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QUARTERLY
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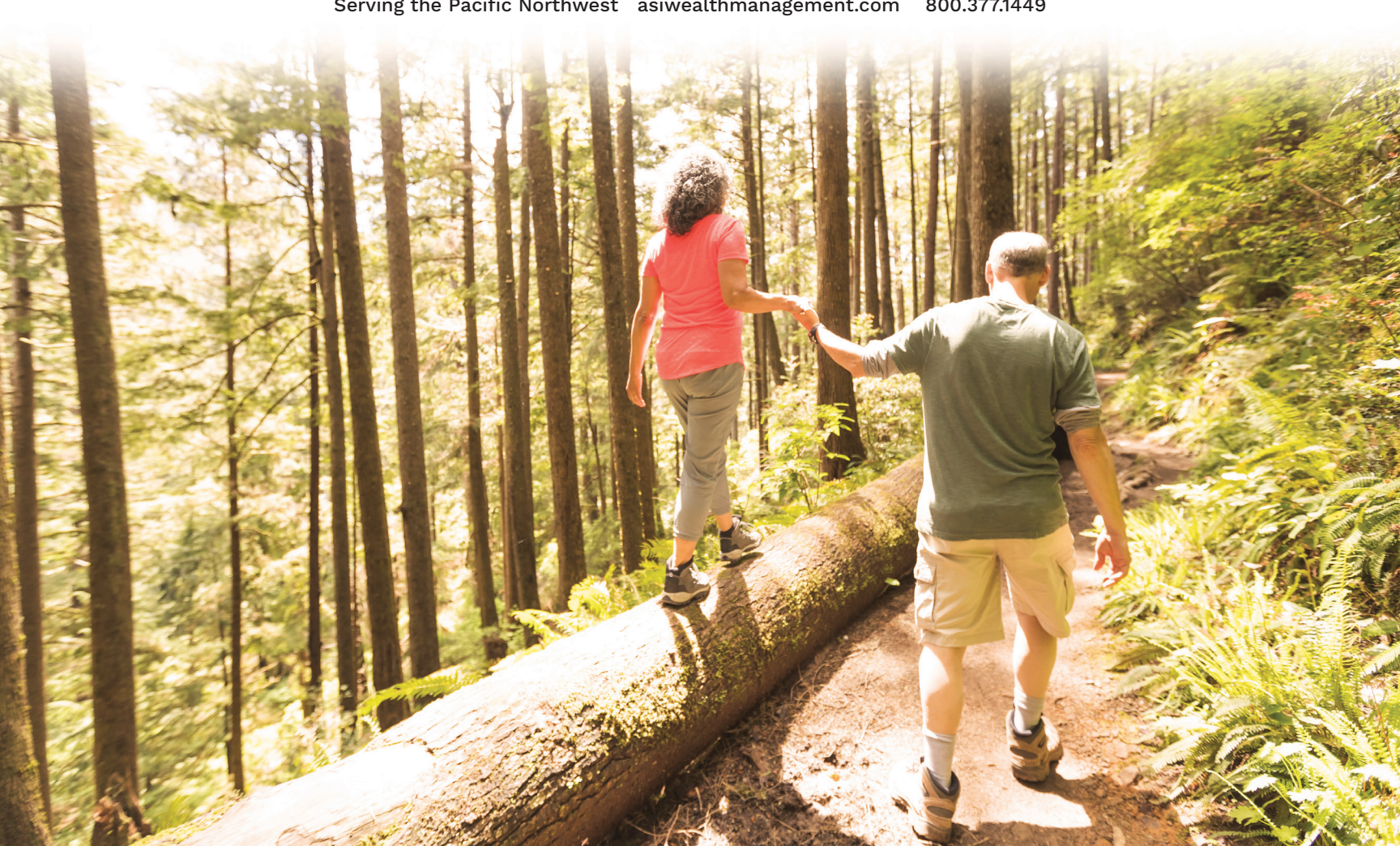
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- Imani, board member since May 2021
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- Elvia, team member since Jun 2021
- Hayden, team member since Jan 2022
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Stepping Up for Children in Crisis with Resolve and Creativity

It is a rare and special thing to conceive of something that will transform lives. And rarer still to bring such a concept to life. That's what the University of Oregon has done with the creation of The Ballmer Institute for Children's Behavioral Health. Thanks to a gift of more than \$425 million from Connie and Steve Ballmer, the UO will establish a new approach to addressing the behavioral and mental health crisis facing youth today.

The Portland-based Ballmer Institute will train a new workforce of behavioral health practitioners and will create and deliver prevention and intervention strategies directly to children and families. By joining forces with public schools, the state of Oregon, and community organizations, we will create a national model for delivering care directly to K-12 youth.

The idea for the Ballmer Institute emerged from an urgent need to address the children's behavioral wellness crisis, the UO's ability and desire to find solutions, and the visionary generosity of the Ballmers.

Last December, US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy declared the state of our children's mental health a public health crisis, beyond even the damaging effects of the pandemic. Given the UO's world-renowned expertise in psychology and education, our faculty members knew they could help in an immediate and lasting way. We just needed the means. Fortunately, our alumna and former trustee Connie Ballmer, BS '84 (journalism), and Steve Ballmer, well-known for their generous support of children's causes, stepped up with a gift that allows us to get right to work.

Since the announcement of the Ballmer Institute in March, the Board of Trustees has approved our purchase of the former Concordia University campus in northeast Portland, which will be home to the program. The institute has already begun signing on faculty members. A certificate program for midcareer professionals

will be offered this summer. And the institute is taking steps to develop and seek approval of a new undergraduate degree program. To help ensure our ability to build a new workforce, \$100 million of the gift is an endowment that will provide scholarships for students entering the behavioral and mental health care field.

In short: help is on the way. This undertaking will begin providing solutions and relief in months, not decades, and will create lasting impact, helping generations of young people and families.

While the Ballmer Institute concept is new, our faculty and students have been creating this kind of meaningful impact through education, research, and service since the university's inception almost 150 years ago. It is our mission, as a public research university, to improve the world.

As you read this, our university is stepping forward to fulfill its mission for the greater public good. Our students, faculty, and public partners are applying their brilliant, curious minds to solutions. And our generous friends, like the Ballmers, are providing precious resources to make action possible. Together, through The Ballmer Institute for Children's Behavioral Health, we are creating a brighter, healthier future for our state—and ultimately, society as a whole.

Success is imperative. Nothing less than the well-being of our children and families is at stake.

Michael H. Schill
President and Professor of Law



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NEW ROOTS FOR POLLINATORS

In a land burned and ravaged by wildfire, Lauren Ponisio saw an opportunity for beneficial bees. Students and alumni are working to put the plan into action.

BY TIM CHRISTIE

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SECURITY BEHIND THE SCENES

UO computer science experts are quietly working to safeguard cybersecurity before threats occur.

BY ROSEMARY HOWE CAMOZZI

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A mining bee rests on a leaf after gathering golden pollen from a dandelion.

PHOTO BY JOHN KIMBLER



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SARAH NORTHROP, BS '20, JOURNALISM (TOP); DUSTIN WHITAKER, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS (INSET); COURTESY SKYE FITZGERALD

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Singing Raphe's Praises

Even though University of Oregon statues of the Pioneer Mother and Pioneer have been removed, along with the original name of Deady Hall, I'm glad to hear that "Mighty Oregon" is still being sung ("No Ducking the Fight Song," Winter 2022). Thanks, Raphe, for helping to keep this spirited tradition alive!

Vicki Smith Ross, BA '71 (Spanish)

Anchorage, Alaska

Loved the Raphe Beck article, "No Ducking the Fight Song," in the winter *Oregon Quarterly*. Very clever writing. In a songbook we picked up years ago at an estate sale, we noticed that there are two verses to "Mighty Oregon," and that the lick we all love to sing—or at least clap to—is actually the chorus only ("Oregon our alma mater, we will guard thee on and on . . ."). Who knew? This songbook, published in 1919, hails from the days of glee clubs and fraternity serenades, with each song relating to the U of O in some way. A few even allude to the call of duty in World War I. Call us up sometime and we'll sing you a few.

Anne Kolibaba Larkin, BA '78 (English)

Jerome Patrick Larkin, MA '78 (journalism)

Portland, Oregon

CORRECTIONS: Nichole Kelly is an Evergreen Professor in the College of Education and Trygve Faste is head of the Department of Product Design; articles in the winter issue misstated their titles.

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.

Oregon

QUARTERLY

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
SPRING 2022 • VOLUME 101 NUMBER 3

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ADVERTISING SALES Ross Johnson, Oregon Media

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OREGON QUARTERLY is published by the UO in January, April, July, and October and distributed free to members of the alumni association and cost-sharing schools and departments. Printed in the USA. © 2022 University of Oregon. All rights reserved. Views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the UO administration.

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Alumni Records, 1204 University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon 97403-1204;

541-302-0336, alumrec@uofoundation.org

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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.

The University of Oregon is an equal-opportunity, affirmative-action institution committed to cultural diversity and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This publication will be made available in accessible formats upon request.



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Ballmer Group Philanthropy



Connie Ballmer, Co-Founder,
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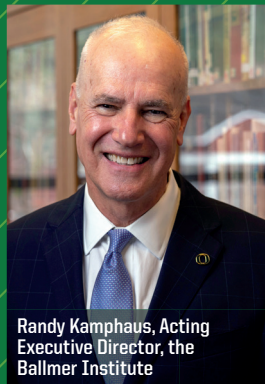
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TACKLING CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The Ballmer Institute for Children's Behavioral Health at the University of Oregon is a bold, partnership-driven endeavor to address the behavioral and mental health care needs of Oregon's children.

Made possible by a gift of more than \$425 million from Connie and Steve Ballmer, the institute brings together the UO's top-ranked research programs, Oregon public schools and families, and community groups to support our most important resource—our children.

The Ballmer Institute will create a new level of behavioral health professionals while also accelerating development and delivery of leading-edge interventions. This transformational effort provides a \$100 million endowment for scholarships, aiming to infuse public schools with 200 graduates a year—diverse practitioners for diverse populations—ready to deliver science-based early detection, prevention, and treatment strategies directly into the lives of children and families.

To learn more, visit

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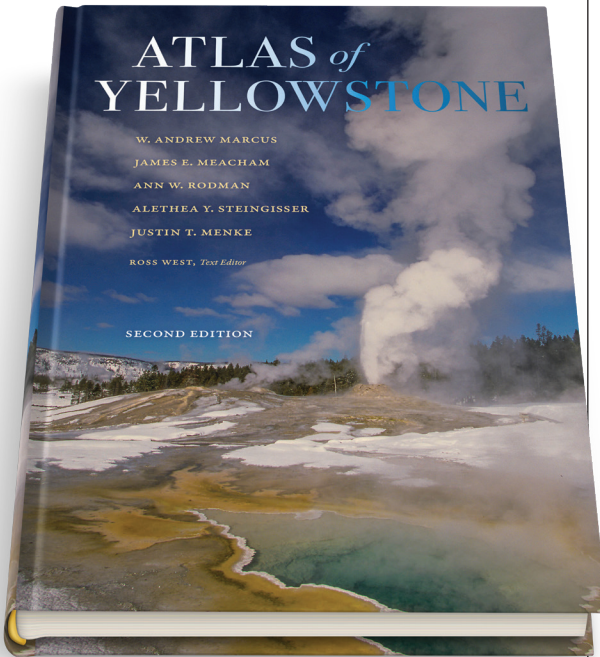
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intro



DAWN PATROL

Rowing is a year-round sport at the University of Oregon, with women's and men's clubs that have been competing against the best in the nation for more than 50 years. The teams train south of Eugene at Dexter Lake, which provided the backdrop for this image of the varsity men. The men return to Dexter May 15 for the Pac-12 championships; the women row there May 14 in the Women's Invitational. Visit uorowing.org for more information.



ARE PEOPLE WHO THEY “POST” TO BE?

Some say lying is rampant in the digital world—in texts, posts and tweets, email, and video chats. Not true, says David Markowitz, an assistant professor in the School of Journalism and Communication who studies computer-mediated communication.

Last summer, he recorded a week’s worth of interactions of 250 people, including face-to-face and through social media, phone, text, video chat, and email. The results, he says, echoed those from a 2004 study, well before the spread of the new technologies: people tend to lie when the give-and-take is fast and fluid or isn’t recorded, and when distance separates the parties—phone calls, for example.

Markowitz found few differences in lying rates across the new technologies. The bigger factor was one’s tendency to lie.

But the real surprise? There was a low rate of lying across the board.

“Most people were honest. That’s consistent with theories that suggest most people are honest most of the time and there are only a few prolific liars in a population,” Markowitz says. “The belief that lying is rampant in the digital age just doesn’t match the data.”

HAPPY 150TH, YELLOWSTONE

Fans of Yellowstone National Park—the first national park in the US—celebrated the 150th anniversary of its founding March 1.

Those fans include University of Oregon geography experts who, concurrent with the park’s big birthday, have published their second edition of the *Atlas of Yellowstone*.

The book is filled with more than 1,000 maps, photographs, and personal essays that tell the story of Yellowstone in terms of park management, conservation, and American culture. It’s the work of a team that includes Andrew Marcus, senior editor; James Meacham, cartographic editor; Alethea Steingisser, cartographic production; and Justin Menke, graduate researcher and cartographer, all affiliated with the Department of Geography.

The second edition introduces issues such as who visits national parks, as well as stories and data that represent and include indigenous populations throughout the book. The team worked with 130 experts to piece together the diverse subjects and stories surrounding Yellowstone.

Visit oregonquarterly.page.link/yellowstone for more information.



THE CAT’S MEOW

Meet some of the world’s most charismatic—and endangered—animals in Photo Ark, a National Geographic exhibit at the Museum of Natural and Cultural History. The exhibit features portraits from photographer Joel Sartore, who is inspiring conservation efforts by documenting 20,000 species living in the world’s zoos and wildlife sanctuaries, including this federally endangered Florida panther, *Puma concolor coryi*, at ZooTampa at Lowry Park.

Visit natgeophotoark.org for information about the project, and mnch.uoregon.edu/visit for museum hours. The exhibit is on view at the museum through May 29.

HOW TO BE A CLOSER

Anna Mueller, a junior in public relations, excels in mock trial—court simulations pitting schools against each other in a contest of critical thinking, public speaking, and knowledge of legal practice. In March, she guided the University of Oregon team to the preliminary competition for the national championship; Mueller is also ranked 15th nationally as an individual performer. She’s a closer—she summarizes the team’s case during final arguments—and for *Oregon Quarterly* she laid down the law on how to win over judges and juries:



- 1. NO “I” IN TEAM:** “When I close, it’s a summary of all the cool things my teammates did during the trial—without their good performances, I have nothing to talk about. Beyond that, especially with Zoom mock trial, while I’m talking they’re behind the camera giving me pieces of evidence, coaching, key points to hit. It’s very collaborative.”
- 2. A NO-DOZE ZONE:** “I have to be focused on everything for 2.5 hours—I can’t check out ever. Every comment, every bit of evidence, every objection—I have to formulate an argument based on that. If I give a memorized speech, it won’t match what happened. We generally get five minutes to prepare closing arguments but sometimes we just go right to them.”
- 3. ASSERTIVE, NOT AGGRESSIVE:** “Any attorney who is too aggressive in their argumentation can damage their credibility. But there’s a double standard for women particularly. I’ve been told I’m too loud ‘for a woman,’ I’ve been told to smile more. I’ve received one too many unnecessary comments on my appearance. I can’t be as loud or forceful as my male teammates.”
- 4. BE A SHOWSTOPPER:** “At the same time, I’m a wake-up call to a judge who has perhaps mentally dozed off. I need to be very entertaining—our coach calls it ‘sauce.’ I’ve knocked over buckets being used as props, I’ve ripped up documents. At the University of Washington, I tore down a poster they had placed over our presentation. It’s very fun to walk across a courtroom, strut up to something, and yank it down.”



Hannah Tavalire (right) oversees testing at McArthur Court by students, including Marley Gilman

BY THE NUMBERS: RESPONDING TO COVID-19

Oregon reported the first suspected case of coronavirus February 28, 2020. Last month, almost exactly two years later, the University of Oregon celebrated a critical turning point: the end of campus mask mandates, which allowed students, faculty, and staff to return for spring term with optimism. Over the last two years, the UO has met the challenge of the pandemic with a spirit of service:

220,000+ Free tests administered by UO Monitoring and Assessment Program

14 Campus vaccine events and supported Lane County clinics at Autzen Stadium, Lane Community College, and Lane Events Center

153,000 Free face coverings distributed to UO community

50,240 Saliva tests collected from Oregon K-12 students

168 Students who have worked for Corona Corps, tracing contacts and assisting students who tested positive

\$27.4 million Federal COVID-19-related aid disbursed to UO students



Ambati, who earned distinction as “world’s youngest doctor,” lectures April 14

Clear Vision

Knight Campus researchers develop gene therapy for eye disease

BY LEWIS TAYLOR

Fuchs’ dystrophy is a genetic eye disease affecting roughly one in 2,000 people globally. It involves a die-off of cells in the cornea, resulting in cloudy vision. The only treatment is corneal transplant, which is complicated and expensive.

But Balamurali Ambati has his sights set on an alternative to eye surgery.

Ambati, a research professor in the Phil and Penny Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact, is leading a team that is developing a gene therapy that could eventually treat Fuchs’ endothelial corneal dystrophy. His group recently published the results of an eight-year study that was supported by the National Institutes of Health and the National Eye Institute.

“If you had a medical treatment that did not require surgery, that would be great,” Ambati says. “Not only could it help patients who need a transplant, but it could also help a lot of other people who could have used that corneal tissue.”

Ambati, a corneal surgeon known for his work in drug delivery and ocular angiogenesis—the formation of blood vessels in the eyes—has performed thousands of cataract surgeries and other vision correction procedures. His expertise includes advanced lens implants, laser cataract surgery, cornea transplants, iris repair, and other cornea procedures.

Even before his research successes, Ambati was known for his academic prowess. He graduated from New York University at age 13, and at 17 he completed his medical degree from Mount Sinai School of Medicine, earning him distinction from the *Guinness Book of World Records* as the world’s youngest doctor. He was cited in 2015 as the No. 1 eye surgeon in a “top 40 under 40” global competition and joined the Knight Campus in 2020.

In his investigation of potential remedies for Fuchs’ disease, Ambati and his team tested an innovative approach to treat the condition in which infusions modify cells by repairing or reconstructing defective genetic material.

Fuchs’ dystrophy involves cells in the corneal layer called the endothelium; these cells normally pump fluid from the cornea to keep it clear. When they die, fluid builds up and stressed cells produce structures known as guttae.

Ambati’s team used a revolutionary approach called CRISPR-Cas9, which is a genome-editing technique that knocks out a mutant form of a protein that is associated with the disease.

“We were able to stop this toxic protein expression and study it in a mouse model,” says Hiro Uehara, a senior research associate in Ambati’s lab and a coauthor on the paper. “Our treatment was able to rescue loss of corneal endothelial cells, reduce guttata-like structures, and preserve the corneal endothelial cell pump function.”

Corneal cells don’t reproduce, meaning you’re born with all of those you will ever have. Uehara developed an approach that could eventually lead to treatments for other conditions involving nonreproducing cells, including some neurologic and immune diseases, and certain genetic disorders affecting the joints.

The research team included Xiaohui Zhang, Sangeetha Ravi Kumar, and Bonnie Archer from the Ambati lab and investigators from the University of Virginia, the University of Utah, the University of Massachusetts, and Johns Hopkins University.

Future research will examine the therapy in human donor corneas from eye banks and other animal models, with an eye toward eventual clinical testing in humans.

“The mission of the Knight Campus, at the end of the day, is to help people, by bringing scientific advances and by translating projects into products,” Ambati says. “Translational life science research projects like this one have clear value to modifying disease.”

Lewis Taylor is director of communications for the Phil and Penny Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact.

||| Knight Campus research professor Balamurali Ambati discusses corneal transplantation during Science Knight Out, a public lecture at 4:00 p.m. Thursday, April 14. Visit accelerate.uoregon.edu/science-knight-out for details.

Remember This Hung Liu at Trillium

February 5 - August 28, 2022



Hung LIU (LIU Hung 刘虹, Chinese-born American, 1948-2021). **Loveland**, 2010 Mixed-media triptych, 41 x 81 ½ inches Gift of Artist Hung Liu and Trillium Graphics/David Salgado

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.



On Earth

A Fragile Existence

April 2 to September 18, 2022

On Earth: A Fragile Existence highlights works from the JSMA's collection that reflect a multi-layered understanding of humanity's role in our shared ecology with the non-human, or more-than-human, world. You'll be joined in the galleries by curators and special guests.

Weegee (Arthur Fellig) (American, b. Ukraine, 1899-1968), **Coney Island Beach**, 1938 or 1939, Gelatin silver print, 10 x 8 in., Gift of Ellen and Alan Newberg



Some marine worm larvae are hunters, catching and devouring prey as seen in this time-lapse image

Little Critters, Big Bite

Marine biologists discover larval worms that are meat eaters

BY LAUREL HAMERS

Some marine worm larvae are pint-sized predators. The small, blobby babies, less than a millimeter long, ensnare and devour microscopic crustaceans and other prey living in plankton, University of Oregon marine biologists report.

Their observations suggest a new lifestyle option for larval-stage invertebrates in the ocean. Scientists usually think of plankton-dwelling larvae growing either by grazing on nanoplankton or relying on remnants of the egg's yolk to become full-fledged adults. Instead, it appears there's a third strategy: carnivory.

"One of the big surprises is that these nondescript wormlets are very efficiently taking down some of the fastest prey out there," says George von Dassow, of the Department of Biology. He and his colleagues, including Svetlana Maslakova, also in the biology department, and visiting graduate student Cecili Mendes, describe their findings in the March issue of the research journal *Invertebrate Biology*.

The discovery began the way so many do: via a combination of procrastination and curiosity. Von Dassow, based at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology in Charleston, works just a short walk from the ocean. Sometimes, when he needs a break, he walks down to the marina to collect a sample of seawater and then takes it back to the lab.

If you peer into a bowl of plankton-filled seawater long enough, you're bound to see something interesting, he says.

Von Dassow had a hunch of what to look for. Maslakova, his wife, is an expert on the development of ribbon worms, a diverse group of slim, often colorful marine predators. She had long suspected that their seemingly simple larvae were feeding on something in plankton, but they didn't seem interested in algae.

DNA sequencing experiments suggested the larvae might be carnivorous, but the scientists hadn't seen it in action.

One March afternoon three years ago, von Dassow was examining a bowl containing a variety of plankton-dwelling larvae when he spotted a larval-stage ribbon worm sucking vigorously on the armpit of a larger crustacean. As adults, these worms are often top predators in seafloor food webs; they look like ruffly ribbons or chunky tubes.

Their larvae are small blobs covered in hairs called cilia. They seem to lack many features biologists usually associate with a plankton-feeding lifestyle—for example, elaborate ciliated arms or lobes. Instead, as von Dassow watched, this unassuming creature extracted and ingested every bit of meat from its victim, leaving an empty shell.

When the researchers looked further, they found many species of marine worm larvae engaged in hunting. (A major benefit to being based at this field station near the Pacific Ocean: scientists have front-row access to the marine organisms they study.)

The researchers studied mostly ribbon worm larvae and flatworm larvae. They ran observational tests, giving the worms different prey to assess their preferences and whether the animals could grow to adulthood on a carnivorous diet. And they sequenced DNA to match the wild-caught larvae to known species of adult worms.

The team observed hundreds of feeding events, capturing many with a video camera or a series of photos. Their images revealed a variety of hunting strategies. Lacking the most rudimentary sensory organs, the pelagic predators don't seem to pursue prey through plankton. Instead, some worm larvae act like marine spiders, secreting strands of gooey mucus that ensnare prey in web-like nets.

Some larvae use a long proboscis to strike and stun prey. Others grab onto prey, find a crack, and then scoop out and swallow the flesh within.

Harvesting algae, as many marine larvae do, is a lot of work to get adequate nutrition. And larvae fed via egg yolk are a big energy investment for parents and are especially tasty to predators, making them vulnerable to attack. So, for some marine invertebrates, snagging nutrient-dense meals via hunting could be a better alternative.

“Rather than building specialized body parts for catching lots of tiny meals, why not just eat someone else who went to the trouble to do so?” von Dassow asks.

Marine worm larvae may seem inconsequential, but they’re a key part of ocean food webs, von Dassow says. “When people think about how plankton works, and how it connects to life cycles and food webs more generally, it’s important to know how things are making a living there.”

The work also has close-to-home implications for Oregonians. One of the worm species studied is a parasite of the Dungeness crab, a pillar of the state’s fishing industry. The adult worms live on crabs and prey upon their eggs; the worms lay their own eggs among the crab’s brood. Hatchling larvae disperse, and then come back to crab hosts as adults.

The study helps illuminate a previously unknown link in the life cycle of that parasite: knowing what the larvae eat during the dispersal stage could help researchers better understand possible threats to the crab population.

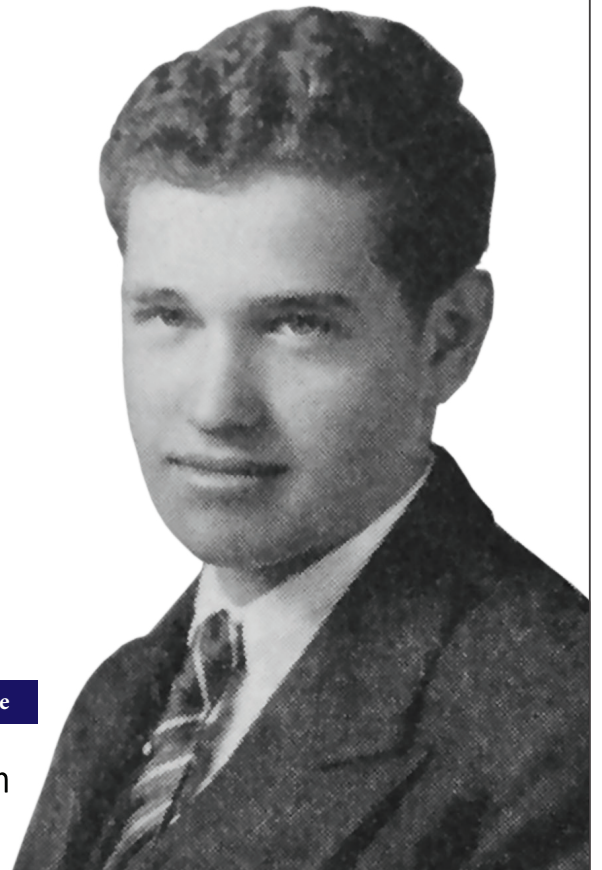
Laurel Hamers is a staff writer for University Communications.



George von Dassow taking samples on the docks in Charleston

In 1932, this 19-year-old iconoclast was named editor of the Oregon Daily Emerald

Richard Neuberger became one of the most consequential Oregonians of the 20th Century. Read about his life in *Eminent Oregonians*.



Eminent Oregonians

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Changing Lives, Including Their Own

In recognition of the Peace Corps' 60th birthday last year, alumni who served revisit their experiences

BY MATT COOPER

The toughest job you'll ever love. That motto followed the creation of the Peace Corps in March 1961, two months after President John F. Kennedy had called for establishing the US service program in words just as familiar: "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."

Over 60 years, more than 230,000 volunteers have served in 140 countries, providing social and economic development assistance. A lot of those volunteers came from the University of Oregon.

In fact, the UO is a national leader for the corps, ranking in the top 20 among colleges and universities with more than 1,300 alumni having served. "Peace Corps service exemplifies so much about the quality and purpose of a UO education," says Dennis Galvan, dean and vice provost of the Division of Global Engagement. "For generations, our students and alumni have been inspired to think beyond themselves, appreciate and deeply understand the wider world, and make a meaningful contribution to global challenges."



▲ **Susan Ordonez**, BA '09 (psychology), MNM '18 (nonprofit management), at right in photo, served in South Africa, providing HIV outreach to youth and inspiring empowerment among girls.

"One of the most important skills I learned in Peace Corps is flexibility," Ordonez says. "Being able to be adaptable in your work is an important skill, since few jobs are exactly what you expect them to be. There will always be uncertainty and change, and the ability to adapt and work within that uncertainty has always served me well."



▲ "Many of the skills that I apply on a day-to-day basis are ones that I learned during my time [in the Peace Corps]: patience, determination, and creativity."

Erik English, BA '09 (English), taught English in Klouékanmè, Benin, and today works in international development for the United Nations.



◀ "You don't need all the answers. You only need to know to find those who can help you find the path forward."

Assigned to help create an academic institution to serve economic needs in post-Communist Poland, **Michele Tarnow**, BA '89 (journalism: advertising, international studies), relied on guidance from two UO professors: Jonathan Brand, a visiting faculty member and then

head of creative at J. Walter Thompson advertising, New York, and David Boush, a marketing professor.

"So much of your environment in the Peace Corps is new and uncharted territory that you have to be able to adapt to, and in order to be effective at adapting, you have to listen and be able to 'read the room.'"

Ken Gulick, MBA '98 (general business), MA '98 (international studies), served two years in Fiji, where he led a school program on the sciences for 200 students.



◀ “Be flexible, recognize that everyone is going through their own personal struggles, and be kind to yourself.”

Scarlett Sanudo, BA '13 (psychology), in 2019–20 worked with child laborers in Quito, Ecuador, many of them traumatized and prone to violent behavior. She coordinated self-care workshops for a foundation that supported the children, helping teachers, psychologists, and social workers reduce their own stress.



▲ Following his graduation in 1963 with a history degree, **Victor Tomseth** taught at an all-boys school in Nepal.

He doubted that his service made much of an impact. But when he returned to the area 17 years later, he found that the students of corps volunteers, including some of his own, had gained positions in the Nepali government and had become “leading change agents.”

Says Tomseth: “Seeing that growth was amazing and cemented, for me, the impact the Peace Corps can have on the lives of the individuals that they serve.”

▶ “I taught them English and in turn, they taught me about human connection.”

Lee Grant, MS '67 (journalism), served in retirement, teaching kids in a village on the South Pacific Island of Vanuatu. He shared in their joys and sorrows—acing a reading assignment, losing a loved one. Now he volunteers in San Diego, helping youth who are homeless. “I bring the skills I learned in the corps,” Grant says, “and fulfill one of their core goals—to bring our experiences back home and share them.”



Bao Le, BA '01 (history), educated a West African village about dangerous parasites and diseases and later taught English to 400 students a day in Chad.

“Serving in the Peace Corps,” Le says, “is like executing diplomacy at the grassroots level, but without a hidden agenda.”



◀ As she neared the end of her education, **Sarah Wardwell**, BS '05 (biology), hadn't found an inspiring career path so she followed her heart and became a Peace Corps volunteer.

In Papua New Guinea, she taught middle school science and helped implement a first-ever training program for teachers. One memorable moment: during a lesson for students on how circuits

work in a flashlight, she asked for questions. Everyone had the same one: “What is a wire?”

“The students in my village had never seen wires because they had no electricity,” she says. “Communication isn't just about getting the right words, it's making sure we're starting with the same basis of understanding.”



▲ Working through Peace Corp China, **Boarder “Teddy” Tsai** (foreground, right), BA '18 (Clark Honors College, art), taught English to art students in 2019–20.

Inspired by his own teachers' assertions that art can be a means of problem-solving, Tsai used the medium to connect with his students. He recalled an evening he spent in his apartment with students, during which the group completed five-minute portraits of one another.

“It was a great icebreaker and was a fantastic opportunity for cultural exchange,” Tsai says. “While people argued that our efforts were ill-spent in a ‘developed’ nation like China, with the number of misconceptions our nations have for each other, the human-to-human interactions that Peace Corps provided were more than necessary.”

Matt Cooper is managing editor for *Oregon Quarterly*.

≡ Visit career.uoregon.edu/peacecorps for more information.



Let's Get This Party (Re)started

After going virtual for a year, the UO Hip-Hop Jam returned to celebrate diverse communities and hip-hop culture—while teaching first-year students the business of event planning

BY JASON STONE, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

PHOTOS BY SARAH NORTHROP, BS '20 (JOURNALISM)



Not even the coronavirus can keep a good party down. Near the end of fall term in December, hundreds of University of Oregon students, community members, and music fans of all ages converged safely in Global Scholars Hall to celebrate the art and culture of hip-hop. The crowd came not just to sing along, try out their best dance moves, and show off '80s-inspired fashions—but also to renew and reenergize an important bond of campus community.

When the first UO Hip-Hop Jam went off in 2014, it was launched with the idea that a group of first-year students would learn about race, society, and community building not by attending a rap concert—but by putting one on.

“It was an incredibly grassroots event,” recalls event founder André Sirois, PhD '11 (communication and society), a senior instructor with the Department of Cinema Studies and the School of Music and Dance. “It was manifested to meet a need for more community building and more diverse perspectives in the curriculum at the UO. In a very authentic way, these events are incredibly inclusive.”

At the inaugural Jam, Sirois—who performs professionally as DJ food stamp—appeared as part of the lineup. Spin forward almost a decade: Sirois, now a member of the faculty, teaches Hip Hop and Politics of Race, a program in which first-year students put on the event.

“From the beginning, it’s been about bringing together all the hip-hop arts: MCs, DJs, beat makers, bgirls and bboys, and live graffiti painting,” Sirois says. “Alumni are regular participants now, and we’ve had some really important regional and national acts. Most years, we’re drawing 400 or 500 people.”

The pandemic presented obstacles. The 2020 concert was held in a livestream format with virtual workshops on dance, beat making, and aerosol art. Last fall, with UO students returning to mostly in-person



Ducks basketballer Sedona Prince and André “DJ food stamp” Sirois (top) kept the beat bumping for rappers Mic Capes (left) and Jordan Fletcher, while many showcased their best moves

instruction, the event was held live in the context of a “new normal” nationwide that included masks, vaccination protocols, and a broader awareness of issues of race, security, and policing.

As always, students in their first term of college helped in every stage of concert planning, from selecting and booking artists to marketing.

Victoria Ginzburg, a journalism and ethnic studies major from Marin, California, found the hip-hop program so inspiring she returned during her junior and senior years. As a student-employee assistant for first-year programs such as this one, she helps other students adjust to college.

“I hope they walk away with a greater sense of agency, feeling more confident in themselves not only as students, but as members of the community,” she says. “They really see the impact they can make in just one term at the university.”

According to Sirois, this experience provides some of the most valuable outcomes he can offer as an instructor—especially for first-year students.

“While this class specifically engages with the artistic practices and social history of hip-hop,” he says, “it teaches a concrete set of skills they can later apply in producing and promoting all sorts of community, arts, and cultural events.”

Hannah Thomas

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF DANCE

BY JOSH GREN, COMMUNICATIONS, SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND DANCE
PHOTO BY DUSTIN WHITAKER, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Wandering the halls of the University of Oregon's Gerlinger Annex, absorbing the kinetic energy produced by a building full of dancers, is a visceral experience—enough to make one dream of a life in the performing arts.

Among the School of Music and Dance faculty members guiding these dancers to their dreams is Hannah Thomas, a new assistant professor of dance. Her dynamic personality and unique performance experience made her the right person to join the faculty and launch a bachelor of fine arts in dance degree program last fall. It's the first dance BFA in Oregon and the first in the nation with equal emphasis on dance rooted in Eurocentric forms and those of the African diaspora, the worldwide collection of communities descended from native Africans.

Thomas specializes in hip-hop and choreography, incorporating still moments, theatrical expressions of the body, large ensembles, solos, and music that directs the movement.

"I have two goals for inspiration when creating work," Thomas says. "The first is that the dancers are inspired to build trust and community with each other and themselves. The second is that the audience is moved. Every person may not feel the same thing, but my hope is they are engaged and along for the ride."

A MOVING INVITATION

Thomas created Duck Jam, a showcase of student hip-hop dancers open to the public (7 p.m., June 1, Gerlinger Annex, 1484 University Street). "I curated the event for students to be seen by each other, the UO community, and Eugene at-large, and to experience a more authentic reflection of hip-hop culture," Thomas says. She invites everyone to engage in the creative process, no matter what side of the curtain they're on: "Be present, converse on the topic, and support the work."



BIG MOMENT WITH BIG BOI

Growing up in Atlanta, Thomas began in the performing arts as a kindergartner and by age 12, she was teaching and choreographing at the church where her mother, Charlotte Dudley, ran the dance ministry.

A pivotal moment arrived when Thomas was 15: she performed with the Atlanta Ballet and Big Boi, of the progressive hip-hop duo OutKast, in the production, *big*.

"I remember very vividly being given a compliment from choreographer Lauri Stallings on the height of my jumps and commitment to the movement," Thomas says. "Dancing onstage with that vibrant and whimsical set as a young dancer catalyzed my desire to be a professional dance artist."

DANCING FOR JOY

Thomas was featured in this winter's faculty dance concert, which offered a hip-hop fusion work and explored human resilience, endurance, and finding strength in community.

Thanks to a research grant for new faculty, Thomas is developing a film project about Black joy, a cultural movement based on the premise of choosing pleasure to combat the traumas of racism. She's had award-winning success as the creative director of two dance films: *Strange Realities* and *This Must Be the Place*.

"I am very inspired by putting movement on film," Thomas says, "and allowing the camera to be one of the dancers."

BOOKMARKS

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



- ▶ *Solid Ivory: A Memoir* by James Ivory, BA '51 (fine and applied arts)
- ▶ *Manywhere: Stories* by Morgan Thomas, MFA '16 (creative writing)
- ▶ *Unforgiving Savage: A Peter Savage Novel* by Dave Edlund, PhD '87 (chemistry)
- ▶ *The Sound of Exclusion: NPR and the Latinx Public* by Christopher Chávez, associate professor, School of Journalism and Communication
- ▶ *Medieval Badges: Their Wearers and Their Worlds* by Ann Marie Rasmussen, BA '76 (German)
- ▶ *Oregon's Ancient Forests: A Hiking Guide* by Chandra LeGue, MS '01 (environmental studies)

QUEEN OF THE Bees

Biologist Lauren Ponisio has a plan to help the pivotal pollinators in the Pacific Northwest

BY TIM CHRISTIE | PHOTOS BY NIC WALCOTT

On a brilliant, balmy, late winter's afternoon, entomologist Lauren Ponisio walks along a ridge above the McKenzie River, through a landscape transformed by fire from a forest of Douglas fir into a blackened moonscape.

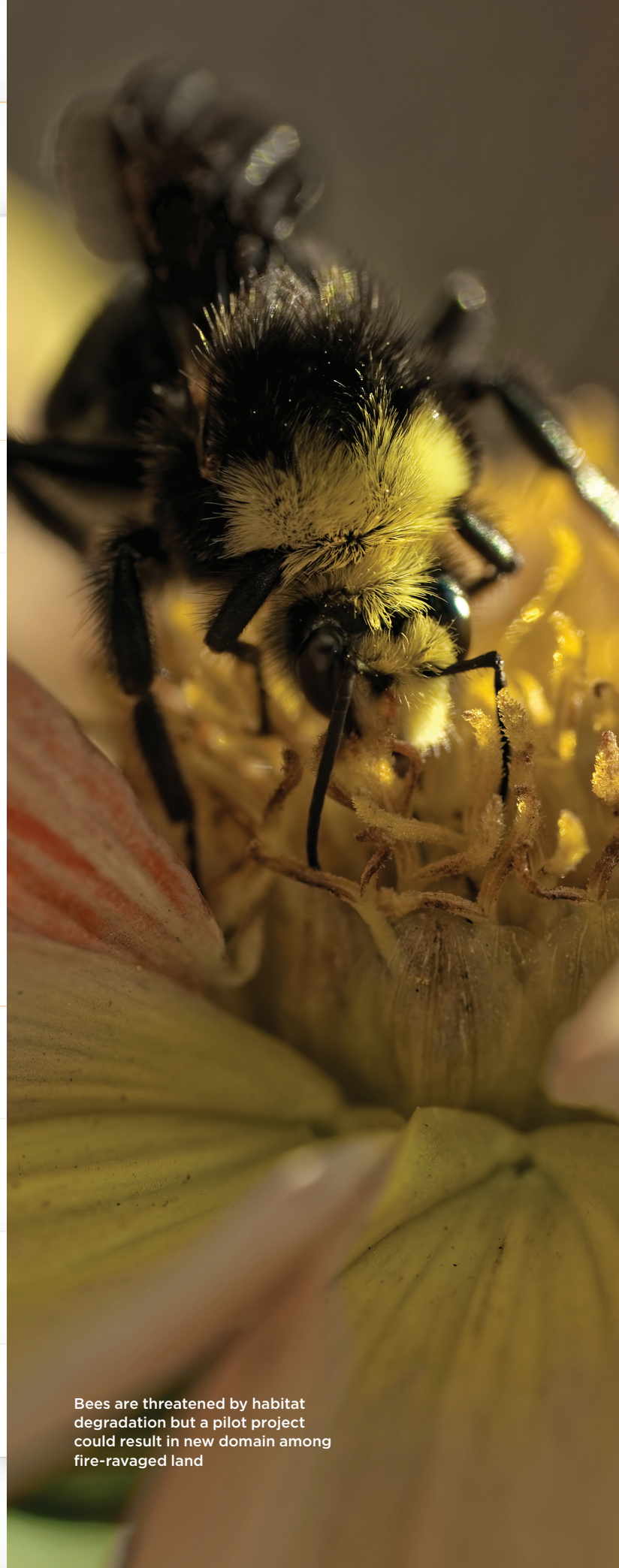
She stops to inspect the remnants of a slash pile strewn with blackened stumps and snags. White flags mark the spots where she and her students had sown native plant seeds the previous fall. Amid the rubble, she spots a few green leaves poking through the ashy soil.

The plot doesn't look like much right now. But Ponisio, an assistant biology professor at the University of Oregon, has high hopes that this pilot study could change how forestlands in the Northwest are managed, particularly post-harvest and post-fire, to the benefit of the humble, and troubled, wild bee.

"Look at them!" she says of the tiny emerging plants. "This will be full of bees. It's going to be great."

The idea is that reintroducing native plant species into what was a monoculture of fir trees will attract pollinators, such as *Bombus occidentalis*, a.k.a. the western bumblebee, which was once abundant across the West but whose numbers have crashed over the last quarter-century.

These patches of native plants could help native bee populations recover and keep them from being listed as threatened or endangered species, Ponisio says, thus "avoiding another spotted owl situation" that could trigger new restrictions on logging in Northwest forests.



Bees are threatened by habitat degradation but a pilot project could result in new domain among fire-ravaged land

Research Bee-ginnings

Ponisio joined the Department of Biology in 2020 and is also part of the UO Institute of Ecology and Evolution. She studies bees and their roles as pollinators, both in managed and natural-plant communities.

Her research has examined ways to persuade California almond growers to adopt more bee-friendly agricultural practices; discovered how native bee species may be best equipped to survive intensive agricultural practices and climate change; and analyzed how forest fires can help maintain pollinator biodiversity.

Growing up in California's fertile San Joaquin Valley, Ponisio lived in a community that was immersed in agriculture and the buzzing creatures that make it possible.

"The thing about growing up in Fresno is, you're just integrated into agriculture," she says. "You can't escape it."

Bees, Ponisio adds, were central to everything.

"I grew up with this core understanding that bees are incredibly important for agricultural systems," she says. "Even the newspaper was called the *Fresno Bee*."

In high school, Ponisio loved environmental science and biology, but she knew of few biology-based career paths.

"I was thinking, 'I love biology, so I'll be a doctor,'" Ponisio says. "It took me a while to realize, 'Oh, you can have a career, you can conduct research and you can just study ecology and that's a job.'"

Butterflies and a Transformation

As an undergraduate at Stanford University, Ponisio was taking premed classes but the courses that excited her were environment- and ecology-focused. During her freshman year, she heard about an opportunity to work on a summer research project with biology professor Carol Boggs, who was conducting a long-term study of high-elevation butterflies at a research station in the Colorado Rockies.

"I just thought I'll try this out and see what it's like," Ponisio says.

They would catch butterflies, gently write numbers on their wings, release them, and track them through the summer, which allowed the scientists to approximate the insects' population size.

After that experience, Ponisio knew her path had changed. Boggs, she says, "was really instrumental in my career."

"I had zero research experience, I had no knowledge of anything related to butterfly populations, and she gave me a shot," Ponisio says. "Without that shot, I would not



Lauren Ponisio



Ashy soil around blackened stumps and snags can be fertile ground for plants that bring bees

be a professor today. I remember that fact whenever undergraduate students express interest in working with me. I want to provide opportunities for them to experience research and fieldwork."

Boggs, now at the University of South Carolina, says fieldwork can often be transformative for students.

"It broadens their horizons of understanding landscapes and understanding ecologies," she says. "They get immersed in a field situation where they have to pay attention to various aspects of the natural world around them."

Boggs called Ponisio "one of the best undergrads I ever worked with, in terms of her smarts and stick-to-it-iveness, self-motivation, organization. It was very clear to me if she wanted to go into academia, there would be no problem whatsoever."

When Ponisio got back to campus, she says, she stopped taking premed classes and started taking lots of ecology courses.

"I secretly changed my major," she says. "I didn't tell my family. They really wanted me to be a doctor."



White flags (below right) mark spots sown with native plant seeds. As seedlings start to break through ashy soil, Ponisio demonstrates how to catch pollinators with a net.

Bees on the Brink

Ponisio gravitated to the study of bees because of their role as pollinators.

“I wanted to focus my research on how to make agriculture better for wildlife and for people,” she says.

More than 20,000 bee species exist in the world, including at least 630 distinct species in Oregon, according to the *Oregon Bee Atlas*.

Bees play a critical role in pollinating a wide variety of plants, trees, and flowers, including about 85 percent of cultivated crops worldwide.

But bees are in trouble, with habitat degradation, viruses, pesticides, and climate change among the culprits.

Beekeepers in the United States lost 45 percent of managed honey bee colonies from April 2020 to April 2021, according to the nonprofit Bee Informed Partnership, which supports the health and long-term sustainability of honey bees and other plant pollinators.

Native bees are suffering as well. Of the more than 4,000 native bee species in North America, more than half are in decline and one in four is imperiled and at increasing risk for extinction, according to a 2017 survey conducted by the Center for Biological Diversity, a nonprofit organization that protects endangered species through legal action and other means.

Just last year, Franklin’s bumblebee, found only in southern Oregon and northern California, was listed as endangered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Three other species are on the verge of being listed, Ponisio says.



Promise of New Life

That’s why Ponisio hopes her pollinator project up the McKenzie River Valley can make a difference.

After the Holiday Farm Fire burned more than 170,000 acres along the river corridor east of Eugene in 2020, Ponisio wondered whether landowners could be persuaded to leave room for wildlife habitat, instead of just replanting Douglas fir, especially in areas where the soil is thin or the slopes are steep.

She connected with Jim Russell, BS ’85 (management), and Jane Haake, BS ’84 (finance), a married couple who own Whitewater Ranch, a 1,700-acre spread along the river east of Leaburg that dates to the 1890s.

The fire tore through the ranch, sparing the couple’s home and 86 acres of organic blueberries, but burning an outbuilding, a 100-year-old dairy barn, nine antique farm vehicles, and 1,000 acres of Douglas fir.

Amid the devastation, Ponisio saw opportunity.

“I said, ‘It’s going to be such a great place for bees now,’”



Alumnus Jim Russell (above) opened his property to the project because he sees value in supporting native bees

Ponisio says. “Do you mind if we plant more flowers?’ And they’ve just been super supportive.”

Russell says he supports the project because he knows how important pollinators are for his blueberries. He prefers native bees to commercial colonies because the latter are expensive to hire and are vectors for disease.

“If we can use native pollinators,” Russell says, “we can reduce costs and reduce the spread of disease.”

Last fall, Ponisio and a few graduate students went to the ranch about a week after workers burned 200 slash piles on the ridge to clean up after the fire. Ponisio and the students sowed native plant seeds into 20 piles, picking 23 species that thrive in early successional forests.

“We picked the flowering plants we thought bees would visit, the ones with nice big flowers, and we got the seeds and we planted these little plots,” Ponisio says. “Our goal is to understand which plants do well in these environments.”

The Douglas fir saplings planted after the fire will grow with the flowers around them, so the researchers can determine which species can coexist with the young trees.

There’s already interest in the timber industry for supporting native bee populations, in part to forestall new regulations on forestry practices, Ponisio says. If her project can show it’s not hard to get these patches of native plants established, then maybe the timber industry will adopt the practice, she says.

“I like to hope change is coming,” Ponisio says. “Imagine driving down the road and instead of seeing the usual clear-cuts, you see meadows of wildflowers with all these happy bees. There would be so much bee habitat!”

Writer Tim Christie and photographer Nic Walcott are staff members of University Communications.



COMMITTED TO A LIVABLE FUTURE

The work that entomologist Lauren Ponisio conducts on bees fits into the deep and rich history of environment-related research at the University of Oregon, one of the university’s core academic strengths.

The Environment Initiative, one of five academic initiatives established by the Office of the Provost, represents a campus-wide effort to create an intellectual and active hub focused on higher education’s role and contribution to a just and livable future.

The initiative aims to leverage the intellectual energy and work of faculty members, students, and community partners toward societal contribution through transdisciplinary research, teaching, and experiential learning.

“Professor Ponisio’s research is a powerful example of the applied and responsive work that the Environment Initiative aims to support,” says Adell Amos, executive director of the initiative. “UO faculty have much to contribute to natural climate solutions research, such as promoting the health of pollinator populations.”

☰ Visit environment.uoregon.edu for more information.



Lei Jiao

SECURITY THE S

CYBERSECURITY IS THE LIFEblood
A GROWTH AREA IN THE COM

BY ROSEMARY
PHOTOS BY DU

DUSTIN WHITAKER, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

JRNING SYSTEM

LOOD OF THE INTERNET—AND
PUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

HOWE CAMOZZI
STIN WHITAKER

The internet is the backbone of our lives, supporting everything from conducting business to communicating with loved ones to managing home appliances. Cars, medical devices, farm equipment, and security systems all depend on it. Even currency, once known as “cold, hard cash,” is now traded in purely virtual form by more than 100 million people globally.

It’s easy to assume this connectivity is safe and reliable, but the online world is subject to numerous threats. The growing field of cybersecurity aims to protect the system—and us—from cybercriminals: modern miscreants ranging from state entities to small groups of saboteurs to lone wolves who can wreak havoc from their living rooms.

Cybersecurity is a growing emphasis in the University of Oregon Department of Computer and Information Science. Faculty in the department’s Center for Cyber Security and Privacy collaborate with colleagues from philosophy, law, business, and other areas to research—and help thwart—threats to internet traffic, cryptocurrency, social media networks, infrastructure security, and more.

DENYING THE DENIERS

Lei Jiao, an assistant professor in the computer science department, focuses on how to deny the deniers—those who try to incapacitate others’ computers by launching Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks that can paralyze a computer, a group of computers, or an entire multinational company. Jiao was recently awarded a fellowship as part of a university research initiative by Ripple Labs, a US-based developer of cryptocurrency platforms.

In a DDoS attack, hackers launch a large amount of data traffic toward a victim, overwhelming the recipient’s computer bandwidth. The receipt or transmission of legitimate information becomes impossible for the victim.

Internet service providers such as AT&T and Comcast try to thwart these incursions by operating “scrubbing centers”—data centers with many computers that are programmed to detect and defeat the intruders. Malicious traffic is filtered out in the scrubbing centers and the rest is routed to customers. These centers are located across the nation, and it’s up to each service provider to determine which one to use, which traffic flow to divert, and how many computers in the center to allocate for each suspicious incident.

Jiao is developing “smart algorithms”—instructions computers can follow—that will make these decisions. “My algorithms will automatically and efficiently tell the internet service providers exactly what the best decisions are for handling every attack,” he says, “so they don’t need to address each one manually.”



“THE PRACTICAL OPERATIONS OF THE [CURRENCY] EXCHANGES ARE WAY AHEAD OF SECURITY MEASURES. IT IS IMPERATIVE TO ENHANCE THEIR SECURITY TO PROTECT USERS FROM ECONOMIC LOSSES.”

Yingjiu “Joe” Li

CRACKING DOWN ON CRYPTO-CRIMINALS

Ripple Professor Yingjiu “Joe” Li and PhD student Sanidhay Arora are focusing on flash loan attacks that happen on cryptocurrency exchanges.

Cryptocurrency—currency that exists only in digital form—is traded on decentralized platforms that don’t rely on the oversight of institutions such as banks or governments. “Cryptocurrency is very convenient and cost-effective for users,” Li says. “Because participants have full control of their files, they feel safe. Plus, anyone can interact with these financial services without being censored or blocked by a third party.”

The cryptocurrency market had a record year in 2021, briefly surpassing \$3 trillion in November. Recent research by the Pew Research Center found that 16 percent of Americans say they have invested in, traded, or used cryptocurrency. “This is a very fast-growing platform,” Li says.

While cryptocurrency reduces the hacking risk facing centralized exchanges such as the New York Stock Exchange, the decentralized system offers plenty of

opportunities for cybercriminals.

Individual “coin” ownership is stored in a digital database called blockchain, comprising chunks of information shared equally among the entire network of users. “The practical operations of the blockchain exchanges are way ahead of security measures,” Li says. “It is imperative to enhance their security to protect users from economic losses.” In 2021, criminals netted about \$14 billion from digital currency exchanges, investors, and users, according to the Chainalysis 2022 Crypto Crime Report.

A flash loan attack happens when someone borrows cryptocurrency assets potentially worth millions or billions of dollars, uses them to purchase currency, illegally manipulates the price through a vulnerability in the computer coding, and then pays back the loan, making a massive profit in as little as 30 seconds. In February, for example, hackers stole more than \$320 million in cryptocurrency from Wormhole, a decentralized finance platform, by exploiting a vulnerability.

Li and Arora are studying how to enhance the security of the protocols that govern exchanges. Some existing defenses monitor the exchange system

and identify flash loan attacks after the fact, but losses may not be recoverable. Says Li: “A better strategy is to improve protocol designs in these decentralized exchanges to prevent flash loan attacks—or to detect and block them before they cause any economic loss. This is the topic we are working on.”

MASTER OF DISASTER

With the help of more than \$3 million in grants from the National Science Foundation and others, Ram Durairajan is making networks smarter and more robust.

Durairajan, an assistant professor in the department, is working with PhD student Matthew Hall on stopping denial of service threats by reconfiguring the paths of wavelengths that transmit data.

He uses the idea of a museum thief as a metaphor for an attacker. “Imagine someone is trying to steal a painting that hangs in a museum,” Durairajan says. “The museum is the network. The painting is the service the attacker is trying to steal. We can change the floor plan of the museum—that is, the configuration of the wavelengths that



Ram Durairajan

carry data—every so often so the thief will not know where to go.”

Durairajan also studies how we can safeguard our ability to stay connected despite earthquakes, tsunamis, and rising seas. The West Coast, and especially the Oregon Coast, is the landing point for numerous underwater fiber cables that connect our continent to Asia. It is also the site of the Cascadia subduction zone, a fault line that separates two major tectonic plates and that is overdue for a devastating earthquake.

Durairajan, with the help of undergraduate Juno Mayer, developed an assessment tool called ShakeNet to analyze the risk that earthquake-induced shaking poses to wired and wireless infrastructure in the Northwest. He collaborated with colleagues in the Department of Earth Sciences who helped develop ShakeAlert, an earthquake early warning system. Durairajan combined a map of earthquake impact areas with one of fiber optic infrastructure and found that about 65 percent of the fiber infrastructure and cell towers on the West Coast will be damaged during a violent earthquake.

Using the route planner capability of

ShakeNet, data could be sent via longer but less susceptible routes during an earthquake. For example, data transfers between Seattle and Portland could be routed through Kennewick and Boise, avoiding the I-5 corridor, which may be affected by strong shaking. “There is this tension between what internet service providers do and what Mother Nature does,” Durairajan says. “Our aim is to relieve that tension, so you won’t get the shortest path, but you will get a robust path.”

Durairajan has also studied dangers posed by climate change. He recently discovered that thousands of miles of fiberoptic cable in the US—primarily in areas around New York, Miami, and Seattle—will be severely affected by rising sea levels.

He acknowledges that his focus on unpleasant scenarios can lead some to tease him about having a bad outlook.

“I’m seriously not a fun person,” Durairajan says. “But I’m happy to be the negative guy as long as people are safe and the internet works better.”

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

Dustin Whitaker is a staff photographer for University Communications.



BOOTING UP: A NEW MAJOR IN CYBERSECURITY

The Department of Computer and Information Science is establishing a multidisciplinary cybersecurity degree for undergraduate majors.

Students will develop expertise in cybersecurity threats and solutions in areas including computer and information security, network security, applied cryptography, and secure software development.

The degree will emphasize experiential learning. Students will spend at least two terms at the UO Cybersecurity Operation Center to engage in real-world problem solving and will also participate in research projects and internships.

The degree also features courses in cyber law developed and taught by Bryce Newell, an assistant professor of media law and policy in the School of Journalism and Communication; and courses in the ethics of privacy and data ownership developed and taught by Ramón Alvarado and Colin Koopman, professors in the Department of Philosophy.

“This program leverages our core competency in networking, systems, and data science, and will address the acute shortage of skilled cybersecurity workers in Oregon and across the US,” says Reza Rejaie, department head.



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OLD Oregon



THE MOTHERWELL OF MYSTERIES

Robert Motherwell taught in the University of Oregon art department from 1939 to 1940. Within four years of leaving for New York, he became one of the world's leading painters. Students defended his increasingly radical views on painting and, following his departure from the UO, mounted a campaign for his return in the *Eugene Register-Guard*. Just this landscape painting dates from his time at the UO and the scene has never been identified—it's unclear, in fact, whether the site is real or imaginary. An inscription to English professor Valborg Anderson suggests the location was frequented by faculty, but otherwise the inspirational spot remains a mystery—any guesses? Visit oregonquarterly.com for more on Motherwell from Richard Taylor, a UO physicist and art expert.

ROBERT MOTHERWELL, OREGON LANDSCAPE, 1940. WATERCOLOR AND INK ON PAPER, 9 X 9 INCHES. © 2022 DEDALUS FOUNDATION, INC./ARTIST'S RIGHTS SOCIETY (ARS), NY



Time Traveler

Physics alumna uses NASA telescope to look across galaxies and eons

BY JIM MUREZ

Now that the NASA James Webb Space Telescope has reached its destination a million miles from Earth and begins beaming back images of the deepest parts of space this summer, Charity Woodrum, a 2018 University of Oregon alumna, will be among the first to pore over them, looking for clues to how our galaxy came to be.

The journey to her current role—pursuing a PhD at the University of Arizona—is a big step toward fulfilling a dream Woodrum has had since she first began at the UO. Her undergraduate research as a Duck led to a prized NASA internship that helped serve as a launchpad for her stellar career, but she’s had to overcome heartbreaking tragedy along the way.

Growing up in rural Douglas County, Woodrum was the first in her family to graduate high school and went on to become a nurse. But the emotional hardships of the job took a toll, and Woodrum eventually decided to change careers and pursue a simmering interest in science.

She enrolled at the UO in 2014 and began studying space. She took advantage of research opportunities with her advisor, astrophysicist Scott Fisher, studying galaxy formation, how to sift through data, and working alongside him at the UO’s Pine Mountain Observatory outside Bend. Woodrum was part of a team that captured one of the first images of an exploding dying star in a galaxy 35 million light years away, and ultimately earned the NASA internship.

But in 2017, while Woodrum and her husband, Jayson Thomas, were walking with their three-year-old son, Woody, on the Oregon Coast, a sneaker wave hit and swept the father and son to sea, where they both drowned.



Woodrum will use data from the telescope (left) to better understand the first galaxies

The tragedy could have derailed Woodrum’s dreams.

“When it first happened, I didn’t know what I was going to do anymore,” Woodrum says. “I decided I wanted to make them proud, which the reason I got into astrophysics in the first place was to make my son proud. And I wanted him to be proud of me when he grew up. I wanted to show him what it looks like to follow your biggest dreams. And I think I accomplished that, and he was proud of me. And so was my husband. And I just decided I wanted to continue making them proud and keep pursuing the dreams that I had thought of when they were with me.”

Woodrum graduated with a degree in physics and headed to Arizona, where she has earned a master’s in astronomy and astrophysics as she works toward her doctorate.

She’s building on the research she tackled with Fisher. “Having that basic foundation in physics from the U of O really helped,” she says. “The biggest thing was getting involved in research as an undergrad, and that wouldn’t have happened without professor Fisher.”

Woodrum will have access to 900 hours of observations from the telescope through her advisor, astronomy professor Marcia Rieke, who developed the Webb telescope’s main camera and has helped drive the project for nearly 30 years. Woodrum will incorporate the information—“the best data that humanity has ever seen,” she says—into her thesis on galaxy formation.

“We don’t know what the first galaxies look like,” Woodrum says. “That’s one of the biggest mysteries in astrophysics right now. Another question I’m hoping to answer with JWST is why some galaxies stop forming stars.”

NASA GSEC/CIL/ADRIANA MANRIQUE GUTIERREZ (ARTIST'S CONCEPTION); COURTESY CHARITY WOODRUM; NASA/STScI (OPPOSITE PAGE)

Thanks to instruments onboard the Webb, Woodrum will study data and images of previously unseen galaxies in the farthest reaches of space. Analysis will tell her the elements in those galaxies' stars, precisely how far away they are, and even how they are spinning.

Working with her advisor, other faculty, and grad students, Woodrum will string together images from these oldest galaxies with those from the youngest to illustrate galaxy evolution.

"When you look far away," Woodrum says, "you're seeing into the past."

She hopes to finish her PhD in 2023 and to continue working with the telescope as a postdoctoral scholar at the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore. She also has thoughts of returning to the UO someday and joining the physics faculty.

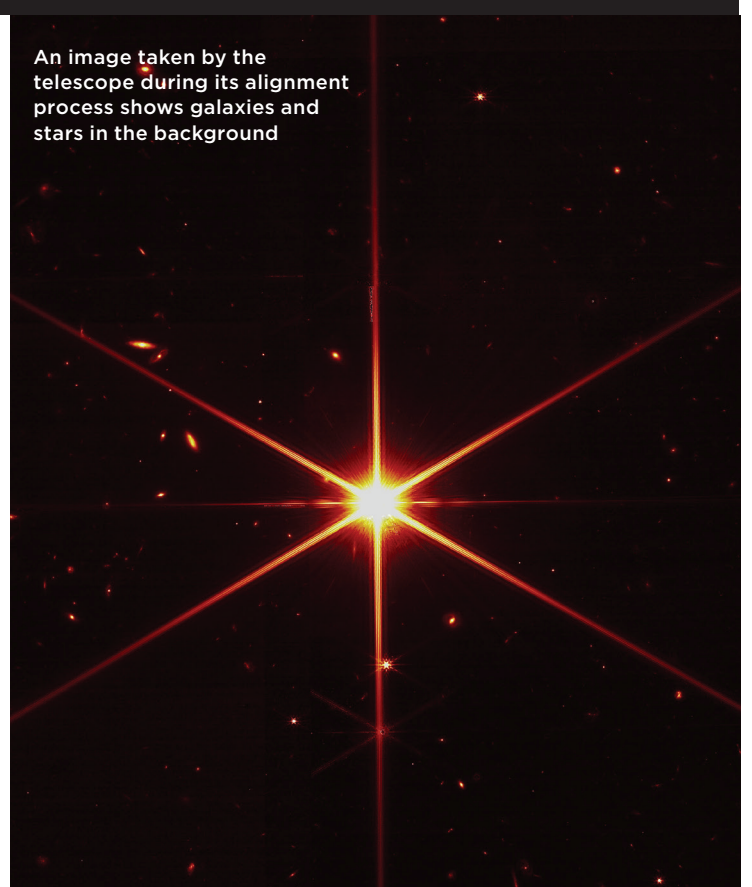
But first up is her work with the Webb telescope.

"We have all of these ideas of what we're going to see, but one of the most exciting parts is the things we don't even know to ask yet," Woodrum says. "As my advisor always points out, there are going to be surprises."

Jim Murez is a staff writer for University Communications.

Reach for the Stars, a documentary about Charity Woodrum's life, is scheduled for release in 2023. Visit documentary.org/project/reach-stars for more information or to make a donation.

An image taken by the telescope during its alignment process shows galaxies and stars in the background



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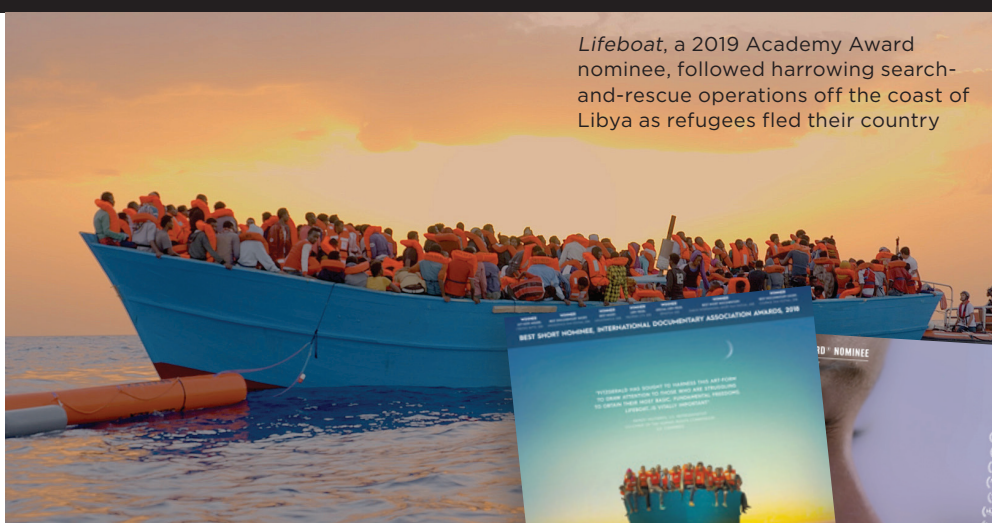
1961 60th Reunion
May 12 - 14

Black Alumni Reunion
Sept. 29 - Oct. 2

1972+1973 50th Reunion
Oct. 20 - 22

www.uoalumni.com/reunions





Lifeboat, a 2019 Academy Award nominee, followed harrowing search-and-rescue operations off the coast of Libya as refugees fled their country

Heart of a Filmmaker

BY SHARLEEN NELSON

Six years in the making, three powerful films by University of Oregon theater arts alumnus and award-winning documentary filmmaker Skye Fitzgerald raise awareness and shine stark light on the plight of their subjects. He calls the projects his “humanitarian trilogy.”

50 Feet from Syria (2015) focuses on the struggles of a Syrian American surgeon who operated on victims of the Syrian civil war. *Lifeboat*, a 2019 Academy Award nominee, follows search-and-rescue operations off the coast of Libya for refugees fleeing the dangers of their country aboard substandard boats on treacherous seas. *Hunger Ward*, nominated for an Oscar in 2020, documents the impact of war and famine on children, families, and health care workers in a clinic in Yemen.

Can storytelling change the world?

Fitzgerald believes it can.

After a group of Canadians saw *50 Feet from Syria*, they formed a nonprofit program to receive Syrian refugees. A doctor who saw the film was inspired to volunteer with the Syrian American Medical Society.

In making *Hunger Ward*, Fitzgerald, MFA '97 (speech: theater arts), intended to raise a few thousand dollars to support the Yemeni physician and nurse in the film. “We raised over \$240,000,” Fitzgerald says, “which goes

directly to the clinic and the families and children who need it most.”

Fitzgerald’s compassion for humanity took root during childhood. Growing up outside Monument, in eastern Oregon, without running water, electricity, or access to television or movies, he developed a keen appreciation for the fundamental things in life.

After earning his undergraduate degree in theater arts at Eastern Oregon University, Fitzgerald enrolled in the UO theater arts graduate program.

In the late 1990s the theater department produced a talented cohort, including Kaitlin Olson, BS '97 (speech: theater arts), who starred in the comedy sitcom *It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia*; actor-producer Eoin O’Shea, class of 1998; and Michael Govier, BS '00 (speech: theater arts), who won an Oscar last year for his animated short film, *If Anything Happens I Love You*. Fitzgerald directed Olson and O’Shea in the one-act farce *Black Comedy*.

“I had the best cast ever,” Fitzgerald says. “It was the most fun I’ve ever had directing actors. We were just bent over laughing every day.”

But a television directing class altered his career plans. “I fell in love with it,” he says. “I wanted to do that more than I wanted to do theater.”

Shortly after Fitzgerald graduated in 1997, a crew came to Eugene to shoot *Ricochet River*, Kate Hudson’s debut film about teenagers planning an escape from their small town. Fitzgerald seized the opportunity to shadow the camera team. “I was right there watching what the cinematographer was doing every day,” he says, “and learning from it.”



He was hired as a production assistant. A chance conversation with director Deborah Del Prete over their shared theater background resulted in the opportunity to help direct a second unit of stunt extras—a crew apart from that which included the principal actors for the main shots.

“She handed me a napkin with a shot list, literally a napkin with scribbles,” Fitzgerald says. He was credited in the film as a second unit director.

Fitzgerald eventually left the film industry to teach high school but decided that documentary filmmaking was his true calling. In 2005, he started Spin Film, a broadcasting and media production company in Portland focused on global human rights and social justice issues.

Fitzgerald’s next project is a short film that will place the viewer in the center of a hate crime from different points of view. He calls it a “cinematic intervention.”

“I am by nature a storyteller and it’s my passion and it’s how I’m built,” Fitzgerald says. “And most vital to me as a filmmaker is when I see something that I’ve done has influenced the real world.”

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

©2016 SPIN FILM (LIFEBOAT); COURTESY SKYE FITZGERALD

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Class Notes

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CLASS NOTABLE

Help Is on the Way

When Folake Owodunni came to the University of Oregon from Nigeria in 2005 to study premed, she knew she wanted to help people. Today, her international health technology company is poised to help people across Africa.

It's difficult for many people on the continent to get emergency health care, says Owodunni, BS '08 (biology).

"People drive themselves to hospital or they get a taxi to take them and then might actually be turned away because [the hospitals] don't have space, staff, or the right equipment," Owodunni says. "This happens every single day."

Owodunni cofounded Emergency Response Africa, which is building a network of first responders, emergency vehicles, and hospitals to serve people experiencing medical emergencies.

Building the infrastructure is a massive undertaking. But the company has received help from the Google for Startups Black Founders Fund, which supports Black-led businesses, and other development partners and investors.

The company, which launched in March 2021, is operating in three major Nigerian cities: Lagos, Abuja, and Port Harcourt, with plans to expand services to four more cities over the next few months. "Our hope is that within a few years we'll be in Ghana as well as several other African countries," Owodunni says.

Owodunni completed her master's degree in global health and development at University College London but credits her undergraduate biology and chemistry professors for laying the important framework of learning she received at the UO.

"I love what I'm doing," Owodunni says. "I feel incredibly privileged to have this opportunity, and grateful to every single person who has been on our path to getting to where the company is now and where we are going."

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

Indicates UOAA Member

1950s

JAMES IVORY, BA '51 (fine and applied arts), released *Solid Ivory*, a collection of memories, portraits, and reflections on his life and career as an influential filmmaker.

BOB BASICH, MS '56 (general studies), who died in 2000, received a posthumous 2022 Distinguished Alumni award from Saint Martin's University in Washington for a life of public service that included six terms in the state House of Representatives.

1960s

TRESA BEAR EYRES, BA '67 (elementary education), published her first fiction book, *Mollificent: A Fairy Tale Adventure for Modern Girls*, which she described as an antidote to the often-depicted message of female dependence.

1970s

SANDRA McDONOUGH, BA '76 (German, journalism), who most recently served as president and CEO of Oregon Business & Industry, an organization of small and large businesses that works to improve the economy through policy development, was elected to the board of directors of Portland-based NW Natural Holding Company.

JOHN C. MITCHELL, BS '77 (journalism), released his first memoir, *Bird of Paradox: The Seasoning of Birdie McInnes*, in October.

1980s

JAMES M. FORD, BS '80 (management), most recently president and CEO of Central Valley Bancorp and Central Valley Community Bank of California, announced his retirement after 41 years in the banking industry, and plans to move near the city of Palm Desert.

KEVIN McCAREY, MA '80 (speech: telecommunication and film), published his third book, *Moonglow Bay*, a collection of fictional tales inspired by the filmmaker's journeys from the ruins of Machu Picchu to the islands of the Spanish Caribbean, and beyond.

MIKE NIEHUSER, BS '81 (finance), was hired as managing director and senior research analyst at Roth Capital Partners, an investment bank for emerging growth companies based in Newport Beach, California.

THOMAS JAYNE, BA '82 (art history), was featured in *Homes & Gardens* magazine for his expertise as a decorator in preserving traditional principles while invigorating houses for modern life.

WENDI WILLIAMS, BS '87 (speech: telecommunication and film), a longtime employee of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington

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Will Power



"Scholarships are the primary reason I have this opportunity to pursue a college degree."

Semeredin Kundin

(political science and planning, public policy and management)

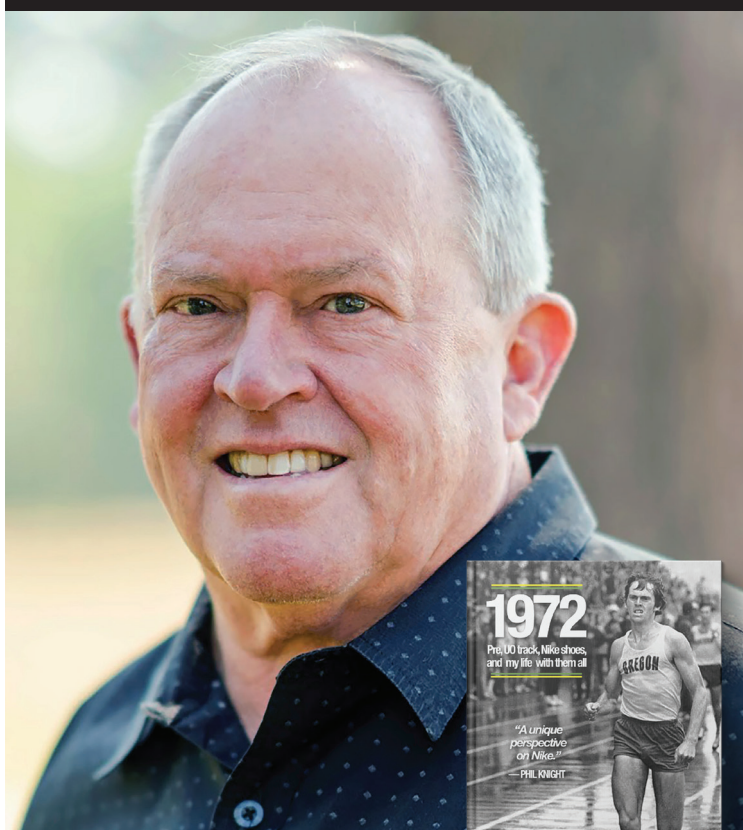
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CLASS NOTABLE

Pre and Me

In November 1974, University of Oregon distance runner Steve Bence convinced the legendary Steve Prefontaine, his former teammate and close friend, to run in an outlandish event: the “Great Race.” The race was an annual UO-Oregon State University fundraiser for muscular dystrophy during which students from each school ran a relay race from Eugene to Corvallis over two days.

Bence promised the recently graduated Prefontaine the race would be a cakewalk, with “just a bunch of [OSU] frat guys” to beat in the final one-mile leg, which ended in Parker Stadium at halftime of the Ducks-Beavers football game. Instead, Pre found himself chasing one of the Beavers’ top milers, who had a 15-second lead. Pre won by two seconds.

Such insider tales populate *1972: Pre, UO Track, Nike Shoes, and My Life with Them All*, which first-time author Bence, BA ’75 (mathematics), MBA ’91 (general business), published in August. In the book, he reminisces about his time as an All-American alongside Pre under coach Bill Bowerman. He also shares manufacturing stories from the early years at Nike, where Bence has worked for four decades in footwear sourcing.

Once a nationally ranked 800-meter runner, Bence enlisted another coach to help him carry the book from concept to execution and across the finish line: author and friend Bob Welch, BS ’76 (journalism), who served as editor.

“I knew I couldn’t be a writer without a good coach, and Bob was instrumental in helping me,” Bence says. “This was really hard—writing about Pre’s death, my own father’s death, all these experiences at the UO and Nike, the emotions just came out. It was technically hard, physically hard, and emotionally hard. It’s almost like therapy.”

—Matt Cooper, *Oregon Quarterly*

To purchase, visit [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and search the book title.

in Hyattsville, Maryland, was named executive director of the diocese’s Office of Cultural Diversity and Outreach.

SUSAN CUNNINGHAM, BS ’88 (biology), became biological resources and land management business group director for Seattle-based Environmental Science Associates, an environmental consulting, engineering, and planning firm.

MARNIE HERRMANN, BA ’88 (public relations), was elected to the board of trustees for Sanford Health, a nonprofit health care delivery system based in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

MICHAEL ATWOOD MASON, BA ’89 (American studies), became executive director of President

Lincoln’s Cottage, a historic site and museum located on a 250-acre campus in Washington, DC.

1990s

LYLLYE REYNOLDS-PARKER, BA ’91 (sociology), was featured in an article for *Ms.* magazine about equity in the housing market and a successful community effort to raise funds toward her purchase of a house.

DEBORAH ALLEN, BA ’92 (radio and television), was named executive vice president of Jupiter Entertainment, a television production company based in New York City.

ROGER DeHOOG, JD ’92, an Oregon Court of Appeals judge, was appointed to the Oregon Supreme Court.

REMY EVARD, MS ’92 (computer and information science), was appointed chief digital officer and head of technology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City.

TIMOTHY LUKAS, JD ’92, was named an administrative partner at Holland & Hart, a law firm in Reno, Nevada.

LUANA ROSS, PhD ’92 (sociology), was featured as a top influential American Indian scholar in AcademicInfluence.com, an organization that provides rankings in higher education.

COREY SCHLOSSER-HALL, BS ’92 (speech: rhetoric and communication), executive presbyter of Washington-based Northwest Coast Presbytery for 15 years, was named director of

FLASHBACK

1922 The *Oregon Daily Emerald* reports that Mathilda Mathisen is the sole student in Reign of Nero, a class in the Latin department. Professor Frederick Dunn says Mathisen “devours everything in Latin with the same avidity with which others swallow chocolate sundaes.”

rebuilding and vision implementation for the Presbyterian Mission Agency, the ministry and mission agency of the Presbyterian Church.

ERICKA WARREN, BA '92 (Asian studies), MBA '19 (general business), received an Oregon Women of Vision award from the Portland-based *Daily Journal of Commerce* for being a leader in the construction industry, shaping the industry and the city with her technical skills, mentoring, and community involvement.

TIM CLEVINGER, BS '93 (journalism: advertising), former executive director and board member of the UO Alumni Association, was hired as senior vice president and chief marketing officer for Portland-based OnPoint Community Credit Union.

WENDY J. DIER, JD '93, was appointed judge for Modoc County Superior Court in northeastern California.

KARMEN FORE, BA '93 (political science), MA '98 (public affairs), was

appointed a member of the policy board of the Atlanta-based Center for Transportation and the Environment, which develops clean, efficient, and sustainable transportation technologies.

ROBERT HOFFMAN, MArch '94, was named managing principal of the Portland office of Oculus Inc., which provides architecture, interior design, and planning services.

JIM JOBES, MArch '94, joined the executive management team at Lamar Johnson Collaborative, a design and architecture firm based in Chicago.

MARK C. Y. LEE, BS '94 (accounting), MBA '95 (general business), became a partner at San Francisco-based Rimom Law, where he advises celebrities and celebrity estates, studios, and high-tech companies in copyright, trademark, and right-of-publicity matters.

JASON GRINNELL, JD '95, was hired as a real estate partner

with Glaser Weil LLP in Los Angeles, adding to the firm's capability in the retail sector.

KEVIN BRIODY, BS '97 (history, business administration), became chief marketing officer of Edmentum, an online learning program provider based in Minnesota.

STEPHEN GILLETT, BS '98 (political science), was appointed to the board of directors of Dutch Bros. Coffee, the West Coast-based drive-through beverage company.

PAUL G. DIXON, MArch '99, was appointed state printer at the California Department of General Services, where he has served as assistant deputy director of operations at the facility management division since 2018.

DOUG PALMER, MA '99 (history), president of Missouri-based Culver-Stockton College, announced plans for a river research center to increase students' awareness of the importance of river transportation.

FLASHBACK

1942 University president Donald Erb approves the addition of a summer term but notes a more extensive curriculum is necessary to serve male students "wishing to obtain as much education as possible before going into military service," the *Oregon Daily Emerald* reports.

2000s

MATTHEW WELLS, MA '01 (Asian studies), PhD '06 (East Asian languages and literature), was selected as the new director of research for the Elling Eide Center, a research library and nature preserve in Florida dedicated to the study of classical Chinese literature and art.

CHRISTINA L. NEWLAND, BS '02 (business administration), was hired by Kernutt Stokes, an Oregon-based accounting and advisory firm, as director of talent acquisition.

LEILANI SABZALIAN, BA '02 (education studies), MEd '03 (educational leadership), PhD '15 (critical, sociocultural studies and education), was featured as a top influential American

Indian scholar in AcademicInfluence.com, an organization that provides rankings in higher education.

SHANNON EDDY, JD '03, was appointed deputy prosecutor for Wahkiakum County in northern Washington.

CHRIS FALK, BS '03 (accounting), was appointed chief financial officer at Shipt, an app-based business that provides personal shopping and delivery.

KIM GAMMOND, BA '03 (history), executive director of the City Club of Central Oregon, spoke to the Bend-based *Source Weekly* podcast *Bend Don't Break* about her vision for her organization, its mission, and challenges faced during the pandemic.

BRIAN GILL, BS '03 (accounting), became

chief financial officer of Bob's Red Mill, a brand of whole-grain foods marketed by Bob's Red Mill Natural Foods of Milwaukie.

CHRISTIAN FRØKJÆR-JENSEN, MS '04 (biology), a bioengineer at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology in Saudi Arabia, was featured in the journal *Nature Methods*, a forum for the publication of significant improvements to tried-and-tested basic research techniques in the life sciences.

AMALIA MOHR, BArch '04, was promoted to principal at LRS Architects, an architecture and interior design firm with offices in Portland and Bend.

CHRISTINA KLINE, BS '05 (mathematics, public relations), was named executive director of the Portland Community

FLASHBACK

1972 In an *Old Oregon* feature on the resignation of football coach Jerry Frei, editor Stan Bettis writes, “intercollegiate football is a professional sport.”

College Foundation.

ANGELA SEARS, BS '06 (journalism: advertising), was named director of the Spirit Mountain Community Fund, the philanthropic arm of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon.

KAREN HOBSON, JD '07, became a partner at Tonkon Torp LLP, a business and litigation law firm serving public companies, substantial private enterprises, and individuals throughout the Northwest.

CRISTEN HEMINGWAY JAYNES, JD '07, wrote an article about Comet Leonard, a comet discovered early in 2021, for *EcoWatch*, which provides science-based content on environmental issues, causes, and solutions for a healthier planet and life.

MIRANDA SUMMER, JD '07, a municipal court judge, was appointed to Washington County Circuit Court in Oregon.

ELAINE SZETO, BA '09 (Chinese), who earned a master of social work at Portland State University, was featured in a PSU alumni spotlight about her career in social work and empowering students and families in K-12 education.

2010s

DAVID HOFFENBERG, BS '10 (business administration), was included in *Idaho Falls* magazine's Distinguished Under 40 feature for his work as chief operations officer at Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center, where he has led capital improvement projects totaling more than \$25 million.

NATALIE NOURIGAT, BA '10 (Clark Honors College, Japanese), was featured in the *Oregonian* for her work as writer and director of the new Disney animated short film, *Far from the Tree*.

MOORISHA BEY-TAYLOR, JD '11, founding partner of the Law Office of Moorisha Bey-Taylor and an intellectual property lawyer, was recently named among Top Lawyers Under 40–Nation's Best Advocates by the National Bar Association, and received the Outstanding Recent Alumni Award from the UO School of Law.

CLAIRE BOPP, JD '11, a litigation attorney who represents clients in federal and state trial and appellate courts, mediation, and arbitration, was elected a partner at Bond, Schoeneck & King, a firm based in Syracuse, New York.

MICHELLE KAUFMANN, BA '11 (cinema studies, public relations), became vice president of communications at Stoller Wine Group, a family of wineries in Oregon.

JOSH WARDLE, MFA '11 (digital arts), creator of the popular digital word-guessing game Wordle, announced its purchase by the *New York Times*.

BEN DAVID, BA '12 (Judaic studies), was featured in the *Jerusalem Post*, an Israeli English-news newspaper and website, regarding his business, Kinamon catering.

HENRY FIELDS, BA '12 (Clark Honors College, political science), the Oregon Employment Department's workforce analyst and economist for Lane and Douglas counties, spoke at the City Club of Eugene in December regarding the local labor shortage.

TRACY WELCH, JD '12, former tribal administrator for the Petersburg Indian Association in Alaska, was hired as executive director of United Fishermen of Alaska, which advocates for the industry and commercial fishing groups from the Bering Sea to Seattle.

AMBER WILMARTH, BA '12 (electronic media production), a former television reporter, was hired as media and communications manager at Sentinel Resource Group, a global risk management and intelligence firm based in San Jose, California.

LOU MOULDER, BA '13 (dance), was featured by *Eugene Weekly* as founder of Rebelle Movement studio, which offers a dance experience with the adult student in mind.

MICHELLE FONG, MS '14, PhD '19 (psychology), a neuropsychologist,

joined Samaritan Neuropsychology, a medical group in Albany, Oregon.

NATHAN HARRIS, BA '14 (English), author of the debut novel *The Sweetness of Water*, was awarded the 2021 Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence, presented annually to an emerging African American fiction writer to honor Gaines, whose stories gave voice to African Americans in rural areas.

BRANDON JOHNSON, JD '14, was promoted to partner at Klarquist, a Portland-based intellectual property law firm.

BO LOKOMBO, BA '14 (journalism), was named most outstanding Canadian by the Canadian Football League, where he is a linebacker for the BC Lions.

BLAKE STANTON, BA '14 (general social science), was featured in

FLASHBACK

1982 The Pacific Northwest Resource Center closes its campus doors. Critics charged that the center, which offered legal experience to law students, was biased in favor of environmentalists.

AfroTech, a tech, investing, and wealth-building platform for the Black community, as the founder of the Quiktract app, which helps entrepreneurs and freelancers connect, develop contracts, and secure payments.

THOMAS “TJ” FIORELLI, BS '15 (planning, public policy and management), MPA '17, Tillamook County housing coordinator, was featured in a story by the *Tillamook County Pioneer*.

SARA GOODRUM, BS '15 (human physiology), who served as minor league hitting coordinator for the Milwaukee Brewers, became director of player development for the Houston Astros.

MILON MANNIS, BA '15 (international studies), a former executive at the Los Angeles-based Creative Artists Agency, joined Clubhouse Media Group, an influencer-based social media firm and digital talent management agency.

LaMICHEAL JAMES, BA '16 (general social science), franchisee of Killer Burger, a Pacific Northwest burger brand, announced the opening of a location in Lake Oswego.

MORGAN THOMAS, MFA '16 (creative writing), released *Manywhere: Stories*, a debut collection of stories that spotlight queer, trans, and genderqueer people.

POLLY IRUNGU, BA '17 (journalism), founder of Black Women

Photographers collective, an organization dedicated to displaying the talents of Black women and nonbinary photographers, has partnered with Nikon on a \$50,000 grant to assist creatives with their projects.

CAROLYN NGUYEN, BArch '18, joined Portland-based FFA Architecture and Interiors, providing support for projects including Forest Grove City Hall.

NATHAN STEIN, BA '18 (history), who has worked in Montana state government and grassroots advocacy in Helena and Butte, was hired as a development assistant at Bridgercare, a nonprofit reproductive health care facility in Bozeman.

JESSICA RUTH BAKER, MNM '19 (nonprofit management), who has been involved with the community-based Eugene theater company Very Little

Theatre since 2017, was hired as interim executive director.

CASEY DAGGETT, JD '19, joined Schulte Roth & Zabel, an international law firm, as an associate in the firm's mergers/acquisitions and securities group in New York City, focusing on transactions involving bankruptcy assets.

MARIANA DOMINGUEZ, BArch '19, was hired by BCRA, a Washington-based design and architecture firm, and works in the



IN MEMORIAM

CORNELIS A. “KEES” de KLUYVER, 1950–2022

As dean of the Charles H. Lundquist College of Business from 2010 to 2015, Cornelis A. “Kees” de Kluyver, BA '70, MBA '71 (marketing), oversaw one of the most active periods in the college's history.

During his tenure, two wings of the Lillis Business Complex—Anstett and Chiles halls—were completely renovated; the Business Research Institute opened; the college launched a first-of-its-kind master of science in sport product management program in Portland and assumed sole oversight of the Portland-based Oregon Executive MBA program (formerly a joint venture between the University of Oregon, Oregon State University, and Portland State University); and construction began on the facility at 109 NW Naito Parkway, which would become the college's home in Portland.

As a student, de Kluyver earned degrees from the UO as part of an innovative exchange program in the 1960s and '70s between the university and Nyenrode Business University in the Netherlands. He went on to earn master's and doctoral degrees in operations research at Case Western Reserve University in Ohio and then embarked on a career in academia and management consulting for more than 40 years.

Known for his heart, smile, and vast collection of suspenders, de Kluyver enjoyed wood carving, playing banjo with West Coast traditional jazz bands, and redesigning backyard spaces. Through the years, his sons were delighted with the play structures, tree houses, bridges, gazebos, and carved wooden animals he created.



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FLASHBACK

2002 Novelist and American icon Ken Kesey, BS '57 (speech), who died in November 2001, is remembered in *Oregon Quarterly*. "I'm not writing to reveal my soul to the reader," one contributor recalls Kesey saying. "I'm writing to reveal the reader's soul to the reader."

Tacoma office, supporting the residential market.

2020s

HARRISON KASS, JD '20, wrote an article that appeared on Fansided, a network of sports websites, about his experience as a hockey player in the Federal Prospects Hockey League.

JACK FORREST, BS '21 (journalism, political science), was hired as an editorial intern at Politico, a political journalism company based in Virginia.

REYN YOSHIOKA, PhD '21 (biology), was a coauthor on the study, "Warming Sea Surface Temperatures Fuel Summer Epidemics of Eelgrass Wasting Disease," published in the *Marine Ecology Progress Series*, a peer-reviewed scientific journal that covers marine ecology.

LUKE ZAK, MBA '21 (general business), joined the Washington County Visitors Association as sports destination sales executive, charged with leading the destination group sales and service function for the sports and social, military, educational, religious, and fraternal group markets.

Present and Future Veterans.

WILLIAM EDWARD FIEGENBAUM, BS '69, (psychology), MS '70 (special education), died June 2. He was a school psychologist for Portland Public Schools, and his interests included golf, tennis, world travel, wine, birds, and UO athletics.

DAVID C. MAGINNIS, BS '71 (general social science), died February 6. A member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity who met his wife, Barbara, in college, he was a carpenter known for kindness, love, and spending satisfying hours sitting outside with a cat on his lap and a book in his hand.

GERALD JAMES "GERRY" STALEY, DEd '71 (educational policy and management), died January 15. A devout Christian who

IN MEMORIAM

CAROLINE ELIZABETH "BEE" DePREZ, BA '42 (sociology), died December 1. She was active in service organizations, was a volunteer coordinator for the San Diego County Jail Release Aid Program, and with her husband, Dick, pioneered the specialty of assisting transitioning veterans by coauthoring the *Resume and Job-Hunting Guide for*

enjoyed long-distance walks with his wife, Betty, he worked in education for the Vancouver School Board of British Columbia, Canada, where he served as a teacher, principal, and superintendent before retiring in 1993.

JOEL PAUL DeGRAND, MFA '73 (visual design), died January 20. A lifetime photographer, he also taught high school and college photography, including 20 years as an adjunct professor at Columbia College of Chicago. He self-published 17 books of his photography and his work was acquired for museums, corporations, and private collections.

CARA DiMARCO, BA '80 (English), MS '86 (journalism), MS '88 (counseling), PhD '92 (counseling psychology), died

August 10. She was a therapist, counselor, teacher, and author who served as lead faculty and curriculum architect for the Women in Transition program at Lane Community College for nearly 30 years.

FACULTY IN MEMORIAM

SONJA BOOS, an associate professor of German, died June 21. Author of important books on Holocaust discourse in post-World War II Germany and on the history of the German novel in connection with neuroscience, she was a beloved teacher, mentor, colleague, and friend who will be sorely missed by many in the Eugene community and around the world.

She is survived by her sisters, Katrin Back-Schück and Irene Gräfin von Schwerin, her husband, Britton Reeser, and her daughters, Dora and Colette.

JAMES ROBERT "BOB" HLADKY, professor emeritus in the School of Music and Dance, died January 21. A World War II veteran and professional cellist, he taught cello and string bass for more than 30 years in what was then the School of Music, inspiring students as a teacher, promoter, and role model. He received the American String Teachers Association Citation for Exceptional Leadership and Merit and with his wife, Joan, ran Hladky's Tree Farm in Pleasant Hill.



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FLASHBACK

2012 During the US Olympic Team Trials—Track and Field at Hayward Field in June, 10 Ducks qualify for the London Summer Olympics: Ashton Eaton '10, Cyrus Hostetler '10, Matthew Centrowitz '11, Rachel Yurkovich '09, Andrew Wheating '10, Keshia Baker '10, Galen Rupp '09, and Becky Holliday '03, all representing the USA; Brianne Theisen '11 (Canada); and Zoe Buckman '11 (Australia).



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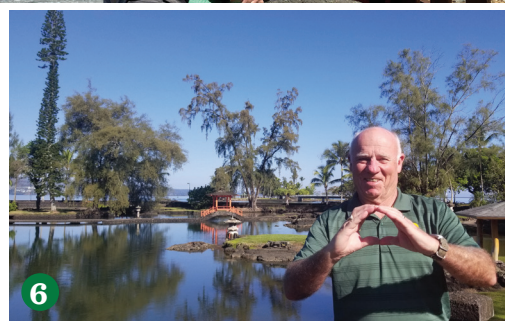
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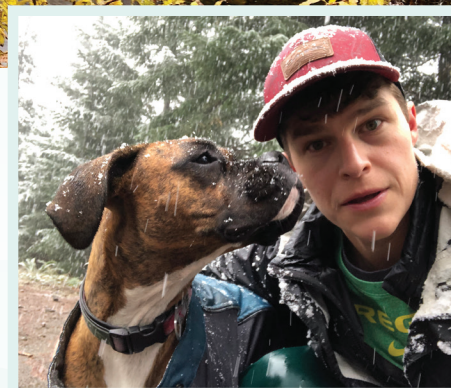
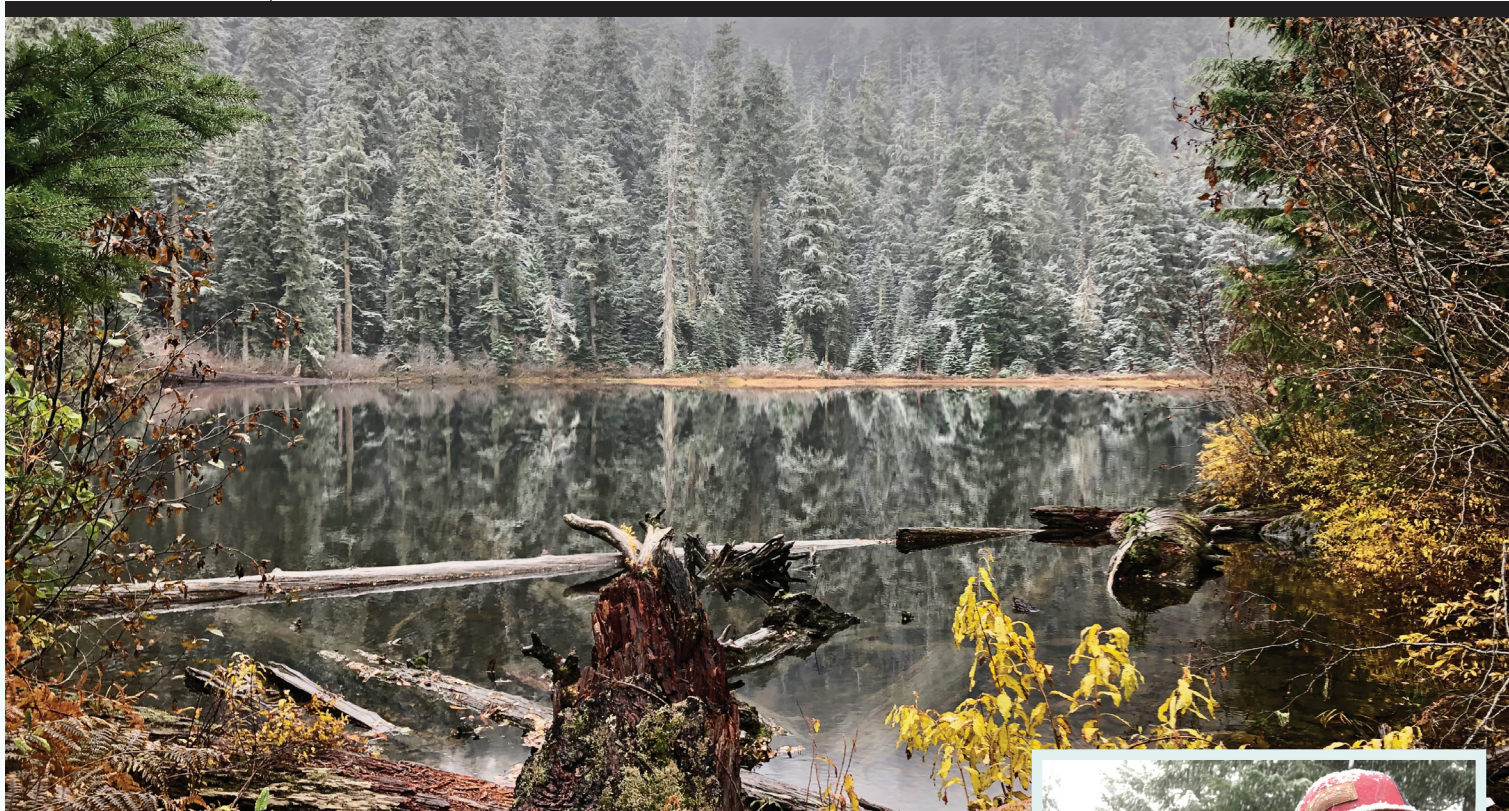


We love Duck migrations! Send photos of you, classmates, family, and friends showing UO pride worldwide. Visit OregonQuarterly.com and submit a high-resolution JPEG image.

Ducks Afield

1. Joey, a Ducks dog and traveling companion of **LARA DUNN**, MA '96 (communication disorders and sciences), relaxes at Lake Como, Montana 2. The **DOMOGALLAS** hiked in California's San Jacinto Mountains (left to right): **DAVID**, BArch '86; **LYNDA ANDERSON**, BArch '85; **BRYAN**, BS '16 (economics, business administration); **JORDYN**, BS '14 (human physiology); **ALEC**, BS '14, MActg '15 (accounting); and Bria—class of 2042! 3. **DON WALLACE**, BS '96 (marketing), summited California's Mount Whitney in August 4. **MICHAEL McCABE**, MS '88 (curriculum and instruction), at Heaven Lake, a crater lake on the border between China and North Korea 5. The **KLOTTERS—JANA**, an accounting alumna, class of 1995, and **DONALD**, BA '86 (Clark Honors College, German)—notched a bucket-list item with a trip to Egypt and the Giza Plateau 6. **PATRICK BROWN**, BS '75 (real estate), in Hilo, Hawaii

**Where ideas
come to live.**



The author and his hiking companion, Luna, at Crabtree Lake

Finding Nefertiti

BY TOM BODE

I start the hike with false urgency, excited after hours in the car. It is late fall and snowing, which I am not expecting. I watch the flakes melt into my clothes. “Cotton kills,” they say, because it won’t keep you warm when wet—but here I am, in jeans.

Crabtree Valley, deep in the foothills of the Cascades east of Albany, is a place where winding logging roads stitch together patches of clear-cut. I’m on a quixotic trip; I have driven hours to see Douglas firs, which grow in my backyard. But there’s a story of a giant tree here, called Nefertiti, surviving through the years by luck or fate. There are still magical places in Oregon. I’m hoping to find one.

My dog, Luna, trots alongside. The unexpected flakes are a visual delight, turning white the browns and greens of the dark forest. At the shore of Crabtree Lake, fresh snow outlines dark firs and the still water inverts the earth and sky. My map shows an informal path to Nefertiti. We find a faint trail leading into the forest. Luna runs up it, and I follow.

The trail rises nearly straight up the

steep valley wall. Out of habit, I categorize the growth as we walk: mountain hemlock saplings, dark-leaved huckleberry, sword fern.

After 20 minutes, abruptly, the trail ends. We stand on a hillside in a beautiful forest, dense with wet life, growing and rotting, but there are no giants here. It is silent in the falling snow. Luna sits down and looks at me. “Where do we go now?”

I sit under a tree to think. I can’t make sense of the map and my GPS app isn’t working. Maybe the dense trees are blocking the signal. Sitting in snow with no navigation tools, I feel a swell of worry.

I turn to backtrack on the path and Luna sprints down the hill with the speed of a cold, wet dog going home. I forget myself for a moment and joyfully run with her. We dodge bushes and hop onto the wide trunks of fallen trees, highways above the thick undergrowth. When we stop, the trail is gone. I’ve been lost before, but never alone, and never in weather this bad. The snow is beautiful and cold. Are the flurries a light prelude to winter or the opening salvo of a storm? My skin prickles as my mind races.

I push down panic, and carefully walk toward an unexpected change in the pattern of the forest—the lake—a quarter-mile away, downhill. We emerge into a cliff-top clearing. But this cliff is on my map. We are found.

Luna and I return to the lake, not giving up on finding Nefertiti. I see the same faint trail leading into the forest that we’d followed earlier. Luna starts to run up it again, but I

call her back. Not this time, dog.

Just past it, the landscape changes and we enter an ancient part of the forest. The undergrowth is gone and huge cedars, hemlocks, and firs rise from the flat ground. Luna and I are in the heart of Crabtree. Thick nurse logs support new growth that is itself hundreds of years old.

I realize I no longer need to find Nefertiti. The whole grove is itself a wonder. Luna may live 10 years. I may live 100 years. These trees may live 1,000 years. Of all the magical places in the world consumed by progress, this one has been spared. I sit on a log and rest. Luna is too excited to eat from her bowl. Under the tall trees, I feed her like a puppy from my hand.

Tom Bode, BS ’09 (Clark Honors College, economics), lives in Milwaukie, Oregon.

TOM BODE

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