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QUARTERLY

WINTER 2022



RETHINKING

HEALTH & WEIGHT

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THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

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Resilience

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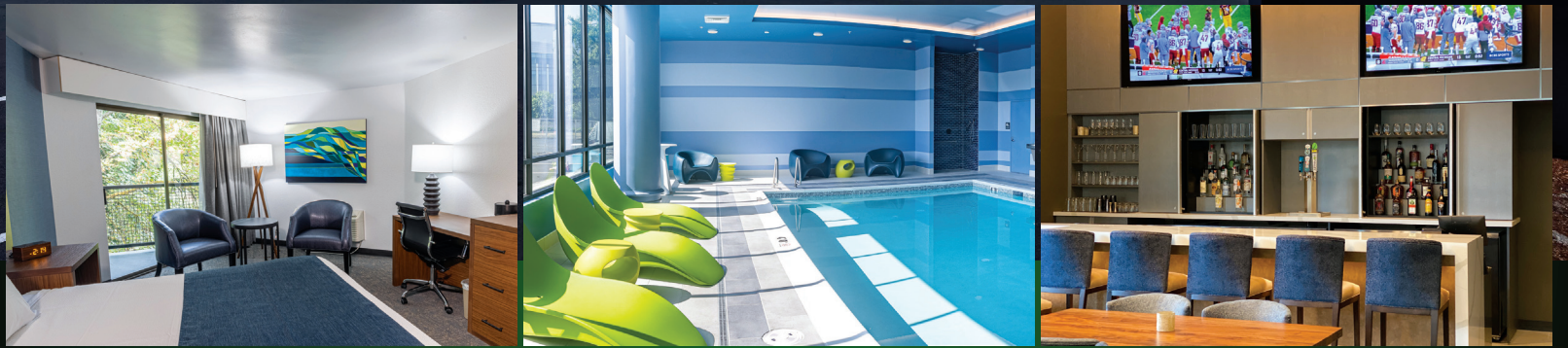


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Lessons from the pandemic and the UO's future

The University of Oregon welcomed our students, faculty, and staff back together again on campus for the first time in 18 months this past fall. It was wonderful! We also welcomed the largest, most diverse, and most academically qualified freshman class in our history. Thanks to the generosity of our passionate alumni, we celebrated smashing through our original fundraising goal to reach \$3.24 billion in gifts and pledges. And the recently opened Phil and Penny Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact, Hayward Field, and DeNorval Unthank Jr. Hall created new opportunities for faculty and students alike at the UO.

We begin 2022 with the same innovation and resolve that helped us achieve those great successes. And after overcoming the daunting initial challenges of COVID-19, we also embark on the new year with important lessons learned.

First, the UO community is incredibly resilient and innovative. The determination of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni as they faced the greatest challenge of this generation is nothing short of amazing. The technological innovations, the generous support of students, and the unique collaborations over the past two years will have lasting benefit.

A second lesson is that while we can persevere apart, we are much better together. Many people suffered from the isolation and anxiety created by the pandemic, but it was especially hard on our students. Being apart reinforced the undeniable value of the residential college

experience at the UO. Every day I hear from students, faculty, and staff about how happy they are to be back together on campus, and stories of how in-person experiences are essential for student success and discovery.

The third lesson from the pandemic is that the research and innovation at the UO is more important than ever. The last two years put on clear display the crucial role that leading research universities play in solving big problems. Universities were key in identifying COVID-19 and its variants, tracing the virus's spread, and creating life-saving vaccines and treatments. At the UO, we created and are providing COVID-19 testing, innovated technologies to connect people, traced how the virus spreads through the air, identified disparities and impacts, and helped understand and address public health concerns.

Lessons from the pandemic are informing how we protect society now, better prepare students for the future, create more opportunity and prosperity in our community, and continue to solve pressing problems. Our ability to provide insights and shift quickly to address issues is possible because we have robust problem-solving systems in place. Combined with our innovative mindset, we are well positioned to develop solutions for challenges whose scope is yet unknown.

For example, we are expanding student support, exploring how to close achievement disparities, and creating more opportunities to launch graduates into successful careers. We are investing in our strong environmental programs across campus, encouraging collaborations that will help us understand and address climate change. We are partnering with other world-class research universities to research how top athletic performance can be applied to improving overall wellness for everyone. We are creating a research and policy center on racial disparities and resilience to develop solutions related to the historic racial inequities in society. We are expanding the Knight Campus, where researchers are merging engineering, science, and medicine to explore treatments and therapies ranging from preventing and treating diseases, to developing antibodies, to repairing tissue. These are just a few of the innovations and initiatives underway that are driven by our desire to create meaningful impact in the world.

We welcome 2022 with determination and a reinvigorated commitment to our mission. While new variants and the ups and downs of the coronavirus pandemic continue to require extreme vigilance and constant assessment, they are not holding us back from focusing on the UO's bright future.

Go Ducks!

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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BY ED DORSCH

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UO researchers say focus should be on activity, diet, and support to improve health for all ages, genders, and sizes

BY ROSEMARY HOWE CAMOZZI

ON THE COVER

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY OREGON MEDIA



COURTESY AFL-CIO (SHULER); LAUREL SAGER (INSET); CHARLIE LITCHFIELD; UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

At The Duck Store, we've never stopped.

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and we worked on ourselves;
we found ways to stay active,
and we found ways to take action;
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Marjory Ramey (second from left) and fellow Ducks Derek McBride (left), Alyssa Bui, and Mike Henningsen graced the Autumn cover

Thanks for Unthank Hall . . . and Marge Ramey

Scott Dunlap, BS '92 (finance), and I really enjoyed reading about the exciting new DeNorval Unthank Jr. Hall, and it was a delight to see “cover girl” Marjory Ramey, longtime UO housing director, on the *Oregon Quarterly* cover (Autumn 2021). As lifelong Ducks, it is wonderful to see good people recognized for their lasting impact on our beloved campus.

Diane Dunlap, PhD '80
(educational policy and management)
Ellicott City, Maryland

What a nice surprise to see Marge Ramey on the cover of the autumn *Oregon Quarterly*! She was a delight when, 50 years ago, she interviewed me for an RA position, and she continues to be an encouraging inspiration. Thank you, Mrs. Ramey!

Sondra Twedt Higgs, BA '74
(Romance languages)
Portland, Oregon

Making Boo-tiful Music

Just wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed the article “Ghost Stories” in the Autumn 2021 issue. My mother, Martha, worked at

the UO in the late 1970s until her retirement. She worked in the “physical plant,” as it was known back then.

Her assignment was to clean Gerlinger and Gerlinger Annex, next to the Pioneer Cemetery. She did the graveyard shift (no pun intended). There was many a morning she’d come home from work and tell us kids about the “Phantom Bagpiper” she had heard that night.

To this day, I wonder if there was really a phantom, or just someone who enjoyed playing bagpipes in the middle of the night.

Carmen M. Bradbury
Springfield, Oregon

Remembering the “Cardboard Castle”

The recent publication of *Oregon Quarterly* was a good example of what it should look like. The articles were well written, with great photographs.

The article “Then and Now” was good, but it left out some history of the University of Oregon. Many of the old buildings were described, when they were built and when they were replaced, but one building wasn’t even mentioned. I am speaking of the “Veterans Dorm.” It had several names, but it was commonly called the “cardboard castle.” The building was never meant to be a permanent structure, but it served the needs the university was faced with after World

War II. I personally believe that a special article with photographs needs to be a part of the next issue.

Alan C. Brunk, BA '59 (architecture)
Toutle, Washington

Millennials on the Rise

Thank you, *Quarterly*, for the vibrant reader dialogue generated by Anne Helen Petersen’s take on Millennials (“Boosting the ‘Burnout Generation,’” Spring 2021).

I’m saddened to see fellow alums scolding Millennials with sarcasm (“Who forged their signatures on financial aid applications?”) or chastising their “obsession with how celebrities live” (as if previous generations weren’t obsessed with the lives of Elizabeth Taylor, the Beatles, or Michael Jackson.) Most concerning is the alum who lectures students to simply manage their money better and avoid debt.

Ironically, these letters only reinforce Petersen’s belief that “Americans are very good at brushing things under the table instead of addressing some of the larger problems that we have” when it comes to race, economics, and equality. We can only hope that as Millennials assume the reins of power in the coming years, they will do better than we have in addressing the flawed social and economic policies that have shaped their young lives.

Dan Field, JD '90
Portland, Oregon

CORRECTION: Muscovy ducks are native to Central and South America, although they can also be found in New Zealand, Australia, and elsewhere. An article in the Autumn 2021 issue included an accidental misstatement.

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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Remember This Hung Liu at Trillium

February 5 - August 28, 2022



Hung LIU (LIU Hung 刘虹, Chinese-born American, 1948-2021). **Wings II**, 2011. Mixed-media triptych. 41 x 81 inches. Gift of Artist Hung Liu and Trillium Graphics/David Salgado; 2018:25.14a-c

In this exhibition, renowned contemporary Chinese-born American artist Hung Liu explores subjects ranging from still life imagery, to portraiture and landscape in innovative mixed-media works that reflect upon history, memory, tradition, migration, and social justice.



12 Hz | Ron Jude

Closes March 13, 2022

Made in Oregon, California, Hawaii, and Iceland, University of Oregon professor Ron Jude's imposing, large-scale black-and-white photographs describe the raw materials of the planet and its systems—lava flows, sculptural formations of welded tuff, river and tidal currents, and glacial valleys—that are the foundation of organic life. Ron Jude 12HZ was organized by the Barry Lopez Foundation for Art & Environment.

Ron Jude. Cooled Lava Flow #2, 2020. 42 x 56-inches. Archival pigment print

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intro



If this pair looks familiar, it's because you just saw them in the autumn issue: Kaori Idemaru, a professor of Japanese linguistics, and Rosie, her 13-year-old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, were featured in our faculty profile. We couldn't resist sharing one more photograph of this photogenic duo. Idemaru was reluctant to receive the attention but we suspect Rosie was paws-itively thrilled—"she enjoys being in a spotlight much more than I," Idemaru says.

DUSTIN WHITAKER, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS



NEW BOOK FITS THE BILL

The Duck has done it all. Why not write a book? The University of Oregon’s favorite feathered fan has done just that with *A Duck from Oregon Tries to Fly!* With an assist from translators Mikey Navarro, BS ’11 (music), and Teigh Bowen, BA ’10 (psychology), the Duck recounts attempts to overcome adversity—and the law of gravity.

Oregon Quarterly caught up with the avian adventurer for a few questions about the new title. Visit oregonquarterly.com/duck-book to buy a copy for the book lover (and Duck) in your family.

Oregon Quarterly: How did you get the idea for this book? Who did you write it for?

The Duck: I was standing on the edge of my toilet hanging a clock, the porcelain was wet, I slipped, hit my head on the sink, and when I came to, I had a revelation! A vision! A book in my head! Pretty much this book is written for anyone who has a dream and \$24.95.

OQ: Which of your flying attempts was the most fun? Most scary?

TD: None of these were fun, OQ, this is important work we’re doing here.

OQ: Where do proceeds go?

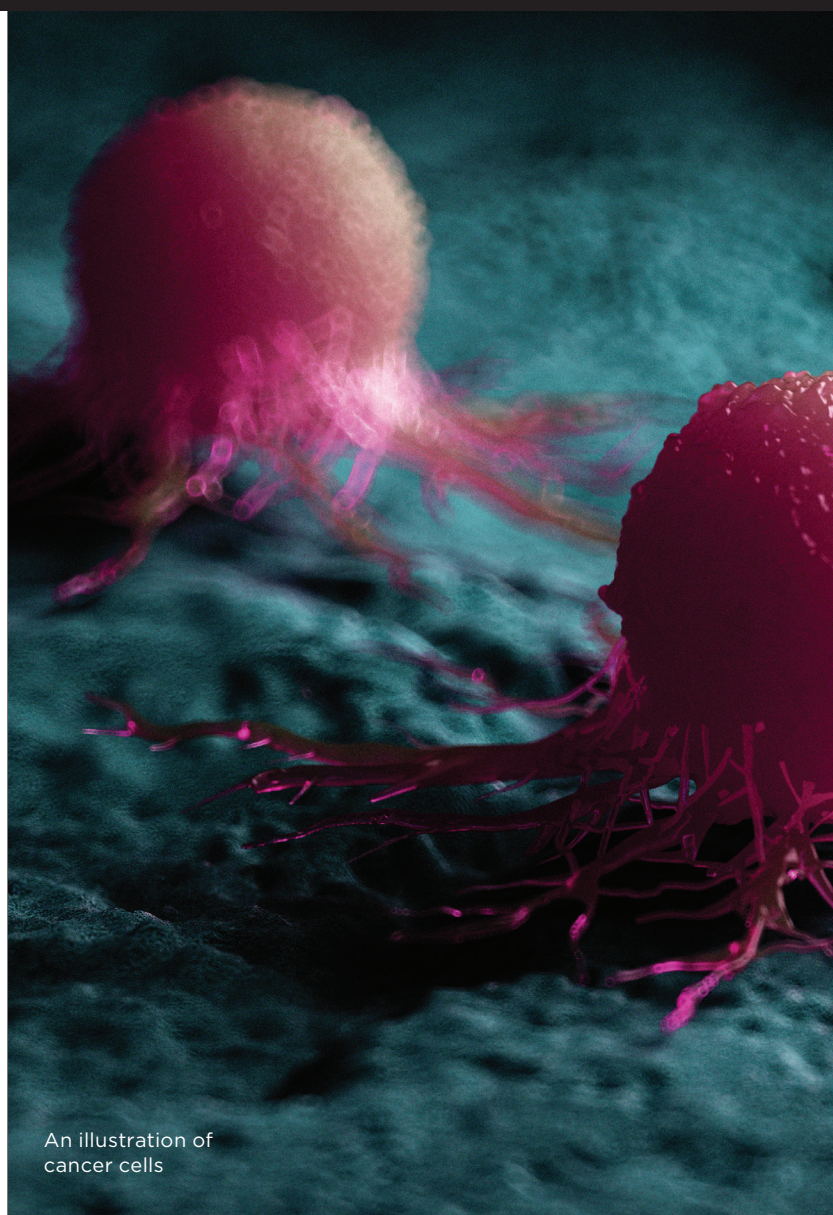
TD: Proceeds benefit the Oregon Cheerleading and Mascot program. They also go toward my travel to away games, and self-care. I get muddy a lot, I like baths, and the water bill ain’t free IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

OQ: Between going to class, doing push-ups at Autzen, birthday parties, and all the sports events, how did you find the time to get a book published?

TD: If you don’t recall the last two years, we’ve had a lot of time to explore our hobbies, OQ! Some people made sourdough starters; I got my book out.

OQ: What did you learn about trying to fly?

TD: I learned that flight is a matter of lift, weight, thrust, and drag. Dreams are a lot harder than they look, but doable with perseverance. Now that I’ve successfully flown, I’d love to learn how to swim.



An illustration of cancer cells

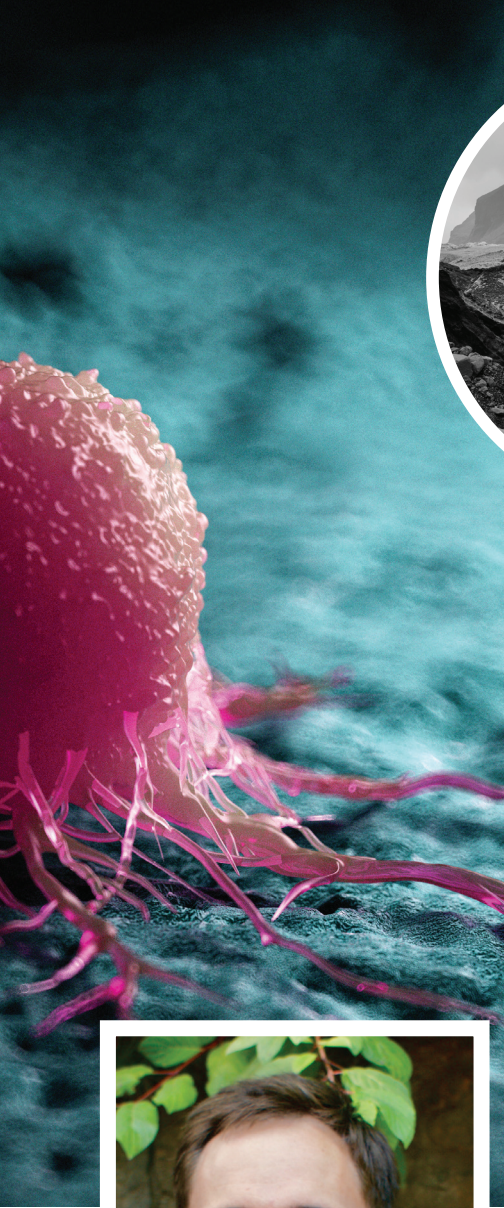
BLUEPRINT FOR A CURE

One front in the fight against cancer is the effort to make a drug that latches onto and inactivates a certain group of enzymes that can drive the disease.

For this work, biopharma companies need a detailed blueprint of the structure of the enzyme, called PI3K. Scott Hansen, an assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, is part of a 10-year project that recently developed this blueprint.

Researchers used a technique called cryo-electron microscopy to collect tens of thousands of images of single PI3K enzymes in an ultrathin layer of ice using an electron microscope. These pictures were compiled and averaged to create a single high-resolution composite that reveals the structural features of the enzyme.

Hansen worked closely with John Burke, an associate professor with the University of Victoria, and colleagues at the universities of British Columbia, Washington, and Geneva, and Free University of Brussels in Belgium.



ACTS OF NATURE

Continuing through March 13, the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art hosts the first exhibition organized by the Barry Lopez Foundation for Art & Environment, featuring the large-scale black-and-white photographs of Professor Ron Jude of the School of Art + Design. Made in Oregon, California, Hawaii, and Iceland, Jude's imposing photographs describe the raw materials of the planet and its systems—lava flows, sculptural formations of welded tuff, river and tidal currents, and glacial valleys—that are the foundation of organic life. Stripped bare of our presence, they allude to the immense scale and veiled mechanics of phenomena that operate indifferent to human enterprise. Titled *12 Hz*—a reference to the lowest sound threshold of human hearing—the exhibition establishes a simple premise: that change is constant, whether we are able to perceive it or not.



Scott Hansen

Hansen was excited to collaborate with scientists who have expertise in areas that he does not.

There's still a lot of work to be done, Hansen says, but the image "will definitely shape how people think about developing cancer therapeutics."

DRINKING TOO MUCH? SEE YOUR DOCTOR

One-to-one conversations about excessive alcohol use delivered in doctors' offices can reduce this unhealthy behavior, a professor in the College of Education has found.

Emily Tanner-Smith, a Thomson Professor and research scientist with the University of Oregon Prevention Science Institute, led a study that synthesized findings from more than 100 trials and 64,000 participants.

Her team found that brief interventions in doctors' offices and similar medical settings yielded improvements in unhealthy alcohol use equivalent to a reduction of one drinking day per month. The findings were inconclusive, however, for similar interactions in emergency departments or trauma centers.

"A reduction of one drinking day per month may not sound like much, but small individual reductions can add up to a substantial reduction in population-level harms," says Tanner-Smith. "Given their brevity, low cost, and minimal clinician effort, brief interventions may be a promising way to reduce alcohol use, one patient at a time."



Araron Galloway was fishing off the coast of Oregon five years ago when he caught a lingcod with an off-color way about it: it was electric blue. Fishers call them "Smurf cod," but Galloway, a marine ecologist with the University of Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, wanted to know the reason for this hue in the typically brownish-red bottom-dwellers. He studied blue lingcod across their geographic range, discovering recently that most are female and likely undernourished. The study, Galloway says, raised new questions about the causes that drive this pattern.

Claudia Schreier (far right and inset) visits February 22 to discuss the creative process for *Passage*, her ballet recognizing the 400th anniversary of the first enslaved Africans brought to America



Looking Back, Going Forward

African American Workshop and Lecture Series continues through Black History Month in February and beyond

BY MATT COOPER

When choreographer Claudia Schreier was asked to create a ballet recognizing the 400th anniversary of the first enslaved Africans brought to America, she was inspired by one idea: a journey.

This theme guided her choreography for *Passage*, a 2019 performance by Dance Theatre of Harlem, a multiethnic company that tours nationally and internationally using the language of ballet to celebrate Black culture.

In an Emmy Award-winning documentary by PBS, Schreier said that, for *Passage*, she thought about “the departure and an arrival.”

“You can’t have one without the other,” she said, “so there’s always this feeling for me of looking back as we’re going forward, and how

we can express that through movement.”

Looking back, going forward: the idea is in keeping with the sixth African American Workshop and Lecture Series, which is bringing Schreier and other influencers to campus through March to connect national experts with UO leaders and advocates.

Sponsored by the Office of the President and the Division of Equity and Inclusion, the series resulted from demands made by the Black Student Task Force in 2016. It features lawyers, historians, authors, and others who meet with university stakeholders. The program incorporates public lectures, workshops, panels, and meetings with deans, student leaders, faculty members, staff, vice presidents, and supervisors.

This year’s series kicked off in October with a public lecture by C. Nicole Mason, president and chief executive officer of the Institute for Women’s Policy Research and named one of the world’s 50 greatest leaders by *Fortune* magazine. It continued with Emerson Sykes, senior staff attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union, and Julieanna Richardson, founder of The HistoryMakers, the nation’s largest African American video oral history collection.

Author and journalist A’Lelia Bundles, a vice chair emerita of Columbia University’s board of trustees, visits February 9 to give the Derrick Bell Lecture, named for the first African

American dean of the School of Law and cosponsored by the equity and inclusion division. She is the author of the nonfiction work *On Her Own Ground: The Life and Times of Madam C. J. Walker*, a *New York Times* Notable Book about her great-great-grandmother and the inspiration for *Self Made*, a fictional four-part Netflix series.

William Darity and Kirsten Mullen, coauthors of *From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the Twenty-First Century*, a comprehensive case for economic reparations for US descendants of slavery, will lecture March 8 in a virtual event. Their public lecture is titled “Reconstruction, Redress, and Redistributive Justice.”

Schreier, named resident choreographer for the Atlanta Ballet in 2020, comes February 22. She will give a talk on the creative process for *Passage*, which has been described as “a moving reflection on the fortitude of the human spirit.”

Matt Cooper is managing editor for *Oregon Quarterly*.

Visit inclusion.uoregon.edu/african-american-lectures for more about the lecture series.

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The Elephant in the Zoom

Virtual meeting spaces aren't as inclusive as we'd like to think, and researchers aim to expose the inequities

BY NICOLE KRUEGER

Before Facebook builds its “metaverse”—a virtual reality world where one day we might all work and communicate together—Maxwell Foxman would like to point out a few problems with online workspaces.

For starters, nearly half of professionals working remotely report exhaustion after a long day of videoconferencing. And research shows Zoom fatigue disproportionately affects women and people of color.

But perhaps worst of all, according to Foxman, is that we don't yet know the full impact of virtual meetings on well-being, equity, and inclusion in the workplace.

“We're spending so much more time on Zoom,” says Foxman, an assistant professor of media studies and game studies for the School of Journalism and Communication. “If we're going to consistently be working virtually, how can we make the experience better? What can we do to improve the way people interact in virtual meetings?”

To explore these questions, the National Science Foundation awarded a \$1.5 million grant to Foxman and researchers from Michigan State University, Southern Illinois University, the

University of Wisconsin, Bethany Lutheran College in Minnesota, and Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. They will investigate the toll of virtual interaction on employees who rely on remote meetings and will also examine questions of equity and inclusion raised by videoconferencing.

“These are people's everyday lives, and possibly how they are making a living,” Foxman says. “As virtual meetings become more common, people want to feel empowered to perform their best as a worker. Ideally this research would empower all sorts of individuals to feel like they can bring their voice to the table.”

It's no secret that technology can amplify existing inequities while creating new ones. While studying developers of virtual reality (VR) content, for example, Foxman learned of a gender-based problem: male programmers often set the point of view in the virtual world at a height too tall for many female users, who would become nauseous while using the interface devices.

Many of the equity and inclusion issues that plague videoconferencing platforms are an extension of the problems people encounter face-to-face. Foxman cited the stereotype of a white male interrupting a coworker who feels less privileged in the workspace. In Zoom, where the audio automatically cuts off the previous speaker when someone else starts talking over them, this problem can become even more pronounced.

“If you're interrupted,” Foxman says, “the auto cutoff makes it harder to get a word in edgewise.”

Another concern: women of color who carefully curate their professional demeanor to fit in at work may feel self-conscious about adopting a more casual style of dress on Zoom—especially if that attire is heavily influenced by their cultural heritage. On the other hand,

dressing as if they were in the office can make them feel just as self-conscious when coworkers are wearing T-shirts and pajama pants.

To map how video meetings affect members of diverse work teams, the multiyear study will focus on a uniquely appropriate group: video game developers. Employees in the \$160 billion gaming industry rely heavily on virtual interactions and many struggle in workplaces rife with social-equity issues.

“When you have an industry that’s very much dominated by and catering to a very specific type of player—in the US, often male, white, and moderately affluent—even with the best intentions it’s difficult for a developer to imagine what someone with disabilities or who is not them might want or need,” Foxman says.

The problem needs to be addressed, he says, because game development software is interlinked with the VR technologies that, according to Facebook’s plan, will drive remote workplaces of the future.

“These technologies are inherently influenced by the game industry,” says Foxman, whose research explores the intersections between games, the gaming industry, and nongame contexts. “You can’t talk about livestreaming culture or social media culture or internet culture without talking about games.”

Foxman’s interdisciplinary research team will conduct interviews and mine Twitter data to identify concerns and criticisms regarding virtual meetings. Once they’ve pinpointed the most troublesome aspects of video meetings, they’ll run experiments to observe how these situations unfold in virtual spaces.

The goal is to develop a prototype for more equitable and inclusive remote workspaces. For example, Foxman says, VR meetings could allow users to interact through computer-generated avatars instead of staring at video versions of themselves and their colleagues, reducing the potential for gender- or race-based biases to emerge.

“If we can identify the key concerns or intervene by building a prototype that can work its way into a platform,” Foxman says, “it’s a simple, grounded way to meaningfully influence these spaces.”

A self-described “gamifier extraordinaire,” Foxman is fascinated by the ways that games influence other areas of life. His first published paper examined MTV’s attempt to gamify its Get Out the Vote campaign in 2012, when the network created a desktop and mobile game that rewarded youth for getting involved in the presidential election. After completing his PhD in communications at Columbia University in New York in 2018, he came across the perfect job listing: a game studies professor with an interest in journalism, VR, and gamification.

Since joining the University of Oregon, Foxman has helped expand the journalism school’s growing body of research on gaming and VR. In addition to the NSF grant, Foxman is collaborating with faculty and graduate students across campus to create a research lab for esports and games. He’s also coauthoring a book on game journalism with David B. Nieborg, an assistant professor at the University of Toronto.



Maxwell Foxman is a self-described “gamifier extraordinaire”

He admits his interest in games isn’t purely academic.

“I practice what I preach,” Foxman says. “I gamify everything in life, from the work I do to my exercise.”

As Facebook and other tech giants race to become the first ruler of the metaverse, Foxman hopes they’ll avoid reproducing the same inequities women, people of color, and disabled people now face on Zoom.

“In the best possible version of things, companies like Facebook will see such research and try to integrate it into their own products,” he says. “We’ll see if they actually do.”

Nicole Krueger, BA '99 (Clark Honors College, news editorial), is a freelance writer whose work has appeared in publications such as the *Tennessean*, the (Salem) *Statesman Journal*, and *Empowered Learner* magazine.

Taking the Heat

Researchers say skylights can help heat homes and reduce use of fossil fuels

BY LAUREL HAMERS

Skylights aren't just pretty—they're sustainable, according to a new University of Oregon study. Passive solar heating systems collect natural light via skylights or windows and use it to heat spaces without electricity. In the first detailed survey of direct solar heating resources in the US, building scientist Alexandra Rempel and earth scientist Alan Rempel found such installations could meet a third of residential space heating needs nationwide.

The news is a boon for the increasingly urgent effort to reduce fossil fuel use, say the UO researchers, who conducted the study with engineer Sandipan Mishra of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York. Heating uses about half of most home energy budgets and is the biggest source of carbon emissions from homes, because most heating systems in the US still rely on oil or natural gas.

"In the course of studying sustainable architecture, it became clear there were lots of resources we weren't tapping into," says Alexandra Rempel, of the School of Architecture & Environment.

Passive solar heating is one of them. Although it's been used for centuries, it hasn't been put widely into practice as a sustainable design technique. "People were dismissing the possibility that there could be enough solar energy available in cold climates," she says.

That's partly because many passive solar heating systems have used vertical glass, like big windows. It's a good strategy when you have direct sunlight, Rempel says. But in cloudier and cooler climates, scattered solar energy comes from the upper reaches of the atmosphere, regardless of where the sun is in the sky. Tilted glass, like a skylight set into



a sloped roof, is perfectly situated to capture this energy.

To find out just how much solar energy was being left unused, the researchers pulled together data on solar radiation levels, outdoor temperatures, and heating energy use across the US, at different times of year. The team, which included former UO students Sierra McComas, BS '16 (environmental studies), MLA '19, and Stacie Duffey, MPA '19, factored in variables like the sun's position in the sky and the length of daylight hours. Then they mapped out places and times of year when passive solar heat resources exceeded heating needs.

Per their calculations, there's about 7 megawatt hours of solar energy available per household annually during periods when homes need heating. Current technology could capture about half of that, assuming 10 square meters of glass per roof. That means solar heating could supply about a third of a typical family's heat.

"The idea isn't that it would take over traditional heating completely, but it would

diminish the amount you need," Alexandra Rempel says.

The study provides detailed breakdowns for urban areas in different climates—data that could be useful for cities looking to curb emissions. Urban areas with cold winters (like Boston and Chicago) or frequent cloud cover (like Seattle) could particularly benefit, they found.

For the Rempels, who are married, this work is more than just theoretical. During the pandemic, they installed a set of skylights in their home, plus sliding insulation panels to keep heat in at night. They estimate the upgrades will reduce their heating bills by 80 percent.

Alexandra Rempel is also promoting the merits of skylights to architects and building designers. In the future, she suggests, cities could provide rebates or tax breaks for passive solar heating.

"Money is a go-to incentive," she says. But with skylights, which fill homes with light, she adds, "there's also the improved experience."

Laurel Hamers is a staff writer for University Communications.



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Nathan Harris, whose first novel *The Sweetness of Water* became a bestseller and critical success

Sweet Success

With a nudge from his creative writing professor, Nathan Harris authors a first novel of critical acclaim before turning 30

BY MATT COOPER

Nathan Harris had written what he felt was a clever little story—he had given the narrator this “very out-there voice,” he recalls—and he presented it to creative writing professor Jason Brown with satisfaction. Brown read for a few minutes, and then a wry smile crossed his face. “This is a fine story,” he told Harris, “but it isn’t you.”

“He hit the nail on the head,” says Harris, BA ’14, recalling the exchange years ago in Brown’s intermediate fiction class. “Finding your voice as a writer is hard. He guided me toward my voice.”

Following Brown’s advice, Harris—then an undergraduate English major—concentrated instead on the sweeping tale that was almost writing itself in his head: a Civil War-era story of slave brothers at the moment of the Emancipation Proclamation, an expansive account that pulled Harris into exploring the deep waters of race and racism, power, love, and homosexuality.

Upon reading Harris’s early working pages, Brown knew he was holding something special. “I saw fantastic writing that was the beginning of a long project, and all I did was encourage him,” he says. “I could see flame there.”

That flame became *The Sweetness of Water*, a novel of critical acclaim accentuated by the fact it is Harris’s first, written before

he turned 30. He credits Brown and the creative writing program for helping him commit to an epic undertaking that one reviewer described as “unwriting *Gone with the Wind*,” destroying phony representations of romanticism and race.

Blending historical fiction and a cast of rich, complex characters, Harris tells the story of two freedmen and a Georgia farmer who forge an alliance that alters their lives forever. Running parallel to their relationship is a forbidden romance between two Confederate soldiers, all set against the backdrop of a violent, prejudiced town.

Published last March, *The Sweetness of Water* quickly became a *New York Times* bestseller and was declared “miraculous” by the *Washington Post*. It’s an Oprah’s Book Club pick and a recommendation on former president Barack Obama’s favorite books of 2021 list. The novel was longlisted for the Carnegie Medal for Excellence and

“I want to create complex humans on the page who are engaging with one another on a deep level that makes them feel real to the reader and empathetic to their plight.”

the Booker Prize, one of the world’s most prestigious literary awards.

“Nathan Harris is, plainly, one of the most exciting writers I’ve read in years,” says award-winning author Elizabeth McCracken, whose work has been published in the *Best American Short Stories* and the *New York Times Magazine*.

Harris had known since childhood that he wanted to be a writer, and he has always been drawn to bold, profound works—among them, *The Known World* (Edward P. Jones), *Cold Mountain* (Charles Frazier), and *Beloved* (Toni Morrison).

But the talented student who took creative writing at the UO and was accepted into the Kidd Tutorial Program—an intense, yearlong immersion in the craft—lacked the confidence to see himself as a novelist.

Amid the rigors of the instruction, this changed. In committing to the relentless discipline of putting words on a page day after day, week after week, Harris found his literary voice emerging. In animated, small-group meetings with other students, he read the work of his peers and learned to identify and deliver the same constructive feedback so valuable to his own growth.

“You’re constantly working—you’re reading the other students and you’re learning what works and what doesn’t work,” Harris says. “You just learn how a story operates.”

Long talks with Brown and other faculty members proved invaluable.

The creative writing program is structured to free up teachers for substantial one-on-one time with students to help them come into

their own as writers, Brown says, regardless of their stage of development. Discussions might center on fundamentals like grammar and syntax or more nuanced topics such as voice, theme, and character development.

Harris, who went on to win the program’s Kidd Prize for fiction, had a “fast apprenticeship,” Brown says. “I could see right away that this guy was getting better at a faster pace than normal people.”

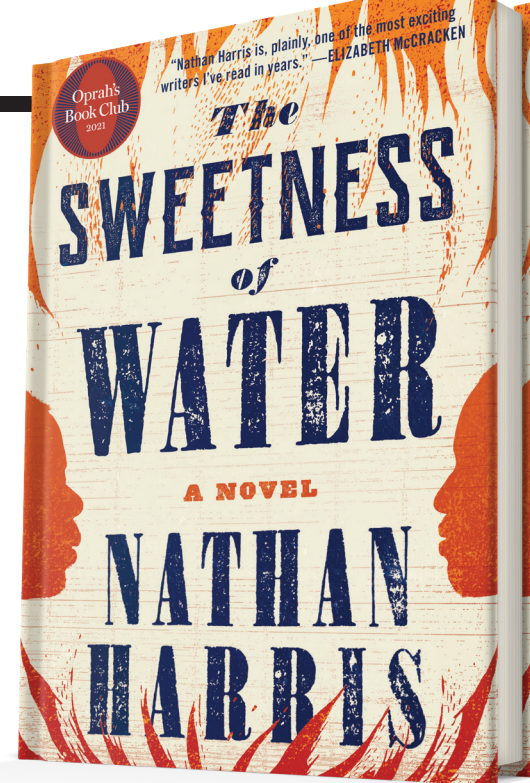
The two talked at length about form: Brown writes short stories, but it was clear Harris was drawn to longer projects, to “climbing those big hills,” Brown says, and his encouragement inspired Harris to pursue his Civil War story as a novel.

“We just sort of hit it off,” Harris says. “His door was always open to me. The whole writing department couldn’t have been more welcoming.”

As the novel took shape, Brown helped Harris assess the pros and cons of a career as a writer. Regarding the writing itself, however, he was emphatically hands-off. “You don’t want to throw any wrenches in there,” he says. “You don’t want to interrupt the process when they’re still conceiving the project—that can be deadly. I didn’t want my voice in his head. I just said, ‘Finish it.’”

From 2013 to 2015, Harris worked on the novel mornings and evenings while delivering food for an online service. After graduation he was accepted as a fellow at the Michener Center for Writers at the University of Texas at Austin, where he completed the project.

Harris values historical fiction and the exploration of past themes that still resonate today, so it was important in *The*



Sweetness of Water, he says, to “do justice to the period.” At the same time, however, he wanted to avoid an exhaustive recreation of the Civil War era so he could focus on an evocative, human story with richly drawn, relatable characters.

Consider young protagonists Prentiss and Landry, freedmen and brothers. While they bear the cruel scars of slavery—whippings have left the powerful Landry mute—they’re also siblings through and through, teasing, pestering, and occasionally disappointing one another, all within the context of an ironclad reciprocal devotion. George Walker, the aged white farmer and their unlikely partner, is similarly multidimensional: courageous and idealistic, a devoted husband who is intimate with a prostitute, a flawed, regretful person hoping to leave behind just one truly meaningful contribution. Perhaps like anyone.

“I want to create complex humans on the page who are engaging with one another on a deep level that makes them feel real to the reader and empathetic to their plight,” Harris says. “Empathy is the most important element to reading a novel. And writing one.”

Matt Cooper is managing editor for *Oregon Quarterly*.



Ramón Alvarado

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY
PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE IN DATA SCIENCE

BY JASON STONE, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS
PHOTO BY DUSTIN WHITAKER, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

“There’s something very peculiar about computers and the way that computers understand our world,” says Ramón Alvarado. “I see two immediate avenues for the humanist scholar to engage with information technology: questions about epistemology—the nature of knowledge—and questions about ethics.”

A member of the University of Oregon Presidential Initiative in Data Science, Alvarado studies computers and how people use them.

He recalls, in graduate school, how the emerging field of complexity science led him to observe that breakthroughs in various areas were made possible only through computer programming. He’s been grappling with technology’s role in knowledge creation ever since.

Says Alvarado: “I began to recognize how technological mediation—the ways technology, like language, is used to navigate the world—has many consequences for public policy, business practices, and even how we all relate to one another.”

DATA ETHICS

Alvarado notes that mobile phones transmit data about users to corporate servers every few seconds. Your phone also likely contains a gyroscope, a thermometer, and other utilities that are constantly in contact with your internet service provider and other entities.

“Without even thinking about it,” he says, “we’re creating data about ourselves all the time.”

Nor do we spend much time considering the “rights and wrongs” of how our data is captured and manipulated, Alvarado says. Even among scholars, the field of data ethics—and how to define it—is open to debate.

“In my view as a philosopher,” Alvarado says, “data ethics is in large part about how we gather data about human subjects and what we do to one another with that data once we have gained access to it.”

For Alvarado, particularly worrisome is aggregated metadata—data sets that summarize information about other data files. Metadata commonly includes details such as authorship and location. When entities with financial or political interests gather metadata, ethical questions arise.

“It’s not the picture you post that these people are interested in—it’s the metadata attached,” Alvarado says. “Your metadata is far more valuable for inferring things about you, and the creation of metadata is largely involuntary. So, what is the basis for us to claim ownership of our metadata?”

CROSS-CONNECTIONS

In addition to teaching, Alvarado lectures on computational ethics to undergraduates studying mathematics, statistics, and machine learning.

“It’s wrong to say people are resistant to collaborating across STEM and humanities fields,” Alvarado says. “More accurately, people are still learning how. But I’ve always found once the lines of communication are established, it’s very enriching for all.”

SPECULATIVE FICTION—OR PHILOSOPHICAL TRUTH?

Alvarado has long been an avid reader of science fiction. In our collective unease about the digital world, he hears the echo of a law proposed by Arthur C. Clarke in his 1962 book, *Profiles of the Future*.

“A magician is not afraid of magic, because they know the trick,” Alvarado says. “But 99.9 percent of us have no role in building these vastly powerful computational systems—so we fear the machine in the same way our ancestors feared magic or natural disasters. There’s an element of wonder in our anxiety.”

The Presidential Initiative in Data Science empowers researchers, students, and communities to improve society through a greater understanding of data. Its uniquely Oregon, ethical mindset asks both what can we do, and what *should* we do? It is one of the UO’s academic initiatives, working across disciplines, developing the next generation of leaders and problem solvers.

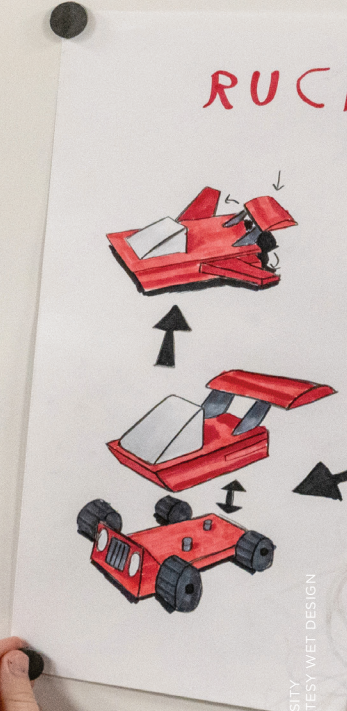
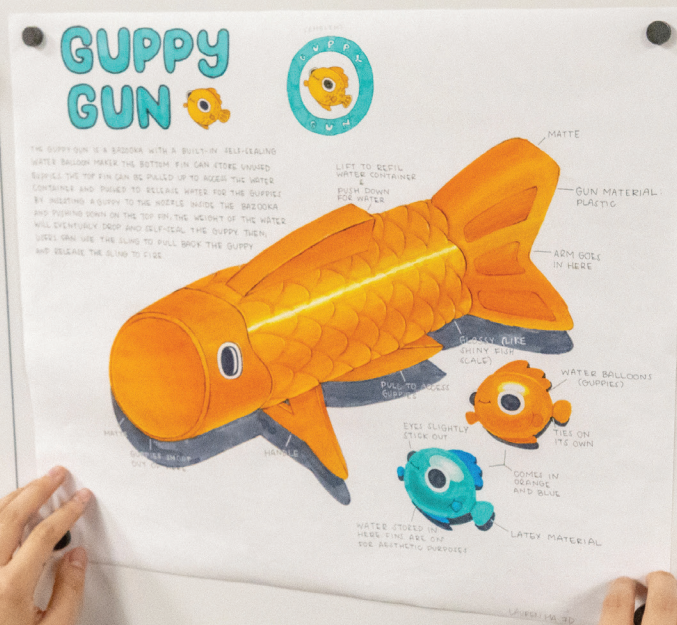
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- ▶ ***Bad Mommy Bad Writer: Writing From Home While Keeping the Kids Alive*** by Kim Cooper Findling, BA '93 (psychology)

TEACHING BY DESIGN



TRYGVE FASTE, THE TIM AND MARY BOYLE CHAIR IN MATERIAL STUDIES AND PRODUCT DESIGN, APPLIES PROFESSIONAL, ARTISTIC BACKGROUND TO HIS TEACHING

BY ED DORSCH

CHARLIE LITCHFIELD, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS; NIC WALCOTT, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS (FASTE); COURTESY TRYGVE FASTE (BIRD FEEDER); COURTESY WET DESIGN



Trygve Faste

“YOUR FIRST IDEA ALWAYS SEEMS REALLY GOOD. BUT HOW CAN YOU HELP STUDENTS COME UP WITH 20 REALLY GOOD IDEAS SO THEY HAVE OPTIONS? MY STRENGTHS LIE IN HELPING STUDENTS PRACTICE AND BECOME BETTER AT CONCEPTUALIZING THEIR DESIGN IDEAS.”

On a cloudy, breezy November day, product design students gather at the University of Oregon’s downtown Eugene outpost, 942 Olive Street, for a design sketching class taught by professor Trygve Faste. With exposed brick, moveable tables, and ample magnetic whiteboards, the building feels more like an urban design studio than a university classroom.

One by one, the students present their drawings of novel toy concepts: interchangeable soles for children’s shoes; a walkie-talkie glove; and the Guppy Gun, a fish-shaped toy that fills, seals, and launches water balloons. One toy, the Avelo, looks like a flying squirrel (and it flies). Modular miniboats, called Moats, come in bright red, yellow, and blue. The Jet Soaker is a combination squirt gun and airplane that encourages active, imaginative play—and battles with water.

Faste, director of the Department of Product Design, leads the collaborative review session. But he doesn’t give the most feedback. Instead, students eagerly, respectfully offer constructive criticism, buffering candid feedback with generous compliments. Pretense and egos are absent. The students share a common, transcendent goal: to create the best drawing possible—not just as art, but as an illustration that conveys the toy’s concept.

Faste talks to the students about shading, color, and technique. He uses a dry-erase marker to demonstrate visual concepts, explaining the complications of intersecting cylinders and the subtleties of translucent objects.

He teaches his students by sharing what he’s learned as a designer for Hasbro, IDEO, John Deere, FakeSpace, Tiger Electronics, and other companies. Of all the class activities, says Faste, this day most resembles what he experienced as

a professional. It’s career practice, a dress rehearsal for these aspiring designers. And one key lesson is the value of iteration.

INSPIRATION FROM ITERATION

Forget the myth of the lightbulb moment, Faste says. Innovation requires starting with an idea (even a mediocre one), then improving it incrementally. It’s a discipline he still applies to his own work. During a 2017 residency in the Netherlands, he developed 50 iterations of ceramic bird feeders. And after 20 versions, he’s still perfecting a rigging knife for sailing dinghies. Helping students understand—and experience—the magic of the iterative process is both challenging and rewarding, says Faste.

“It can be difficult to figure out where to start. Your first idea always seems really good. But how can you help students come up with 20 really good ideas so they have options? My strengths lie in helping students practice and become better at conceptualizing their design ideas.”

For one of his class exercises, Faste asks students to sketch two or three basic forms, such as a cube, cone, sphere, or cylinder—then combine them, making slight changes to draw 50 unique forms. He then instructs the students to start over and do the exercise again. He encourages them to tolerate “bad” ideas, then work to improve them while honing their abilities to express concepts visually.

The assignment isn’t academic and it’s not busywork. It’s a mental (and physical) muscle exercise for designing products, a profession Faste understands firsthand.

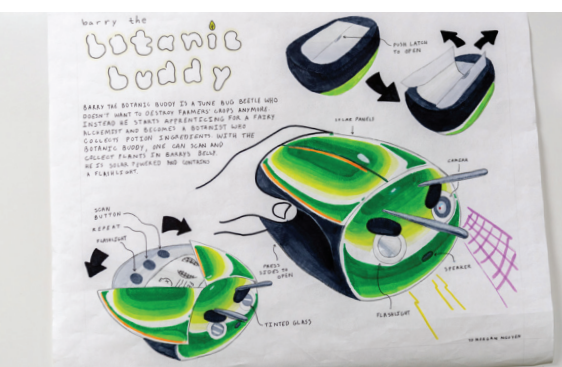
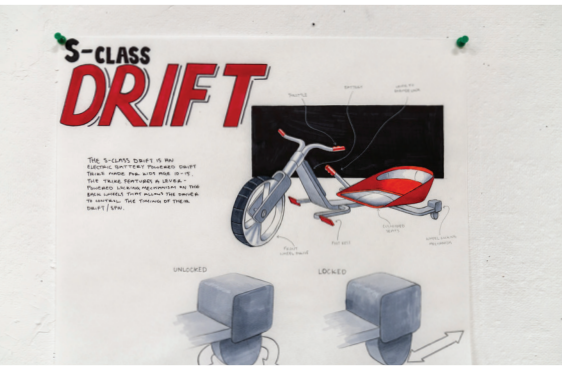
His portfolio includes handheld video games, Scandinavian Airlines service trays, and virtual reality headsets, to name just a few creations. At Los Angeles-based WET Design, he led the



Pendant bird feeder



“Halo” interactive water and light display at CityCenter Las Vegas



team that created a kinetic water-and-ice attraction at CityCenter Las Vegas. One of his most rewarding projects, he says, was designing an insulin pen for Eli Lilly and Company.

“Something about working on that medical product was great,” Faste says. “People are going to interact with it every day. It’s going to help them with their health.”

Faste’s interest—and proficiency—in communicating visually started when he was young and learning how to read despite his dyslexia. He preferred communicating through drawing and he found it easier to follow comic books than textbooks, which enhanced his awareness of visual communication.

Reading eventually became easier for him. But he was already part of a visual world that led to an interest in design and a broader understanding of its importance.

“Design shapes our lives,” Faste says. “If you have a crummy pair of shoes, they can give you blisters. The design behind something you use every day—for instance, your toothbrush—can be pleasant or make life less enjoyable, or even cause health problems or injury.

“Consider life before and after smartphones. That design has shaped our culture, ideas, and how we spend our time. There are problems and benefits. But people designed them, and they’ve had a huge impact.”

In addition to professional experience, Faste offers a diverse background in fine arts and academics. He studied studio art, mathematics, and computer science at Whitman College in Washington, and earned a master of fine arts in painting at Cranbrook Academy of Art in Michigan. Before coming to the UO in 2010, he taught drawing, rendering, and

Students in Faste’s design sketching class create illustrations to convey their innovative toy concepts

sketching at California State University Long Beach. He’s exhibited his furniture and paintings internationally.

At the UO, Faste helped advance the product design program, led design drawing courses, and taught senior studios. In 2015, he received the Industrial Designers Society of America’s Young Educator of the Year award.

“Trygve’s an amazing teacher,” says Morgen Olsen, a senior product design major from Portland. “He’s incredibly talented at drawing, very engaging, and an expert in design. He also has a lot of wisdom. He shows us the ropes through specific examples and takes the time to go over things multiple times.”

Olsen remembers her first class with Faste. “It was my first class on my first day



Faste's concept sketches for a forthcoming camping lantern design

of college,” she says. “I was so nervous. But I enjoyed it. During the early design classes, different students have very different skill levels. Trygve understood this and was able to set specific goals for each student.

“It was a nice transition from high school to college, to take the time and start taking things seriously. If you want to get serious about design, you have to put in the extra work. Trygve was very honest. He was there along the way to help if you needed it.”

TEACHING TOMORROW'S DESIGNERS

The product design department, which started in 2008, offers a bachelor of fine arts. Students participate in a challenging, hands-on environment where they develop ideas, transform them into reality, and explore professional opportunities. They spend their final year at the UO's Portland campus. A master of science program in sports product design was added in 2016. Graduates have gone on to work at Nike, Columbia Sportswear, Tesla, and Intel.

In 2019, Faste was honored with the endowed chair funded by alumni Mary and Tim Boyle. Tim Boyle, BS '71 (journalism), is CEO of Columbia Sportswear, and the Boyles are among the UO's most dedicated donors, with gifts to the design college, the School of Journalism and Communication, the Lundquist College of Business, and more.

“The Boyle chair is a big honor,” says Faste. “For one thing, Columbia

is legendary in our field. It's gratifying to be recognized as somebody who is appreciated by the university and the donors. It demonstrates how this role of running our department is valued.

“The chair also includes additional research funding that I can use for my work. It's been incredibly helpful. Even with COVID, I've been able to hire four advanced product design students so far—two in previous years and two this year.”

And students, says Faste, make the work inspiring.

“You see how much impact the teaching is having on their growth as young designers, which is having a direct impact on the future of design. It's very rewarding.”

Good design benefits the US economy and helps us compete globally, says Faste. It could also help us address pressing global issues.

“The Earth has finite resources. If we're making single-use objects—or poorly made objects that are going to have a very short life span—that is going to have an impact on our planet. We don't have infinite stuff and we can't continually take and dispose of resources. There's no 'away.' Garbage just goes somewhere else.

“If people love the products they own, they will form relationships with them. The products will stand the test of time and will be repaired, fixed, and passed down from generation to generation. There's an initial impact on our planet, but they are sustaining their

value, their use continues, and they don't need to be replaced.

“That's why it's important to have good design—as opposed to just a thing.”

EXPERTISE IN INDUSTRY

Back at Faste's drawing class in downtown Eugene, sophomore product design major Noah Conklin presents his toy idea, Stixtentions. These rubber connectors, handles, and bases give children a way to connect sticks to create forts, shapes, or whatever they can imagine.

It's one of the simplest ideas of the class—and one of the most popular. One student eagerly suggests expansion packs. Another gushes he “totally would have played with these as a kid.”

Conklin, who plans to become a furniture designer, says Faste's insights into the industry are just as valuable as his knowledge of artistic techniques.

“In this specific class, he's teaching us how to draw,” Conklin says. “But because of his background, he also offers tips, things you wouldn't know unless you had been in the industry. If I have a question about professional life, how to find an internship, or advice about a project, he's a great person to go to. He's been there.”

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



LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT WEIGHT

Let's focus instead on activity, diet, and support for improved health, say UO researchers

BY ROSEMARY HOWE CAMOZZI

At a recent back-to-school checkup, a nurse practitioner greeted Nichole Kelly and her daughter and glanced at the girl's weight and height measurements. Then she pointed to a chart on a wall and began talking about the six-year-old's "body mass index" or BMI.

Kelly, an Evergreen Associate Professor in the College of Education, studies weight stigma, eating behaviors, and chronic disease risk. She noticed her daughter listening intently to the provider's focus on body mass; instead, Kelly would have preferred discussing eating habits, exercise, and sleep—all better predictors of health, she notes.

"[My daughter] was getting the message that whatever this BMI thing is, it's important," Kelly says. "I don't want to reinforce any belief that her BMI is central to her health or has anything to do with her value."

The medical profession should focus less on the "obesity epidemic," Kelly argues, and more on the epidemics of inactivity, loneliness, and poor dietary options, all better predictors of chronic disease. "If people become physically active on a regular basis, they will reduce their type 2 diabetes risk," she says, "whether they lose weight or not."

By focusing on BMI, we are also missing opportunities to talk about health with adults and children of all sizes,



NICHOLE KELLY

Kelly says. The fact is, everyone benefits from being active, eating fruits and vegetables, getting regular sleep, and feeling supported.

WEIGHT BIAS, WEIGHT DISCRIMINATION

Kelly, hired in 2016 with a cluster of researchers focused on health and well-being (also including Nicole Giuliani, Elizabeth Budd, and Andy Kern), specializes in counseling psychology and prevention science. She has seen firsthand how the medical field's emphasis on weight affects the mental and physical health of adults and children, particularly within the last year or so. Health officials sounding the alarm about weight gain during the pandemic, she says, have inadvertently helped drive higher rates of treatment referrals for eating disorders such as anorexia nervosa and binge eating.

"Talking so much about weight," Kelly says, "is making things worse."

She has authored and coauthored several studies on issues associated with weight bias (the prevailing belief that a thin body is good and healthy while a large body is bad and unhealthy) and weight discrimination.

She found that weight-based teasing is associated with higher body image concerns and eating disorder

symptoms among men between the ages of 18 and 30.

“It’s a common misperception that this is something that affects only women,” she says, “but it affects individuals with diverse genders, ethnicities, and body sizes.”

Kelly also found a link between weight-based teasing and symptoms such as emotional eating, eating in the absence of hunger, dieting, and binge eating in children and adolescents with diverse genders. One study of adolescents showed that stress resulting from pressure to be thin was associated with comorbidities commonly seen among those with larger bodies, including elevated fasting insulin and low insulin sensitivity. However, and importantly, these associations were found even after controlling for variations in body size, suggesting that social pressures about body size are harmful to health regardless of one’s BMI, Kelly says.

TARGETED AT SCHOOL, AT WORK

Body size is not legally protected as it relates to discrimination, Kelly notes, and studies show that while other forms of overt discrimination have decreased over time, weight bias has increased.

“People have referred to it as one of the last socially acceptable forms of discrimination,” she says. “People still think it’s funny to put jokes about bigger bodies in movies and comedy, and when people with larger bodies are represented, they are often characterized as sloppy, unintelligent, and clumsy.”

For schoolkids, weight bias and teasing can have a multitude of negative effects, from depression to eating disorders. “I’ve done plenty of interviews with kids where they’ve talked about how detrimental to their well-being it is to be teased about their body size, how much pressure they feel to look a certain way, and how closely that is linked to their anxiety and depression,” Kelly says. Teasing or bullying children about their weight can lead to eating disorders and depression, she says, and hurt overall health and academic performance.

The same holds true in the workplace, Kelly says, where weight discrimination—both overt and subtle—leads to feelings of inadequacy and shame.

In a 2006 study published in the medical journal *Obesity*, more than 50 percent of respondents reported experiencing weight stigma from coworkers and 43 percent from their employers or supervisors. “I’m used to people looking at me from top to bottom for my obesity, but what affected me is that a supervisor called me a whale,” wrote one participant in a study conducted by Kelly and Budd, an Evergreen Assistant Professor in the college. “That bothered me a lot.”

“People often assume that those with larger bodies lack discipline, are in poor health, and don’t engage in healthy behaviors, but there are numerous genetic, medical, and cultural factors—often beyond an individual’s control—that contribute to body size and make it extremely difficult to lose weight and keep it off.”

In 2020, more than 100 medical and scientific organizations in nine countries pledged to address weight stigma in the media, public attitudes, and health care, according to the *Washington Post*. And in the United States, the *Post* reported, more than 70 percent of the population has expressed support for making body weight a protected category, like race and age, and making it illegal for employers to discriminate against employees based on weight.

A HEALTHIER APPROACH

People often assume that those with larger bodies lack discipline, are in poor health, and don’t engage in healthy behaviors, Kelly says, but there are numerous genetic, medical, and cultural factors—often beyond an individual’s control—that contribute to body size and make it extremely difficult to lose weight and keep it off.

And while our genetics haven’t changed much in the last 40 years, the environments in which we move, work, play, and eat look different, she notes. Sedentary workplaces have largely replaced those that enabled people to be active on the job, and affordable foods are often high in fat and sugar.

Toward ending society’s obsession with weight, Kelly and her colleagues advocate that parents, teachers, and medical professionals stop using the words “fat,” “obese,” and “overweight,” terms considered highly stigmatizing. Instead, they should promote behaviors such as exercise, eating fruits and vegetables, sleep, and stress reduction. Kelly wants doctors to ask parents questions such as, “How’s your kid feeling? Are they feeling supported? How have they been sleeping? Are they getting chances to move their bodies?”

Kelly and Budd, who studies health promotion, conducted weight stigma workshops for University of Oregon staff and faculty during the 2020–21 school year. Goals included raising awareness of the diverse contributions to body size, including biological and sociocultural factors such as the brain’s response to tasty foods and one’s proximity to parks.

“But while we continue to research potential health strategies, we have to shift our focus more toward behaviors and experiences that have shown to be better related to chronic disease.”

“If we can teach people all the different things that influence weight and highlight the many things that are not in our control, people will be less likely to judge other people based on their bodies,” Kelly says. She hopes the workshops will have a ripple effect for families. “If we can get staff and employees to engage with this material, then hopefully they will take it home to their families and friends,” she adds. The researchers plan to take the workshops into the community, starting with health care providers in Lane County.

Kelly is not suggesting that scientists abandon the study of weight and weight loss as health factors.

“But while we continue to research potential health strategies, we have to shift our focus more toward behaviors and experiences that have shown to be better related to chronic disease,” Kelly says. “Feeling a lack of social support is a better predictor of premature morbidity and mortality than weight. How do we help people feel more supported and less alone? I just think we are misdirected in our efforts to help people be healthier and happier.”

Rosemary Howe Camozzi, BA '96 (magazine), is a freelance writer and editor in Eugene.

FASHION REVOLUTION



SUSAN SOKOLOWSKI

When retailer Old Navy decided recently to focus on size inclusivity for their apparel, they knew who to consult: Professor Susan Sokolowski, director of the Sports Product Design program.

Sokolowski, who worked at Nike for nearly 20 years before joining the UO, is an expert in human anthropometry (the study of body measurement and shapes) and in sizing and fit of apparel, footwear, and equipment.

Old Navy sought advice on how to size apparel for women with larger bodies. Using data from 3D body scans of about 400 women, Sokolowski partnered with the retailer to refashion apparel to better fit customers of all sizes.

The industry assumes that every woman in the world has an hourglass shape, Sokolowski says. When apparel companies create extended sizes, they generally keep that shape and linearly increase their products throughout the size range—which means sleeve and pant lengths wind up too long or the waist, too tight. “The body does not maintain an hourglass shape as it increases in size,” she says. “That may seem obvious, but most manufacturers still use that as their standard.”

Sokolowski’s research showed, for example, a large variability in waist measurements among women who have the same hip or bust sizes. These results led Old Navy to create new design features—such as different zipper lengths, pocket sizes, and waistband constructions—for extended sizes.

The goal of these features is to provide options, she says, for “all those areas that tend to make clothes hard to fit or hard to get over your body.”

Old Navy—which named their size inclusivity campaign Bodequality—also integrated extended sizes into their retail spaces, so all sizes are presented together and have the same price. “In the past women who wore extended sizes would be sent to the back of the store away from other shoppers,” Sokolowski says, “and they may not have had the same assortment.”

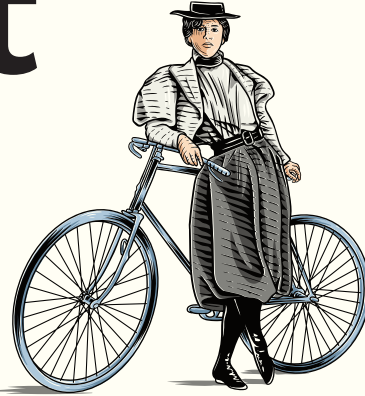
Old Navy now displays clothing on mannequins with different body shapes and has trained employees to help customers find the correct size. Sokolowski sees this as a win not just for the customer, but the company.

“If you looked at it with a business mind,” she says, “you would say, ‘why haven’t we been doing this any sooner?’ People want to be able to go into a store and find what they need, and there is a large market of underserved people out there.”



An image from Old Navy’s Bodequality campaign

You don't have to pedal the world to be a discoverer.



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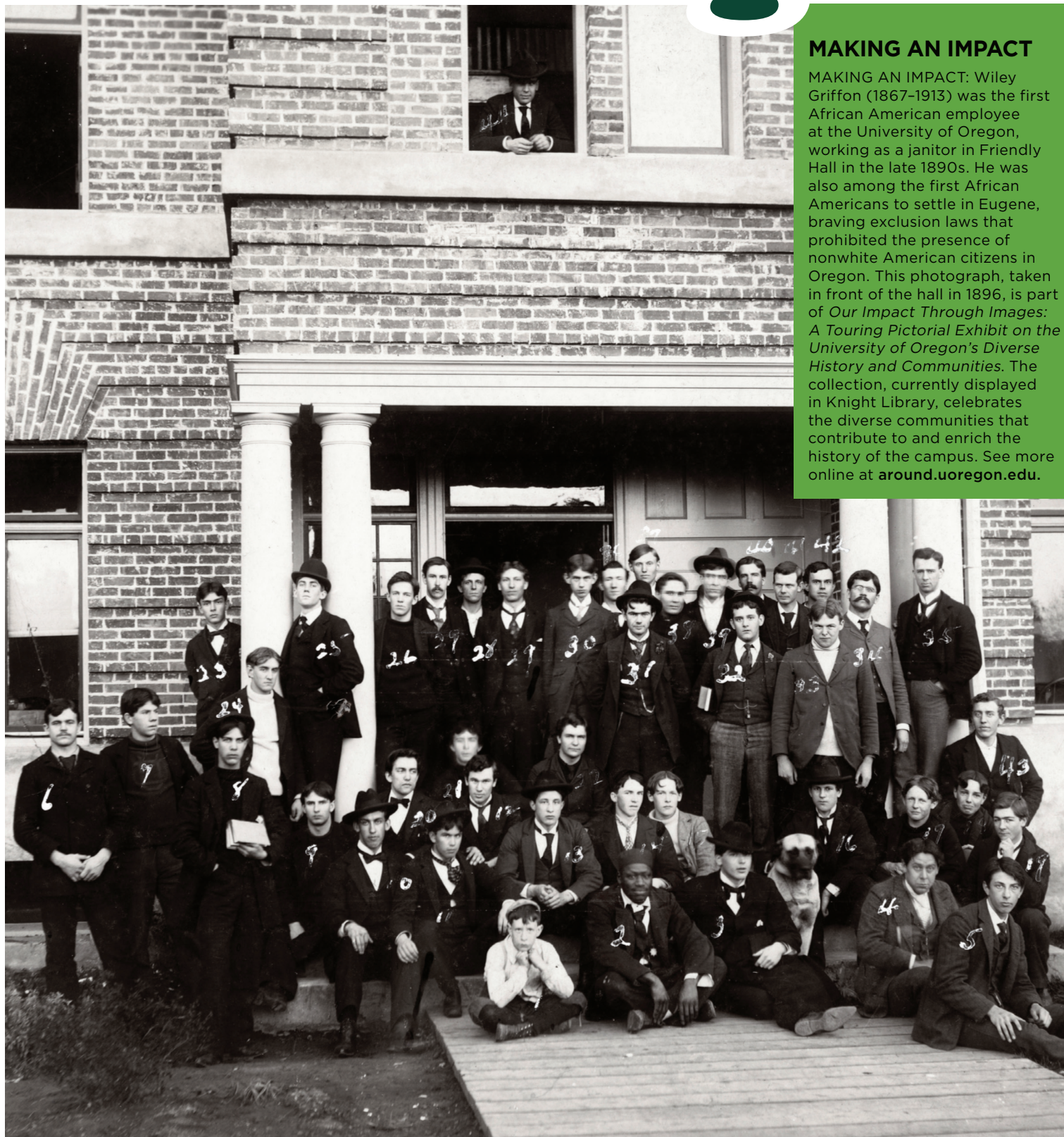
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OLD Oregon



MAKING AN IMPACT

MAKING AN IMPACT: Wiley Griffon (1867-1913) was the first African American employee at the University of Oregon, working as a janitor in Friendly Hall in the late 1890s. He was also among the first African Americans to settle in Eugene, braving exclusion laws that prohibited the presence of nonwhite American citizens in Oregon. This photograph, taken in front of the hall in 1896, is part of *Our Impact Through Images: A Touring Pictorial Exhibit on the University of Oregon's Diverse History and Communities*. The collection, currently displayed in Knight Library, celebrates the diverse communities that contribute to and enrich the history of the campus. See more online at around.uoregon.edu.

Holding Bricks in the Air

Ten years after coach Dick Harter's death, reflections on the value of hard work—in hoops, in life

BY MICHAEL N. MCGREGOR

When I left my hometown of Seattle to attend the University of Oregon in the fall of 1976, I fell in love with everything except the football team. I'd been a Husky fan since Sonny Sixkiller appeared on the cover of *Boys' Life*, and the Huskies were one year away from going to the Rose Bowl in their third year under coach Don James. The Ducks, on the other hand, weren't going anywhere anytime soon. In the first home game I went to, USC flattened them, 53-0. After wins against two mediocre Utah teams, they lost every other game, including all of their Pac-8 contests, until they managed to eke out a final 23-14 victory over the even-more-hapless Beavers. Even the mascot embarrassed me. How, I thought, can I root for a team called the "Ducks"?

Then came basketball season. In those days the university had a lottery system to buy a student pass to all sports events and I was fortunate to be selected. I say fortunate because, unlike the football team, the basketball Ducks were good. After narrowly losing their opener to UNLV, the No. 6 team in the country, they reeled off a succession of wins that included one of the biggest in Oregon basketball history: a 61-60 victory over the UCLA Bruins in Pauley Pavilion. (It was their second straight win in Pauley, where the Ronnie Lee-led Ducks had walloped the Bruins by 20 points the year before, ending their streak of 98 straight home wins and shocking the country.) When the rematch came in Eugene February 19, the Ducks were a decent 13-7 but the Bruins were an even better 20-3 and ranked No. 3. That was the first time I understood what the term "winning the lottery" really meant.

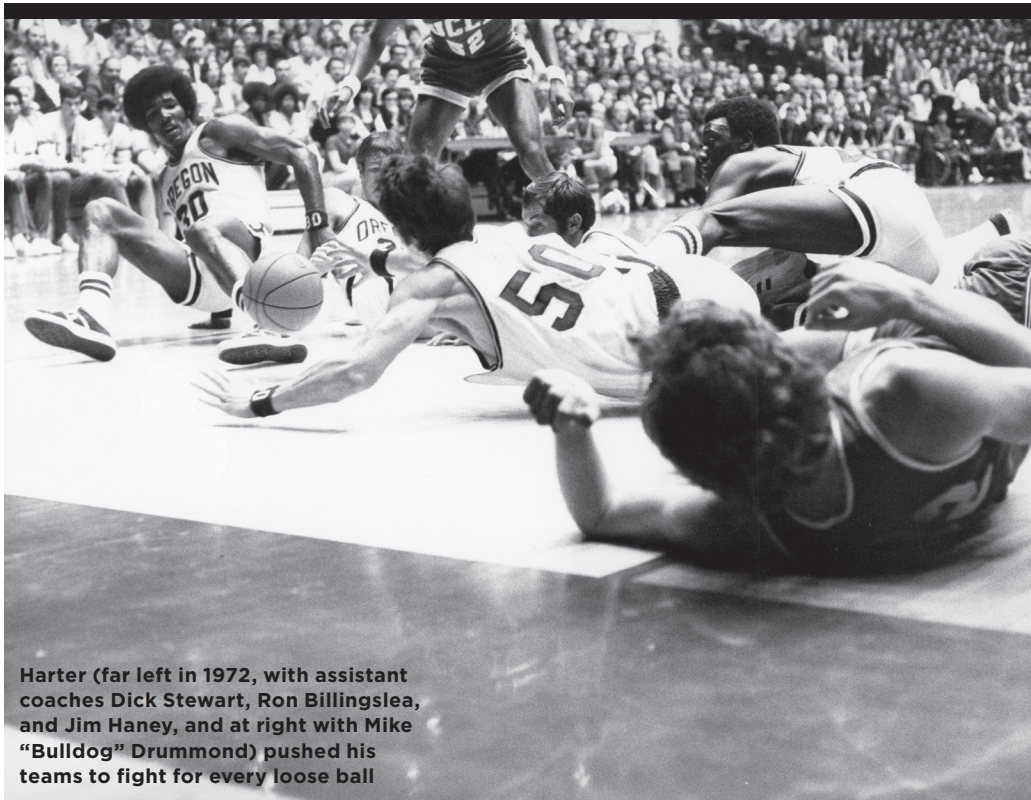
Seats weren't reserved in the student section. If you wanted a good one, you had to sleep overnight outside Mac Court. And that wasn't the only thing that made that game feel like a rock concert. My friends and I got there early and were in the first rush of fans into the arena in the morning, putting us in the lower level near the court. From the moment we all poured in, the energy in that aging building was



electric. People talk about the upper level shaking during games in those days, supported as it was by only a few thin stanchions, but even the lower areas shook. The level of noise was the equal of any rock concert I've ever attended.

I'm 63 now and to this day I've never experienced anything quite like that game. Much as I loved watching football, basketball was my sport. In high school, I played it every chance I got. And when that game in that overheated arena was over, I was as covered in sweat from the stomping and cheering and sheer joy of it all as I'd been from any game I'd ever played. Because, you see, although the Ducks had lost Ronnie Lee to the NBA, they still had Greg Ballard and Ernie Kent and that pesky little guard Mike "Bulldog" Drummond, and in front of 10,500 delirious fans who never stopped shouting, they held the mighty Bruins to their lowest point total of the season, beating them 64-55. For the third time in a row, they had defeated the school that had won 10 straight conference championships and 10 of the last 14 NCAA championships. And in the sixth of Dick Harter's seven years as their coach, they'd done it his way: by fighting harder and playing scrappier than anyone they faced.

The following year, when I was a seasoned sophomore, my buddy (and fellow Duck) Mark Thorne and I signed up to coach a team of



Harter (far left in 1972, with assistant coaches Dick Stewart, Ron Billingslea, and Jim Haney, and at right with Mike “Bulldog” Drummond) pushed his teams to fight for every loose ball

10- and 11-year-olds. Around the time the season began, I read an article on Harter in which he said your first win as a coach is better than every win you had as a player. It took me a while to find out if that was true. Our team was composed of kids who hadn't been selected for a supposed “super team” meant to easily win the league. Thorney and I didn't know that going in, but the kids did. They came into the first practice hanging their heads and thinking of themselves as losers. There was one kid, though—a slick ball handler with a nice shot and a good sense of the game. We can build a team around him, I thought—him and the example set by Harter. Maybe our kids wouldn't be the most experienced or the most skilled, but they would outthrust everyone.

My conviction was put to the test right away. After only a couple of practices, we played our first preseason game and lost by 20. The second preseason game wasn't much better. But then, in the season opener, we lost by only seven and I could see the kids starting to feel a win at some point might be possible. After four defeats, I experienced that feeling Harter had talked about: we won a close game in the final seconds and my heart, as Dr. Seuss might say, grew three sizes that day. It was exactly how Harter had said it would be: I felt happier for those kids than I'd ever been for myself as a player.

That team went on to win their last four games and make the league playoffs. On the way to the locker room after winning their first playoff game—against the team that had clobbered them in the preseason—they were singing “We Are the Champions.” They weren't the champions yet, of course, and they wouldn't be—they lost a close game in the second round—but they had earned some bragging rights (the so-called super team had lost in the first round). More than that, they'd learned to keep their heads up no matter how bad things seem. They'd learned to trust themselves and fight through adversity.

Dick Harter was often maligned by other coaches for how physical his players were, but I suspect the maligners were mostly people who hadn't prepared their teams as thoroughly or taught their players as well to pay attention to the little things: loose balls, blocking out on foul shots, keeping their hands up and their feet moving on defense. Above all, Harter showed his teams how hard they had to work to win consistently. (Among the drills I heard he used was one in which his players had to hold bricks in the air as they ran up and down the bleachers.)

I graduated from the School of Journalism and Communication in 1980, two years after Harter moved on to Penn State. The school prepared me well for what has become a long career as a journalist, essayist, author, professor, and writing consultant. I've been published hundreds of times, but even now it's the books, articles, and essays my students and mentees publish that thrill me most (including the piece on shooting victim Ahmaud Arbery in *Runner's World* that earned one former student, Mitchell S. Jackson, a Pulitzer Prize in feature writing last year). Throughout my years as a professor at Columbia, Southern Illinois, and Portland State, I did my best to challenge my students while being supportive, too. And they often thanked me not only for showing them how hard they had to work to succeed but also how important it is to pay attention to the little things. All I was doing, really, was giving them a piece of coach Harter and that Ducks basketball team that beat the perennial national champions—the so-called super team—three times in a row.

Michael N. McGregor, BA '80 (journalism), is the author of *Pure Act: The Uncommon Life of Robert Lax* and the curator of the website WritingtheNorthwest.com. He dedicates this essay to his basketball-playing nephew, Emmett Hoelscher. Visit michaelnmcgregor.com to learn more about him.



A Voice for the People

As the first woman and first Oregonian to helm the AFL-CIO, Liz Shuler leads the nation's unions with conviction

BY KELSEY SCHAGEMANN

In one sense, Liz Shuler's journey to the AFL-CIO presidency began at the age of 11. Growing up in Gladstone, Oregon, Shuler and a friend babysat for neighborhood families—until they determined they weren't being paid the same rate. That realization led to Shuler's first collective bargaining experience, resulting in equal hourly wages for both sitters.

Shuler, BA '92 (journalism), brings lifelong principles of fairness and equity to her role as president of the AFL-CIO. Elected in August, Shuler oversees the federation's 57 national and international labor unions representing 12.5 million people.

"We use the power of our scale to advocate for a better life for all working people," Shuler says. "We're here to make sure people have good, high-quality jobs that can support a family, to help them through their careers, and to retire with dignity."

On any given day, Shuler might talk policy with President Biden, strategize next steps in a strike, or meet with unions in the workplace. Her organization represents working people nationwide—firefighters, actors, bakers, flight attendants, nurses, postal workers, teachers, musicians, roofers, and so on. While different unions don't agree on every issue or lean the same way politically, the AFL-CIO provides a point of connection and bargaining power on shared causes such as raising the minimum wage and health care.

Shuler got her start in the Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 125 at Portland General Electric, the union of her father, a power lineman. On summer breaks and after college, Shuler was a clerical worker at

the company; her mother also worked there, as an estimator. When the predominantly female clerical workers decided to organize in 1993, Shuler joined the campaign.

That campaign failed, but Shuler turned her disappointment into opportunity by joining the union's staff. "I saw a path where I could advocate for more people to have a collective voice," she says.

During five years with the local, Shuler wrote policy, built the website, led trainings, and served as the chief lobbyist and political operative. One of her proudest accomplishments was contributing to the defeat of Enron's efforts to deregulate Oregon's electricity market in 1999.

Soon after, Shuler moved to the political/legislative department of IBEW headquarters in Washington, DC, where she eventually became chief of staff to the IBEW president. In 2009, Shuler was elected AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer, becoming the youngest woman ever on the federation's executive council.

Shuler is the first woman to become AFL-CIO president, and she recognizes the responsibility of being a role model for other women, mentoring the next generation of female union leaders, and honoring those who came before. "I think of all the women who sacrificed, who led on the picket lines and in their workplaces for so many years, not having access to leadership roles," she says. "This has been a long time coming."

Many of her own mentors were professors at the School of Journalism and Communication, including Professor Tim Gleason, who taught an ethics course that made a lasting impression.

Her UO education prepared her for her career, Shuler says, by helping her learn "to distill information and present it in a cogent way, probe and ask questions, and develop discipline."

She remembers, with fear and fondness, a mandatory course called Information Gathering—known affectionately as "Info Hell"—that required the collection and summarization of 100 sources in support of an argument (Shuler argued for better mental health resources). "That was a class you couldn't procrastinate in," she says, "if you wanted to pass."

Perhaps most of all, the UO experience solidified Shuler's motivation to make a difference. "You come out of there so much more civic-minded," she says. "It gave me a better appreciation for humanity."

Kelsey Schagemann is a writer and editor in Chicago.

Limited Edition: *Home Flight Blanket*



Photographer: Brittney Couture

The new Home Flight wool blanket is a collaboration between the UO Alumni Association, the Many Nations Longhouse, and The Duck Store. Inspired by traditional basket designs and seasonal changes, the design captures the return patterns of ducks working together to navigate a long journey. The blankets mix the UO's traditional green and yellow with the beauty found in nature.

All proceeds support the Many Nations Longhouse and the Native Duck Nation Alumni Network.

Designers: Kale'a Calica-Yunker '22 (art) and Shirod Younker

SOLD EXCLUSIVELY AT THE DUCK STORE AND [THEDUCKSTORE.COM](https://theduckstore.com)

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

Hurdling The Pandemic

Shortly after AK Ikwuakor launched a fashion company in 2020—and just as he was preparing to leave to conduct an international motivational speaking tour—all US flights were grounded due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Suddenly not a lot of folks were wearing suits and ties, nor were many organizations planning in-person speaking events.

Ikwuakor, BS '07 (sociology), a serial entrepreneur and three-time All-American Ducks hurdler, found himself grounded in more ways than one.

The year 2020 “taught us a lot,” he says. “That we’re not in control.” And yet this strange time in history has brought Ikwuakor intense personal clarity. “It’s been one of the best experiences for me,” he says.

Ikwuakor converted his speaking engagements to recorded, shareable content that audiences tapped remotely. He shifted focus to helping entrepreneurs expand their businesses in 90 days. He also landed an opportunity with Google, joining a small team that trains the sales staff.

Now living with his family in Marina del Rey, California, Ikwuakor continues as founder of MobileXA business consulting and as the sales excellence coach lead at Google. He also produces an inspirational podcast, *Mornings with Coach AK* (akikwuakor.com/podcast).

In August, Ikwuakor helped moderate the Lundquist College Digital Speaking Series, which featured students, faculty, and alumni who are making a difference while navigating life, business, and entrepreneurship during the pandemic.

His time during the pandemic, Ikwuakor says, reinforced lessons he learned as an athlete.

“You can feel worse, sore, but know that is part of the growth process,” he says. “And know that it’s possible to push beyond your limits.”

—AnneMarie Knepper-Sjoblom, BA '05 (news editorial),
Lundquist College communications

Indicates UOAA Member

1960s

CAROLYN WOOD, BA '67 (English), released her second memoir, *Class Notes: A Young Teacher's Lessons from Classroom to Kennedy Compound*, in October.

BENJAMIN KALB, BS '69 (journalism), completed *I Belong on a Warning Label*, a novel based on a female serial killer.

1970s

HOWARD WANG, BA '71 (biology), joined the board of trustees of University of the West, an institution based in Rosemead, California, that is informed by Buddhist wisdom and values to facilitate cultural understanding and appreciation between East and West.

PEGGY L. LARSON, MA '74 (public affairs), published *Antiques from Hell*, her second mystery novel, dealing with the aftermath of murder in an Appalachian school district.

CLAUDE GREENBERG, BArch '76, was hired by Margulies Perruzzi, an architecture and interior design firm based in Boston.

RAY MILLER, MS '77 (dance), PhD '84 (speech: theater arts), wrote and directed a production of his play, *Kent State: Then, and Again*, staged by the theater program of Appalachian State University, North Carolina, and focusing on his experience as a student at Kent State in 1970.

CHARLES “CHUCK” ROOT, MS '77 (public affairs), received the Service Above Self Award, the highest honor of Rotary International, during the virtual international convention in May.

1980s

STEPHEN COHEN, BA '82 (fine and applied arts), published *Baggy Red Pants and Other Stories*, a collection of short stories, poems, lyrics, and visual art.

LISA GIBERT, BS '83 (finance), announced she will step down after serving 16 years as chief executive officer of the Clark College Foundation in Washington.

KERRY HEINRICH, JD '83, was appointed CEO of Adventist Health, a faith-based, nonprofit integrated health system serving more than 80 communities on the West Coast and in Hawaii.

DANIEL MORET, BS '84, MS '91 (speech: telecommunication and film), retired as the marketing and communications manager for Oregon State University libraries and is now a photographer whose work, which focuses on Europe and North America, is exhibited in Eugene.

KURT STEINHAUS, MS '86 (information science: computer science education), was appointed secretary-designate of the New Mexico Public Education Department.

DOUG MOCK, MS '87 (health education), became president of Altercare Integrated Health Services, a rehabilitation service in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, after three decades in the nursing and rehabilitation industry.

SCOTT REAMES, BA '89 (public relations), retired after 29 years with Nike, including the last 17 as the company's first corporate historian.

1990s

KELLIE ENGLAND, BS '90 (sociology), was appointed senior vice president of member experience for Rogue Credit Union, Medford.

JENNIFER HOFFMAN, BA '90 (art history), MArch '94, has joined Portland-based design company Carleton Hart Architecture as associate principal.

CHANRITHY HIM, BS '91 (chemistry), celebrated the world premiere of *Four Children*, a one-act play centered on literary works including her award-winning memoir *When Broken Glass Floats: Growing Up Under the Khmer Rouge*, at the Kansas City Actors Theatre, Missouri.

KRIS METZGER, BS '91 (biology), was hired as US Geological Survey research coordinator for the Southwest Climate Adaptation Science Center at the University of Arizona.

SHIRLEY ANDRESS, BMus '92 (music education choral/general), was featured in *What Will Be Will Be: A Tribute to Doris Day*, a celebratory performance held last fall in Eugene and Corvallis.

DAVID EDGINTON, BS '93 (political science), became US consul

general at the US embassy in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

BRIAN GU, BA '93 (chemistry), was appointed vice chairman and president of XPENG Motors, a Chinese electric vehicle company.

REBECCA PRITCHETT, JD '93, became special counsel for the Birmingham, Alabama, office of Adams and Reese, a law firm based in Nashville.

PARISA SALEHI, BA '94 (international studies), was nominated by President Joe Biden to become inspector general for export-import duties at the Bank of the United States.

ERIC BARBER, BA '95 (music), was appointed head of school for the Walnut Hill School for the Arts, Natick, Massachusetts.

FLASHBACK

1932 Officials with the Associated Students of the University of Oregon in January burn \$150,000 in bonds paid off in full by students, celebrating the retirement of debt for “the Igloo”—the arena built in 1926 and named McArthur Court.





CLASS NOTABLE

For *The Five Wounds*, Four Words

Write toward the pain. Kirstin Valdez Quade was a graduate student in the creative writing program when Professor Ehud Havazelet offered that advice. Today Quade, MFA '09 (creative writing), is an award-winning novelist and creative writing professor at Princeton University who is, she says, “profoundly grateful” for the program and Havazelet, who died in 2015.

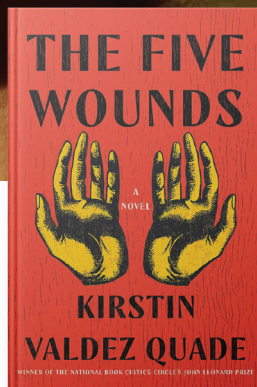
Writing toward the pain, Quade says, doesn’t mean wallowing in misery or writing only bleak stories; rather, it means having the courage to explore characters’ suffering as well as their joys. She delivers with her 2021 debut novel, *The Five Wounds*, which follows the convergences—sometimes fractious, sometimes funny—of five generations of a New Mexico family and centers on an alcoholic, deadbeat father seeking redemption and his high-spirited teenage daughter who arrives on his doorstep eight months pregnant. The novel is shortlisted for the Center for Fiction’s 2021 First Novel Prize and the 2022 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction and longlisted for the Aspen Words Literary Prize.

The novel grew from a short story that was the first Quade workshopped with peers and faculty members in the competitive MFA program, which admits only two percent of applicants.

Havazelet was “absolutely critical” to the story’s development and Quade’s own, she says. Large-hearted but exacting, he demanded that each and every word she wrote contribute to the whole. He pushed her to ensure that her characters reckoned with their fears and failures—their humanity. She finished the short story after graduation and within two years had been persuaded by her editor to extend it into a novel.

“Ehud really shaped how I think about story and my responsibilities as a writer toward my characters,” Quade says. “It’s advice I pass on to my own students and think about every time I write: what am I avoiding writing about here because it feels difficult? Am I allowing them to be fully human?”

—Matt Cooper, *Oregon Quarterly*



ANNA BINDER, BA '95 (political science), was appointed to the board of directors for Culture Amp, an employee engagement, performance, and development platform in San Francisco.

FAWZI ALKADI, BS '96 (marketing), recently helped launch the Saudi East chapter of the Entrepreneurs' Organization and serves as marketing and communication chair for the peer-to-peer network in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province.

MAKIIA LUCIER, BA '97 (public relations), was featured in the *Nerd Daily*, an entertainment blog, regarding her new novel, *Year of the Reaper*.

REID CARR, BA '98 (journalism: advertising), was elected board chair for Voice of San Diego, a nonprofit investigative news organization.

CARLA DAMIANO, PhD '98 (German), a German professor at Eastern Michigan University, received the Cross

of the Order of Merit, the highest honor available to individuals for service to the Federal Republic of Germany.

WENDY BANA, MS '99 (information science: applied information management), was named head of school for the Willowbrook campus of Anneliese Schools, Laguna Beach, California.

2000s

MARISA MACY, MS '00, PhD '04 (early intervention), was appointed the Cille and Ron Williams Community Chair for Early Childhood Education at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

ERIN WATKINSON, BA '00 (Spanish), became vice president of strategic solutions and training for Avetta, a supply chain risk management software company based in Orem, Utah.

JENNY BENNETT, BA '01 (public relations), a longtime Lane County-based

community banker, banking executive, and community leader, was promoted to market president for the Summit Bank in Eugene.

ANNA BERRY, BS '01 (biology), became US technical director for Pelsis and B&G pest control, Jackson, Georgia.

BRIAN MALLOY, BA '01 (Clark Honors College, political science), of the Brandi firm in San Francisco, became certified as an appellate law specialist, was a finalist for California's 2021 Consumer Attorney of the Year, and was named in Super Lawyers and Best Lawyers in America lists for 2021 and 2022, respectively.

JASON MARSHALL, BMus '01 (music education), was appointed assistant principal at Hart High School, Santa Clarita, California.

DIANE TEEMAN, BS '01, MS '03 (anthropology), was elected chair of the Burns Paiute Tribe in Burns.

PAIGE COGNETTI, BA '02 (Clark Honors College, English), declared victory in her candidacy for mayor of Scranton, Pennsylvania.

DAVID DEPPER, BS '02 (computer and information science), and his band Death Cab for Cutie returned to the road and are touring with their ninth studio album, *Thank You for Today*.

KAORI FUKUYAMA, BLA '03, was featured in the *San Diego Union-Tribune*

for her artwork collaboration with San Diego International Airport.

ELYZABETH MEADE, PhD '03 (music composition), danced in accompaniment to the conceptual art of *Pandemonium: Nature and Time*, an exhibit held last fall at the Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society museum, Bellport, New York.

KEVIN FAUL, MBA '04 (general business), launched Tamarelo, the first

American-made tamarind liqueur, which won a silver medal at the San Francisco World Spirits Competition and “best liqueur/ cordial brand” from the Wine & Spirits Wholesalers Association 2021 Brand Battle.

JOSHUA KNIGHT, JD '04, was appointed judge with Riverside County Superior Court, California.

LILY ROSE, PhD '04 (music composition), released *See You Again*, an eclectic

FLASHBACK

1952 An uproar ensues after Pacific Telephone and Telegraph installs pay phones in university living organizations, with students decrying the “unfair financial burden” of a 10-cent phone call, the *Oregon Daily Emerald* reports.

jazz-pop ballad collection.

TYLER VOLM, BA '05 (English), joined Portland firm Sussman Shank as special counsel in its business department.

ADAM ABPLANALP, BS '07 (Clark Honors College, accounting), was appointed to the

board of advisors for the Portland metropolitan office of Summit Bank.

CHRIS HEMMINGS, BS '07 (economics), was promoted to chief operating officer of Summit Bank, Eugene.

MIA JAFARI, BA '07 (political science), joined the accounting team of Horizon

Forest Productions hardwood company, Wilmington, North Carolina.

RACHEL KING, BA '07 (Clark Honors College, English), authored *People Along the Sand*, a novel about the 1967 Oregon Beach Bill, and *Bratwurst Haven*, a collection of stories forthcoming this fall.

Will Power



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FLASHBACK

1962 A journalism class surveys Eugene residents on civil defense measures in the event of nuclear war. Eighty percent believe the area would be affected by fallout in an attack but only 49 percent say they should have a shelter, many arguing that with a nuclear war, “the world wouldn’t be worth living in anyway.”

AUSTIN KUMM, BS '07 (business administration), was promoted to dining general manager for Café Bon Appétit, Pacific University.

MAARTY LEUNEN, BS '07 (economics), was hired by Summit Bank, Eugene, as assistant vice president and market development officer.

ROBERT SCHWARTZ, JD '07, a partner at Oakland-based Gwilliam Ivary Chiosso Cavalli and Brewer, was featured in the *Oaklandside* news for his work helping whistleblowers and employees facing harassment and discrimination.

GRANT PRIVETTE, BS '08 (sociology), became vice president and commercial loan officer for Mountain West Bank, Boise.

DANIEL TOOLE, BArch '08, was selected as a speaker for Bend Design 2021, a design program held last fall that brought professionals together to discuss eco-design, social justice, education, sustainable fashion, and social media.

NATE OTANI, BLA '09, was promoted to principal of Shapiro Didway, a Portland architecture and engineering firm.

SARA WURFEL, MS '09 (strategic communication), was appointed chief communications and marketing officer for the Michigan Chamber of Commerce.

2010s

DANIEL BROTMAN, BA '10 (international studies), became executive director of the Windsor Jewish Federation and Community Centre, serving

the Jewish and greater Windsor communities of Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

MAUREEN MCGEE, JD '10, joined the government solutions and government relations and public policy practice groups of Tonkon Torp, Portland.

ALEXA TIEU WHIPPO, BS '10 (electronic media production), became a communications solution specialist with Deloitte, a multinational professional services network.

CLAIRE G. BOPP, JD '11, an associate with the Rochester, New York, office of Bond, Schoeneck and King, was recognized in the 2022 Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch list in the field of labor and employment law.

ROBERT L. SILVA, BA '11 (political science), became an associate attorney with the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority, Fort Defiance, Navajo Nation (Arizona).

MATT WILSON, MS '11 (curriculum and teacher education), was appointed executive director of strategic initiatives for Bacone College, Muskogee, Oklahoma.

SIMON ADLER, BA '12 (psychology), produced *Mixtape*, a five-part series on the cassette tape and its place in history, for *Radiolab* podcasts, a platform of WNYC Studios.

DREW EYMAN, BS '12 (political science), joined the Portland office of Snell and Wilmer as an associate in the commercial litigation practice group.

RAJ VABLE, MS '12 (environmental studies), was featured in the *Oregonian* for his

work as founder of Young Mountain Tea and its roots in India.

GERARD KEUBEUNG, MA '13 (French), joined McDaniel College, Maryland, as an assistant professor of French.

HARLAN MECHLING, BS '13 (political science), joined the Portland firm Tonkon Torp as an attorney in the litigation department.

GUILIAN DEL RIO, BA '14 (Spanish), joined the diversity, equity, and inclusion advisory board of the Lake Oswego City Council.

LAUREN PATERSON, MS '14 (multimedia journalism), announced that her documentary, *Skeleton School*, a report on a school in Kamiah, Idaho, operating on a shoestring budget, was shown at various film festivals and scheduled for the

Blue Fox Theatre in Grangeville, Idaho.

PATRICK DROSSEL, BA '15 (psychology), became a licensed professional counselor and mobile crisis supervisor with Solvista Health, serving four rural counties in Colorado and working with law enforcement agencies for mental health emergencies.

THOMAS PECKENHAM-HERNANDEZ, BS '16 (human physiology), was hired as a physician’s assistant in cardiology at Columbia Memorial Hospital, Astoria.

SALLY STENDER KESEY, BA '16 (journalism: advertising, business administration), became a certified financial planner with Merrill Lynch Wealth Management, Eugene.

FLASHBACK

1992 In the aftermath of Earvin “Magic” Johnson’s announced retirement from professional basketball after contracting HIV, the UO Student Health Center is overwhelmed with students seeking to be tested for the virus.

JORDAN ARREDONDO, MArch '17, and **JERICHO BANKSTON**, BArch '17, joined Portland civil engineering firm VLMK Engineering + Design as architectural project coordinators.

HALEY CASE-SCOTT, BA '18 (political science), was hired as a junior climate advisor in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

GEENA CARUCCI, JD '19, joined the Reno, Nevada, branch of Fennemore, working in the business litigation practice group.

2020s

MICHAEL HARDER, JD '20, became a federal prosecutor in the northern district of Oklahoma.

ZARIA PARVEZ, BS '20 (Clark Honors College, journalism: advertising), was featured in the *Pittsburgh Business Times* for her work as social media coordinator for Duolingo,

an educational platform focused on language learning.

KEZIA SETYAWAN, BA '20 (journalism), a staff writer for Louisiana newspapers the *Courier* and the *Daily Comet*, covered Hurricane Ida while living through its aftermath.

LAURALEI SINGSANK, BA '20 (Clark Honors College, music, political science), received the Karsh-Dillard Scholarship at the University of Virginia School of Law for achievements in leadership.

EM CHAN, BA '21 (public relations), was hired as the food and dining reporter for the *Salem Statesman Journal*.

IN MEMORIAM

MARILYN CAMERON, who with her late husband, Gerry, found fulfillment in retirement through philanthropy to the university, died September 15. They are the namesakes of the Cameron Center

for Finance and Securities Analysis. They established the Cameron Chair in Finance and the Cameron Faculty Excellence Endowment in Accounting, both part of a legacy that will support students in perpetuity through several endowed scholarship funds across campus.

CLARK DAVID AUSTEN, BArch '55, died August 16. A biker, swimmer, and dancer, he worked in Portland and was a campus architect for Oregon Health and Science University, retiring in 1992.

FAYE MONFORTE HINZE, BA '58 (education), died August 9. She was a social activist in Marin County, California, and was a founding member of Marin Freeze, which became the Marin Interfaith Task Force on the Americas, a grassroots organization that has been recognized for efforts to end human rights abuses in Central America.



Bob and Leona DeArmond

IN MEMORIAM

BOB DeARMOND, 1930–2021

A steadfast donor, Ducks fan, and advocate for the university, Bob DeArmond, BBA '52 (business administration), was born in Lakeview and graduated from Medford High School, where University of Oregon track legend Bill Bowerman was his football coach.

DeArmond served as a UO Foundation trustee from 1995 to 2005. The retired lumber executive and his wife, Leona, a 1951 UO music graduate who died in 2017, gave generously to the Lundquist College of Business, the School of Music and Dance, UO Athletics, the Phil and Penny Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact, and other areas of the university.

“Take a tour of campus,” UO president Michael Schill says, “and you cannot miss the impact of Bob and Leona’s philanthropy.”

In 2005, the DeArmonds’ leadership challenge gift helped launch fundraising for construction of the MarAbel B. Frohnmayer Music Building, inspiring UO benefactor Lorry I. Lokey and others to contribute.

In turn, the DeArmonds were inspired by Lokey’s commitment to the UO’s science capabilities. In 2009, they made a key investment in the Lokey Integrative Science Complex, a forerunner of the Knight Campus, which opened in 2020. Gifts from the DeArmond Trust endowed the executive director position of the Knight Campus and the Robert and Leona DeArmond Chair in Neuroengineering.

The DeArmonds were honored with UO Presidential Medals in 2004 and Pioneer Awards in 2019. They were lifetime members of the UO Alumni Association.



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FLASHBACK

2012 The university goes smoke- and tobacco-free in September, the first in the Pac-12 to do so.

PAMELA HOLFERT COLLINS FORRESTER, BS '64 (art education), died July 6. She was a teacher who supported fine and performing arts, worked in government, and enjoyed passions that included dogs, politics, gardening, and books.

KARL FREDRICK JOHNSON JR., PhD '70 (political science), died September 4. A lifelong jogger, he was an assistant professor in political science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and later joined the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where he retired in 2000 as director of the L. P. Cookingham Institute of Urban Affairs and professor emeritus of public administration.

DAVID MICHAEL FREEMAN, BS '75 (marketing), died October 18. A defensive lineman for the Ducks, he was a family

man who worked in wood product sales in Seattle and served his faith community as a lay leader in ministry.

PRISCILLA ELY WARREN, BA '91 (sociology), died June 14. She was a therapist and counselor for youth at various schools in Oregon and New Mexico. A wild and adventurous spirit, she loved camping, hiking, climbing mountain peaks, and roaming the deserts of the Southwest, the high country of Colorado, and the forests of the Pacific Northwest.

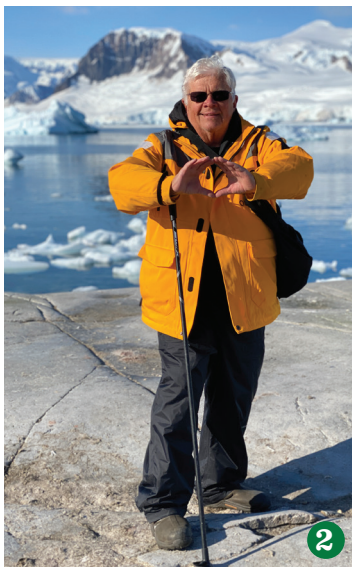
FACULTY IN MEMORIAM

DAVID GARVIN MOURSUND, BA '58 (mathematics), professor emeritus and head of the computer and information science department in the 1970s, died September 1. He founded the International Society for Technology in Education, a nonprofit

organization supporting technology in education, taught in the College of Education, and authored or coauthored more than 60 books and hundreds of articles about computers and education.

MARY LAWRENCE, JD '77, died September 23. The professor emerita and founding director of Oregon Law's legal research and writing program was a pioneer in the national legal writing discipline and a legend in the national community of legal writing professors.

News. Worthy. Daily.



Ducks Afield 1. The **TRACYS**—**BRAD**, BA '88 (finance), and **JACQUIE**, BA '89 (public relations)—celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on Vatnajökull glacier, Iceland 2. With his 21-day expedition to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia Islands, and Antarctica, **DICK MORTEN**, BS '62 (sociology), has traveled to all seven continents and more than 90 countries 3. At the top of Mount St. Helens, **AMY CALLAHAN TREVINO** (right), BS '92 (physical education), and daughter, Gabriella, framed Mount Rainier in “O”-ppropriate fashion 4. The **EGAN** Ducks flocked together at home in Portland (left to right): **MICHAEL**, BS '87 (speech: rhetoric and communication); **NANCI**, BS '88 (economics); **CONOR**, BS '17 (economics); and **EMMA**, BS '20 (public relations) 5. Vatnajökull glacier was also the destination for a snowmobile trip by the **ANDERSONS**—**EARL**, MA '67, PhD '70 (English), and **HAZEL DILLON**, BA '68 (English) 6. In Curaçao, **TOM CALLAHAN**, BS '77 (history), and **MICHAEL CASEY**, BS '74 (leisure studies and services), came across a “se-duck-tive” ride 7. **KENT TAYLOR**, BS '71 (community service and public affairs), took in Scotland’s Orkney Islands 8. Girls’ weekend in Scottsdale, Arizona, featured Gamma Phi Beta sisters (back, left to right) **CHRISSY (THEIS) MORSS**, BS '99 (journalism: advertising); **KATHERINE (MERRILL) FITZGERALD**, BA '99 (Spanish); **HILARY (KRATOCHVIL) MURPHY**, BS '99 (environmental studies), JD '02; **BECKY CARE**, BS '99 (sociology); and **ERIN WATKINSON**, BA '00 (Spanish) 9. **DOROTHY (McKAY) FUHRMAN**, BS '62 (sociology), and her grandson, Hayden, at Denali National Park and Preserve, Alaska



1



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1. MEREDITH DYALL (left), BA '20 (music, linguistics), and her sister, Felicity, at Glacier National Park, Montana **2. The TAYLORS—ANDY**, BA '80 (Japanese, journalism), **JUNKO**, BA '81 (journalism), and their three children—climbed Japan's 12,300-foot Mount Fuji in 2018 **3. BRIAN GARDNER**, BA '94 (political science), at Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon, Iceland, in October **4. LESLIE MACDONALD ROEMMER**, BS '77 (health education: community health), visited the Ngorongoro Crater while on safari in Kenya and Tanzania **5. JOHN FERGUSON**, BS '79 (general science), his daughter, Margot Yassick, and their dog hiked in Whittier, Alaska, and had stunning views of Portage Glacier **6.** On a cruise to the San Juan Islands (from left): **DEAN IVINS**, BS '82 (journalism), Captain Mike Hanten, and the **CARMICHAELS—BOB**, class of '64, and **JUDY**, BS '70 (sociology) **7. STEPHEN McLAUGHLIN**, BA '67 (Clark Honors College, economics), BS '67 (Clark Honors College, marketing), snorkeled in the Great Barrier Reef, Australia **8. JOHN FERGUSON**, BS '79 (general science), and his dad, Jim, 91, a Korean War veteran, at the US Marine Corps War Memorial, Arlington, Virginia



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No Ducking the Fight Song

BY RAPHE BECK

When I tell people that I run the University of Oregon Alumni Association, they sometimes ask, “Is that a real job?”

I get it. I absolutely love my job, and I’m honored to serve both the UO and its graduates. But I acknowledge that when I meet alumni I’m often standing at a reception or a tailgate with a drink in my hand. Are there real jobs where you can perform one of your core duties while holding a beer? Indeed there are.

There’s even a professional organization for alumni association directors. We hold conferences where colleagues from different schools can hold beers together. There are breakout sessions for this.

It was in preparation for my first such conference in 2019, when I was new in leading the UOAA, that I experienced a very stressful challenge. A colleague from another school called to make sure I was planning to attend the conference. And then, in an offhanded way, he dropped a bomb on me.

“At dinner, the new people stand up one-by-one to introduce themselves,” he said. “And then you have to sing your school’s fight song.”

Wait, what? I started to get a little queasy.

I mean, do YOU know the fight song? Not just clapping along, but the actual words?

The UOAA gives students T-shirts with the “Mighty Oregon” lyrics printed on the back, so hypothetically they can read the person’s shirt in front of them at a game.

But at the conference, there wouldn’t be a person in front of me, and even if there were, I guess it would be some other school’s lyrics on their shirt. No, I had to have “Mighty Oregon” down cold, and I quickly learned that there are three challenges to doing so:

1. THE RHYME

Like many Americans raised east of the Mississippi, I was taught to say “Oregon” with a generous helping of “GON” at the end, roughly like the conclusion of the word “polygon.” When I arrived on the West Coast, I was reeducated to say “Oregn” with as little closing vowel as possible. Only a troglodyte says “Ore-GON.”

But in our fight song we guard our alma mater on and on, and then, uh oh, how do I rhyme “on and on” with “Oregon” without sounding like a total polygon?

2. THE ORDER

Each line of the song is self-contained and could basically come in any sequence. You get no clues as to which thought comes next. Is it time to cheer or to gather ‘round? Are we singing the story or chanting her glory? Who can say? We’re lost in a linguistic wilderness.



3. THE LANGUAGE

“Mighty Oregon” was written in 1916, and it shows. What does it mean for us to “roar the praises of her warriors”? Did people back then say things like “That Teddy Roosevelt, I’d sure like to roar his praises!”?

Nonetheless, I was determined to get this right, and I spent every waking minute practicing for three weeks. In the car, in the shower, you name it. I had terrible anxiety dreams: I was back in high school taking a math exam I didn’t study for, while a football player is running straight at me. Over the loudspeaker I hear, “Kenny Wheaton is gonna score! And then Raphe Beck is gonna sing the fight song!” Good grief.

I arrived at my conference bleary-eyed and clammy. Before dinner the president of our organization reminded me that I would introduce myself at dinner. “I know,” I said sheepishly, “and then I sing the fight song.”

“No,” he said, “we stopped doing that last year.” I almost dropped my beer. “Are you sure?” “Yeah,” he said. “Everyone hated it.”

And just like that, I was spared. Three weeks of stress wasted on a discontinued ritual.

But maybe you’ll be at a basketball game this season, and when “Mighty Oregon” plays, you’ll hear a lone voice singing. It’s me.

And if perhaps you’re singing along, too, please know that I am absolutely roaring your praises. After all, it’s my job.

Raphe Beck is executive director of the UO Alumni Association.

See this story at oregonquarterly.com for a link to recordings of “Mighty Oregon” by various artists.

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