, and explore investing.

A portrait of Raoul Liévanos, a man with short dark hair and a goatee, smiling. He is wearing a blue button-down shirt. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage.

Raoul Liévanos

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, SOCIOLOGY

BY MATT COOPER, *OREGON QUARTERLY*

PHOTO BY DUSTIN WHITAKER, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

If you go to a doctor for chest pain, you don't want a prescription for a sore throat. That's how Raoul Liévanos looks at government policies for disadvantaged groups: will the remedy solve the real problem? Or could it be misguided due to an incomplete diagnosis?

As an environmental sociologist, Liévanos studies spatial and institutional factors—segregation and governmental policies, for example—that create inequality in how people experience their environments. It's the difference between the experiences of privileged and disadvantaged neighborhoods regarding, say, toxic exposures, flood protection, or access to healthy, affordable food.

Liévanos and fellow University of Oregon sociologists Clare Evans and Ryan Light recently analyzed the 2014 water contamination crisis in Flint, Michigan. They discovered that the city's switch to drinking water from the Flint River disproportionately threatened areas with high percentages of single-father Black and single-mother Latina families.

Research and public debate have historically focused on the role that racial and class discrimination played in the concentration of lead exposure in specific parts of the city. But the findings by Liévanos and his colleagues highlight the importance of race, gender, and family structure as factors at the finer scale of the neighborhood block level.

It's an important distinction, Liévanos says, in part because the government's failure to recognize these factors meant that the vulnerabilities of Black fathers, Latina mothers, and their respective families have been overlooked. In addition, local officials initially distributed only English-language lead advisories, instead of Spanish-language advisories for Spanish-speaking people.

"If we develop policies geared toward one particular understanding of a problem but the policies are very

broad,” Liévanos says, “they may not address other aspects of the problem that need attention.”

ALL IN THE FAMILY

When Liévanos was growing up, family conversations revolved around politics and justice.

His father, Jorge, grew up in a working-class Mexican American family, was active in the Chicano movement in college, then became a community-oriented police officer and baseball coach for Liévanos and other diverse youth in Santa Maria, California. His mother, Christina, of English and French background, was a jeweler and supporter of women’s rights.

“My family taught me not to take my privileges for granted,” Liévanos says. “They taught me service, empathy, sympathy, and advocating for civil rights.”

BAD BREAK

Liévanos was a catcher for California State University, Fresno. But dreams of the majors ended in 2003, when a fielder’s throw inadvertently shattered the bones in the thumb of his throwing hand.

“My thumb was mush—it had to be reconstructed,” Liévanos says. “I sat out the season but played in 2004 and 2005. I hit well, but I wasn’t the same and I knew my career would end in college. I started thinking about graduate school.”

INSPIRING THROUGH EDUCATION

He savors his diamond days, but Liévanos wouldn’t trade his impact as an educator for more of them.

“I can contribute to these broad, important conversations about our unequal experiences of the environment,” he says. “Talking with my undergrads—seeing all the different ways in which they can go on to apply these ideas in work, business, life—that’s exciting.”

BOOKMARKS

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



1 *Countering Violent Extremism in Pakistan: Local Actions, Local Voices* by Anita Weiss, professor of global studies

2 *The Kite that Touched the Sky* by Jim Mockford, BA '76 (Clark Honors College, Asian studies)

3 *Brick by Brick: Building Hope and Opportunity for Women Survivors Everywhere* by Karen Sherman, BS '85 (political science)

4 *The Canyon Cuts Both Ways: Hidden Stories* by Dan T. Cox, BS '76 (journalism)

5 *Hops: Historic Photographs of the Oregon Hopscape* by Kenneth I. Helphand, professor emeritus of landscape architecture

6 *A Place for Inquiry, A Place for Wonder: The Andrews Forest* by William G. Robbins, MA '65, PhD '69 (history)



THE UNIVERSITY *for* OREGON

Through fresh collaborations
on academic strengths, the UO
will reimagine public service
for a new era

By Anna Glavash Miller

At first glance, a recent string of successes at the University of Oregon may seem fundamentally unrelated: the launch of a data science major with about 50 students—double the projection. A landmark \$4.7 million Mellon Foundation grant to examine environmental futures across various academic fields. New student startups in maternal health, sustainable skin care, digital currency, and more, all finalists in the Provost Innovation Challenge. The completion of a reimagined Hayward Field—outwardly, a gleaming symbol of UO excellence in sport, and inside, the home of world-class laboratories for studying human performance.

What ties them together? They exemplify a university that is drawing on its strengths to better serve the state, region, and world.

One of the principal architects of this idea—building on strengths to maximize service—is Patrick Phillips, who became provost in 2019.

The university's chief academic officer has launched a campus-wide effort to build on strengths in academia, with initiatives in data science, diversity, environment, innovation, and sport and wellness. The goal: enabling more of the knowledge and research generated in labs and classrooms to reach all Oregonians.

"We must move forward and be more than just the University of Oregon," Phillips says. "We must redouble our efforts to be a university *for* Oregon, and *for* our region and the world. We have an opportunity to draw together strengths in a wide variety of areas and think about how we can do both the internal work of the university and fulfill our mission as a public institution to make sure that we're contributing to a greater good."

A ROADMAP TO IMPACT

In an era of unprecedented competition, says Phillips, the best public universities must increase their contributions to society, their relevance to students, and academic collaboration on their campuses.

Backed by donor support, the provost's initiatives align research and scholarly strengths with student interests to enhance the UO's academic impact. They are founded on the commitment of the university to fulfill its mission as a public institution and address the problems of our time.

The **Data Science** initiative, which capitalizes on world-renowned faculty, will prepare students to understand data and chart careers relevant to the drive in the marketplace to make better decisions, faster. Faculty members are engaging with researchers statewide to leverage data science to address society's biggest challenges, from curing cancer to fighting global climate change.

With the **Environment** initiative, the university is responding to the crisis of climate change with a focus



Patrick Phillips

on interdisciplinary pursuits that meet the desires of an engaged student body and the higher calling of a public institution to help address societal ills.

With the **Innovation** initiative, the UO will build on its identity as a place where research is increasingly connected to impact, as exemplified by the Phil and Penny Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact. University researchers are developing new ways to expand the role of the UO as a major driver of economic activity in the state.

The **Sport and Wellness** initiative will build on research in healthy living and environmental quality to help residents of the state live longer, healthier lives, while applying professional expertise to the state's important sports product industry.

Spurred by last year's upswelling of awareness of racial injustice, the **Diversity** initiative is an affirmation of the UO's intent to use research and funding to address the complex realities of racial inequity. This includes long-simmering tensions around the experience of underrepresented groups in majority-white Oregon, according to Phillips.

"Last year's events—with all the lives lost, the pandemic's disproportionate impact on BIPOC communities, and the polarizing election cycle—advanced our desire to be an antiracist campus," he says. "All of these pushed us to ask ourselves: What's our role as an institution to not only be antiracist in how we conduct ourselves, but in how we are bringing our scholarly and educational work to bear on making our communities antiracist?"

For each of these initiatives, the Office of the Provost has sponsored listening sessions across campus to gain a broader understanding of opportunities and shortcomings. Faculty members and other participants are identifying where, and how, strategic investments in faculty hires, research, and curriculum will improve inclusiveness and harness academic power.

WEAVING THE THREADS

Phillips's career is evidence of his unwavering belief in the power of partnerships to make change.

As a distinguished professor of biology and Philip H. Knight Chair who has studied genetics and evolution at the UO for two decades, Phillips has run his lab as an integrated system in which scientists with diverse backgrounds work on their own projects and also help each other to implement innovative approaches to solving complex problems.

He was tapped to serve as acting director of the Knight Campus, where his ability to build consensus was essential to liftoff for this world-class research campus. His success there prompted President Michael Schill to name him provost.

In his new role, Phillips is determined to break down barriers to collaboration and, through the initiatives, create a framework that unites UO faculty members to address critical concerns.

"Everything that we're doing is organic to the University of Oregon. It's a chance to draw those threads together to make the entire tapestry of the university even richer and stronger," Phillips says. "This is not at all a change in focus in what the university is or does. In many respects, it's a distillation of just a few facets of who we are that can serve as initial focal points that fully illustrate what we can become when we fulfill all aspects of our mission: the educational, the research, *and* the public impact role of a modern university."

TODAY AND TOMORROW

The initiatives are developing at different paces, each now in the hands of engaged faculty members. They're examining hires, partnerships, courses, and programs that will compound university strengths in the five areas while inspiring the next generation of students.

Phillips is also enthusiastically inviting input from alumni, who he describes as the UO's biggest influence in the world.

"What is important to our alumni is important to what we're doing," he says. "Rather than us saying, 'This is the way students should be,' it's good to start by asking the question, 'What does the world want our students to be?' Because that will help our students in the end."

His approach resonates with Whitney Wagoner, director of the Warsaw Sports Marketing Center, an instructor of sports business, and a member of the steering committee for the sport and wellness initiative. She says the university's ambitious reimagining of the five academic areas will redefine the rules of engagement in support of collaborative work.

"There's an openness to talk about productivity in a more diverse way, and that should make our colleagues eager to want to get involved and work across disciplines in a way where they maybe have more degrees of freedom to do so than we've had in the past," Wagoner adds. "It's been really valuable just to be given the space to gather and listen to our super-smart colleagues talk about the great work they do. There is energy and momentum and wind at our backs, because we're already doing great things."

As provost, Phillips knows he does not have the luxury of slowing down. Early in his tenure, he saw the value and volume of work being done in critical areas across campus but heard from faculty members and staff that institutional "silos" had hindered collaboration on the academic work's impact in the world. He was determined to break down barriers and, through the initiatives, create a new framework in which UO's stellar faculty can work together to solve problems.

Says Phillips: "My philosophy is always that we're better together. In bringing together the different parts of the university, sometimes we'll identify gaps; we'll realize, if we did this thing, then that would really knit these areas together and allow us to do something that is really unique, interesting, and transformative."

Anna Glavash Miller, MS '18 (journalism), is a staff writer for the Office of the Provost Communications.



five **PILLARS**

The UO is marshalling resources and collaborative efforts in these fields to produce greater benefit to the state and its people.

01

DATA SCIENCE

Under executive director and biology professor Bill Cresko, an undergraduate major was launched this year and a graduate program will follow soon. Through the initiative, the UO has partnered with researchers from OHSU to build a center for biomedical data science and is developing a statewide team of data scientists. The initiative played a key role in the start of the UO's COVID-19 Monitoring and Assessment Program, which has provided tens of thousands of tests to the university and community.

02

DIVERSITY

An engagement process for the initiative, organized by Lesley-Anne Pittard, assistant vice president for campus and community engagement, is ending. Meetings connected the Black Faculty Collective, faculty members representing Native American, Asian, Desi, Pacific Islander, and Latinx communities, and other UO groups. Engagement continues this fall with sessions enabling all UO community members to help shape the vision for the Center on Racial Disparities and Resilience. An outcome of the center will be the hiring of faculty.

03

ENVIRONMENT

Executive Director Adell Amos, Clayton R. Hess Professor of Law, is identifying all faculty members who delve into critical areas of the environment, including climate change, environmental justice, and resilience. A rigorous drive is underway to highlight research, promote events, and spur involvement across campus. In the coming months, an advisory committee will be appointed to strategically support all efforts.

04

INNOVATION

Andrew Nelson, associate vice president for entrepreneurship and innovation and associate professor of management, has been broadly engaging with interdisciplinary campus groups since summer 2020. This initiative amplifies the work of the Knight Campus, the Lundquist Center for Entrepreneurship, the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation, and other campus hubs for innovation.

05

SPORT AND WELLNESS

Organized by Carlyn Schreck, assistant vice president for presidential initiatives, and directed by a 10-member faculty steering committee, this initiative leverages the high profile of UO athletics, world-class sports facilities, athlete health and performance programs, and the university's role as host of global competitions to shine a spotlight on programs in sports industry expertise, health and the human condition, and societal transformation.

BRUCE DAMONTE (KNIGHT CAMPUS); CHARLIE LITCHFIELD; UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS (FOREST); MICHAEL McDERMOTT



CREATING THE Writer

As the Kidd creative writing workshops turn 30,
a poet reflects on a year in the program

By Andi Butts

Photos by Dustin Whitaker, University Communications

Launched in 1991, the Walter and Nancy Kidd Creative Writing Workshops offer University of Oregon undergraduates an intensive, yearlong immersion in poetry and fiction writing. The program attracts participants from all majors and provides a rigorous and supportive community for those interested in the craft of writing and close reading of literature.

Classes are limited to 10 students. Over the course of the year, participants workshop their writing with peers, learn to read like writers, and attend lectures by UO creative writing faculty members and distinguished authors who visit as part of the creative writing program's annual reading series. There are no prerequisites to apply and students eligible for financial aid receive scholarship support from the Walter and Nancy Kidd Endowment (awards range up to \$3,000 annually).

The Kidd workshops were envisioned and designed by creative writing professor Garrett Hongo. Led by graduate student instructors, the workshops are a cornerstone of UO's highly regarded MFA program in creative writing, which admits only 2

percent of applicants each year.

Andi Butts, an English major and junior in the poetry track, captured a year in the program in four essays for Oregon Quarterly.

"SHREDDED" BY FRIENDS (AND BETTER FOR IT)

Creative writing is difficult, and needless to say, when you add a pandemic to the mix, it becomes even more of a challenge. There's no doubt that class is much different over a computer screen than in person, and no amount of skilled writing or nuanced critique can prevent the many difficulties inherent to doing school by Zoom. Some days, technical issues seem to arrive in abundance, turning even the most basic class activities—such as reciting our original work to one another—into tasks that necessitate repetition. “Your audio cut out,” “You froze,” or the classic “WE CAN'T HEAR YOU” have become the most commonplace of statements, made by students and instructors through both chuckles and groans. And still, none of this detracted from the

Kidd workshops' impact on my growth as a student of literature and a writer.

Workshops are the Kidd's heart. During workshop, we present our writing aloud to our classmates, who then offer us feedback on what we can do to improve it. When a piece of mine is “up for workshop,” I prepare ahead of time to have it torn to shreds. (I have learned that entering workshop expecting to have my ego coddled is the best way to leave it ready to quit writing.) On one particular workshop day, I presented a poem that I believed in my heart of hearts to be one of my best. It combined some of my favorite poetic elements, including an extended metaphor, visceral imagery, and a fervent tone. But when I read the poem to the class, I was met with a sea of perplexed faces on my computer screen, followed by questions about the metaphor and various critiques about some of the other questionable technical choices.

My peers' scrutiny stung. I hadn't anticipated it. Instead of allowing myself to sink into shame, I paused, took a deep breath, and reminded myself, *this is only going to help me*. I thanked my classmates

for their responses, stepped away from the poem for a couple of weeks, and then revisited it, ready, at last, to apply the ideas my peers had offered me. My writing is all the better for it.

"DO WHATEVER WORKS"

Eminent writers and faculty members shed light on their work during craft talks, another critical component of the Kidd workshops. New-York-based poet Juliana Gray—whose collection, *Honeymoon Palsy*, was one of my favorite reads of 2020—provided my favorite craft talk of the year. Gray's biting and infectious wit engaged me from the get-go, in spite of the fact that I had been cooped up in my bedroom for weeks on end, down with a case of COVID-19. More importantly, Gray offered a great deal of worthwhile advice for writers of fiction and poetry alike, the most notable of these being, "Do whatever works."

"Do whatever works," a phrase that, at the time, seemed to be vague beyond measure, was one that Gray said in the context of a larger discussion about balancing the specific with the general. At first, I found this piece of advice frustrating. Gray spoke of the importance of being precise, but her advice to "do whatever works" seemed to abandon precision altogether. *What am I supposed to do with that?* I wondered. But as I kept listening, I realized how often I am so focused on meeting certain criteria in my poetry—such as making sure that my diction and tone are consistent or including enough concrete details throughout (but not too many!), or fleshing out the speaker—that I forget to notice the big picture. For me, doing "whatever works" means asking myself what the poem is trying to do, and then doing it. It means not losing sight of my voice and intuition for the sake of making the "correct" choices in technique. It means attending to the balance of the specific and general by seeing the poem



AN EMERGING VOICE

I entered the Kidd workshops with a few other creative writing classes under my belt, but none that demanded the same speed, rigor, and imagination that the Kidd program asked of its students. I was adept at constructive criticism, though I was better at pointing out what wasn't working in a piece of writing than what was. Coming up with ideas, and the language to express them, was a challenge at best, and I paid little attention to devices like meter and form. I was unsure of my poetic voice, fixated on how my writing stacked up against that of my peers and aiming for perfection, which came at the expense of my authenticity.

Thanks to the workshops, my understanding of craft and technique has reached a height I did not foresee. This has deepened not only my grasp on poetry but my love for it, too. My imagination has expanded; ideas seem to bubble up in an endless supply, and I now have more tools to bring them to light. Perhaps most importantly, I am beginning to develop my poetic voice, which has helped me feel more connected to and confident in my writing. I spend less time comparing myself to my peers and more time learning from them, recognizing the privilege it is to be a part of a group filled with so many talented, intelligent, and encouraging people, many of whom have become my friends.

I applied to be a part of the Kidd workshops not because of a passion for technique but because poetry moves me. It has moved me since I discovered it as a sensitive 13-year-old, struggling to feel at home in the world around me, and it will continue to move me as I—and my writing—grow and change.

Creative writing is not an aimless, impractical endeavor; it allows us—whether we are the writer or the reader—to make sense of the events in our lives. It is the avenue by which we can notice the world around us, often in unexpected and, at times, beautiful ways. We need this now more than ever.

For Andi's poetry, visit
oregonquarterly.com/poet



in its entirety, rather than as different, distinct parts.

Gray's advice, though almost deceptively straightforward, has encouraged me to trust myself; because of this, my poetry has been transformed.

LINE OF INQUIRY

The line of inquiry (LOI), a 12- to 15-page paper that we develop over the course of the year, is the most demanding part of the Kidd workshops. As an analytical person by nature and a self-professed English literature nerd, I also find the LOI to be the most thrilling. In this paper, we are free to explore whatever topic interests us, so long as it is related to craft. During fall term, we begin to narrow the focus of our exploration, gathering sources—poetry or fiction and craft essays—related to our chosen subject. Winter term is dedicated to examining these sources in depth and creating an annotated bibliography. At last, during spring term, we write essays, our LOIs, based on our research, the findings of which we present to our peers.

My LOI centers on modern female poets' works about abuse and trauma. I analyze the technical choices that these poets made to render trauma in their work and argue through a feminist lens that writing about these subjects is an act of resistance and necessity.

The topic of my LOI, in and of itself, did not emerge out of thin air; it was developed and refined over the course of many months. Researching and analyzing this topic in depth has made me mindful of the extent to which sociocultural norms and beliefs inform—and are informed by—art and people's values within it. This is most apparent to me in my own life. I have examined and reexamined the teachings I've absorbed—from professors and others—about what is and isn't valuable in poetry and creative writing, more generally. I'm more willing to come to my own conclusions about what makes writing "good." I feel more excited to write, more in touch with my true values in art. Writing the LOI was an immense undertaking, but I have learned more about my writing through it than through any other part of the Kidd. For that, I am genuinely thankful.

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Gregory Stanley Black, *A Black Rainbow Of Color* (detail), 2019, Photograph. On loan from the artist

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- 36 Oscar Winner
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OLD Oregon



A BARN(ER) BURNER OF A GAME

Oregon last played Fresno State in 2012, when Kenjon Barner (with ball) ran for 201 yards in a 42-25 win on the way to a 12-1 season. We hope fans can again fill the stands when the Bulldogs open the home season at Autzen Stadium September 4. But the most awaited game on the slate takes place September 11 in Columbus, Ohio, when the Ducks hit the Horseshoe to take on Ohio State.

ERIC EVANS/OREGON ATHLETICS

Pocketing an Oscar

Theater alumnus Michael Govier wins an Academy Award for his animated film

BY DAMIAN FOLEY

“I wish we were doing this interview at Rennie’s,” says the voice on the other end of the line. On the phone from his home in Los Angeles is Michael Govier, BS ’00 (theater arts). It is May 6, and Govier is simultaneously missing Eugene and the popular campus-area pub while trying to find a home for the Academy Award he won on April 25.

“I just love Eugene,” Govier says. “I love hiking, and everything’s green. I did a lot of hiking Spencer Butte. The simple things, like going across that footbridge, walking to a game, those things are always so satisfying.”

Also satisfying? Winning an Oscar after bringing to life an idea that until a few years ago only existed inside Govier’s head.

“It was just so exciting,” says Govier. “In that moment it was, ‘Oh my gosh,’ and then you’re walking up and everyone’s cheering for you and you hit the stage and it’s, ‘Wow, this happened,’ and I felt so honored, felt so privileged, so grateful for all the wonderful people that helped us all get there.”

Govier and fellow writer Will McCormick won the Academy Award for best animated short film for *If Anything Happens I Love You*, a 12-minute look into the world of parents whose marriage is suffering under the strain of losing their only child in a school shooting. The powerful emotions stirred by the film amount to a rebuttal of the desensitization that can accompany these tragedies.

Govier attended the University of Oregon due in large part to the theater program, and says he became “obsessed” with the Pocket Playhouse, the student-run theater that gives Ducks the opportunity to experience every facet of putting on a show.

He performed in *Nicholas Nickleby* and several Shakespeare plays, and was a founding member of the UO’s Absolute Improv student troupe. “I am always so happy to see that Absolute Improv is still going strong,” Govier says. “I never thought that when we started it in 1996 it would still be around.” (Coincidentally, classmate Skye Fitzgerald, MFA ’97 (theater arts), was nominated for an Oscar this year for his documentary, *Hunger Ward*.)

Govier is “really a very talented actor; Michael is very funny; he’s a very good comedian,” says Janet Rose, a senior instructor in the Department of Theatre Arts who taught the lighting classes Govier took as a student.

After graduating, Govier moved to Chicago and honed his craft on stage for a decade before heading to Los Angeles to break into the film industry. He starred in a number of short films and can also be seen on *This Is Us*, NBC’s award-winning family drama.



Will McCormick, Reese Witherspoon, and Michael Govier at this spring’s Academy Awards

“It was just so exciting... you hit the stage and it’s, ‘Wow, this happened.’”

During an acting class, he struck up a friendship with McCormick, one of the writers of *Toy Story 4*. Govier told McCormick about an idea he had: shadow souls.

In Govier’s mind, shadow souls are the manifestations of grief that a person can’t connect to. They live in a person’s shadow, acting out what that person is thinking and feeling, but cannot express. It wasn’t long before Govier homed in on exactly what that grief could be caused by.

“Everyone’s constantly discussing school shootings,” says Govier. “Sometimes the world gets a little desensitized to these kinds of events, and it just kind of becomes a number. ‘Well, how many (dead)? That’s not that bad.’ We wanted to show that one is bad. I wanted to show a story about the loss that one family is feeling and that grief, and how that grief can be transcended. That grief, I think, is a point we can all relate to. It’s a touchstone. Everyone wants their kids, their families, their loved ones to come home safe. I think it’s a starting point, where we can all begin the conversation.”

Govier and McCormick spent a year on the script. Their animators—recent graduates from the California Institute of the Arts—created a world that is equal parts gorgeous and sparse. Govier wanted the art to be as empty as the worlds of grieving people who are suffering from the loss of a loved one.

While the husband and wife in the film largely go about their lives in silence, triggered by objects around the house that remind them of

their daughter, their shadow souls project onto the walls behind them and act out their emotions and feelings.

If Anything Happens I Love You is such a tearjerker that fans who cried while watching it started a viral sensation on the social media platform TikTok, filming themselves before and after watching the film to show whether or not they shed tears. The hashtag #IfAnythingHappensILoveYou has been viewed more than 70 million times.

While Govier doesn't know where he will end up keeping his statue—it's currently on a chair in his living room, after spending time on his dining room table—the morning after the ceremony he took it with him when he went to get a breakfast burrito from Tacos Villas Corona.

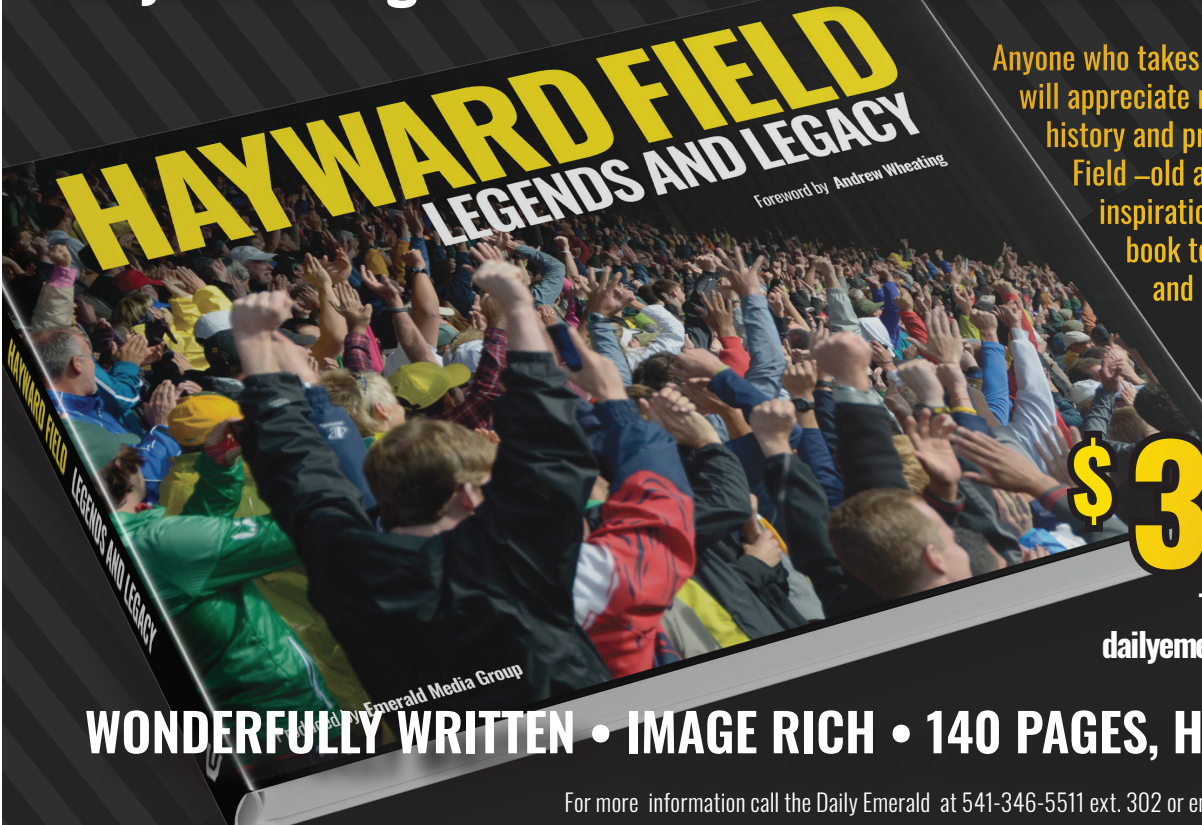
"I've been coming to Tacos Villas Corona since I first moved to Los Angeles," says Govier. "It's a couple of neighborhoods from where I live, but I always go to it, and they've always been so supportive of me. The next morning, I brought the statue in to show them because they had asked, and it was so fun to see their excitement. 'Hey, we believed in you from the beginning, we've always loved you!' It was so nice; there's those kind of reactions from people, and they get to share in the win because they've been so supportive."

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



Govier's "shadow souls" are manifestations of grief

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On the Frontline for Pfizer

BY JOANNA MANN



Jerica Pitts moved to New York to join the Pfizer pharmaceutical corporation in January 2020, roughly six weeks before the pandemic lockdown began in the United States. Her whole life quickly became about one thing: communicating vital information on

the Pfizer vaccine to the world's waiting ears.

As a 2012 public relations graduate of the University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication, Pitts had unknowingly prepared herself for a critical role at the center of a global health crisis.

After graduation, Pitts worked for healthcare and pharmaceutical/biotech communications agencies in Chicago for seven years. Now she is the director of science media relations at Pfizer, responsible for informing the media about the company's vaccine.

"I wouldn't say it was the best timing, but it was probably the best timing for me to be introduced at Pfizer," Pitts says. "And then just a few weeks later, the world changed and suddenly, my role was 100 percent focused on elevating the vaccine and what we were doing."

For Pitts, a typical day consists of learning the latest data and developments regarding the vaccine and updating reporters. She manages a small team that produces information about the vaccine and other Pfizer medicines for media, including international outlets.

"I think that there's a big perception of what science looks like, that there's chemistry experiments exploding in the labs. And this job

has really given me an opportunity to take down that wall and introduce the world to what goes on and what goes into it," Pitts says. "The people on the vaccine team are probably the best people I know. I feel so confident in the vaccine because of the incredible minds working on it and how dedicated they are."

For Pitts, the biggest challenge as the pandemic began was balancing her personal and professional life as the public pushed for information on possible vaccines. Once the Pfizer vaccine had been developed, she says, there was immense pressure to deliver it globally—her team addressed "nonstop questions" about which groups would receive the vaccine, and when.

With vaccines now in wide distribution, next for Pitts will be explaining how the technology behind the Pfizer vaccine could be used for other diseases and infectious viruses such as influenza.

Pitts grew up in Detroit, watching *Bill Nye the Science Guy* and dreaming of becoming a doctor. She came to the UO to study biochemistry but switched after taking journalism classes. She was still interested in science but wasn't sure how to combine the two fields.

She credits SOJC professors for helping her piece together a career track. Her mentors included Duncan McDonald, professor emeritus; Debra Merskin, professor emerita; Kelli Matthews, public relations senior instructor; and Tiffany Gallicano, a former associate professor. Nearly a decade later, Pitts still keeps in touch with them to share news and accomplishments.

Pitts has applied what she learned at the journalism school, from how to network and build connections to proofreading and writing stories. She says the friendships she made were instrumental in helping her understand her potential and how to succeed.

"My advice for someone coming out of college who wants to be in media relations is that perfection on the job is not everything that matters," Pitts says. "Coming out of school you have a mentality of achieving a perfect 'A,' but work is subjective and you need to be open to making mistakes."

Joanna Mann, BA '21 (journalism), is a writer for the School of Journalism and Communication.

COURTESY OF JERICA PITTS



DISCOVER THE *UNEXPECTED* IN MEDFORD THE HEART OF THE ROGUE



CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK

An hour's drive from Medford, Crater Lake is Oregon's only national park and the deepest lake in the United States. An experience of a lifetime, you'll be in awe of its pristine blue water surrounded by sheer, breathtaking cliffs. Hike, swim or take a boat ride to Wizard Island.



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If outdoor fun and adventure is on your bucket list, a visit to the Rogue Valley is a must. The Rogue River is designated as one of the country's Wild and Scenic Rivers and boasts Class V rapids among its 216-mile stretch. Whether you raft, kayak, tube or paddleboard, you're sure to have thrills and spills while appreciating incredible forest and wildlife sights.



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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

Breaking The Grass Ceiling

University of Oregon softball fans know Sara Goodrum as a reliable Ducks hitter and outfielder who played from 2012 to 2014.

Now Goodrum, BS '15 (human physiology), is becoming familiar to Major League Baseball fans, too. Earlier this year, the Milwaukee Brewers announced Goodrum as their minor league hitting coordinator, making her the first woman believed to hold that title in baseball. She oversees the team's minor league hitting system, including all hitting coaches, to ensure an approach that aligns with the Brewers' philosophy for player development.

Says Goodrum: "It took me a little time to process the significance of the hire and what it meant for the future, for women and girls who are growing up to see me in this position and . . . how it could potentially help younger women pursue roles like this."

During college, Goodrum worked in the University of Oregon Bowerman Sports Science Clinic, helping Oregon Track Club Elite's Olympic hopefuls improve their performances and helping peers with research.

She befriended Bryson Nakamura, MS '14, PhD '16 (human physiology), and after he joined the Brewers organization, he encouraged her to apply for an internship in the team's sports performance program. Goodrum interned in 2017, then became the coordinator of integrative sports performance. Last October she was promoted to her current position, coordinator of hitting development initiatives.

The Brewers are "super open-minded" about her role, Goodrum says, focusing not on gender but on whether she can help hitters hit.

"[Players are] just searching for people who are willing to help and care for them and provide them with good information," she adds. "Everyone in this organization has always been open-minded and receptive."

—Damian Foley, University Communications

FLASHBACK

1921 In April, engineering instruction is approved, with guiding principles that include high educational standards, student support, and "no straying in educational pastures."

Indicates UOAA Member

1960s

PHILIP DEUTCHMAN, PhD '67 (physics), professor emeritus for the physics department at the University of Idaho, wrote an article detailing the contributions of Chien-Shiung Wu, a nuclear physicist recently honored with a USPS commemorative stamp.

JOHNPAUL JONES JR., BArch '67, of Jones and Jones architecture, Seattle, received the 2021 Tau Sigma Delta Gold Medal, recognizing professionals with a record of high distinction in architecture.

MIKE BLACKABY, BS '69 (marketing), former Ontario school board member and third-generation owner of Blackaby Insurance, sold the agency

but continues as secretary for the Old Owyhee Ditch Improvement District, which provides water for farmland.

1970s

VIRGINIA "GINNY" BURDICK, MA '73 (journalism), currently the Oregon Senate's longest-serving member at 25 years, announced she will leave her post serving Portland's District 18 this fall. She has been nominated to join the Northwest Power and Conservation Council in November.

ULRICH HARDT, PhD '74, DA '74 (English), professor emeritus at Portland State University, is serving as coeditor in chief of the *Oregon Encyclopedia*, an online resource of Portland State, the Oregon Historical Society, and the Oregon Council of Teachers of English.

MARILYN MONTGOMERY SMITH, BS '75 (journalism), retired after 21 years as public information and communications officer for the city of Albany. She and husband **STANFORD SMITH**, BS '67 (journalism), continue to travel with their yellow Labrador Retriever, May.

KATHY SALTZMAN ROMIEY, BA '77 (music), received Chorus America's 2021 Distinguished Service Award for 30 years of service at the University of Minnesota, where she is director of choral activities.

JOANIE BAYHACK, BA '78 (journalism), a fitness advocate and instructor, and a former media executive, was featured in the "Know Your Neighbors" section of the *Coacabella Valley Independent*, Cathedral City, California.

FLASHBACK

1931 Frank Lloyd Wright—"noted architect and exponent of the modern trend in architectural design," according to *Old Oregon*—lectures before 700 people in March, in what is regarded as "one of the most important events in the history of the School of Architecture and Allied Arts."

NEW UOAA Board members

The University of Oregon Alumni Association congratulates its 2021-23 board president, Maylian Pak, and welcomes eight new alumni directors.



Dominique Beaumonte

BA '03 (ethnic studies)

Sacramento, California

Dominique is the communications and development director for an education non profit. He has a passion for community engagement and is a founding board member of UO's Black Alumni Network. His MEd is from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and he is completing an MDiv at Fuller Theological Seminary.



Joyce Lynn Garrett BA '68, MA '73, MS '81, PhD '82 (curriculum and instruction)

Milton-Freewater, Oregon

Joyce enjoyed a 35-year career in education before retiring from Boise State as Professor and Dean of the College of Education. She served on non-profit boards in several states and is a life member of Phi Kappa Phi, Kappa Delta Pi, and the Association of Teacher Educators. She also holds a BS from Oregon State University.



Debbie (Schloe) Kagawa

BS '80 (recreation administration)

Huntington Beach, California

Debbie is the branch manager for Capital Resources & Insurance, Inc., a registered investment adviser in California. She is president of the Orange County Ducks Chapter, having served in that position for six years. Next up will be working with the chapter on increasing alumni engagement. Debbie definitely loves her Ducks!



April Koda BA '06 (business administration)

Charlotte, North Carolina

April is the director of trade promotions at The Simply Good Foods Company. She is a first-generation Oregon graduate and former Oregon Ducks football intern and actively supports all Oregon athletics. April served on the board of the Denver Ducks and is a volunteer for the Duck Alumni Recruiting Team.



UOAA Board President

Maylian Pak MA '05 (geography)

Eugene, Oregon

Maylian Pak, originally from Alabama's Gulf Coast, relocated to Oregon from Washington, DC, following completion of undergraduate studies in geography and international affairs at the University of Mary Washington. While at the UO, Maylian served as a graduate teaching fellow and on the UO Graduate Council. She currently serves as the director of donor relations at Oregon Community Foundation.



Kanealii Ng-Osorio BS '98 (psychology)

Honolulu, Hawaii

Kanealii is a portfolio manager at Kamehameha Schools. He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity at the UO and was involved in student government. Kanealii served as chapter president for the Hawaii Ducks. He earned an MBA from Georgia State University and is a Certified Project Management Professional from PMI.



Alexa Tieu Whippo BS '10 (journalism)

Gilbert, Arizona

Alexa is the on-air promotions editor, producer, and graphic designer for Bally Sports Arizona in Phoenix. Alexa served as chapter president of the Desert Ducks. She is an active member of the Association for Women in Sports Media, the Asian American Journalists Association, and the Arizona chapter of Women in Sports and Entertainment.



Julia Wong BS '18 (business administration)

Eugene, Oregon

Julia serves on the fundraising team at the Fanconi Anemia Research Fund, a local rare disease nonprofit founded by the late UO President David Frohnmayer. During her time as an undergraduate, Julia was a member of the weightlifting club and competed on the state and national level. She is currently pursuing her masters of nonprofit management at the UO.

(Not pictured)

Eduardo ("Eddy") Morales '04

(planning, public policy and management; Spanish)

Gresham, Oregon



CLASS NOTABLE

Answering a Call for Help, 60 Years Later

Months after Nazis seized Vienna in 1939, a Jewish merchant named Alfred Berger poured all of his hope into a desperate plea to a stranger 6,000 miles away who shared only his last name.

You are surely informed about the situation of all Jews in Central-Europe . . . The only possibility we have to join our children, the dearest we have in this world, is the way to America . . .

But help never came. For more than 60 years, the letter went unanswered—until it landed in the hands of Farris Cassell MS '90, a graduate of the University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication, setting her on a path to Israel, Austria, and the Czech Republic to retrace the steps of a family separated by war and genocide.

Now, with fascism once again rearing its head around the world, Cassell's investigative odyssey has culminated in the book, *The Unanswered Letter: One Holocaust Family's Desperate Plea for Help*.

"The letter moved me so deeply, I just couldn't put it away," she says. "It's about what happened to people who were made to seem so unimportant they became nothing in their culture. And when democracy fell apart, the destruction swept them away."

Her chronicle of the Berger family's attempt to flee Europe has struck a chord with critics, earning the Jewish Book Council's 2020 National Book Award in the Holocaust category as well as top honors from the American Society of Journalists and Authors.

"Everyone is important. That is the thing I think this book has taught me," Cassell says. "Ordinary people, even in ordinary times, can make a big difference in the world. In extraordinary times, it's ordinary people who make all the difference." —Nicole Krueger, BA '99 (journalism), School of Journalism and Communication

For more, visit sojc.link/farris

FLASHBACK

1941 Jay Cooke Allen, '23, a former Oregon journalist and correspondent for the North American Newspaper Alliance, is sentenced in March to three months' imprisonment for crossing the demarcation line between unoccupied and occupied France without a permit from the German military.

DENYSE McGRUFF, MS '78 (political science), MUP '79 (urban and regional planning), was appointed to the city commission in Oregon City in 2019 and elected to the body in 2020, becoming the first person of color to join the commission.

CRAIG BOW, PhD '79 (geological sciences), was appointed a technical advisor to Idaho Champion gold mines for two exploration gold projects.

1980s

The Trail Back Out, the fourth book by **JADI CAMPBELL**, BA '80 (Clark Honors College, English), was named a finalist for the 2020 American Book Fest Best Book Award in the Fiction Anthologies category.

THOMAS COOKSEY, PhD '82 (English), professor emeritus of English and philosophy at Armstrong State University, Savannah, Georgia, published the article, "Pataphysical Assemblages: Fascist Spectacle in Paul Grimault's *Le roi et l'oiseau*," in the *Comparatist*, a literary journal.

MIKE MILLER, MArch '83, retired after 19 years as a principal and owner of Bremerton, Washington-based Rice Fergus Miller, an architecture, interiors, and planning firm.

JAMES COYLE, BS '85 (computer and information science), was appointed sales director at Bangert, Inc., a construction software company in Olathe, Kansas.

BRIAN ERB, BS '85 (journalism), retired as a partner with the international

law firm Ropes & Gray LLP, after practicing corporate transactional law for 25 years in New York City, the Silicon Valley, and San Francisco.

MARTIN MOLL, BA '85 (Clark Honors College, political science), and **MICHELLE LÓPEZ**, BS '06 (business administration), founded Tualatin-based Breakaway Bookkeeping & Advising, a network of advisors offering bookkeeping, virtual CFO and family-office services, and small-business marketing solutions.

KELLY ZUSMAN, BA '86 (history), JD '89, started a scholarship fund named for Carmen Sylvester, who became the Portland Police Bureau's first Black officer in 1974. The scholarship promotes diversity in the criminal justice field.

FLASHBACK

1951 More than 6,500 fans come to Hayward Field June 19 for a dual meet of stars from the Pacific Coast Conference and the Big Ten, in what is called "the biggest track event ever held at the university."

IN MEMORIAM

MARION WALTER,
1928–2021



Born in Berlin, Marion Walter dodged imminent danger as a child: she was whisked away from Nazi Germany through a rescue operation that evacuated thousands of Jewish children to England before the outbreak of World War II.

She went on to become a world-renowned mathematics educator.

Walter was teaching math to 16-year-olds by the time she was 16 herself. She immigrated in 1948, earned undergraduate and graduate degrees—including a 1967 doctorate from Harvard—then taught teachers in the master’s program at the school.

Her trailblazing work on posing and solving problems led to the influential book, *The Art of Problem Posing*. She founded Boston-area math-instruction workshops that continue today and was a math consultant to several projects, including the venture that became *Sesame Street*. She authored a teacher’s guide for geometry, and for her children’s books, she twice received honorable mentions from the New York Academy of Sciences book awards

program. A mathematics theorem was named for Walter and in 2003 she was elected to the Massachusetts Hall of Fame for Mathematics Educators.

Walter joined the University of Oregon in 1977 and taught prospective math teachers, retiring as professor emerita in 1993. In her honor the math department issues the Marion Walter Future Teachers Award each year to a distinguished graduating senior.

In appreciation of Walter, Jennifer Ruef, an assistant professor of education studies in the College of Education, wrote: “Women and girls have been told, in many ways, that there is no room in math and science for them. Representations matter. The more powerful women we see in mathematics, the more evidence we have that mathematics is for all people.”

—Matt Cooper, *Oregon Quarterly*

IN MEMORIAM

ED WHITELAW, 1941–2021

As a University of Oregon economist, Ed Whitelaw demonstrated an unwavering dedication to spotting trends playing out over decades, not years. Among them: prescience regarding the value that natural amenities—forests, mountains, streams—can have for the economy.

During the timber wars of the 1990s, Whitelaw drew intense criticism for predicting to President Clinton that protecting old-growth forests and the Northern Spotted Owl would ultimately do more for the economy in drawing talented workers to a scenic Northwest than would turning those trees into lumber. His prediction was accurate.

“It can be a burden to see things before others do,” wrote John Tapogna, president of ECONorthwest, founded by Whitelaw in 1974 and today one of the largest economic consulting firms in the Pacific Northwest. “Seeing the unseen, and acting on what you

see, is disruptive. Ed Whitelaw was a disruptive visionary.”

The economics professor emeritus was an advisor to governors and presidents and a tirelessly rigorous-but-entertaining educator for a half-century’s worth of UO students. Dozens of Whitelaw “cub economists,” inspired to pursue careers in the field, went on to the best graduate schools in the country. In recognition of Whitelaw’s impact, an anonymous estate gift pledged in 2019 will create a chair or professorship in urban economics named for him.

“One would never forget meeting Ed, intensely curious, funny, bigger than life and just obviously having a blast being alive,” says Bruce Blonigen, Tykeson Dean of Arts and Sciences. “His students will never forget his unique courses that were both fascinating and rigorous at the same time.”

—Matt Cooper, *Oregon Quarterly*

Read more at around.uoregon.edu/whitelaw-obit



FLASHBACK

1961 In the spring, journalism professor Warren C. Price, interviewed by *Old Oregon* for riding a bicycle, says he is not part of the “faculty bicycle-riding fad” and only does so “when no other transportation is available.”

1990s

NANCY RETSINAS, JD '91, was appointed to Clark County Superior Court, Washington.

Works by choreographer **TIFFANY MILLS**, BA '92 (Clark Honors College, dance), were included in the 2021 dance festival, La MaMa Moves!, scheduled as a May streaming event in New York City.

ANSELMO VILLANUEVA, PhD '92 (curriculum and instruction), was selected as executive director of diversity, equality, and inclusion at Santa Barbara City College, Santa Barbara, California.

CHAD T. HANSON, JD '95, published *Smokescreen: Debunking Wildfire Myths to Save Our Forests and Our Climate*, an impassioned, evidence-based argument for a new era of forest management for

environmental protection and humanity.

MEGAN SAYLOR, MS '97, PhD '01 (psychology), professor of psychology and human development at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, received the Ellen Gregg Ingalls Award for Excellence in Classroom Teaching.

JOANNA KEPKA, MA '98, PhD '00 (geography), a faculty member with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, specializing in cultural-political geography in Europe and the Middle East, received the 2020–21 Alex G. and Faye Spanos Distinguished Teaching Award for excellence and innovation in teaching and mentorship.

2000s

MICHAEL GOVIER, BS '00 (speech: theater arts), cocreator of *If Anything Happens I Love You*, won a 2021 Academy Award for best animated

short film. **SKYE FITZGERALD**, MFA '97 (speech: theater arts), director of *Hunger Ward*, was nominated in the short-subject documentary category.

LIZ FEEZOR, BA '04 (Spanish), was accepted into American Mensa, an organization that identifies and fosters human intelligence for the benefit of humanity, and was named director of communications for Hennessey Digital, a digital marketing firm for the legal field.

ERIN DURY, BA '05 (women's and gender studies), MNPM '13 (nonprofit management), was appointed to fill the District 4 seat of Seattle Public Schools.

ELIZABETH LOCKWOOD, BIArch '05 (interior architecture), host of an interior design podcast called *Mile Long Trace*, joined the Kalispell, Montana, office of A&E Design.

PAM HARDY, JD '06, who works for the Western Environmental Law Center in Eugene, was covered in a *New York Times* opinion column about cooperation between environmentalists and loggers in John Day.

CHRIS THOMAS, BMus '06 (music composition), BA '06 (political science), won a Hollywood Music in Media Award, and his latest symphony and flute concerto were named finalists for the American Prize

AMMINA KOTHARI, MA '08 (communication and society), an associate professor in the School of Communication for Rochester Institute of Technology, New York, received an Eisenhart Award for Outstanding Teaching, the institute's highest honor for tenured faculty.

JOSEPH O'CONNELL, MA '09 (independent study: folklore), who performs as underground folk act Elephant Micah, was featured in *Indy Week*,

forester for Grants Pass, received the Oregon Urban and Community Forestry Award from the Oregon Department of Forestry and the nonprofit organization Oregon Community Trees.

DAVID KARP, BA '11 (history), president of California-based Cole Hardware, was named to the “40 Under 40 Class of 2021” list of the *San Francisco Business Times*.

ALICIA BALFREY, MS '14 (special education), an autism

FLASHBACK

1971 The March-April issue of *Old Oregon* reports that UO psychologists Hal Arkowitz and Edward Lichtenstein are working with 30 young men who “freeze up” when meeting a woman by helping them rehearse ways to approach the situation.

in composing, part of a new series of nonprofit national competitions in the performing arts.

TRACI RAY, JD '07, executive director of Barran Liebman Attorneys, Portland, received the 2021 Athena Award from Dress for Success Oregon for her service to the group, which advances and empowers women for economic independence through employment opportunities, career development, and professional outfitting.

a Durham, North Carolina-based digital publication, regarding his new album, *Vague Tidings*.

2010s

RACHEL CUSHMAN, BS '10 (ethnic studies), a member of the Chinook Indian Nation, was covered by *High Country News* in a feature about the threats facing tribal nations that don't receive federal recognition.

TONY MECUM, BS '10 (Clark Honors College, psychology), urban

training specialist, discussed the 2020 pandemic challenges and opportunities for students with autism during an educational webinar for edWeb.net.

BEN BYE, BArch '14, and **HALEY DAVIS**, BArch '16, were promoted at Los Angeles-based CO Architects, which specializes in planning, programming, and design in the higher education, science and technology, and healthcare sectors. Bye became a senior associate, working on medical education, higher education,

FLASHBACK

1981 Junior Leann Warren—named “the nation's outstanding collegiate performer in women's track and field”—wins the New York City Fifth Avenue Mile in September, with a time of 4:25.31.

Great Art Makes Great Communities, Great Communities Make Great Art

Sean Andries's commitment to bringing arts and culture to every corner of Oregon has landed him on the board of directors of the Oregon Cultural Trust, a funding engine for arts and culture established in 2001 by the Oregon legislature.

His appointment couldn't come at a more critical time, as the trust works to ensure that arts organizations get back on their feet following the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Getting the arts and culture in Oregon back on track is my number one priority," says Andries, executive director of the Chehalem Cultural Center in Newberg.

As a kid whose parents introduced him early and often to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Andries (BS '06, theater arts) appreciates the value the arts can bring to rural communities.

"I have so much passion for making sure that kids who grow up in rural areas experience art and culture," he says.

"Every kid deserves to have access to that kind of experience."

Andries's fascination for theater was kindled during his freshman year. After participating in a student-written play, the pre-med major discovered his true calling was theater arts.

Andries credits his faculty mentors, John Schmor and the late Jack Watson, of the London Theatre Program, with guiding his career goals. "My experience at the university and in Villard Hall was wonderful," he says. "It meant so much to be part of such a supportive community."

That spirit of community is what Andries believes art and culture can offer, especially after the isolation of the pandemic.

Says Andries: "Art and culture have an amazing ability to bridge the divides in our communities."

—Sharleen Nelson, BS '06 (journalism: magazine, news/editorial), University Communications



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- 9 am - **Here & Now**
- 11 am - **The Takeaway**
- 12 pm - **Think Out Loud**
- 1 pm - **Fresh Air**
- 2 pm - **The World**
- 3 pm - **The Daily**
- 3:30 pm - **All Things Considered**



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FLASHBACK

1991 The Grateful Dead announce they will not return to Autzen Stadium for a summer show, despite a plan by a community task force—the Clean Scene Organizers—to curb illegal drug use.

and healthcare projects; Davis became an associate, collaborating on projects that respond to context, climate, and culture.

GIAN DAVID PANETTA, BS '15 (political science), has launched an effort to establish a portrait of his grandmother, Tina Panetta, in the US Senate dining room to recognize her decades of government service as a lead waitress.

ANDREA VALDERRAMA, BA '15 (Romance languages), was appointed representative for House District 47 by the Multnomah County board of commissioners.

POLLY IRUNGU, BA '17 (journalism), digital content editor at New York Public Radio, New York City, was featured in Creative Review, a multiplatform

website covering the creative industries, for her role managing Black Women Photographers, a platform established in 2020 as a community that empowers Black women and nonbinary photographers.

Etana, a short film produced by **MAI AMALIE BAK**, BA '18 (journalism), was accepted to the Cleveland International Film Festival, Female Voices Rock Film Festival, and Venice Shorts film festival.

2020s

MANUELA BAEZ, BA '20 (journalism), joined Telemundo 23, a TV news organization on the Central Coast, California, as a multimedia journalist and anchor.

LAURENNE ROSS, BS '20 (art), was featured by Ski Racing Media, an international media company focused on alpine skiing, in a story that dubbed her “the spirit of the world’s best speed team.”

Instashowing, an online real estate tool founded by **WILLIAM SCHOEFFLER**, BS '20 (business administration), has received more than \$1.5 million in funding from industry veterans.

IN MEMORIAM

THEODOCIA “GRACE” TYRRELL, BA '47 (journalism), died January 21. She worked for the US state department as a decoder in the American embassy in Czechoslovakia and Rome, and later as a social worker in Tucson, Arizona. She enjoyed playing golf with her husband, Tom.

FLASHBACK

2001 During the spring, graduate students Jocelyn Eisenberg and Brian Gates are awarded \$100,000 by the Associated Students of the University of Oregon to design and install photovoltaic panels on top of the EMU, cutting energy costs and serving as an educational model for solar power.

FLASHBACK

2011 Plans advance for the creation of the Center for Microbial Ecology of Indoor Environments, which will focus on the design of sustainable buildings and how use, climate, and airflow influence microbial ecosystems living in those structures and the health of humans occupying them.

JOHN KNOX GRAM, BS '52 (economics), died April 26. A member of Phi Gamma Delta who remained active in the fraternity for decades, he founded Portland-based Forest Utilization Inc. and was appointed by President Reagan to the National Public Lands Advisory Council. He served on the UO alumni association board of directors and with his wife, Sally, enjoyed travel to France and to "spring fling" weekends in the west with fraternity brothers and wives.

JAMES MARK SHEA, MS '56 (journalism), died March 20. An avid runner dating to his time at the university, he served as UO director of university relations, and later as vice president of university relations at Temple University, Philadelphia, where he retired as professor emeritus of communications.

SUSAN COLE, MS '73 (special education), died May 1. The teacher turned lawyer advocated

for programs that train educators to recognize the effects of trauma and help students find solace and support at school. She helped create the Trauma and Learning Policy Initiative, a collaboration between Massachusetts Advocates for Children and Harvard Law School.

SCOT L. CLARK, BS '90 (political science), JD '93, died April 18. As a trial lawyer and prosecutor in Riverside and San Francisco counties in California, he tirelessly advocated for abused women and the families of murder victims. He retired as managing deputy district attorney of the major crimes division for the Riverside District Attorney's Office.

THOMAS RAY "TOM" WILLIAMS, a former trustee of the UO Foundation, died May 8. He and his wife, Carol, established the Tom and Carol Williams Fund for Undergraduate Education, which

supports initiatives that enhance the quality of undergraduate education at the university.

FACULTY IN MEMORIAM

ROSS F. LANE, an associate professor of chemistry from 1980 to 1986, died January 19. An early member of the UO Institute of Neuroscience, he was a popular and youthful researcher, educator, Clark Honors College and PhD thesis advisor whose research and publications in electro-neurochemistry advanced understanding of brain processes, drugs, and therapies used worldwide. He and his wife, Margo, retired to Canada, where he practiced a love of botany and a devotion to his canine companions.



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Ducks Afield

1. In February 2020, just before the COVID-19 pandemic was declared, Ducks **BRUCE BERG** (a), BS '81 (community service and public affairs), **SHONDRA HOLLIDAY** (b), BS '94 (general science), **KIANA FINCHER** (c), BS '20 (human physiology), **JASYN GOHL** (d), BS '21 (human physiology), and **KLARE AZIZ** (e), BS '17 (Clark Honors College, general science), were in Limbé, Haiti, as part of a medical mission through HBS Foundation to support critical surgery services to underserved communities 2. **JIM FICK**, BS '93 (economics), was near Reykjavik, Iceland, recently for the eruption of the Geldingadalir volcano, an “amazing experience,” he says 3. **BURKE ALSTON**, BS '94 (political science), and family swung by Washington, DC, during a vacation to Virginia 4. **ERIN HOLLAND**, BS '89 (public relations), and her husband, Bernie, braved the ice of Antarctica in late February 2020 5. **CARLA**, JD '07, and **ROBERT SENH**, JD '08, and family cozied up to their favorite Disney character during a December 2019 trip to Aulani, a Disney resort and spa in Kapolei, Hawaii

 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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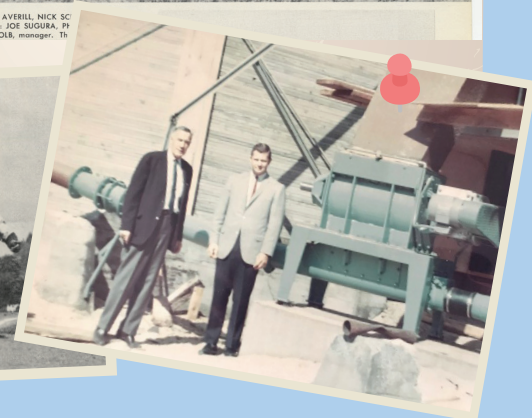
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Livesay (below, with “the Monster”) played for the UO (top right corner, and sliding) before starting a company in 1967



The 1953 Duck varsity baseball squad was front row, left to right: EARL AYERBILL, NICK SCOWENS, PETE WILLIAMS, NORM FORBES, GEORGE SHAW. Second row: JOE SUOIRA, P. STAN AUNE, NORVAL RITCHEY, DARTLE NELSON, BILL WAYS, NORM KOLB, manager. TH



Hitting Home Runs, in Industry

BY JAMES LIVESAY, AS TOLD TO MATT COOPER OF OREGON QUARTERLY

My mom always said, “Jimmy, whatever you do, do it the best you can. If you don’t succeed, at least you did the best you could.”

I love baseball. When I was 14, we were listening to the Boston Red Sox playing the St. Louis Cardinals and I took an attachment to Boston and said, “Dad, someday I’m going to be a catcher and play for Boston in Fenway Park.” At Oregon, I was a good hitter and had a good arm. In May 1953, Mother’s Day weekend, coach Don Kirsch awarded me the Emerald Award for citizenship, scholarship, and athleticism. When I received the award, I went into the stands and gave it to my mom and told her, “It was your coaching that gave me that trophy.”

I was signed as a catcher with the Red Sox and they shipped me to Roanoke, Virginia, and the old Piedmont League. But

high blood pressure and high heat forced me to give up my dream of professional baseball. It was a hard decision, but I had to do it. I was 21 years old. I didn’t want to have a heart attack and I didn’t want to have a stroke. I didn’t want to die.

I had played semipro baseball for Archer Blower and Pipe of Portland—they built low-pressure air conveyors to suck up sawdust and shavings for the wood products industry. I called August Archer and said, “Can I visit you? I need to figure out what I’m going to do with my life.” He said, “If you want to learn the business, you’re going to have to start as an apprentice and work your way up.” I said, “Let’s go for it.”

I learned to build and install equipment. Another company was selling all these high-pressure pneumatic conveyors. The pulp and paper mills needed wood chips from a sawmill blown into a railcar to be taken to a mill to make pulp and paper. It was a wide-open field!

I taught myself these pneumatic systems. There were several books available. I developed a formula to determine the size of the conveyor based on the tonnage to be handled and the distance to be blown. Every sawmill had its own capacity. I designed the system for their capacity. I made pneumatic systems work at Archer—our sales went to \$4 million annually in four years, up from \$250,000.

I left in 1967 and started my own

company. My system was based on pounds per square inch, I said, “I’m going to name my company ‘PSI.’” That was a no-brainer.

In 1971, Roseburg Forest Products owner Ken Ford wanted a 1,000-ton-per-hour pneumatic conveyor to load chips into a ship going to Japan. The system he was using peaked at 565 tons an hour. It didn’t take a genius to figure out if I put the feeder at an elevation above the ship and “shotgunned” the chips down into the hatches, I could do better.

We put the feeder at a 55-foot elevation in a tower. On the second hatch of the first ship, we broke 1,000 tons per hour. That was a piece of cake. We average well over 2,000 tons per hour today with the same equipment. It was one of the world’s biggest air conveying systems. The longshoremen nicknamed it, “the Monster.” Today, we do business with Georgia-Pacific, Weyerhaeuser, International Paper, all the big blue-chip companies.

I’ve had a very exciting life. I guess I’m competitive. My mom always pushed me to do the right thing. She always told me she was proud of me, that I was willing to take on a challenge and do the best I could.

James “Jim” Livesay, BS ’53 (physical education), is the owner of Lake Oswego-based PSI Conveying Groups and the father of three Ducks: Bruce, BS ’79 (management), Rod, BBA ’78 (finance), and James, BS ’83 (sociology).

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