

# Oregon

QUARTERLY

WINTER 2015

**“Much of what I learned in graduate school was wrong. It’s wonderful.”**



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# Oregon

QUARTERLY

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON  
WINTER 2015 • VOLUME 95 NUMBER 2

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OREGON QUARTERLY is published by the UO in February, May, August, and November and distributed free to alumni. Printed in the USA on recycled paper. © 2015 University of Oregon. All rights reserved. Views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the UO administration.

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## Stories of Transformation

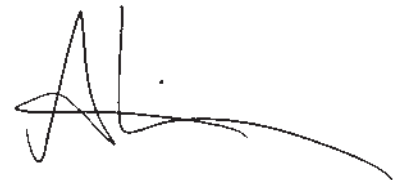
One of the best things about serving as *Oregon Quarterly's* editor is, of course, the stories. The stories are why you pick up the magazine when it arrives in your mailbox (or inbox, or Facebook feed), and they're why I'm convinced I have one of the best jobs in town. It's not just about the stories we bring you, our readers, but also the stories *you* bring *us*. Many of my favorites involve escapades and shenanigans of decades past, which are recounted by alumni as if the mischief took place just last week. Those are the funny ones—of painting the “O” on Skinner Butte, chasing Puddles in the Millrace, and pranking one's housemates in admirably creative ways.

The most moving stories, though, are about transformation. I'm consistently humbled and impressed by the stories I hear of the very real difference attending the University of Oregon made in the trajectory of someone's life. The intellectual and creative passions stoked, the careers launched, and the lifelong relationships fostered on this campus. So it's no wonder that the concern I hear most often from alumni is their worry that bright, ambitious, young people will not have the same opportunities they did. That lower- and middle-income students are losing access to the very thing—a college degree—that has been shown, time and time again, to be one of the greatest positive influences on one's lifetime earnings (1.6 times greater than those with high-school diplomas alone), and even on their health, happiness, and community involvement.

This week, as we prepared to send this issue of *Oregon Quarterly* to press, the UO's new president spoke to the campus community on this very topic. In his first all-campus address, Michael Schill laid out an initiative he calls the Oregon Commitment. It's a “promise of access and success,” a seven-point plan designed to make the university more affordable for lower-income students; to support pipeline programs that prepare high school students for the rigors of college; to improve retention rates and on-time graduation (because graduating in four years is one of the surest ways to reduce student debt); and to significantly expand scholarships and financial aid, primarily through philanthropic support.

It was a heartening message to hear, particularly as we wrapped up work on this issue. One of our feature stories, “Dreams Within Reach,” focuses on PathwayOregon, a program that is central to the president's initiative. Launched in 2008, within its first year PathwayOregon nearly erased the gap in four-year graduation rates between Oregon students eligible for Federal Pell Grants (a need-based program) and their more affluent peers. The program—which employs an innovative mix of financial, academic, and social support and leverages multiple funding sources—has enabled thousands of students to attend the UO. Hearing their stories, four of which are included in this issue beginning on page 32, reminded me why this job is so rewarding. We're all well aware of the rising cost of higher education and the staggering burden of student debt facing recent graduates in our country. But the steps the UO is taking, through programs like PathwayOregon and initiatives like President Schill's Oregon Commitment, assure me that the UO will continue to fight the good fight for access to higher education. And seeing our students rise to the occasion, committing themselves to making the most of the opportunities they've earned, gives me optimism that more students will have stories of transformation to tell, like so many of our alumni do, for generations to come.

Ann Wiens, Editor



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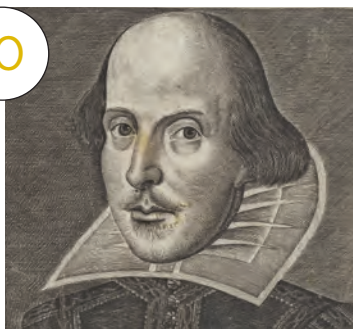
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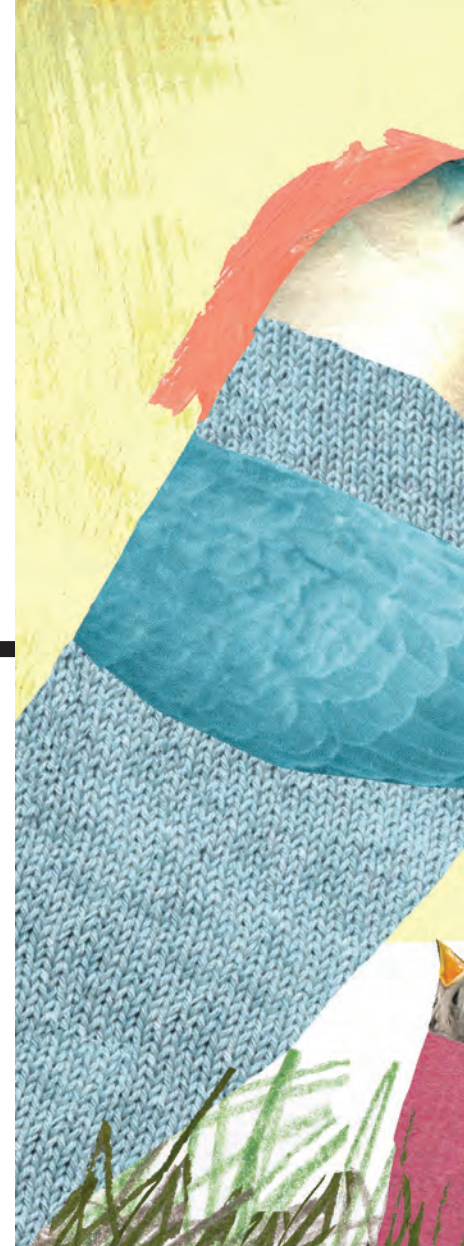
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“ One wears an apron stained with something red, but it’s definitely not tomato sauce. 12 The other wears jeans and a T-shirt that reads, ‘This guy likes fistfights.’ Too late, I wonder if Blivet can be trusted. ”

—THE SEARCH FOR ALABY BLIVET



### ON THE COVER

Jon Erlandson, director of the Museum of Natural and Cultural History, with a drawer of ancient artifacts, including one of the 10,000-year-old sandals discovered by Luther Cressman in 1938.

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE SMITH

Left: Shelly Bowerman has a hoe, and she knows how to use it. She is part of a burgeoning movement to turn vacant lots into urban farms.





## OQ ONLINE

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See video testimonials and read more about how students are benefiting from the UO's Pathway-Oregon program at [uoregon.edu/pathway](http://uoregon.edu/pathway).

**TALK TO US** Comment on stories and share your favorites with others via e-mail and social media.

**MORE TO LOVE** See additional materials—including video—related to stories in the print edition, and read stories not found in the pages of this publication.

**LEARN MORE** Read a little more about the people who create *Oregon Quarterly* and learn about our approach to covering the university and its alumni.

**JOIN IN** Submit letters, class notes, and photos for our "Ducks Afield" section.

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#### DREAMS WITHIN REACH

The PathwayOregon program helps take down the barriers—economic, academic, and social—that can limit low-income students' access to higher education.

BY ED DORSCH

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#### SEA CHANGE: RETHINKING EARLY HUMAN MIGRATION TO THE AMERICAS

Two agate tools found in Eastern Oregon have reshaped archaeologists' view of how and when the first settlers came to our state.

BY BONNIE HENDERSON

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#### LOVE BRINGS US HOME: CARING FOR DRUG-EXPOSED BABIES

It takes a special kind of family to raise children who are victims of parental drug abuse, but with the help of extensive research and support, kids are thriving in their placements with local families.

BY MELISSA HART



## Our Plastics Problem



the USA. Maybe their feedback and input will get the ball rolling and encourage companies to offer more eco-friendly packaging and manufacturing of products in the not-too-distant future.

Thank you for writing such an informative and impressive article (“Awash in Plastic,” Autumn 2015). I’ve known about these humongous ocean debris areas from reading previous articles. Your article made them more real to the imagination. I felt as if I were along on your trip. Motion sickness and all! I’ll be sending a link to your article to all my pals scattered throughout

**Larry Gellert**  
Eugene

“Awash in Plastic” ends with a paragraph about reducing plastic through personal consumer choices. That’s not pointless, and is also not a solution. Plastic makers are getting a free ride. Their products are not cheaper, nor harmless to dispose. Impact costs could be embedded in manufacture and sale. We all pay for it in different ways already. Policy changes are required.

**Andrew Stone**  
Portland

It strikes me that this global, oceanic problem has a connection to the Willamette River, which flows through Eugene. What would it take to become a plastic-free Willamette? How could we set an example in our backyard to rid our urban waterway of its contribution to the Pacific gyre?

**Stephen Flanagan**  
Eugene  
via [OregonQuarterly.com](http://OregonQuarterly.com)





# Blazing more trails.

*The world needs more Ducks.*

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PathwayOregon is the University of Oregon's promise of four years of tuition and fees for incoming first-year students from Oregon who are academically qualified and eligible for the Federal Pell Grant.

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More remarkable Ducks, going more remarkable places.

Explore PathwayOregon at [pathwayoregon.uoregon.edu](https://pathwayoregon.uoregon.edu).

The Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships is part of the University of Oregon's Division of Enrollment Management, which guides Ducks and families through the processes of admissions, registration, matriculation, and financial aid. Learn more at [oem.uoregon.edu](https://oem.uoregon.edu).



## New nonstop EUG to San Jose

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### Home Is Where the Heart Is

Regarding “Got Their Backs” (Autumn 2015), if there was a dog on death row that was given the choice of living on the street with someone who loved them or dying a death with so-called dignity, we know what choice the dog would take. Who cares that the food is the cheapest, and the dog didn’t get regular checkups? It was loved and was able to love back. Isn’t that what counts?

**Susan Honthumb, BA ’90**

Eugene  
via Facebook

### Good Teachers Matter

I would like to see more articles in *Oregon Quarterly* about teaching and learning. What are teachers doing to engage their students and encourage them, especially at the undergraduate level? What are students doing to show that they are learning in a productive way? What has changed in the general attitude of teachers at the university?

I have to honestly say that while I was at the UO in the ’60s, more teachers were interested in catching mistakes and criticizing students than were interested in building them up to love learning. There were notable exceptions. Some teachers loved their subjects and were able to communicate their enthusiasm so that students really wanted to learn. These teachers made a huge difference to me. They should not be exceptions.

**Rich Young, BMus ’68**

Tenino, Washington

### The Future of the Bowerman Building

Not long ago I was shocked by a report in the *Register-Guard* that plans may be afoot to demolish the Bowerman Building! The reason is to make room for a larger grandstand needed to accommodate large crowds (30,000 plus) expected at the IAAF World Championships

in track and field in 2021. May I propose an alternative solution to the problem of accommodating the anticipated megacrowds in 2021? Simply install a track in Autzen Stadium. Football and track used to coexist at Hayward. They should be able to do the same at Autzen.

I hope that the decision makers give this proposal careful consideration.

**George Larson, BS ’61**

Eugene

*Editor’s note: The Bowerman Building will be demolished in August. The building’s functions will be moved to new facilities in the new west grandstand at Hayward Field.*

### Save the Sharks

Jonathan Graham’s article “Wandering Hong Kong” (Autumn 2015), perhaps unintentionally, gives credence to and indirectly endorses the consumption of shark fin soup—one of the most egregious acts of cruelty that can be performed against wildlife. According to the organization Shark Savers, between 26 and 73 million sharks are killed each year for their fins, placing the species in great danger of survival.

**David Berg**

Eugene

### Remembering Emmett Williams

I read a notice in the latest *Quarterly* about the death of Emmett R. Williams, BS ’53, MEd ’70, PhD ’75. I was a longtime friend of Emmett, and also a musician who performed with him. Williams was more than just a piano player. He served as an administrator in the financial aid office for years, and was one of the very few minority administrators at the university. He was a voice in counseling minority students who were involved in the various programs the likes of Upward Bound, Sesamex, and others.

**Edwin L. Coleman II**

Professor Emeritus of English  
Eugene

### We want to hear from you.

Please submit your letters at OregonQuarterly.com, to quarterly@uoregon.edu, or by mail to Editor, *Oregon Quarterly*, 5228 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403-5228. You may also post comments online at OregonQuarterly.com. Published letters may be edited for brevity, clarity, and style.





taking all the  
elfies



we are  
ducks



hip  
to the season



treat  
yourself

## HOLIDAY 2015

Seasons may change, but We Are Ducks and we are passionate about all things Oregon, all of the time.

We're hip to the holidays, making the most of opportunities to don all manner of seasonally-appropriate gear.

We take advantage of festive décor and beautiful scenery to take selfies with our friends and family.

This is the time of year when our friends—bros, compadres, BFFs, or whatever we may call them—share their appreciation for who we are in even the busiest of times.

And through all of this, we can't forget to treat ourselves with a little something green & yellow.

**O** THE DUCK STORE

Eugene • Portland • Bend • [UODuckStore.com/2015holiday](http://UODuckStore.com/2015holiday)





## *Picture yourself living at Mennonite Village...*

A 275-acre community in a rural setting, Mennonite Village provides spacious living spaces for all levels of retirement – just a short drive from Corvallis, Salem, or Eugene. With award-winning healthcare, farm-to-table dining, and beautifully landscaped grounds with lakes, meadows, gardens, and oak groves, **Mennonite Village is an inclusive community of amazing people.**

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- **In-Home Care** services in Linn, Benton, and Marion counties



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# intro

## High Class

Incoming freshmen brought record-setting grade point averages and test scores to campus this fall, and more than half had already earned college credit through Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses. Fifty-one percent of the class is from Oregon. One third are first generation college students. More than 700 receive tuition assistance through UO's PathwayOregon program. And as you can see, almost all of them already know how to throw the O.





## A Treasure Bound

**W**ithout Shakespeare's *First Folio*, the world would not enjoy comedies such as *Much Ado about Nothing* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and tragedies and histories such as *Macbeth* and *Henry VIII* might have faded into obscurity.

Published by his colleagues just seven years after Shakespeare's death, the *First Folio* contains the earliest reliable texts known to exist of 36 of his famous works.

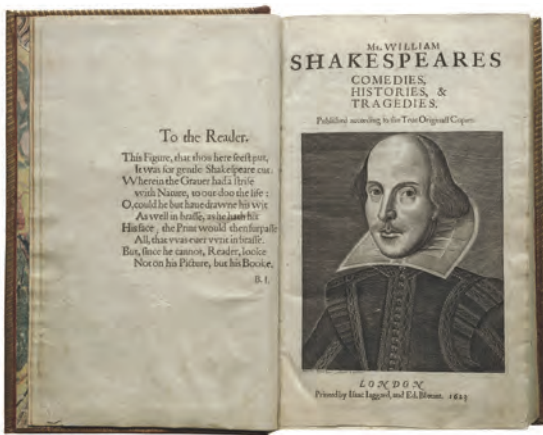
An original copy of this 900-page book, published in 1623, will be in residence at the UO's Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art from January 6 to February 7, 2016, when the UO hosts *First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare*, a touring exhibition marking the 400th anniversary of the great playwright's death.

To earn the right to host the folio, the UO had to propose a series of Shakespeare-related programs for the public and prove that it could provide suitable security for the rare work, of which there are only 233 known copies in existence. When copies have come up for sale in the past, they have sold for approximately \$5 million.

A free opening gala, titled "Shakespeare's Texts: Page/Onstage," will be held January 9. The event will include performers from the Oregon Shakespeare Festival acting out a scene from one of Shakespeare's *First Folio* plays multiple times, but with different textual interpretations. A discussion with members of the UO English department faculty about the various manuscripts and differing levels of audience involvement will follow the performances.

Through the museum's educational literary-based programs, hundreds of Oregon high school students will visit campus to learn about Shakespeare and the power of creative expression. Department of English faculty members will also have an opportunity to meet with regional high school teachers to discuss how students can transition from high school literature curricula to college-level English classes.

The UO will also run numerous programs for the public, families, teachers, and students of all ages. Visitors will have a chance to see the university's own copies of Shakespeare's *Second* and *Fourth Folios*, as well as other works from the time period and historic illustrations of the playwright.

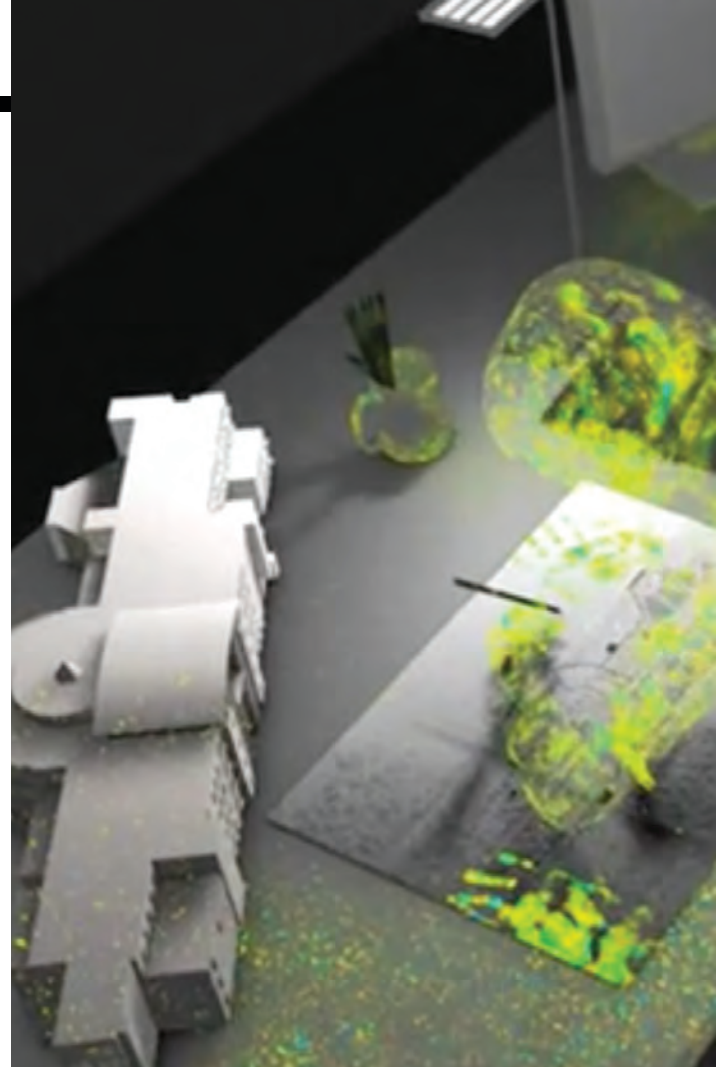


### GROUNDS FOR EXPANSION

The University of Oregon School of Law has launched a full-year satellite campus in Portland. "If we're going to be true to our public mission and the reputation we have in serving the state, it's critical for us to have a meaningful, engaged presence with the Portland legal community," said Mohsen Manesh, faculty director for the law school's Portland program, noting that the Portland region has the highest concentration of legal and professional employers in Oregon. Housed in the iconic White Stag Block, the program will allow students to spend their entire third year of law school in Portland.

### SAFETY IN CYBERVILLE

The UO has landed a federal designation as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Research and has launched the Center for Cyber Security and Privacy. The national designation is expected to help attract more research funding, and additional faculty members, and accomplished students. It runs through the 2019 academic year and is carried by only 60 universities nationwide.



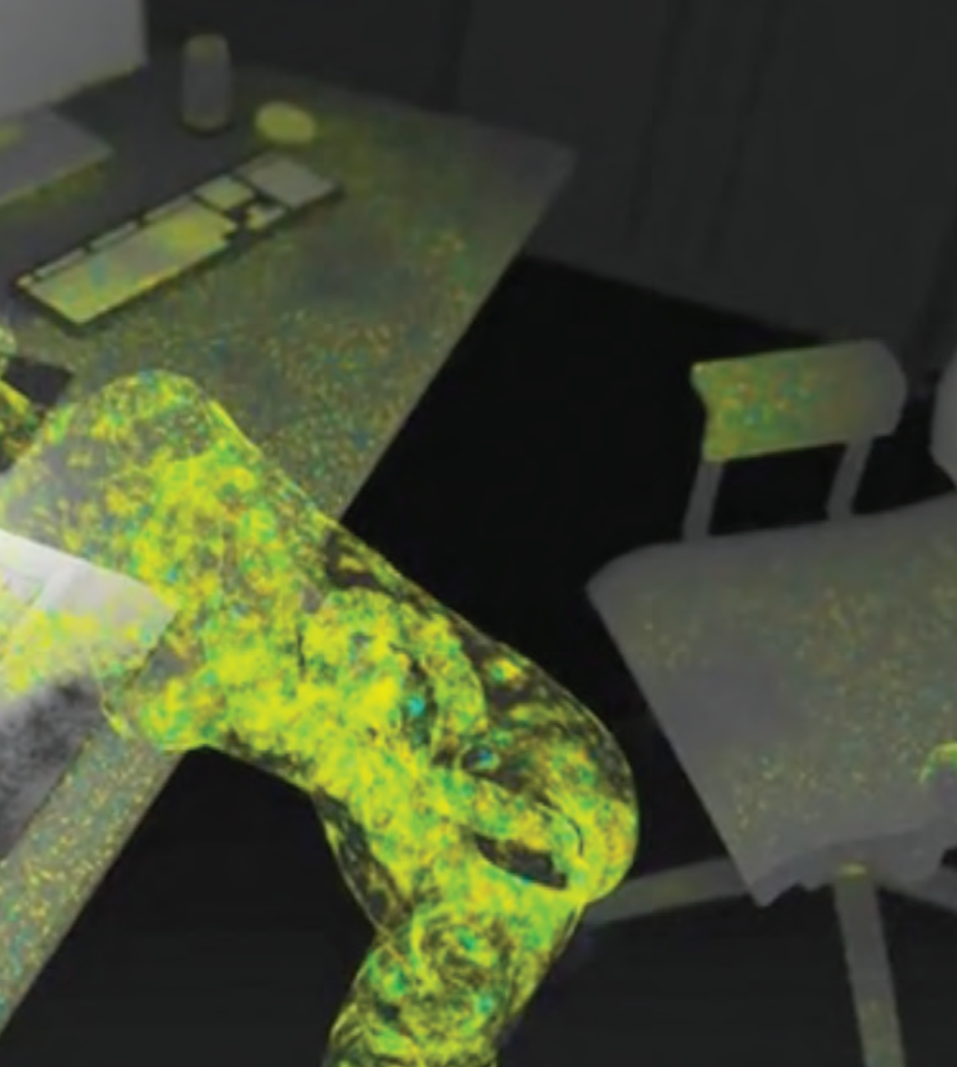
## Indoor Ecology

**T**he UO's Biology and the Built Environment Center (BioBE) has won a two-year, \$1.3 million grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to investigate the relationship between architectural design and the indoor microbiome—the collection of bacteria, fungi, and viruses found inside buildings. UO researchers will be investigating the role of cleaning chemicals in promoting antibiotic resistance

## Honored Ducks

**T**hey were heart-and-soul players for their teams, and they are winners in their careers. Two UO alums were recognized for their character and service at the 24th annual Athletics Hall of Fame ceremonies October 10. Four-time volleyball letter winner Dawnn Eikenberry (Charroin), BA '92, was presented with the Becky L. Sisley Award, named in honor of the coach, administrator, and trailblazer in the fight for equality of women's sports. A first team All Pac-10 selection her senior year, Eikenberry went on to success in the fashion and retail worlds, including oversight of retail store development for Lucy.com. She landed her dream job at Nike, leading teams





## Learning from the Worm

A University of Oregon landscape architecture student team defeated professional competitors to take first prize in a global innovation challenge to improve the food system, winning \$10,000 and advancement to a prototype round. The team now will be provided business incubation support and an opportunity to win \$100,000 and move their design to production.

The team's design, which would help farmers retain nutrients in soil while decreasing fertilizer use, was based in part on the earthworm's digestive system and would improve soil health over time.



## And They're Off

As part of the UO's new Sports Products Initiative, 39 students started a master's degree program in sports product management this fall. The program, based in Portland, is offered through the Lundquist College of Business. Students follow an 18-month journey through the complete product life cycle with a focus on innovation, sustainability, and global business. The initiative also includes a proposed master's degree program in sports product design offered through the School of Architecture and Allied Arts, which is projected to launch in fall 2016. This degree focuses on innovation methods, design for the athlete, product sustainability, and sports marketing and branding.

indoors. "The University of Oregon's BioBE center has become the nation's leading multidisciplinary research institution in the emerging science of indoor microbial ecology," said Paula J. Olsiewski, director of the Sloan Foundation's program on the microbiology of the built environment. "We are proud to be able to support their pioneering work."

A shot from a TED Talk by Jessica Green, founding director of the BioBE Center, shows how our personal ecosystems interact with everything we touch.



Eikenberry

of designers, architects, and project managers for the company's bricks-and-mortar expansions. Bryon Rockwell, BS '92, MBA '94, received the Leo Harris Award, given to an alumnus letterman who has demonstrated continued service and leadership to the UO. Rockwell lettered for three years as a linebacker, culminating in the 1994 dream Rose Bowl season. A Rhodes Scholar, he has excelled in a career financing municipal infrastructure projects, and assisted the UO on its first-ever revenue bond issuance, an important step under its new independent governance structure.



Rockwell

### SUCCESS BY DEFAULT

According to the latest available data, Ducks average significantly lower default rates on their student loans than peers from other institutions across the US. They also have lower default rates than the alumni of other state universities, and they compare particularly well to their fellow Oregonians.

### DEFAULT RATES COMPARED

National: 11.8%  
National, for four-year, public institutions: 7.6%  
State of Oregon: 13.7%  
**University of Oregon: 4.6%**





# The Search for Alaby Blivet

What kind of person submits more than 120 class notes to his alumni magazine? An editor tries to find out.

**I**t's 11:37 p.m. on Homecoming night, and Alaby Blivet is nowhere to be found.

Blivet, BS '63—world traveler, political candidate, inventor, memoirist, ex-convict, adulterer, rare animal breeder, alien abductee, and self-proclaimed biscuit baron—is among the most notable (some would say notorious) alumni of the University of Oregon. Over the past 43 years, readers of this magazine and its predecessor, *Old Oregon*, have followed his life story in at least 121 class notes. As with most such submissions, editors accepted them at face value, rarely giving them the scrutiny articles receive. In hindsight, one may wonder if Blivet may have occasionally been less than forthright. So I jumped at the chance to get the real story.

At Blivet's request, I'm sitting in Rennie's Landing, a popular bar on the edge of campus, nursing a beer. Just as

BY JONATHAN GRAHAM

he insisted, I'm dressed from head to toe in green and yellow, wearing a hat that resembles the head of a duck. I did panic a little when I arrived and found six or seven other guys dressed identically, but luckily, I was the only one sitting alone at the bar, nonchalantly paging through the latest issue of *OQ*, precisely as Blivet had instructed. But now he's seven minutes late.

No editor of this magazine has had the opportunity to interview Blivet. Sure, he showed up briefly at former editor Guy Maynard's retirement party, but before anyone had a chance to ask a single question, Blivet, a baked goods magnate, made loud, disparaging remarks about the cake being served at the party. Advertising director Susi Thelen then took Blivet down to the parking lot "to teach him some manners." No one on the *OQ* staff has ever seen him again. Until, maybe, now.

A couple of days earlier, I had received a voice mail message from an unfamiliar Utah phone number. The connection was bad, and the cover band playing in the background was





# COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY

*Portland Branch employees and their family members partnered with SOLVE for a litter cleanup project along the beach of the Willamette River at Cathedral Park.*

*The Bend Branch supporting Balloons Over Bend, raising money to benefit Saving Grace, a non-profit providing comprehensive family violence and sexual assault services*

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worse, but a caller identifying himself as Alaby Blivet asked for a meeting during the time he and his wife, Sara Lee Cake, BS '45, were on campus for Homecoming and Cake's 70th class reunion. In the message he said, "We're flying in on Phil's plane. We should really get together." (Note: another editor listened to the voice mail and questions this account. She thinks the message was, "We're trying again on Bill's stain." We've agreed to disagree.)

I returned Blivet's call and spoke to a person with an accent I couldn't place. She answered every question with, "I don't know." So I asked her to have Blivet call me and hoped for the best. All during Homecoming, I hurried from event to event, hoping to encounter Blivet or Cake. Finally, while trundling across the bridge from Autzen after the football game, I got a text.

"Can't talk now. Off to see a man about a Duk. Meet U @ 11:30 @ that bar near campus. Rennie's? Taylor's? Whatever. AB."

There are, of course, bars adjacent to campus with both these names. So I headed for Rennie's, and assigned our intern, Chloe Huckins, to Taylor's. She asked for a physical description of Blivet, so I told her that all through the '90s, after the publication of his memoir *Stop and Smell the Flour*, Blivet was trying to sell the movie rights to his life story. At various times, Warren Beatty, Kevin Costner, Pee-wee Herman, Tom Cruise, George Clooney, and Leonardo DiCaprio were shortlisted to star. "So maybe he looks like one of them," I offered. Huckins rolled her eyes and asked, "Is Warren Beatty even still alive?"

A face-to-face interview with Blivet would be a major scoop for this magazine. After all, he has been alternately delighting and annoying fellow Ducks for more than four decades. His notes have appeared regularly in the magazine since his first contribution in the Autumn 1972 issue, and his updates were even the subject of a feature story in the March 25, 1987, issue of the *Oregonian*. Over the years, he has shared many entertaining misadventures, including his quest to find opals in Australia in the early '80s and his failed attempt to open an ice cream stand in Baghdad during the lead-up to the US invasion of Iraq in the summer of 2004. He has sometimes drawn unwanted attention, such as



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when readers complained about the ubiquity of his notes during the late 1990s, or just two years ago, when some readers were offended by his flip remarks about the Kennedy assassination. I have no idea why he has chosen this moment to meet in person. Perhaps he has major news to share, a new cookie to promote, or a complaint about our use of the serial comma.

While I'm waiting at Rennie's, Huckins keeps texting me selfies taken next to handsome young

men in tight T-shirts from Taylor's. "Could this be Alaby?" she texts. "How about this one?"

Eventually the bartender comes over. "You're the guy from *Oregon Quarterly*, right?" He hands me a slip of paper. "Some old guy was in here earlier. He told me to give you this." On the paper is scrawled the address of what turns out to be a rundown pizza joint called the Dough Spreader. I head over there and find two young men, each wide as a Honda Fit. One wears an apron stained

with something red, but it's definitely not tomato sauce. The other wears jeans and a T-shirt that reads, "This guy likes fistfights." Too late, I wonder if Blivet can be trusted.

In the 1970s, Blivet was convicted of both draft evasion and consumer fraud, while Cake did time at the Utah Women's Reformatory. Blivet has been the subject of investigations by the Food and Drug Administration, the Department of Homeland Security, Ralph Nader, and a congressional subcommittee looking into the mortgage lending practices of a bank of which he was president. At least twice he claimed to be president of South American countries that have since vanished off the face of the earth. Which leaves me hoping a similar fate is not in store for me.

Worse still, Blivet has an unfortunate tendency to show up in the wrong place at the wrong time with the wrong people. In 1976, he was hospitalized after standing too close to an exploding Bicentennial cake. He was spotted celebrating with Lance Armstrong after the 2005 Tour de France, when Armstrong won the last of seven titles that would later be stripped during a doping scandal. In a 1988 class note—the only one that mentions a classmate by name—Blivet refutes a *National Enquirer* report that he and then-Governor Neil Goldschmidt, BA '63, behaved inappropriately at the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority house during Homecoming. This note was published 16 years before Goldschmidt's involvement in a sexual assault scandal.

So of all the pizza joints in the world, did I really want to walk into this one?

Before I can say a word, one of the guys behind the counter says the kitchen is closing and the other asks if I want something to go. So I quickly tell them about Alaby Blivet and the phone calls and the note and the mystery that I might never solve. I beg them for any clues they can share. Silently, they lead me to a table in the back.

"I'm afraid they just left," says one. "He said something about 'visiting Marcus in Nashville.'"

"Or maybe it was, 'posting about Spartacus on Mashable.' We're not sure," adds the other.

The table is littered with dirty dishes, including a plate piled high with abandoned pizza crusts. "That's a lot of dough," I say.

"That was Alaby's plate," says the guy in the apron. "He said he's cutting down on carbs."

Jonathan Graham is managing editor of this magazine and has a thing for biscuits.

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Amy Lobben (left), Hedda Schmidtke, and Chris Bone at the SC<sub>3</sub> lab in Condon Hall.

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[OREGONQUARTERLY.COM/MAP-QUEST](http://OREGONQUARTERLY.COM/MAP-QUEST)

# Map Quest

UO geographers are at the forefront of a booming new tech sector: geospatial technologies.

A digital map can show you a whole lot more than points A, B, and the road between. You can attach huge amounts of data to a single digital location—population, climate, traffic patterns, soil quality, census results, pollution levels, biodiversity. And because of that, mapping has become big business.

You encounter geospatial technologies every time you use Google Maps or check in at a location on social media. But the industry also includes anyone who plugs databases of information into any kind of map, for any reason—say, to predict the behavior of people or animals.

At the University of Oregon, the geography department is seeing a growing wave of interest in the discipline. When Assistant Professor Christopher Bone introduced a course called Our Digital Earth four years ago, 25 people enrolled. This year, the class attracted 106 students. “The Department of Labor identifies it as a booming, booming employment sector,” says Associate Professor Amy Lobben. Almost half of all current geography majors have chosen geospatial technologies as their specialty, she notes.

Lobben studies how the human brain processes space and understands maps. Bone is a complex systems scientist who designs “agent-based models” that simulate the actions of individuals in computerized landscapes. Both use geographic information systems (GIS) to map and analyze data.

Now, they have a new space in which to collaborate: the Spatial Computation, Cognition, and Complexity Laboratory (nicknamed “SC<sub>3</sub>”),

BY JOHN STRIEDER

built over the summer in the basement of Condon Hall. They share the cozy Silicon Valley-style lab with a new faculty member, Assistant Professor Hedda Schmidtke, a computer scientist who specializes in geographic information sciences. “I think the combination is going to make a really great team,” Lobben says. “We’re being aggressive about building a more collaborative program.”

Lobben brings to the lab the work she had been doing at her Spatial and Map Cognition Research Laboratory. One of her recent projects, funded by the National Institutes of Health, involved creating a GIS map for the blind, in which sound performed the role usually filled by color and other visual elements. She’s also analyzing data on how two different areas of the brain help a map user relate the map to the physical world. “Navigating through space is a fundamental human activity,” she says. “It’s important for the species’ survival. And yet people have such different abilities to do it. You know people who you could drop anywhere and they could navigate out of the space. And you know other people, like me—I could stand in a classroom and have no idea which way is north.”

Lobben is particularly passionate about developing digital map technology for people with disabilities. She’s surveyed them to identify the kinds of information they need to successfully move around a city—sidewalk quality, curb-cut design, traffic speed and volume, installation of audible walk signs, and more—and integrated that data via GIS into an accessibility map of the city of Eugene. She’s delivered the map to the city, but she



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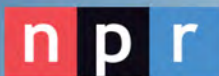
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also hopes to develop an application that would function as a kind of Google Maps for the disabled. “We can create personalized route mapping for people,” she says.

Meanwhile, Bone brings to SC3 a four-year project to analyze the mountain pine beetle outbreak in western North America. “On a computer, you can simulate the beetles’ behavior—their attack behavior, their breeding behavior, their mortality—based on climate change and the state of the forest,” he says. “You can simulate their movement and how they disperse. And that gives us a better idea of how a native population of insects can turn into these large-scale epidemics.”

Models that work for beetles also work for humans. Bone and Lobben’s first collaboration at the new lab will simulate foot traffic in urban settings. Funded by the National Institute for Transportation and Communities, the project will, the researchers hope, lead to a tool for city planners and developers. “You can represent a city in a computer and have ‘people’ run around the ‘city’ with various cognitive abilities,” Bone says. “You can knock buildings down or put in a park and see if it creates any change in behavior.”

Schmidtke, the new addition to the team, brings a third dimension to SC3. As a pioneering assistant professor at Carnegie Mellon University in Rwanda, she developed information and communication technology for health care. Here, she has partnered with the geography department’s InfoGraphics Lab to develop an app for a local transit district that sends survey questions to riders as they board buses. “Her work is very different from what Amy and I do,” Bone says. “But I think collectively, our nexus is close enough that we can really complement and push each other in interesting ways.”

Recent geography grads are getting jobs at places like the *New York Times*, *National Geographic*, Apple, and firms in Silicon Valley, which is one reason the department is proposing a new major, spatial data science and technology. “Our hope is to make students more employable in this competitive market,” Bone says, “and also to attract students to the university to take this major. A lot of times they stumble upon geography and then discover spatial data science. We want them to *come* here to do spatial data science.”

John Strieder, a freelance writer and video producer, expects to earn his master’s degree in multimedia journalism from the UO in 2016.



**K**im and I make a date to buy ballet footwear, which I know enough to call “slippers.” Ballet slippers are soft-soled and fit the foot like a glove. Ballet “shoes” are toe shoes, blunt and boxy, painful to wear even after you swath your toes in lambs’ wool. I want those agonizing, foot-crippling toe shoes! I want badly to go on pointe as I did during that last year before Eglevsky kicked me out of his school. But that’s impossible to imagine right now. Right now, it’s slippers.

“So, this is it,” I say, when Kim and I meet up for preshopping lattes. “After we buy these shoes . . . um, slippers . . . there’s no turning back.” I’m joking, but I’m not joking.

“Yep,” says Kim, extending her leg and pointing her toe as much as she can in her slightly dorky size 9 Keen slip-ons, “I know.”

We walk across the street to the Dancers’ Closet, the only ballet specialty store in town. Tori, the Eugene Ballet Company ballerina who guided me through her exercise routine a few weeks ago, and LeeAnn, a pint-sized dynamo of a ballerina who teaches classes at the other ballet company in town, Ballet Fantastique, both work there. It’s how they stay solvent on- and offseason. Today, LeeAnn is one of the two sales clerks in the small, merchandise-packed store.

The moment Kim and I step into the Dancers’ Closet, I feel as if I’m in a nine-year-old girls’ fantasy—my fantasy when I was that age: pink tutus hanging on the wall, glittery embellished toe shoes displayed like pieces of art, a gorgeous Black Swan costume hugging a torso-only mannequin, circular racks of brightly colored leotards, some sequined, others feathered. A little girl and her mother are shopping. The girl is prancing around in a sapphire blue leotard with the price tag hanging off one delicate shoulder. Her mother is smiling and nodding, her arms full of other choices, all jewel-toned.

Kim and I sit down in the shoe section in between the leotard racks and the two dressing rooms. LeeAnn comes right over. She doesn’t seem surprised to see women our age (without children), which I take to be a good sign. We tell her we are in the market for ballet slippers. “We’re going to take a ballet class,” I say, as if there could be some other explanation for buying ballet slippers. I immediately feel ridiculous for saying this and—I can’t believe I’m admitting this—I giggle. It must have something to do with being in a nine-year-old’s tutu fantasy world. Kim either mercifully does not hear this or, even more mercifully, chooses to ignore it. She is having a discussion with LeeAnn about canvas versus leather slippers. Canvas is cheaper, LeeAnn says, pulling down a 9 for Kim and an 8½ for me.

But the canvas doesn’t hug tight. It doesn’t feel like I remember ballet slippers feel. Kim concurs. We ask for the leather ones. In for a penny, in for a pound. My ballet slippers, through all the years I took lessons, were black. These are a very soft blush-pink, the pink of clouds just before dusk. They are lovely and supple. They fit beautifully. I will have to hand-sew the crisscrossed elastic that secures the slipper across my ankle. I remember my mother doing that, with the tiny, even stitches she learned in a costume design class at Pratt Institute a decade before I was born. I put on the other shoe and walk in a slow circle around the shoe area, lifting each leg hip-high with a pointed toe, holding my arms out in what I remember to be ballet position. I do this as in a trance, not thinking that I may be making a spectacle of myself, not thinking at all. I’m grinning by the time I make

## Cracking the “Nut”

Can a middle aged body enact a childhood dream? In *Raising the Barre: Big Dreams, False Starts, and My Midlife Quest to Dance the Nutcracker* (De Capo Press, 2015), Lauren Kessler joins a professional ballet company to find out.





it back to where Kim is sitting admiring the slippers on her feet. We nod to each other.

“Sold,” Kim says to LeeAnn.

“On to leotards,” I say to Kim, walking over to the circular racks at the front of the store, the ones that had caught my eye the moment I walked in the door. I’m a medium, I figure, so I find that section. I am not shopping for glitz here. I just want a plain—please, God, a little flattering—black leotard. When I took classes, all the girls wore three-quarter-sleeved, scoop-necked leotards, but apparently that is not the fashion anymore. Everything is spaghetti strap. That’s too bad. I was hoping for some upper arm coverage. I find a row of black size Ms, grab the first one from the rack, and hold it up. I gasp. Audibly. Kim hurries over from a nearby rack. I hold up the leotard for her to see.

“Jezzus,” she says under her breath.

“You got that right,” I say. The leotard looks like it would fit an under-fed prepubescent girl. I go over to the L section. These large leotards look sized for a hipless, wasp-waisted, 90-pound child-woman. I walk around the rack and the one next to it.

**The dancers reported significantly lower self- and body-perception ratings when dressed in leotards with tights compared to wearing the loose-fitting clothing.**

There is no XL.

I can’t believe I’m tearing up. I’m standing in front of the leotard rack about to cry. I can hear that conversation that ended my ballet dreams, the one I overheard between my mother and Andre Eglevsky, as if it’s happening right now, right next to me. I turn away so that Kim can’t see my face.

Apparently, LeeAnn has been observing my efforts. She walks over with an armful of black leotards from a rack I hadn’t noticed. “These are what we have for, um, women,” she says,

kindly, handing over the merchandise. “The adults who take classes buy these,” she adds, softly. I wonder if she has noticed my bloodshot eyes. “Thanks,” I say.

She’s given me four leotards in different styles. I take them with me to the dressing room, a small, curtained cubicle decorated with dance posters (leaping, long-limbed beauties in stunning tutus). There’s a tall, framed, free-standing mirror wedged in the corner. This is like trying on bathing suits—possibly my least favorite activity in the world (yes, including oral surgery)—but worse. When you try on a suit and steel yourself to take a look in the mirror, you know that a lot of the time you’ll be wearing the suit you’ll be in the water anyway, and no one will see what you look like. Or maybe you’ll be on a chaise lounge with a towel artfully draped over your worst parts. But a leotard is for dancing, for dancing in front of a wall of mirrors.

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Interestingly, I discover that actual ballet dancers with young, lithe ballet physiques are not too pleased seeing their leotard-clad bodies in the studio mirror either. In a sobering (and

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oddly reassuring) research article I find on ballet attire and body image, several dozen ballet dancers complete surveys about self-perceived body image after two different ballet classes. In the first class, they wear traditional garb—black leotards and pink tights. In the second they wear what dancers call “junk”—loose-fitting workout clothes. The survey results? The dancers reported significantly lower self- and body-perception ratings when dressed in leotards with tights compared to wearing the loose-fitting clothing. They felt more positive about their bodies when they wore “junk” clothes, expressed more enjoyment when looking in the mirror in the studio, and—here’s something weird—rated themselves as better dancers.

I balance this with another study I read about how clothing can influence us mentally as well as physically. It’s a phenomenon the Northwestern researchers who studied it call (I think charmingly) “enclothed cognition.” It appears that when we put on certain clothes, we may more readily take on the role associated with those clothes, and that this may actually affect our abilities. Dressing in clothes

**At any rate, dance attire is required in a dance class. And dance attire I will wear.**

designed for the task focuses your attention to the task and might, opine the researchers, offer subconscious motivation that can boost performance. I need all the performance-boosting I can buy off the rack.

\*\*\*

At any rate, dance attire is required in a dance class. And dance attire I will wear. If I can find something that fits. The “for women” leotards that LeeAnn hands me are, praise be, sized for actual humans who walk the earth and eat meals. I take a deep breath and try on the one with spaghetti straps, a slight V to the front scoop neck and a low back. I move around in the little dressing room, attempting port de bras and piqués while studiously avoiding my image in

the mirror. This is hard, as the space is about the size of a phone booth. The leotard moves with me. It feels okay. I glance quickly in the mirror. A ballerina does not look back at me.

“Are you out there, Kim?”

“Yep, right here. Do you need me?”

“Uh, yeah . . . I’m coming out. I need you to take a look.” I take a deep breath, both to quell anxiety and to suck in my stomach, move the curtain to one side and step with what I hope is grace out into the store. I am wearing my Nike workout capris under the leotard. It’s a look.

Kim glances up from her phone. I hope she’s not texting someone about this. “Turn around,” she says. I do a slow 360. I’m facing her again. I keep my shoulders back. I turn out my feet to first position. My feet look big and silly in my Chaco sandals. “So?” I say, wanting but not wanting her honest opinion. She smiles.

“You have a beautiful back,” she says.

This is what friends are for.

Lauren Kessler, author of eight works of narrative nonfiction, is a professor in the School of Journalism and Communication.

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Ben DeJarnette (center, in green) runs with prospective student Conner Byeman, who we hope will exchange those orange shorts for green by next fall.

## Off and Running

The UO gives traditional campus tours a run for their money with a popular jogging tour that offers prospective students a true taste of Track Town, USA.

**I**n six years running around Eugene, I've slogged up hills, dodged bicycles, endured rain showers, and covered just about every trail inside city limits. I've been through my paces in this town, but today's challenge is something new: I have 3.7 miles to convince Connor Byeman to become a Duck.

It's 8:30 a.m. on a brisk September morning, and I'm about to join Connor and a small tour group on one of the UO's bimonthly guided jogs around campus. The UO Ambassador Program created this first-of-its-kind college tour last fall, giving prospective students and their families a chance to experience Eugene's celebrated running culture firsthand. Today, there are four of us, and after a quick history lesson from our guides Frank and Gustavo, we set out at a gentle clip, crossing Franklin Street and working our way toward Alton Baker Park.

Officially, recruiting Connor to Eugene is nowhere in my job description (I'm just the writer tagging along), but I'm already liking this kid. A fellow East Coast transplant, Connor is a fleet-footed distance runner and an otherworldly student (he

**BY BEN DEJARNETTE**

laments that he narrowly missed a perfect score on the ACT)—and yet he's not the type

who's too cool to be impressed. When I tell him about UO track star Edward Cheserek running a 5,000-meter race in 13 minutes, 18 seconds, he lets his jaw drop. "That's a faster pace than my best mile time!" he says. "I don't want to even imagine how hard that is."

As we loop around the North Bank Path, and then Pre's Trail, I'm doing my darnedest to sell Connor on the UO. But perhaps the best sales pitch is coming from the Willamette River, rushing beside us, and the autumn breeze, swirling around us, and the wood-chip trail, stretching indefinitely out ahead of us, just as it will for students this fall, lending an escape from the buzz and bustle across the river.

Connor has yet to reach the tour's main attraction—a victory lap around the Hayward Field track—but I sense he is already falling in love with this sanctuary. Shortly after the trail passes Autzen Stadium, he tips his hand. "I could definitely see myself coming here," he says.

Mission accomplished, I think to myself. With a mile to spare.



## Five of the Best

Coming back to Eugene for a visit? DeJarnette, a former distance runner for Oregon track and field, shares his favorite local running trails.

### PRE'S TRAIL



There's a reason why the UO student ambassadors chose Pre's Trail for their running tour. Close to campus and as

flat as you'll find in Eugene, this four-mile network of wood-chip trails is the perfect place to remember—or misremember—just how fast you were as a fit-bodied freshman.

### RIDGELINE TRAIL

Ridgeline is best known for its steep, rocky path to the top of Spencer Butte (elevation 2,062 feet), but while that route is best tackled as a hike, the other 10-plus miles of trail offer spectacular running terrain.

### HENDRICKS PARK

There are enough trails winding through this haven in the hills that you'd probably be wise to bring breadcrumbs. Then again, getting lost in a maze of towering old-growth fir trees isn't all that bad.

### AMAZON TRAIL

The trail's 1,000-meter loop and one-mile loop are popular workout spots for recreational runners and pros alike, so if a tall dude with Olympic rings tattooed on his back comes flying past you, it's probably just Andrew Wheating, BA '10.

### SKINNER BUTTE

Yes, technically you could drive to the top, but what fun is that? The trail from Cheshire Avenue is about a mile long and gains more than 250 feet in elevation, so if you can run all the way up, you will have more than earned the breathtaking view (and the bowl of ice cream waiting at home).

Ben DeJarnette, BA '13, MA '15, is a regular contributor to OQ.

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## CON BRIO

As a high school student, Sharon Paul loved everything about choral music: the community, the teamwork, the discipline, and how the whole is so much greater than the sum of the parts. But when she told her teacher that she aspired to teach music at the college level, he said she might be able to teach elementary school, but that college was beyond her scope as a musician. "He was right—at the time," says Paul, now professor of music, chair of vocal and choral studies, and director of choral activities at the University of Oregon. "I was a late bloomer." Paul teaches graduate courses in choral conducting, repertoire, and pedagogy. She also directs and conducts the UO Chamber Choir and the University Singers. Under her direction, the Chamber Choir took top honors in two categories at the 2011 International Choir Festival Tallinn in Estonia. In 2013, the group won the prestigious Fleischmann International Trophy at the Cork International Choral Festival. This year, the choir placed second in the International Chamber Choir Competition Marktoberdorf, held in Bavaria, and received recognition for best interpretation of the compulsory work sung by all participating choirs. Interpretation is key, Paul says. "Their music is not just a Xerox copy. They bring themselves to the music in a way that audiences really respond to."



# Sharon Paul

ROBERT M. TROTTER CHAIR OF MUSIC  
CHAIR, VOCAL AND CHORAL STUDIES

BY ROSEMARY HOWE CAMOZZI



## TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

The old model for choirs, Paul says, was to carefully follow the maestro's orders, but she believes in empowering her students to be active interpreters of the music. "They have to be engaged in the process, I want them to be thinking, literate musicians."

## PREVIOUS GIGS

After earning her doctorate in choral conducting at Stanford University, Paul joined the faculty at California State University at Chico, serving as professor of music and director of choral activities from 1984 to 1992. She then served as artistic director of the San Francisco Girls Chorus, where she conducted the organization's acclaimed performance ensembles, Chorissima and Virtuose, until joining the UO faculty in 2000.

## ON THE BIG SCREEN

Paul appeared in the 1998 movie *What Dreams May Come*, starring Robin Williams and Cuba Gooding Jr., as conductor of the choral group Chorissima. She also conducted the San Francisco Girls Chorus for the soundtrack of the 1999 movie *The Talented Mr. Ripley*.

## POSITIVE FEEDBACK

Paul gets high ratings from students at [ratemyprofessors.com](http://ratemyprofessors.com). One calls her "an inspiring role model to female choral conductors." Another writes: "Sharon Paul is God. She's the most hilarious person I know, she remembers everyone's name no matter how little she knows them, she's incredibly intelligent, and she's got charisma up the wazoo. Join U. Singers and your life will change."

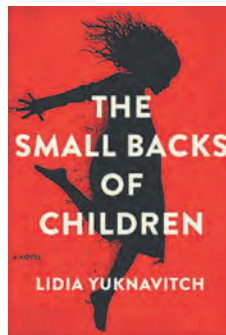
## LISTEN UP

Hear the choir online at [OregonQuarterly.com/chamber-choir](http://OregonQuarterly.com/chamber-choir).

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE SMITH

## BOOKMARKS

Ducks publish on an astounding range of topics, as the following titles illustrate. Find more recommended reading at [oregonquarterly.com/bookmarks](http://oregonquarterly.com/bookmarks).



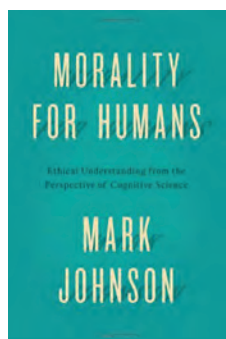
**THE SMALL BACKS OF CHILDREN** (HARPERCOLLINS, 2015) **BY LIDIA YUKNAVITCH, BA '89, PHD '98**

In a war-torn village in Eastern Europe, an American photographer captures a heart-stopping image: a young girl fleeing a fiery explosion that has engulfed her home and family. A suicidal writer who has suffered her own devastating tragedy becomes obsessed with the photo, leading her husband and friends to try to save her by rescuing the girl and bringing her to the United States. The novel explores the treacherous, often violent borders between war and sex, love and art.



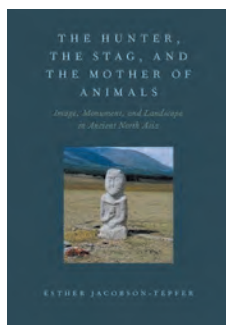
**LANDSCAPES OF CHANGE: INNOVATIVE DESIGNS AND REINVENTED SITES** (TIMBER PRESS, 2014) **BY ROXI THOREN**

Climate change, natural resource use, population shifts, and many other factors have changed the demands we place on landscape designs. Using 25 case studies from around the world, *Landscapes of Change* examines how these challenges inspire new design strategies and result in innovative works that are redefining the field. Thoren is an associate professor in the UO's Departments of Architecture and Landscape Architecture.



**MORALITY FOR HUMANS: ETHICAL UNDERSTANDING FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF COGNITIVE SCIENCE** (UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS, 2015) **BY MARK JOHNSON**

Mixing cognitive science with pragmatist philosophy, Johnson argues that appealing to absolute principles is not only scientifically unsound, but even morally suspect. This book shows how we can use ethical naturalism to adapt our moral standards to many different situations. Johnson is a Philip H. Knight Professor and a College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor in the Department of Philosophy at the UO.



**THE HUNTER, THE STAG, AND THE MOTHER OF ANIMALS: IMAGE, MONUMENT, AND LANDSCAPE IN ANCIENT NORTH ASIA** (OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2015) **BY ESTHER JACOBSON-TEPFER**

A professor emerita of art history analyzes stone mounds, altars, standing stones, and petroglyphs to reconstruct the prehistory of myth and belief in North Asia. Her narrative shows how images of hunters, mothers, and stags relate to a narrative of birth, death, and transformation in southern Siberia and Mongolia.



THE BEST...

# Worst Yoga Mat on Campus

BY ISABEL ZACHARIAS



It was the last mat left at Target, forlorn-looking beneath the stock photo of a woman in smiling, acute downward dog. The label was so torn and the rubber so grubby I considered walking out without paying—but, begrudgingly, I forked over \$21.99, shuffling off with my practical purchase.

Now it unravels onto the studio floor, and I take care to avoid the sharp whack that tends to happen in descent. Even the sound of bare feet filing in is just about soundless. It's still the morning, still the summer. Right now, it still feels easy to be here, only here—to hear the oak leaves batting against the studio's bright, high windows like eyelashes.

One of my teachers used to say before each practice, “Look at your hands. Bring some awareness there.” My eyes have always drifted instead to that God-awful mat. Its rubber has eroded away as finger- and toeprints in the places I've pressed again and again.

Rolled loosely, it swings about my shoulders in a sling, the color of a perfect summer plum. I love it, but not because it's perfect. Against my will, the mat has become me, and here is why I must love it: the practice of yoga, for me, is one thing—a practice of reckless self-love.

\*\*\*

I learned that this was true in one specific instant.

My most beloved teacher, Joan Dobbie—who writes memoir poetry about her youth in the '60s and now removes small spectacles to stand on her head every morning—was leading us into a shoulder stand.

Take a real pause now to imagine Joan. Brown hair half gathered up, small frame. She doesn't fit the gym yoga teacher prototype—no longer young, not supple, not flawless. But here she is, strong. She sits calmly in full leg splits while instructing us. Her voice sounds the way lavender smells. She says, “Walk your hands . . . sloooooowly . . . up the back . . . only as far as your body speaks to you.”

I'm having trouble. (It's worth noting that I am not notably graceful, flexible, or strong.) I can't quite get into the posture, and when I do, I fall over. Typically, I'm good at laughing when I fall. This, though, feels awful, and afterward, like clockwork, Joan asks our little class of eight: “How did that feel?”

We go around the circle. Most people say “strong,” “confident,” “calm.”

I want to lie, and usually I would, but the truth falls out of my mouth. “I felt afraid, unstable, and sort of ashamed.”

Joan gives a small nod and a smile like she's heard this answer a thousand times. “Fear becomes part of the practice, certainly,” she says. “But we are lucky. We have forever to be in our bodies. What a shame if there were nothing to work toward.”

\*\*\*

Two days later, in my apartment facing the big, hot, early-morning sun, I got into a shoulder stand and screamed. It now seems incredibly facile to me, and in fact, it's hard to imagine not being able to do one. This is the gift Joan gave me, to see past my own dumb ego to the part of me that knew I was already perfect as long as I was full of love—that everything I dreamed of for myself would come with enough patience and honesty.

There are so few spaces in college where students are encouraged to feel they are enough. In those 68 inches of Target-issued delineated space, I don't have to compare myself to others.

It's scuffed and worn and far from perfect, but, thank God, it's mine.

Isabel Zacharias is a senior from Kansas. She is majoring in journalism, with minors in creative writing and music.



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# Dreams Within Reach

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PRIVATE DONORS AND FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT, THE UO IS MAKING COLLEGE FEASIBLE FOR THOUSANDS OF LOWER-INCOME OREGONIANS.

BY ED DORSCH | PHOTOGRAPHS BY KELLY JAMES

**M**YESHA ABDULRAHMAN, BS '12, will never forget the day her odds finally evened out. She was sitting with her mom in the counselor's office at Jefferson High School in Portland, reading a letter from the University of Oregon. "I write to congratulate you on being selected as a PathwayOregon program participant," it said. It took a minute for them to figure out what, exactly, PathwayOregon was all about. Then it clicked. Her dream—of a good education, a promising career—had suddenly gone from seemingly impossible to starting-right-now. She was going to college. "My mom cried," she recalls. "It was a lot of pressure off of her. We were both just really happy, because I could go to school now." 

Facing page, clockwise from upper left: Myesha Abdulrahman, Gage Cambon, Guadalupe Quevedo, Ryan Sherrard.





“My mom was a single mom and she struggled with three kids,” she recalls. “Nothing was easy for us. It didn’t seem as if college would be an opportunity for me because we couldn’t pay the bills. We couldn’t eat.” But she never gave up.

“I knew that being involved was going to open the door to scholarships,” she says. So she joined her high school cheer squad, worked hard enough to become an honor student, and ran for junior class president. She served as president of the National Honor Society and volunteered for an organization working on African American health issues. Her efforts paid off—she was accepted to the UO, and PathwayOregon ensured she could attend tuition-free. But starting college brought new challenges.

“My first term was so hard, I felt out of place. I took too many credits.” PathwayOregon advisors helped her figure out the right mix and balance of classes to take, and sup-

**“MY MOM CRIED. IT WAS A LOT OF PRESSURE OFF OF HER. WE WERE BOTH JUST REALLY HAPPY, BECAUSE I COULD GO TO SCHOOL NOW.”**

Until then, the odds seemed stacked against her. Memories of growing up in northeast Portland include days without enough food. Power or water cut off because the bills were overdue. And stints of homelessness, when she stayed with friends, with family, or in shelters.

Abdulrahman was one of 415 Oregonians to join the first PathwayOregon freshman class in 2008. The program was created to improve graduation rates and reduce indebtedness for low-income students. UO administrators collaborated across offices to build a program designed not only to expand access to higher education, but also to foster student success. In addition to providing financial support, PathwayOregon seeks to boost academic performance, help students meet degree requirements, assist with major and career exploration, and provide personal support. It covers four years of tuition and, perhaps even more important, gives students the help they need to navigate the academic rigor of a university and the challenges of college life. For Abdulrahman, PathwayOregon removed barriers that stood between her and a bachelor’s degree—a goal she began striving for as a young teenager.

ported her as she learned to navigate college life. A psychology major, she considered a career in psychiatry, and then zeroed in on human resources.

Abdulrahman graduated in four years, earning a BS in psychology in 2012, and went on to earn a master of public administration in human resources management at Portland State University. Today, she’s a human resources coordinator at Reed College.

To be eligible for PathwayOregon, students must be Oregon residents, be accepted to the UO, have a 3.40 or better high school GPA, and qualify for the Federal Pell Grant, a program for undergraduate students with the highest financial need. While PathwayOregon provides financial support, it doesn’t work like a typical scholarship. It’s more like a promise. As long as students meet benchmarks for earning a degree in four years, the UO agrees to pay for the tuition and fees not covered by other grants, loans, and scholarships. The amount provided varies according to each student’s needs.

This September, the Education Trust, a nonprofit advocacy organization, released its report on graduation rates from more than 1,000 colleges and universities, following a 2007 cohort. They found a 14-point gap in six-year graduation rates between Pell and non-Pell students nationally. In other words, the percent of lower-income college students graduating in six years was 14 percentage



points lower than their higher-income counterparts who don't qualify for the Pell grant. At the UO, the gap was 13 percent.

But PathwayOregon is helping the UO beat those odds. For freshmen starting just a year later in 2008 (when the program launched) the graduation rate gap between PathwayOregon residents and all non-Pell resident students shrank to less than 2 percent. The four year graduation rate of PathwayOregon students is 44.7 percent higher than that of low-income students entering the UO before PathwayOregon began—an important accomplishment, because graduating earlier means less debt and more time building a career (and earning a paycheck).

\* \* \*

PathwayOregon senior Ryan Sherrard, of Newberg, ducks inside a coffee shop, shaking October raindrops from his Seattle Seahawks cap. Despite the rain, he doesn't use an umbrella to walk across campus. Inside, he strikes up an

to explore so many different subjects or study abroad in Mexico and Spain—life-transforming experiences.

“I'm very grateful. The cost is this many dollars, but the effect it's had on me (and, I know, other people) is unquantifiable. That's what an economist would say.”

This financial piece is one part of the equation, says PathwayOregon director Grant Schoonover. “It's absolutely necessary to get them here. But once we've established access, we work on success. Every PathwayOregon student is, academically, very capable. But there are often obstacles getting in the way. When we can, we remove them. But more often we simply help students navigate a way forward.”

The PathwayOregon staff offers the support they need to succeed, says Schoonover, from

**“I'M VERY GRATEFUL. THE COST IS THIS MANY DOLLARS, BUT THE EFFECT IT'S HAD ON ME IS UNQUANTIFIABLE. THAT'S WHAT AN ECONOMIST WOULD SAY.”**

animated conversation with a fellow student about an economics class. They're both undergraduates, but not exactly peers. Sherrard was a teaching assistant for the class—a rare responsibility for an undergraduate, and good prep work for graduate school.

“If my life were a ladder, a PhD is definitely one of the rungs,” he says. “I'm interested in policy consulting and other things, too. I really like the idea of academia, of doing research for a living.”

Maybe it's his passion for economics, his easy confidence, or the way he seems to relish a healthy debate. But Sherrard is often mistaken for a faculty member. He has a good head start on an academic career. After graduating early (with a quadruple major in economics, history, Spanish, and Latin American studies, plus a minor in mathematics) he plans to start working full time as an economics researcher while he applies to graduate schools.

“Sometimes I'll get students coming in and asking questions about how I got where I am, which is weird,” he acknowledges. “They don't realize I'm a student as well. Or I'll get ‘Professor Sherrard’ in an e-mail. I enjoy interacting with students. I think it's fun. It's also a really good way to learn the material.”

Sherrard's mom works in elder care and his dad is a firefighter. Without PathwayOregon, he wouldn't have attended the UO, he says. And he wouldn't have been able





their first orientation to career counseling as commencement draws near. This includes academic, personal, and financial advising. It also takes some creativity, and an effort to get to know each student and build strong personal ties.

\* \* \*

For senior economics and Spanish major Guadelupe Quevedo, that extra help makes all the difference.

Like about 60 percent of PathwayOregon participants, Quevedo is a first-generation college student. “My parents have been very supportive and encouraging, but they don’t understand what college is like. They don’t have those tools, and they can’t help me academically. Pathway has been such an incredible support system. The staff has been willing to help me every step of the way.”

Sitting at a desk with two monitors, a set of walkie-talkies, and a stack of papers, Quevedo is at work in the Erb Memorial Union’s maintenance office—a job she’s held since her second week on campus. Working 20 hours a week and keeping up with school hasn’t been easy, but she takes it all in stride.

“The hardest part about college is balancing everything. I’ve worked all four years. And you try to be healthy and work out. I think time management is crucial.” It’s a skill PathwayOregon helped her improve. And she’s good at pacing herself. An avid runner, she’s training for her third half-marathon.

“I don’t even do it intentionally,” she says. “But I run almost perfect splits. Every single mile is exactly the same. I never go out with an intentional time that I want to run, but I just get in this groove where it feels like I’m working hard enough. I’m really good about just staying that way until I’m done.”

“THIS IS ALL SOMETHING MY PARENTS WANTED TO DO BUT NEVER COULD. THAT’S A BIG REASON WHY I’M DOING IT.”



Quevedo is right on track to graduate this June, and she’s already putting out feelers for career possibilities, even looking into her dream job: working with the Federal Reserve in San Francisco. “A degree encompasses the American dream for me,” she says.

Quevedo’s parents are US citizens who immigrated from Mexico. Her dad works at a lumber mill and her mom does agricultural work for a winery. Neither attended school beyond the fifth grade, but they are working to obtain their GEDs. “This is all something my parents wanted to do but never could. That’s a big reason why I’m doing it,” Quevedo says. She also hopes it will inspire her two younger brothers. “I think there’s a barrier that has to be broken. Being the oldest, I took that leap of faith. I thought if I got through it, then my brothers would follow.”

\* \* \*

Afternoon sunlight fills the atrium of the Lillis Business Complex—a building where senior Gage Cambon spends a lot of time these days, working on group projects for his business courses. He looks through taupe, horn-rimmed glasses at the swarm of students heading to class and reflects on what PathwayOregon means to him. First, there was the financial support. Without it, attending the UO would have been nearly impossible.

“I wasn’t expecting to actually go here, but I love the Ducks,” says the ardent sports fan from Portland. “It was



a college I always dreamed of. When I got the award, I actually called PathwayOregon because I didn't think it was real."

Cambon says he's taken full advantage of Pathway's workshops, academic advising, and support—something he encourages freshmen to do—while working at his part-time job as a PathwayOregon peer advisor. But the program's biggest impact, he says, has been more personal.

As a freshman, Cambon felt overwhelmed and isolated in an unfamiliar environment. Neither of his parents went to college. Nor did most of his high school friends. He was raised by a single mom who worked her way up to the vice president level at Washington Mutual, but then lost her job after the 2008 market crash. Without a degree, she struggled to find work. Cambon admires her strength and work ethic. But the experience taught him the value of a college degree.

PathwayOregon gave Cambon a community, connecting him with other first-generation college students. And



**“SHE WAS THERE FOR ME, NOT JUST AS AN ADVISOR, BUT AS A FRIEND. SHE TOLD ME EVERYTHING WAS GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.”**

an advisor helped him deal with anxiety and depression. “She was there for me,” he recalls. “Not just as an advisor, but as a friend. She told me everything was going to be all right.”

Today, things are looking up. Two weeks after he graduates this June, he'll start as a buyer for Kroger in Portland—a job the business major landed through an internship.

\* \* \*

Now in its eighth year, PathwayOregon welcomed more than 700 freshmen this fall—about a third more than last year, and its largest cohort ever. From the 415 students who started in 2008, the program has grown to serve more than 2,000 currently.

A combination of efforts has enabled this growth. Through the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships, the university has dedicated millions of dollars to support the program. This year saw an uptick in state support. And private gifts—including a \$25 million endowment funded by Connie '84 and Steve Ballmer last November—have helped increase the number of students served. The largest contribution for scholarships in UO history, the Ballmers' gift reflects one of the core tenets of the university's \$2 billion fundraising campaign: increasing access for lower-income Oregonians. Pathway has also benefitted from increased funding from the Oregon state government this year, and the program helps the UO leverage Federal Pell

Grant funding, combining these resources to make the most of each.

As funding and enrollment continue to grow, PathwayOregon is also earning top marks for retention and graduation rates. The university hopes to maintain this trajectory, improving the odds for larger numbers of lower-income Oregonians.

For Abdulrahman, a UO diploma opened the door to a brighter future. Today she's enjoying the rewards and challenges of the first full-time job on her career path. And she has her sights set on the future, preparing for her professional in human resources certification exam.

“In 10 years or so, I'd like to be in a management position,” she says. “And top leadership when that's appropriate—climbing up the ladder of a human resources career.”

Odds are, she'll make it.

For more student stories, videos, and information on PathwayOregon, visit [uoregon.edu/pathway](http://uoregon.edu/pathway).

Ed Dorsch, BA '94, MA '99, is a UO staff writer.

## Rethinking Early Human Migration to the Americas

# SEA CHANGE

Luther Cressman put UO archaeology on the map in 1938 with his discovery of 10,000-year-old sagebrush sandals in central Oregon. Today, UO archaeologists are finding evidence that the very first migrants to this continent may not have arrived on foot.



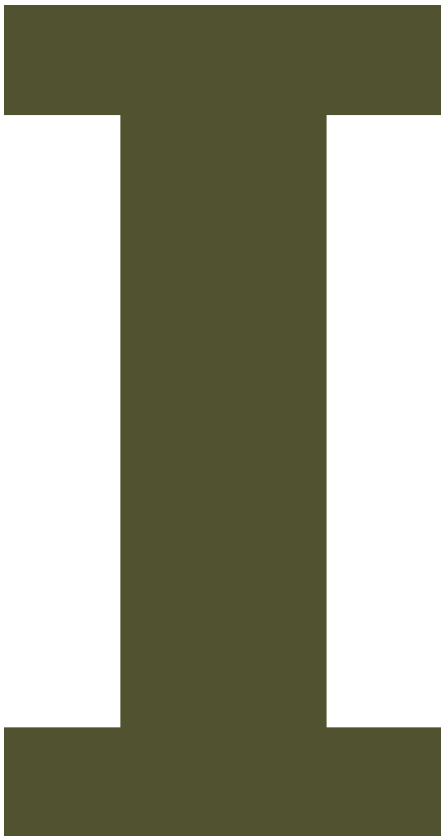
**By Bonnie Henderson**  
**Photographs by Charlie Litchfield**





Staff archaeologist  
Pat O'Grady at  
the Rimrock Draw  
Rockshelter.  
Upper left: Luther  
Cressman at Fort  
Rock.





It's the 11th hour of the last day of operations at the 2015 University of Oregon archaeology field school at Rimrock Draw Rockshelter, an area of tall basalt cliffs tucked into the rolling sagebrush-and-juniper country southwest of Burns, Oregon. Students have spent the morning winterizing the site, piling sandbags in the holes they spent the previous five-and-a-half weeks excavating. But not all are heaving sandbags—two diehards are still digging, taking turns excavating a few more centimeters of dirt in their assigned one-square-meter unit.

Susannah Philbrick, a junior at the College of William and Mary, has pretzeled herself into the bottom of the six-foot-deep hole and—with paintbrush, trowel, and artist's palette knife—is clearing away the dirt, millimeter by millimeter, looking for artifacts as small as a fragment of charcoal, a burned rabbit bone, or a piece of human hair. She's down so deep that she has to call out twice before Pat O'Grady, BS '96, MS '99, PhD '06, staff archaeologist at the UO's Museum of Natural and Cultural History, hears her.

"Pat? I found something you should come look at."

It's so dark and the "thing" is so dirt-caked that O'Grady has to scramble into the hole before he can identify it: a piece of translucent agate, the color of sunset and larger than a man's thumb. One end has been crudely shaped and sharpened in a manner O'Grady recognizes as that of an "end scraper"—a tool used to abrade wood or clean an animal hide. It is strikingly similar to another orange agate tool—larger, its edges more finely crafted—that O'Grady found three years earlier just a few yards away. Both were buried below a thin layer of coarse volcanic fragments that geologists say spewed out of Mount St. Helens during an eruption about 15,000 years ago.

Someone, it seems, once used this scraper as part of life in Oregon's Great Basin, not long after humans first painted in the caves at Lascaux, France, and just a few thousand years after people in China figured out how to make pottery. He or she must have dropped it or laid it on the ground one day. And no human touched it again until Philbrick plucked it from the dirt last summer.

## BY LAND OR BY SEA

A charred seed, a bit of burned chokecherry, a sliver of tooth enamel from a camel, a sesamoid bone from a *Bison antiquus*, a spear point, knife, or scraper made of agate or obsidian, or—the prize of prizes—a lump of dried human feces: artifacts such as these, pulled from archaeological sites in Eastern Oregon by UO students and scientists, are helping rewrite the prehistory of this hemisphere.

The story you learned in school about fur-clad hunters making their way across the Bering Land Bridge at the end of the last Ice Age is not the story children will be reading a generation from now, after the textbooks are rewritten. Discoveries at inland sites from southern Chile to Fort Rock, Oregon, and among the islands and submerged coastal plains off the coasts of California and the Pacific Northwest, are pushing back the date when the first humans are thought to have arrived. These discoveries are causing archaeologists to reconsider the route these early settlers took on those first treks—or, perhaps more accurately, voyages.

To understand the new paradigm, one has to understand what it replaces. It was believed for most of the last century that toward the end of the Pleistocene epoch, not more than about 13,000 years ago, groups of humans migrated east from Siberia across Beringia. (The term "land bridge" doesn't do justice to a vast subcontinent nearly 1,000 miles wide at its narrowest—an area of land exposed during the Last Glacial Maximum, when sea levels were almost 400 feet lower than they are today and massive ice sheets extended south beyond what is today the United States' border with Canada.) Following woolly mammoths, mastodons, and other now-extinct big game, it was thought that these early explorers managed to squeeze through a hypothesized "ice-free corridor" in the vicinity of today's British Columbia-Alberta border and, from there, ultimately dispersed throughout the hemisphere, all the way to the tip of South America.

## It appeared that people were in Oregon, hunting big game, at the same time or even earlier than Clovis people.

What launched this theory were discoveries, in the 1920s and '30s, of a particular type of spear point—large, with concave grooves, or fluting, for attaching to a spear shaft—first found in the vicinity of Clovis, New Mexico, and ever after known as Clovis points. Since then, Clovis points have been unearthed throughout most of the contiguous United States and as far south as northern South America. Clovis points and the culture they represent were ultimately dated to a period roughly 13,200 to 12,800 years ago—making them, at the time of their discovery, the oldest evidence of human occupation in what is now the Americas.





But was Clovis really first? Pioneer UO archaeologist Luther Cressman had his doubts. In 1939, one year after he made his groundbreaking discovery of 75 sagebrush sandals—later determined to be up to 10,500 years old—in Fort Rock Cave, he began investigating a site near Summer Lake, Oregon, known as Paisley Five Mile Point Caves. There he found well-preserved bones of extinct species of camel and horse alongside stone tools that looked nothing like Clovis points, leading him to speculate that people occupied Oregon’s Great Basin during the last Ice Age. But without good dating techniques and verifiable stratigraphy, the antiquity of his finds couldn’t be verified. In 1967 and 1968, Cressman’s last graduate student, Steve Bedwell, did some digging at a site called Connley Caves, about 30 miles from Paisley Caves, and found, among other things, projectile points that were narrower than Clovis points and lacking the fluting that characterized them. He estimated that these points, now called Western Stemmed points, were at least 13,000 years old. It appeared that people were in Oregon, hunting big game, at the same time or even earlier than Clovis people. But they may have been using a different type of spear point than that used elsewhere in North America.

But Bedwell was in a hurry, and in archaeology, without painstakingly tracking exactly what you find, at what depth, in relation to other things around it, you have nothing to hang your hat on. Stone tools can’t be radiocarbon dated; their estimated age is typically tied to the things

At the archaeology field school at Connley Caves last summer, clockwise from upper left: Katelyn McDonough, BS '14; senior Zane Pindell; Kyle Carson; and Dennis Jenkins.

they are found with, such as charcoal, bones, seeds, or other plant and animal remnants that can be dated. Bedwell’s discoveries were too haphazard to penetrate an archaeological community fully committed to Clovis First.

Then came Monte Verde. In the late 1990s, animal bones, hearths, scraps of clothing, and other evidence of human occupation were found at a site in southern Chile that was ultimately determined to be 1,000 years older than the oldest Clovis artifacts. It was an astounding discovery, and it would prove to be the beginning of the end of the Clovis First model.

## PREDATING CLOVIS

Like archaeologists the world over, Dennis Jenkins, PhD '91, had heard about Luther Cressman and his discoveries at the Paisley Caves. In 2001, Jenkins, senior staff archaeologist at the UO’s Museum of Natural and Cultural History, resolved to take another crack at the caves, hoping to find, identify, and date both Pleistocene animal bones and human artifacts. If the two overlapped, it would mean that people were there at the same time as the Pleistocene animals.

The discoveries were all that he had hoped for, including finding the proper sequence of projectile point types from the top to the bottom of the dig. He and his field school students found charcoal and burned bones. They found what appeared to be a garbage dump filled with horse, camel, and mountain sheep bones. Most exciting of



all, they found coprolites: ancient human feces. Not the first human coprolites found in the Americas, but—as it turned out—the oldest. Radiocarbon dating indicates that this site was occupied by humans at least 14,400 years ago, which makes the Paisley Caves coprolites the oldest directly dated human remains in this hemisphere.

What's so special about, as Jenkins sometimes calls it, "poo"? "You can reconstruct what people were eating," he says. "You can get plant remains, fish scales, fish bones, small bones of rodents, insect parts if they were eating insects." Anything that is not metabolized, he says, including pollen in the air, "comes out the other end."

Pollen lets you know what species of plants were blooming in the vicinity. Parasites—like the thousands of hookworm eggs Jenkins found in several coprolites—reveal volumes about quality of life ("That person was listless and going to die the first time they got a cold," he speculates). DNA found in the feces indicates who these cave dwellers descended from, what part of the world their ancestors came from, and who in today's world may be descended from them.

"Paisley Caves is one of only about four sites in the Americas that are considered to be firmly dated as pre-Clovis," says O'Grady. But soon, he adds with a hopeful smile, there may be another.

O'Grady learned field techniques as a student at Jenkins's field school in 1994. Since 2000, he's been running his own summer field school, and since 2012 it's been at Rimrock Draw. To the untutored eye, the site doesn't look like much: a slight fold in the arid, undulating landscape. But something about the place caught the eye of a friend, Bureau of Land Management archaeologist Scott Thomas, in the summer of 2009: unusually tall sagebrush that suggested a higher degree of moisture in the soil, and a dip in the land suggesting that a stream might once have run through here. In fall 2012—O'Grady's second season at the site—his crew unearthed the orange agate tool from under a layer of 15,000-year-old volcanic tephra.

One apparently very old tool does not a confirmed pre-Clovis site make, as O'Grady is quick to point out. But with the second agate tool found in 2015—and a host of other artifacts of apparently similar vintage—he's hoping to build an airtight case. He's eager to return to Rimrock Draw next summer to see what else might lie buried in dirt at the same depth, just a few feet away.

## THE KELP HIGHWAY

So if humans have been in Oregon's Great Basin for at least 14,000 years, and if they came from northeast Asia, as DNA found in the Paisley Caves coprolites seems to suggest, what route did the first migrants take? Through Beringia and south through the fabled ice-free corridor?

Not likely, says archaeology professor Jon Erlandson, director of the UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History. An "ice-free corridor" wouldn't have opened up in time for people to get to Oregon 14,500 years ago. The variations found among spear point technologies and other artifacts found across North America suggest that people came

here in waves, following a variety of routes, he says. But the very first migration probably happened not overland, but by boat, following what Erlandson calls the "kelp highway"—the resource-rich, near-shore North Pacific Ocean.

As recently as 10 or 15 years ago, Erlandson's was a lonely position. "Invariably at conferences there would be nine people talking about the land bridge and the Clovis people, and they'd throw in one coastal person just to be representative, and that's who I was. Nowadays, if you took a poll of 10 presenters at a conference, asking how people first got to the Americas, probably nine of them would say 'coastal migration.'"

As archaeological evidence of pre-Clovis migration into North America has accumulated, so has geological research suggesting that Beringia and the interior of Canada were too cold 15,000 years ago to support human communities. Meanwhile, the Pacific Northwest coast wasn't as inhospitable as was once thought; there were almost certainly gaps in the glaciers where people could come ashore to hunt land mammals and get fresh water. And the coastal glaciers retreated earlier than those inland. Besides, Australia had been colonized by seafarers from Asia at least 40,000 years ago. Clearly, humans had figured out how to build and handle boats and had even undertaken long ocean crossings well before they first ventured toward the Americas.

The trouble is, there's scant evidence of ancient humans along the coast. And for good reason: Places where the earliest people would

have camped, even settled, along the shore have long since been inundated by seas rising after the Last Glacial Maximum (the period in Earth's history, about 25,000 years ago, when the glaciers were at their thickest and the sea levels at their lowest). Evidence of ancient hearths with their charcoal and charred bones, middens and piles of animal bones, certainly coprolites: all would have long since decomposed in the ocean or been scattered by the waves.

But not stone tools. In upland sites in California's Channel Islands, Erlandson has found hundreds of delicate stemmed points (not Clovis points) in sites dated 12,000 years old or older, sites where coastal dwellers might have gone to keep watch on the shoreline and, while there, do some flint-knapping, replenishing their hunting arsenal. Stone tools are what Erlandson is most likely to find this year as he and his colleagues launch an ambitious four-year, \$900,000 project funded by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to map, model, and explore



## Head of the Class

Of the four grad students accepted this year by Texas A&M University's Center for the Study of the First Americans, considered the preeminent institute dedicated to advancing understanding of human migration into the Americas, two are graduates of UO's archaeology program. Katelyn McDonough (previous page), a supervisor at Jenkins's Connley Caves field school for the past two summers, plans to continue work in the Great Basin, particularly on pollen and parasite analysis of coprolites. Jordan Pratt (above), a supervisor at O'Grady's field school for two years, hopes to research shifts in mobility and settlement patterns in the Great Basin in relation to climate change. Two out of four—as O'Grady points out, "That's pretty good shootin'."





Jon Erlandson uses this submersible to explore the theory that early humans first arrived in North America by boat.

submerged landscapes off the northern Channel Islands and the Oregon coast. Among the first activities: exploration of the strait between two of the Channel Islands to look for evidence of human occupation 9,000 years ago, when the two islands were one and the strait was a bay. In October, Erlandson made four dives in a two-person submarine to as much as 300 feet deep, exploring the margins of a submarine canyon that may have attracted early islanders.

It may seem like a long shot. But in 2014, after carefully mapping the seafloor with high-resolution imaging, a team of British Columbian researchers using a robotic underwater vehicle identified what appeared to be a stone weir—a fish trap, the kind used for generations to catch migrating salmon—in the ocean off the southern coast of the Haida Gwaii archipelago (the Queen Charlotte Islands, north of Vancouver Island). Today the weir is deep under Hecate Strait, but 13,800 years ago its stone pickets would have fenced the mouth of a stream entering a river that flowed across the coastal plain, possibly in sight of a settlement.

### A DEVELOPING STORY

Jenkins, meanwhile, has turned his attention to Connley Caves, the site investigated by Steve Bedwell in the 1960s. He began working there in 2014 doing—as he puts it—the “archaeology of archaeology”—reexamining the soil disturbed by Bedwell’s digging. This past summer he

went deeper, into previously undisturbed soil, and found 18 projectile points, 45 scrapers, 51 flake knives and scrapers, and two incredibly delicate bone needles determined, with radiocarbon dating, to be between 12,000 and nearly 13,000 years old. He plans to return to Connley Caves in

the summer of 2016, this time searching for artifacts in nearby areas never touched by Bedwell.

But he doesn’t plan to return to Paisley Caves. “I know that there are wonderful deposits still there,” he says, “and I’m going to leave them right there for the future.” A future archaeologist, he means—perhaps one of his own students, using tools and techniques, in the field and the lab, still in development or even beyond the imagination of today’s scientists.

“We’re in an archaeology frontier right now in Oregon,” O’Grady says. “We have some solid dates with Paisley, and I’m starting to make some progress on these possible pre-Clovis sites that will tell us some interesting things here in the near future, and we have Erlandson’s work on the coast that suggests that people were coming here by boat.

“But right now, here in Oregon, we’re just starting to get a sense of what the story looks like. It’s still a very developing story.”

“It’s a really interesting time,” echoes Erlandson. “Much of what I learned in graduate school was wrong. It’s wonderful!”

Bonnie Henderson, BA ’79, MA ’85, is the author of, most recently, *The Next Tsunami: Living on a Restless Coast*.





Streeter





## Caring for Drug-Exposed Babies

BY MELISSA HART | ILLUSTRATIONS BY KATHERINE STREETER

*Life takes us to unexpected places. Love brings us home.*

The sentiment decorates a black wooden frame collaged with photos of beaming mothers, infants, and toddlers. It's one of many family photos on the walls of Jennifer and Naomi Meyer's spacious two-story in the west hills of Eugene. Guests at their New Year's Eve party—early, to accommodate children's bedtimes—sip wine and remark on the pictures. They study the inspirational refrigerator magnets and the weekly menu posted on a chalkboard with Tuesday's "kid dinner"—cheeseburgers, mac 'n' cheese, and carrots prepared by younger members of the household.

In the living room, Katy Perry's "Firework" pumps over the sound system. A dozen kids, toddlers to preteens, gyrate to the beat. They're Black, Latino, Anglo, amalgamations of ethnicities. They grin and twist while their parents applaud on the sidelines. It's an unusual gathering. Therapists, artists, academics, people who might otherwise remain unaware of each other in this mid-size city gather around one commonality—many have adopted children from the foster care system. And some of these children were born addicted or exposed to illegal drugs.

### BABIES BORN ADDICTED

The National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare estimates that in the United States, more than 400,000 infants each year are affected by prenatal alcohol or drug exposure. Oregon, a state hit especially hard by the methamphetamine epidemic, passed a game-changing law in 2006 that regulated sales of medications containing ingredients used to make the drug. Still, a 2015 report conducted by the Oregon

High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program found that meth use had increased. Heroin, controlled prescription drugs, and cocaine continue to threaten child and family safety as well.

At any given time, about 8,500 Oregon children live in foster care, at least half of them because of parental drug addiction and resulting neglect and abuse. When a baby's living situation is flagged as unsafe, the Department of Human Services (DHS) removes the child from its birth mother at the hospital and places it in medical foster care. Reunification with kinship family is always the goal, but biological parents in the throes of addiction or mental illness sometimes relinquish legal custody. Then, the DHS looks for a permanent placement for the child. But adoptive parents aren't always easy to find.

A baby born drug-exposed can be miserable. Often premature with scant birth-weight, she may suffer tremors, vomiting, diarrhea. She may have a defective heart or lungs, eye disorders, fluid on her brain. She may be unable to suck or swallow, in which case doctors insert a feeding tube into her stomach or down her nose. She's given medical treatment, but not the tender affection of a parent seeing an infant for the first time.

Still, these babies need adults who are committed to caring for them through fostering, therapy, medicine, and permanent adoption.

### SERVING CHILDREN 24-7

Erica Johnson-Garrick, BA '99, works as a foster parent certifier for the Department of Human Services in Springfield, Oregon. As a sociology student at the University of Oregon, she interned at Sexual Assault



Support Services and Womenspace. These experiences, she says, taught her to think outside of her personal experience. “I grew to love the feeling that came from listening to others in crisis,” she explains, “and helping them to find hope and traction within their own life circumstances.”

In her last term of graduate school, the DHS hired her as a child welfare caseworker; she’s worked there 13 years. She sees between five and 10 medically fragile infants a year—children born significantly disabled or diseased, premature, or drug-exposed “It’s excruciatingly painful,” she says, “to watch families fall apart, and to watch children suffer as a result of their parents’ decision-making.” Eventually, she moved from case management to foster parent certification.

Part of Johnson-Garrick’s job as a certifier requires her to check in with foster parents, ensuring that their home is still up to code. She visits the Meyers’ home regularly to check on the toddler for whom they’re

Given early intervention, given that parents learn and use the strategies we share with them, the prognosis is really very good.

caring along with their three adopted kids. “That family’s amazing,” she says. “I go out there and think of how it’s always so calm in their house.”

It’s calm because the Meyers have done extensive research into their children’s specialized needs. Downstairs, there’s a giant playroom equipped with a hanging swing, a climbing wall, and shelves of therapeutic toys. Schedules with both text and pictures are posted to let the children know exactly what’s expected of them and when—crucial because of attention-deficit issues, common in those born drug-exposed.

Foster parents across the state have skills and affinities for particular medical issues. One of Johnson-Garrick’s tasks is to identify the most appropriate placement for each child. “For medically fragile infants,” she says, “our hope is that the foster parents have the ability to attend to all the kid’s needs. Often, they’re driving to Doernbecher Children’s Hospital in Portland twice a week and visiting clinics for weight checks and blood draws. They have to be okay with nurses coming to their house to do things like change out bandages and tubes.”

Foster parents also have to remain cognizant of the fact that unless they apply to adopt the child in their care, eventually the small being on whom they’ve lavished 24-7 attention will move on to a permanent family placement. The DHS provides drug rehabilitation and reunification services to birth parents. “Even if a foster family applies for adoption,” says Jennifer Meyer, “they are not always given priority and not always selected by the committee as the adoptive family.”

## A NETWORK OF FAMILIES

Meyer is director of clinical education for the communication disorders and sciences program in the UO’s College of Education. One of her roles is to oversee the HEDCO Clinic, which houses the UO Speech-Language-Hearing Center serving children and adults with communication disorders. “A large number of children exposed to substances have speech and language delays,” she says, “or develop speech and language disorders.”

One of these children is her son. Meyer and her wife, Naomi, adopted three children through the Department of Human Services, two of whom were born drug-exposed. They’ve fostered three babies, as well.

“We really wanted to help our community,” Meyer says in her office, surrounded by photographs of her kids and a wall of framed lyrics from the musical theater productions she adores. “We had the resources, the skills, a stay-at-home mom. We knew we wanted to foster to adopt, and that a lot of the kids coming into care had drug and alcohol exposure in utero. We were open.”

After they adopted their two daughters, they fostered a drug-exposed baby who needed an interim four-month placement before moving in with a relative’s family, an endeavor she describes as “really challenging.” “There were a lot of late nights,” she says. “We just tried to take turns and take care of each other.”

A year later, they adopted their son. His birth mother, tested after he was delivered, had what the Meyers refer to as a “laundry list of drugs in her system.” He eventually presented with a speech disorder that still requires treatment eight years later.

When he was only a year old, the boy’s anger issues grew so profound that the Meyers had to enlist the help of a pediatric psychologist. “This was not a baby having a tantrum,” Naomi Meyer says. “This was a child who was raging, who couldn’t control his emotions and response to stress. I’d never had a one-year-old punch me like he meant it.”

The Meyers learned how to mother this specialized demographic of children on the job, relying on doctors, therapists, and support groups. Over the years, they’ve built up a network of families—parents and children who gather a few times a year to dance and play games and trade stories and resources.

“It’s a different kind of parenting,” Jennifer Meyer says. “It’s not that you can’t have friends and support folks who aren’t foster or adoptive parents, but the struggles and challenges and extra support that you need are understood more by other people who’ve been through it.”

One of the Meyers go-to groups is the Foster and Adoptive Parent Association of Lane County. Visit the website and you’ll see a photograph of a grinning little blond boy of perhaps seven, posed beside a rocky stream. Above him, links to a wealth of resources—everything from free clothing and state park recreation passes to information about how to register for the free parent training sessions offered through the DHS.

## PRESCHOOL PREPARATION FOR DISABLED TODDLERS

The Department of Human Services sometimes refers foster and adoptive children to Early Childhood Coordination Agency for Referrals, Evaluations, and Services (CARES)—an organization affiliated with the UO’s College of Education—which provides intervention and education to developmentally delayed or disabled children from birth to age five. Staff members rely largely on assessments such as the “Ages and Stages”





questionnaire, developed by the UO's Early Intervention Program in the 1980s, to help them monitor at-risk infants and young children.

At Early Childhood CARES, teachers work closely with speech, occupational, and physical therapists to address each child's needs. The Meyers enrolled their son in the program's therapeutic preschool. He boarded a bus in the mornings like his older sisters and attended a half-day program at a local elementary school with seven other students. There, teachers taught him to sit still, take turns, "all of those things that go against his nature," says Naomi Meyer.

"He got a jump start on academic skills, too," Jennifer Meyer adds. "He's good at math. I attribute some of that to the early math skills they did in the classroom."

Kathy McGrew, BA '80, MS '90, is an early intervention and early childhood special education specialist with Early Childhood CARES. As an undergraduate, she worked at the UO Child Development Center. In graduate school, she enrolled in practicums with children who had special needs. "That's where I found my passion," she says.

She also found her mentor, the late Beverly Fagot, PhD '67, a former member of the UO psychology department (1978-98) who researched the differences in social development in children. "I was a coder in her research," McGrew says, "one of the folks behind the one-way mirror, coding the behavior of the teacher and the children. I eventually got to be the teacher who was coded."

These days, McGrew oversees two parent-toddler classes a week. She seems to possess the ability to be everywhere at once in the large, colorful room she's created to help developmentally delayed and disabled toddlers get a head start on life. She pulls a big pink plastic pig from a cupboard marked "Fine Motor Skills" and hands it to a ponytailed girl who's reaching to take a similar toy from a boy in a Smashing Pumpkins T-shirt. "I know better than to get out just one," she says to the parents, laughing. Both children happily slip big coins into the slots on the pigs' backs.

The pigs sit on the "Thinking Table," full of cause-and-effect toys that can be pushed, pulled, and stacked. It's near the "Messy Table"—on this day, set with four mounds of turquoise dough beside rolling and shaping tools. There's a "Chill-Out Corner" with books and a hanging chair; a loft with stairs for little legs to navigate; a carpet-covered swing on a rainbow rug; and a sensory bin at toddler level, which, on this mid-September day, is full of dried white beans.

One of the tools that guide this class is the Assessment, Evaluation, and Programming System for Infants and Children, developed by Diane Bricker, UO professor emerita. "It looks at each child's individual development of fine motor and gross motor skills," says McGrew, "plus communication and social and cognitive development. It helps us to determine the goals for each child."

McGrew refers to her class as "preschool prep." "Everything is about language," she says. "Everything is about following directions. All of my



newbies are in diapers, and they flit from one activity to another. At the end of the year, they're sitting in circle and they're sharing. These kids are rock stars."

It's easy to assume that the drug-affected child in her class is the little guy lost in a voluminous hoodie. He falls as he climbs into a plastic ball pit. He's small in stature, very pale. Drool shines on his chin. But he's not the one. Rather, the kid in question strides between tables with an alert expression. The toddler rolls a plastic truck down a slide and laughs, builds a three-foot tower with multicolored blocks, then hops down the loft stairs to plunge two hands into the bin of beans.

"Once kids who are born with meth or heroin withdraw," McGrew says, "once their bodies recuperate, some of them are okay."

The toddler born drug-affected attends Early Childhood CARES classes with a parent—a friendly, tranquil adult who's gone through a local co-residency drug treatment program with her child.

The child hands a cup of beans to the parent, who smiles and nods and repeats the colors of the stacked blocks. They're close, with no indication of turmoil. The toddler holds up a Kermit the Frog doll almost as tall as the kids in the classroom. The parent takes it and playfully chases the child to the Chill-Out Corner.

"This family got help and responded to treatment," McGrew says. "Given early intervention, given that parents really buckle down and learn and use the strategies we share with them, the prognosis is really very good."

## THE CHALLENGE OF ADAPTING

Children born drug-affected may struggle in regular classrooms as they grow older. Imagine sending your first-grader to school and receiving daily phone calls from the principal's office—reports of hitting, biting, refusal to sit still, and tantrums thrown over basic requests for math and spelling work. Even the most skilled teachers—equipped with weighted blankets and noise-canceling headphones and necklaces on which sensory seekers can chew—can't always give drug-affected children the one-on-one attention and the quiet space they need to be academically successful.

Some parents put their kids in full-time behavioral-support classes offered by local school districts. Others homeschool. The Meyer children spend most of their day in a regular classroom, transitioning to a special-education room for individualized math and reading instruction. For behavioral issues, their mothers turn to the free outpatient counseling services and collaborative problem-solving classes offered by the Child Center, a Marcola-based nonprofit that offers psychiatric, therapeutic, and special education programs.

Once a week at the Child Center, parents check their kids into a supervised playroom, then enjoy pizza or sandwiches while learning communication strategies for kids who may—because of issues with executive functioning—have difficulty with planning, organization, or expressing their needs in a clear manner.

Jennifer Meyer describes how her son had always been a morning person before suddenly falling out of his routine and refusing to get dressed. In a calm moment, she tried the collaborative problem-solving model they'd studied at the Child Center. "We sat him down and said, 'Hey, getting dressed in the morning has been kind of tough. What's up?'" Eventually, she discovered that he didn't like his underwear. "He wanted boxer briefs," she says. "We went to the store, bought some new underwear, and worked it out."

Collaborative problem-solving also informs the Keeping Foster Parents Trained and Supported (KEEP) intervention program, founded by Patricia Chamberlain, PhD '80. Recognizing the power of foster and kinship parents to help each other with caregiving issues in a supportive environment, Chamberlain first established the Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care program model in 1983 to address teens with delinquency and mental health issues. The KEEP program originated from this model, with a focus on children between the ages of five and 12.

Initially, Chamberlain worked as a special education teacher, collaborating with the parents of some of her students to address difficult behaviors. "You can work with kids during the day in a school setting," she says, "but for kids who have major challenges, if you really want that work to be sustained and generalized, you're going to need to work closely with parents."

The KEEP program gathers together seven to 10 foster parents for weekly sessions at the Oregon Social Learning Center in Eugene, where trained facilitators address the specific circumstances and priorities of caregivers and children. The goal of the program is to prevent foster placement severance and improve reunification rates with kinship families while reducing behavioral and emotional challenges.

Along with all the support groups and classes in Oregon, parents may rely on help from developmental pediatricians and psychiatrists who can identify anxiety, depression, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and learning disabilities. They may prescribe medication, a choice that Early Childhood CARES' Kathy McGrew and the Meyers embrace with practical enthusiasm.

"They need a way to stabilize their sensory systems," McGrew says, "so they can learn."

## LOVE BRINGS US HOME

In their finished basement decorated with rows of family photos, Jennifer and Naomi Meyer gather together their community of foster, adoptive, and birth families in mid-October to create "Bags of Love" for babies entering foster care.

"In this season of thankfulness and social action," reads their Facebook invitation to the event, "our family is looking for ways to band together with other families to impact our community. We are hoping that a project like this will bring our friends' families together with a purpose and will allow us time to pause and think about a world bigger than ourselves."

Adults and children arrive bearing packages of diapers and pacifiers, receiving blankets, warm outfits, bottles, and other essentials to place in colorful drawstring sacks created by the local nonprofit, Bags of Love. Parents stand on one side of the table to assist kids filing past on the other side. Small hands select bright quilts and burp cloths, hair ribbons and rattles to drop into open bags. Voices exclaim over handmade teddy bears and board books.

When they're finished assembling, they move to a smaller table in the corner near the playroom. On it, squares of colored paper and crayons, plus a prototype of a personalized card for each baby that the Meyers and their children will slip into each bag.

First, a round smiling face. And below, these crayoned words: Somebody cares about you.

Melissa Hart is the author of *Wild Within: How Rescuing Owls Inspired a Family* (Lyons, 2014) and *Avenging the Owl* (Sky Pony, April 2016). She teaches nonfiction writing for Whidbey Island MFA Program.



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# OLD Oregon



## Kids' View

Beehives. Cigarettes. Nehru collars. For the May-June 1965 issue, *Old Oregon* asked sixth-graders at Harris Elementary to draw what they thought college students looked like in an "era of opulence and activism and general restlessness." Don't know about you, but they all look a little sketchy to us.





# Farming for the Future

Shelley Bowerman has dirty hands and a clear vision.

**T**he four farmers who make up Eugene’s Ant Farm Collective grow staple crops and produce, selling them to local markets and restaurants as part of a burgeoning “new farmers movement” that is using small-scale, sustainable farming to revitalize local food systems. But unlike other beginning farmers who rent or borrow money to buy land, Shelley Bowerman, BA ’09, and her partners rely on shares or work exchanges arranged with landholders.

The “Collective” part of the Ant Farm, in other words, refers to the seven different sites on which the group of farmers grows food. The ant farmers—Bowerman and partners

**BY JENNIFER BURNS BRIGHT**

Lauren Bilbao, Claire Schechtman, BA ’13, and Dan Schuler—each live on

different sites and have their own kitchen gardens, but share the work in the common plots that produce the market goods: many hundreds of pounds of tomatoes, potatoes, onions, winter squash, and other hearty, nutrient-dense food.

This arrangement speaks not only to the resourcefulness that is the hallmark of the American farmer, but more subtly to the revolutionary nature of Bowerman’s project as a postindustrial model of food production and distribution. By sharing both labor and available land, there is less need for capital outlay and a greater potential for a profitable venture than with the average small family farm. The farmers can dedicate time to farming instead of part-time jobs, which, according to USDA data, most small farmers rely on



to make ends meet. And Bowerman has discovered that many Eugeniens are happy to have their acreage tended by industrious farmers. As the Ant Farm Collective's website states, there is "no lack of land for those who dedicate themselves to the soil."

Keith Walton from Nettle Edge Farm in Eugene is one of those who shares land with the collective, about a third of an acre on Nettle

**“We have to be the future of farming.”**

Edge's 50-acre spread. When he started working with Bowerman and her team, the farmer, who is in his 60s, found himself impressed with the next generation. "It's been fun to work with them," he says. "I admire their tenaciousness in working together to raise appropriate crops in the area. It resonates with our experience in the 1970s and '80s with people getting together to work with organic farming."

Bowerman's motivation to farm stems from a family interest in horticulture and her experience with several programs at the University of Oregon, where she earned a bachelor's degree in international studies. Her heart set on a career employing grassroots activism, she started growing food on the lot of her quarter-acre rental house. Soon the grassroots grew into advocacy projects closer to home, including the Ant Farm, which started in 2008 when Bowerman and partners expanded into her neighbor's backyard.

"I saw that it was my duty," she says, "to look within and around to create localized change instead of flying across the world to do it."

And localizing change meant working on the southern Willamette Valley food shed, close to home. Instead of taking the path of most resistance to protest inequities in the industrial food system, Bowerman began working with fellow students to invent alternatives. She was transformed by the thought of creating new possibilities.

One idea, borne from a desire to bring more local food to the UO dorms, led to Project Tomato. Now in its seventh year, Project Tomato builds networks among new freshmen, who bicycle to local farms and pick and process tomatoes that become pizza sauce in the Carson dining hall. After she graduated, Bowerman was hired by the UO's Office of Sustainability to help administer

Project Tomato, working there until farming success enabled her to move on last year.

The activist impulse has remained strong within Bowerman in the years since graduation. She has taught promising new farmers at the UO Urban Farm since 2013, and hosts weekly work parties in season at the Ant Farm, where anyone can come for an introduction to farming and take part in the "sustainability cooperative" to build a sense of community around local food. Bowerman feels a strong need to marry her work within the food movement to issues of food justice and equity, because, as she says, "if my work and the good life I'm living is not accessible to all, then I need to address it."

Bowerman and her fellow ant farmers plan to grow more staples for self-sufficient living in the future, increase restaurant and retail sales, and host farm catering events with their produce. "We have to be the future of farming," she notes, "and if we want to see a healthful life for our generation and those beyond ours, we need to have a direct impact on it. That doesn't just mean supporting farmers, but *being* a farmer."

Jennifer Burns Bright teaches English and comparative literature at the UO and is a freelance food journalist.

### DUCKS IN THE FIELD

Dan Schuler, an Ant Farm Collective member, also teaches at the UO's Urban Farm, where students practice organic farming techniques while learning about composting, permaculture, biodynamic agriculture, and land-use issues. In a typical term, 80 students divide into small groups that tend various portions of the 1.5-acre farm, which is located along the Millrace on the UO campus.



Read more at [blogs.uoregon.edu/urbanfarm](https://blogs.uoregon.edu/urbanfarm).

## Get Your Duck On!

The UO Alumni Association is sponsoring regional events in the following locations this winter.

For detailed information, visit: [uoalumni.com/events](https://uoalumni.com/events)  
e-mail: [alumni@uoregon.edu](mailto:alumni@uoregon.edu)  
call: 800-245-ALUM

**NOVEMBER 19  
DUCK BIZ HAPPY HOUR**  
Seattle

**November 21  
DUCK ALUMNI TAILGATE**  
Eugene

**November 24  
DUCKS NIGHT OUT**  
Eugene

**November 24  
TRAIL BLAZERS  
RIVALRY NIGHT**  
Portland

**November 27  
DUCK ALUMNI  
TAILGATE**  
Eugene

**December 9  
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SYMPOSIUM**  
Portland







## Driving Change

At a time when most Saudi women received little or no formal education, one future Duck set out on a quest that eventually led to a PhD. Then she returned home to become her country's leading activist for justice, equality, and respect for women.

**A**isha Almana, BS '70, thought she was at the airport to see her father off. Instead, he led her to the plane and explained that he was bringing her to Egypt because their own country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, had no schools for girls.

She was eight years old. Bursting into tears, she asked, "Where is my mother?"

Sheikh Mohammed Abdulla Almana knelt to be eye-to-eye with his daughter. "I don't want you to be like your mother or your grandmother," he told her. "That's why I am taking you to be educated. I want you to come back and help the women of your country."

With these words, he launched Almana toward a place in history as the mother of Saudi feminism.

**BY MELODY WARD LESLIE**

Four years later, armed with a sixth-grade certificate of completion, she returned home to Khobar just as Saudi Arabia was opening its first schools for girls. All the teachers were wives of workers from non-Arab countries because most Saudi women were illiterate. Sheikh Almana wanted to set a precedent, so he installed his now-13-year-old daughter as the region's first female school principal and gave her behind-the-scenes daily advice on how to run the school.

"All of the students were in the first grade, even though many were my age or older," she says, noting that she worked as principal for one school year and then went to Lebanon to continue her education.

She has since achieved a series of firsts in a wealthy country that still denies women basic rights. To the outside world, she's best known as a leader of the historic 1990



## ALMANA'S ACTIVISM

FIRST female school principal in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province

FIRST representative for women's affairs in the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Eastern Province

FIRST woman from the kingdom's Eastern Province to earn a PhD

FIRST Saudi woman to work in the field of women and development

FOUNDER of her own private development company

FIRST female hospital director

LEADER of historic 1990 protest against Saudi ban on women driving

FOUNDER and dean of Mohammad Al-mana College for Health Services

FIRST woman to chair the board of trustees for a college

NUMBER 8 on a list of the 200 most-influential Arab women leading family businesses (*Forbes Middle East*, 2014)

protest against Saudi Arabia's ban on women driving. The protest was Almanas idea, and it grew out of her experiences as an undergraduate sociology major at the UO.

"The University of Oregon gave me the opportunity to recognize that I am a human being equal to anyone else," she says. "I am a free soul, and I am my own driver."

Going to college in the United States was also Almanas idea. When her father refused to pay for it—but didn't forbid her from going—she made her own way by winning a scholarship. She arrived in Eugene in September 1968 and found a campus bubbling with antiwar protests and demonstrations for women's rights.

For a young woman from a kingdom where freedom of speech was unheard of, the notion of civil disobedience as a tool for social change represented an entirely new way of thinking.

"It was an eye-opener, this idea that you have the right to express yourself and you can differ with others, but it doesn't mean you are enemies," she says.

However, she credits her awakening as an activist to a demonstration of a different sort. On her first day of classes, a professor

greeted students by placing a jar of pebbles on a table and pronouncing it full. Then, he closed the door and started taking off his clothes.

"I was shocked," she says, her eyes still widening at the thought of it 45 years later.

She hardly had time to absorb that it was a trick (he was wearing another layer of clothing) when the professor dumped sand into the jar. Was it full now? he asked. Almanas thought so, but next he poured in water, which settled into crannies hiding between the rocks and grains of sand.

"This affected me tremendously," she says. "He showed how what you see is not the reality, and things can change."

*Things can change.*

In that spirit, Almanas and 46 other women summoned their courage and met at a Safeway parking lot in Riyadh 25 years ago this November 6. They piled into 14 cars, formed a convoy, and drove sedately through the busiest part of the city. On their second lap, members of the Commission for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice reported them, and came with the police to arrest them.

All the women—drivers and passengers alike—were thrown in jail. In mosques across

**“I am a human being equal to anyone else. I am a free soul, and I am my own driver.”**

the kingdom, imams denounced each woman, by name, as immoral. Their passports were confiscated. Those with government jobs were fired. Fortunately, Prince Salman, who became king in 2015, intervened so they wouldn't fall into the hands of religious extremists. Eventually, their passports and jobs were reinstated.

"It was worth it," Almanas says. "We made a statement about the right to drive our own lives."

Nevertheless, the driving ban still holds, along with a host of other restrictions. Women cannot interact with men. They must obtain written permission from their male guardians—and a chaperone must accompany

SEE VIDEO AT  
[OREGONQUARTERLY.COM/DRIVING](http://OREGONQUARTERLY.COM/DRIVING)

them—every time they want to go anywhere or do anything outside their homes or workplaces.

The endless taboos range from financial (women can't open bank accounts without their husbands' approval) to impractical (they can't try on clothes while shopping).

Almanas says research indicates the exceptional mistreatment of Saudi women stems from misinterpretation of Islam, cultural differences between nomads and city dwellers, and US foreign policy decisions that backfired. "They thought they were fighting communism and they ended up with Al-Qaeda, bin Laden, and Khomeini," she says.

A devout Muslim, Almanas began reading the Koran as a child, and she says it teaches that women and men are equal. "At least two clergymen have come forward to say their research found nothing in the Koran to require guardianship, yet hundreds of regulations require a guardian's permission," she says. "We discovered that most were created by civil servants, based on their personal or tribal traditions or beliefs, without having any basis in Islam."

Change is slow, but Almanas sees signs of progress. More than 56 percent of Saudi college students are now women. Polls show a majority of Saudi men favor letting women drive. In August, for the first time in history, Saudi women began registering to vote.

Meanwhile, despite the fact that she directs the largest group of hospitals in the kingdom's Eastern Province, which borders the Persian Gulf, the authorities arrest Almanas at least once a year. "My poor husband always has the burden of being told to try to control his wife," she says with a gentle laugh. "They don't know that he married a woman who cannot be controlled and cannot be owned."

Suddenly tears well up in her warm brown eyes. None fall, but her voice becomes heavy with grief.

"Do you know," she asks, "that in Saudi Arabia, a husband or a guardian is not punished if he intentionally kills his wife or his daughter? A father beat his five-year-old daughter to death because he suspected her of sexual activity."

"He could kill her because he owned her. This is what we want to change."

Melody Ward Leslie, BA '79, is a UO staff writer.



# Class Notes

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## Ducks Speak Up

**D**ucks who care about the future of the UO are making their voices heard by local, state, and federal policymakers. The University of Oregon Alumni Association sponsors the UO Advocate program as a way of encouraging alumni and friends of the university to connect with elected officials on policy issues such as student aid and government funding for higher education. University officials believe that advocates were instrumental in the Oregon legislature's recent decision to provide increased funding for the UO in the state budget.

Advocates don't need to be policy experts or active in politics in order to be effective. The main requirement is passion for the UO. Those who sign up will receive alerts about key issues and essential background information about policy issues that are currently up for debate.

To learn more, visit [advocates.uoalumni.com](http://advocates.uoalumni.com)

INDICATES UOAA MEMBER

### 1960s

Rutherford Investment Management, a Portland law firm led by former Oregon state treasurer **BILL RUTHERFORD**, BS '61, received a Morningstar overall four-star rating for its multicapitalization growth performance, one of the highest-rated classes of its kind in the nation.

**JOE M. FISCHER**, BS '60, MFA '63, delivered a painting of the Grand Canyon landscape to patrons in Congress, Arizona. He also created a seascape depicting the Cape Disappointment lighthouse for the Lower Columbia College art collection.

Sigma Chi brother **J. RICKLEY DUMM**, BS '64, published his first novel, *Skavenger Hunt* (2015), and attributes early help with the story to a fellow Oregon grad, **JERRY BENCH**, DMD '67. Dumm resides in Southern California, where he worked with former Sigma Chi brother and roommate **STEPHEN J. CANNELL**, BS '64, to produce television shows in the 1980s and '90s, including *The*

*Rockford Files*, *Riptide*, and *Silk Stalkings*.

**DIANNE L. SEMINGSON**, BA '69, president and CEO of DLS International Service, was awarded the SmartCEO Brava! Award in July. The award recognizes top female CEOs who are not only exemplary leaders of their companies, but also devoted local philanthropists and exceptional mentors within their industry.

### 1970s

**TIMOTHY KENNY**, MA '72, published a collection of creative nonfiction titled *Far Country: Stories from Abroad and Other Places* (Bottom Dog Press, 2015), which chronicles his adventures as a foreign affairs reporter, Fulbright scholar, and journalism professor at the University of Connecticut.

The Idaho Library Association selected the dean of university libraries at the University of Idaho, **LYNN BAIRD**, MA '74, as this year's Librarian of the Year.

After 41 years in the newspaper business, **MIKEL KELLY**, BS '74, retired in September. Previously,

he worked as chief of the central design desk for the *Portland Tribune*, and has spent time at the *Tigard Times*, *Woodburn Independent*, and *Lake Oswego Review*. He will continue writing a column for the Pamplin Media Group into his golden years.

**TODD M. HOWE**, BS '74, published a memoir, *There I Was and Here I Am* (CreateSpace, 2015), which chronicles his life pursuing the dream of flying and his many experiences along the way—including his stint at the UO Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps.

**ROGER KUGLER**, DMA '75, was appointed director of Park University's International Center for Music. He has dedicated 33 years of his life to working in higher education, and most recently served eight years as chair of the Department of Music at Ottawa University.

**KARI SAGIN**, BS '79, has spent her career producing news, entertainment, and reality programming with some of television's most popular personalities, including Regis Philbin, Kathie Lee Gifford, and Maury Povich. A recipient

FLASHBACK

**1955** "American Heritage" is this year's theme for the second Festival of Arts program that features lectures, exhibits, plays, and movies. Performances during the festival include internationally known dancer Paul Draper, and singer and folk music authority Pete Seeger.



## DUCKS AFIELD

**Ducks in Cuba** KIP KNIGHT, MEd '66, EdD '68, and his wife, Eileen, outside a museum at the site of the Bay of Pigs invasion in Cuba.

We love to track Duck migrations! Send us your favorite photos of yourself, classmates, family, and friends showing your Duck pride around the world. Attach high resolution JPEG or TIFF files to an email and send to [quarterly@uoregon.edu](mailto:quarterly@uoregon.edu), or submit them online at [OregonQuarterly.com](http://OregonQuarterly.com).

of two Gracie Awards, she currently resides with her husband in Los Angeles and recently sent her son Jackson off on his own college career at Vassar College in New York.

**MARVIN FJORDBECK**, BA '79, JD '83, has left public law practice for the Portland-area regional government, and has returned to private practice serving nonprofit organizations, emerging businesses, and local governments.

## 1980s

President Obama announced the appointment of **MATTHEW JOHN**

**MATTHEWS**, BA '80, to the rank of ambassador during his tenure of service as a United States senior official for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum.

**RICHARD TREBING**, MBA '83, was appointed vice president of finance and chief accounting officer of Mentor Graphics. He joined the company in 1989, and most recently served as corporate controller and chief accounting officer.

King Estate Winery has hired longtime public relations leader **JENNY ULUM**, MA '83, as its managing director of strategic communications. She

will oversee all marketing, public relations, and public affairs work for the winery's brands, including King Estate, North by Northwest, and Acrobat.

Bank of the West recently named **PAUL KNOWLTON**, BS '84, as vice president and national program manager in its equipment finance division.

TripAdvisor has hired **ERNST TEUNISSEN**, MBA '88, as the company's chief financial officer. Prior to accepting this position, he worked in a similar role for Cimpress N.V.

**SCOTT WHITNEY**, BS '89, former assistant chief of

police with the Oxnard Police Department, was appointed assistant city manager of Oxnard, California.

## 1990s

A Springfield, Oregon, police officer for 16 years, **SCOTT JAMES**, BS '91, has published *Dirt: A Crime Novel* (CreateSpace, 2015). Set in Oregon during the 1970s, the story follows the lives of three young police officers as they learn to balance their careers and love lives. The book is written in memory of Chris Kilcullen, a Eugene police officer killed in the line of duty on April 22, 2011.

The Seattle-based firm NAC Architecture hired **LIZ KATZ**, BFA '91, as a project architect. Formerly with Stantec Architecture in Houston, Texas, her primary focus is in education and multifamily structural design.

**CARRIE CAMERON NORMAN**, BS '95, married Kelly Norman in a small ceremony with family members on August 8. She is the director of marketing and professional relations for Monte Nido and Affiliates' eating disorder treatment programs.

of San Mateo, Foothill College, and Stanford University to internationalize course curricula in the study of information, ethics, and society.

**ARN STRASSER**, MArch '96, published a book of poetry titled *Before Dreaming* (Budding Branch Books, 2015).

**ANDREA TORCHIN**, MS '94, is Marymount School of Santa Barbara's new head of the Lower School. Previously, she and her husband lived in Panama for 11 years before feeling the pull of home.

## FLASHBACK

**2005** USA Track and Field, the sport's governing body, selected Eugene for the 2008 Olympic Track and Field Trials. Craig Masback, the organization's CEO, described the UO's Hayward Field as "hallowed ground in our sport" and noted that Eugene's vision for connecting "track's past, present, and future won the day."

**MATTHEW BATES**, BA '96, has begun a new position as director of photography for Eddie Bauer, the clothing retailer.

Stanford University's global studies division awarded digital resource librarian **STEPHANIE M. ROACH**, BA '96, the 2015-16 MLIS fellowship. She will collaborate with colleagues from the College

**KEN YANHS**, BA '98, has joined the Lego Group as director of marketing in the Boston-based education business unit leading online, offline, and e-commerce. The company is looking to hire across several departments, and he needs more Ducks to migrate east and join the Lego flock!

*continued on page 56*



**PRITHIVIRAJ FERNANDO**, MS '93, PhD '98, a pachyderm expert from Sri Lanka, has recently been advocating for the urgent study of leopards and elephants residing on unprotected lands in an effort to understand and resolve human-animal conflict situations.

## 2000s

After 15 years working in marketing consulting for Fortune 500 brands, **JASON BENNETT**, BA '00, has struck out on his own to launch True Star Consulting, a firm dedicated to helping brands identify their purpose and

create meaningful connections with their customers.

**MICHAEL L. BOYER**, JD '00, an associate professor at the University of Alaska, authored *Every Landlord's Guide to Managing Property: Best Practices, from Move-In to Move-Out* (Nolo Press, 2015).

Celebrated composer and pianist **MAZDAK KHAMDA**, MMus '00, created the ballet *Danse Macabre: A Gothic Romantic Tale of the Night* in collaboration with violinist Yasushi Ogura. The performance was staged by Napa Valley Ballet and

*continued on page 58*



## DUCKS AFIELD

**A Flag in the Fog** **NANCY ARTHUR HOSKINS**, MS '78, and **ALDA BRUMBACK SAUNDERS**, BA '67, MA '68, unfurled a UO banner while visiting the misty, majestic Machu Picchu during a textile tour of Peru.

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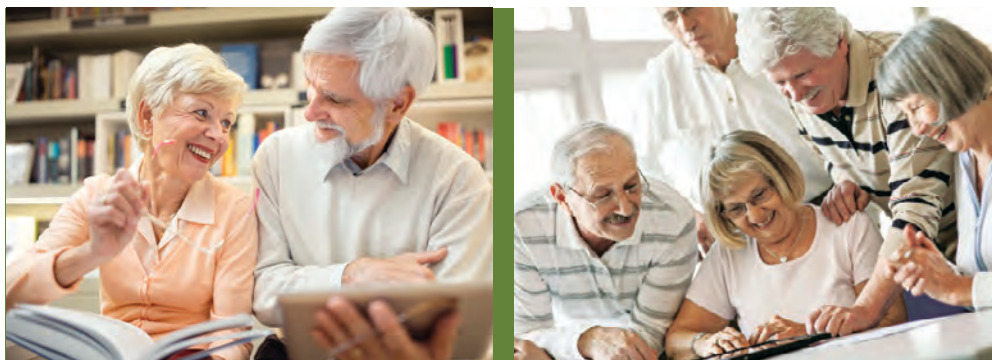
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FLASHBACK

**1975** According to a study conducted by the Midwest Research Institute of Kansas City for the Environmental Protection Agency, the quality of life in Eugene beats out all other cities of comparable size in the US. As the university prepares for its centennial celebration next year and moves into its second century, the dorms are packed, Greek membership is up, and it has set an all-time enrollment record of 17,384 students. Eugene and the university are *the* place to be.



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debuted in October at the Jarvis Conservatory in California.

**JAKE TRIOLO**, BA '04, became a partner of Capitol Tax Insights in Washington, DC. Previously, he served as legislative director and tax counsel to House Committee on Ways and Means member Todd Young.

**JENNA ADAMS**, BA '06, joined the New York City Department of Transportation as its director of legislative affairs, where she is responsible for drafting legislation to enhance the city's transportation infrastructure, promote bicycle use, and make the streets safer.

**TRACI RAY**, JD '07, executive director at the Portland employment, labor, and benefits law firm Barran Liebman LLP, was awarded the UO School of Law's 2015 Outstanding Young Alumnus Award. The award recognizes graduates who have made significant career, leadership, or service contributions to the community, the School of Law, or the legal profession within the first 10 years following graduation.

## 2010s

**MAXIMILIAN D. LYON**, BS '10, garnered a master's degree in architecture from the Illinois Institute of Technology this spring.

He is currently working in sustainable architecture at an engineering consulting firm in Chicago.

Former UO distance runner and nine-time All-American **PARKER STINSON**, BS '15, won the Great Cow Harbor 10K run during the annual Cow Harbor Day festival in Northport, New York.

## IN MEMORIAM

**DON BELDING JR.**, Class of 1944, died on May 30 at age 94 in Escondido, California. In lieu of flowers, donations went to the Semper Fi Fund, which helps members and families of US uniformed services.

**ANN (POTTER) PERSON**, Class of 1947, died on August 10 at the age of 90 in Tempe, Arizona. She is credited with single-handedly revolutionizing the knit fabric home-sewing market with a simple technique: stretching the material. She founded Stretch and Sew, which offered patterns, fabric, and sewing lessons. The company blossomed through the 1970s and eventually tapered out over the following decade. In 2004, she was inducted into the American Sewing Guild's hall of fame and her legacy is now housed on sites such as Etsy, Pinterest, and Amazon.

**GRETCHEN EDGREN**, BA '52, died on September 16 at the age of 84. A long-time *Playboy* magazine

editor, she also authored five coffee table books about *Playboy*, the playmates, and the Playboy Mansion. She and her husband moved to Florida later in life, where they served for many years as coordinators for a local conservation program, the Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch.

**THOMAS EDWARD RAGSDALE**, BS '50, MEd '55, died at the age of 90 in Eugene, Oregon. A

veteran of the US Navy, he returned to Oregon to finish his education. As a student manager for UO track coach Bill Bowerman, he was later inspired to form the Oregon Track Club, which endures to this day. A highly respected track coach in his own right, he led many Eugene high school cross-country teams to success throughout his career, and became the second inductee to the UO Track-and-Field Hall of Fame.

**ALBERTA "JO" CHASE NORRIS**, BS '54, died on September 22 at the age of 83. A member of the Alpha Omicron Pi sorority, she dedicated her life to community causes. She and her wife raised three children, and later become loving grandparents.

Sigma Chi brother **THOMAS JOSEPH DRYDEN**, DMD '57, died at the age of 90 in

*continued on page 60*



**FLASHBACK**

**1995** A new "zero tolerance" policy aimed at cracking down on the influx of counterculture youths congregating around East 13th Avenue near campus is being strictly enforced. A public safety station operated and funded by the police department and local businesses has been set up in the 7-Eleven parking lot to keep watch on groups of dreadlocked hippie kids who, business owners say, loiter, sell drugs, and aggressively panhandle people trying to patronize their establishments.

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Warrenton, Oregon. He served in the US Navy during World War II and later became a dentist in the Portland area. After raising five children, he and his wife retired to the Oregon coast, where they enjoyed golfing, socializing, and traveling.

**EDWARD NORMAN FADELEY, JD '57**, died at the age of 85 in Springfield, Oregon. After serving in the US Navy, he graduated at the top of his class from the UO School of Law. He went on to serve in the Oregon legislature for 26 years, and spent almost a decade on the Oregon Supreme Court. In 1979, he was presented with the UO's inaugural Pioneer Award, recognizing his work in support of the university.

**IRIS RAE MCCLELLEN TIEDT, MA '62**, died on September 26 at the age of 87. An accomplished teacher, she returned to college after raising a family and earned a doctorate in education from Stanford University. The

**FLASHBACK**

**1965** With attendance among veterans declining, the US government-sponsored GI Bill ends on January 31. As many as 15,000 GIs attended the university on the World War II Bill and the Korean Bill. In a campus speech, Senator Wayne Morse calls the GI Bill one of the greatest investments in the future ever made by the federal government.

author of several texts, she and her daughter cowrote *Multicultural Teaching* (Allyn and Bacon, 1979), which is currently in its seventh edition. A life-long member of the Sierra Club, she was considered by many to be a master gardener.

**RAYMOND DAVID WAYNE BURKE, MED '72**, died on September 4 at the age of 76. He dedicated his life to public education and began his career in

Alberta, Canada, where he eventually became principal of St. Dominic's Catholic School. He later joined the staff of Bow Valley College, where he spent many years administering the GED program.

**ABIGAIL MORGAN SULLIVAN, MED '72**, died on September 13 at the age of 88. She worked as a Eugene elementary school teacher for 20 years, and spent the early 80s helping schools throughout the area incorporate computers



**LAWRENCE PETER LEVINE, BA '69, MFA '72**, was among the victims of the October 1 shooting at Umpqua Community College. Levine, 67, was an assistant professor of English at UCC, which allowed him to share his passion for writing with others. Born in Manhattan, Levine grew up in Beverly Hills and, after graduating from high school, moved to Oregon. He moved back to California in the mid-1970s and joined UCC a few years ago, where teaching was a secondary occupation to his work as a fly-fishing guide. Levine's rich contribution to the UO community is preserved in his MFA thesis, "Collected Works: 1969-1972," available in Knight Library.

into the classroom. She is the coauthor of a computer keyboard curriculum for elementary and middle school students.

**JAMES D. AGUIAR**, MS '73, died on August 13 at the age of 68. A standout athlete in high school and college, he went on to earn accolades as a wrestling coach for Plymouth State. After receiving his doctorate from Boston University, he became involved in local Democratic politics and helped pass the Marriage Equality Law.

**THERESA REYNA**, BA '84, died suddenly on September 19 at the age of 54 in Fort Collins, Colorado. She raised her

family in the Northwest, moving from city to city throughout the region. She worked in banking, lending, law, and tax preparation, although dedication to her children was first and foremost.

**CHERYL KAE SHURTLEFF-YOUNG**, MA '88, died at the age of 68 in Boise, Idaho. A former art professor at Boise State University, she was a celebrated artist throughout her career. She is known for her use of intense simplicity, her perfectionism, and her fascination with the natural world.

**SHERRI MARIE BERG**, BS '88, died unexpectedly on June 5 at the age

of 57. A beloved wife and mother, she was the successful owner of Café 131 in Springfield, Oregon, for five years before dedicating herself to raising her family. Although she was afflicted with debilitating pain throughout most of her life, she is remembered as a happy and caring individual.

**ORCILIA ZÚÑIGA FORBES**, PhD '92, died of natural causes at age 77. A prominent philanthropist and influential leader in higher education, she is credited with shaping Oregon State University into the institution it is today during

*continued on page 62*



## DUCKS AFIELD

**Duck Meets Duke** GLEN CAMPBELL, BS '88, presented bonafide Duck Lips to the Duke of Argyll in the Campbell Castle gift shop, while visiting Inverary, Scotland in May. The Duke's three children were delighted with their noise-makers.

An advertisement for the University of Oregon Alumni Association (UOAA) events. On the left, the Duck mascot is shown wearing a green and yellow striped scarf and a green cap with 'OREGON' on it. A woman with long dark hair, wearing a yellow and green striped shirt, is smiling and hugging the Duck mascot from behind. The background is a dark green wall with a subtle pattern. On the right, white text reads: 'Have you joined us at a UOAA event lately?' Below this, in yellow text, are the event categories: 'DUCK BIZ LUNCHES • SCIENCE NIGHTS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL • ART TALKS HAPPY HOURS • MENTORING TAILGATES • AND MORE!'. At the bottom right, the UOAA logo is displayed, consisting of a large yellow 'O' followed by the word 'ALUMNI' in yellow and 'ASSOCIATION' in white below it. The website address 'UOALUMNI.COM/EVENTS' is written in yellow text above the logo.





## DUCKS AFIELD

**Dominican Ducks** Peace Corps volunteer **DAVID CORBY**, BA '12 and his host family in the Dominican Republic created their own Duck gear in preparation for last year's national championship football game.

### FLASHBACK

**1985** UO's astronomical observatory at Pine Mountain in Bend receives \$60,000 from the state legislature to buy new computer systems for the observatory's 24- and 32-inch telescopes, and an electronic imager to record light from very faint celestial objects.

her time as vice president of university advancement. She was an original founder of Foundations for a Better Oregon and the Chalkboard Project, among many other humanitarian pursuits.

**OLIVIA KATHRYN SMITH**, BA '15, died unexpectedly on September 13 at the age of 22. A skilled writer and athlete, she was a hard worker who loved being surrounded by friends.





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## DUCKS AFIELD

**In the Green** LEE M PARKER, BS '60, MS '62 threw an O before hoisting a pint at a pub in Ireland. The photographer was his spouse of 54 years DOROTHY MONTGOMERY PARKER, BS '61. The couple observed that several tourists and at least one Irishman were Duck fans.

## FACULTY AND STAFF IN MEMORIAM

Former law professor **DENNIS GREENE** died at age 66. Best known as a founding member of the rock-and-roll group Sha Na Na, he performed at the legendary Woodstock festival and appeared in the 1978 film *Grease*. Despite great success, he left the music business and earned a law degree from Yale University. After a brief stint as an executive for Columbia Pictures, he worked full time as a law professor, ending his career at the University of Dayton.

Former architecture professor **CHARLES WILLIAM "CHUCK" RUSCH** died on September 10 at the age of 81. After graduating from Harvard University, he served in the US Navy and later earned a master's in architecture from the University of California at Berkeley. He joined the UO faculty in 1978, where he indulged in his passion for environmentalism and sustainability.

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## Propelled by Jellies

How could we build a better underwater vehicle? One UO researcher wonders if such vehicles could be patterned after highly mobile sea creatures.

**O**ceanographer Kelly Sutherland is studying a species of sea jelly (please don't call them jellyfish) that uses multiple "swimming bells" to propel itself through the water, as depicted by the photo illustration above. These water-shooting jets set the species, found in the Puget Sound and known as *Nanomia bijuga*, apart from other colonial siphonophores (marine invertebrates that swim together in chainlike formations).

"This is relatively rare in the animal kingdom," notes Sutherland. "Most organisms that swim with propulsion do so with a single jet."

Each of these creatures is composed of between four and 12 separate, but genetically identical, units. The coordination of the units could provide inspiration for next-generation underwater vehicles that use multiple engines for propulsion. "They can turn on a dime, and very rapidly," Sutherland says.

The organisms are small—rarely more than two inches long—with tentacles that extend up to a foot. Sutherland says they look a bit like a bunch of small jellies strung together. The siphonophores use a coordinated effort to move through the water, with a clear division of labor.

"The younger swimming bells at the tip of the colony are responsible for turning," Sutherland says. "They generate a lot of torque. The older swimming bells toward the base of the colony are responsible for

thrust." Their tentacles capture zooplankton, the tiny organisms that these jellies consume, she adds.

To understand how these jellies pulse water to maneuver, researchers placed sample colonies in small, custom-built tanks. The jellies' movements were captured with high-speed digital photography—at 1,000 frames per second. The data were analyzed with particle image velocimetry, a technique that provides instantaneous velocity measurements.

Most sea animals and human-engineered submarine vehicles alike rely on jet thrusters that turn to change direction, a practice that, Sutherland said, is complicated from a design or engineering standpoint.

"These jellies have a slight ability to turn their individual jets, but they don't need to," she says. "With multiple static jets they can achieve all the maneuverability they need. Designing a system like this would be simple yet elegant. And you have redundancies in the system. If one jet goes out, there would be little loss of propulsion."

Can jelly-powered submarines be far behind?

*Kelly Sutherland holds appointments at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology and the Robert D. Clark Honors College. She collaborated with lead author John "Jack" H. Costello, of Providence College in Rhode Island, and colleagues from several other institutions on the research, which was supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation. Their findings were published in the journal Nature Communications.*





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