Tina Trinh ‘08, shares her experiences as a first-generation student.
Western Oregon University has always prided itself on being affordable and accessible to all qualified students and enabling them to take advantage of its excellence in higher education. But despite low tuition costs, many WOU students still need help paying for college.

That’s why the WOU Foundation assists donors, like Peter and Gwen Stone, with creating an endowed student scholarship. Donations to an endowed fund can be made with cash, stocks, life insurance policies, mutual funds or bonds. You can even create an endowed fund through your will or trust documents. This increased financial aid will enable more students to receive a quality education without a heavy debt load.

Endowed scholarship funds are truly the gifts that keep on giving.

CREATING BETTER FUTURES, TOGETHER.

If you would like more information on creating an endowed fund, please contact Paul Moredock, Vice President for University Advancement at 503-838-8149, or via e-mail at moredocp@wou.edu.
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On the cover
Tina Trinh, recent Western Oregon University graduate and first-generation student. See pages 13-15 for her story, along with a few more alumni who shared in the first-gen experience.

Andrea Arce is proud to be a first-generation student and graduate of WOU.

Photos by Kelly James.
Dear Alumni,

This magazine serves as a way to keep in touch with our alumni, to keep you informed of what’s happening on campus and to encourage you to keep in touch with the university. If you have been following our progress, you will know about many of the changes at Western.

We remain committed to preparing well educated teachers for Oregon’s schools and, we will continue with this good and important work. In addition, our graduates holding degrees in the arts and sciences now number in the thousands. With these thousands of graduates and with over 5,000 students enrolled annually, we are the fourth largest university in Oregon and a powerful contributor to the professional and cultural life of this state.

This fall, we launched a bachelor’s degree in nursing in partnership with the Oregon Health & Science University, and we are planning degrees in hospital and health care management, medical informatics, and nursing education. All of these efforts, when implemented, will keep Western alive and well when it comes to serving the needs of Oregon and Oregonians.

Although we offer a varied selection of degree opportunities, there is a commonality that many of our graduates share – they are first-generation students, meaning they are the first in their families to go to college. Half of our student population last year was first-generation. We attribute success with this important population to our accessibility, affordability and opportunities for involvement on campus. Western students have the opportunity and support to succeed in their goals.

Throughout this magazine, you will read stories about a handful of our first-generation students. They have won prestigious awards on campus, given back to the community and worked to bring other first-generation students to campus. This label even extends to our faculty, including our new Provost, Kent Neely, who was also a first-generation college student.

As many of you know, Western has always been proud of its tradition of reaching out to all Oregonians. We make a special effort to recruit and admit first-generation students because we think a public school must emphasize opportunity and access. I, personally, am convinced that intellectual power and human genius is distributed throughout humankind regardless of gender, race, cultural background, or financial means. It has always been Western’s obligation to find and nurture this intellectual power so often found in Oregon among people of modest means.

I hope you enjoy reading about the students, faculty, staff and alumni throughout this publication. We appreciate your support in keeping Western Oregon University degrees within reach of all students who want to come to school here.

Sincerely,

John P. Minahan
President
WOU advisers receive national award

Three of WOU’s faculty and full-time advisers received national recognition for their focus on student success and individualized attention.

Academic advising is an integral part of the college experience at Western Oregon University. More than advising on academic progress toward a degree, the Academic Advising and Learning Center (AALC) can help students with their transition to WOU, tutoring and study skills, and identifying life goals.

Advisers on campus take their roles seriously. That effort was recognized when three of WOU’s faculty and staff were named outstanding advisers from the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA).

WOU led the pack in Oregon as no other college or university in the state received a NACADA award. There were only two other schools in the region who won awards, which includes five states, two Canadian provinces, and one territory. The prestige of these highly competitive awards is heightened by the fact that these are peer-judged.

The university is strongly committed to academic advising, and the AALC has been working to make many improvements over the past several years based on feedback from students and the proven best practices. AALC also creates opportunities for professional development for the advisers.

Michael LeMaster joined WOU as an adjunct in 2001 after earning his doctorate in zoology from Oregon State University. In 2003, he moved into a tenure-track position. Since he began teaching, he has considered advising to be an important part of his role and credits the interest to the excellent advisers he had as an undergraduate, who directed him toward earning a doctorate degree.

“Advising is a direct interaction with students. It’s a chance to learn about students as individuals and talk to them about areas outside of academics,” said LeMaster. “I enjoy helping them shape their academic and future career goals by giving input based on my experience so they can make their own decisions.” He added that he gets just as excited as they do, especially in the spring when pre-nursing students are learning of their acceptance into nursing programs. LeMaster finds it most rewarding to see students returning to the area, supporting the local community after they completed their medical degrees.

Tamie Saffell earned her master’s in student development in post-secondary education from the University of Iowa in 2004. She joined WOU in 2007 and her energy, professionalism and knowledge has already led to being invited to make statewide and regional presentations.

Saffell is inspired by her job. “Every day I have the opportunity to work with some of the most incredible students. I am continually amazed by their accomplishments and dreams. It is an honor to be part of their development.”

Bobbi Weber has only been with WOU for a couple of years, but she’s been advising since 1982, mostly with the University of North Dakota and the University of Alaska, Anchorage. She’s honored by the award, and appreciates the recognition of her dedication advising.

The majority of her career has been spent advising students who have not chosen a major. “It’s fun to take all of that interest and unknowingness, and funnel it to help them find a direction,” said Weber. She also enjoys advising non-traditional students who are fearful that they can’t be successful at the university. Weber’s mantra is to tell them they aren’t too old; it’s never too late to achieve your dreams.

NACADA was created in 1979 to promote quality academic advising and professional development of its membership to ensure the educational development of students. The organization has grown to over 10,000 members in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. Established in 1982, the National Awards Program for Academic Advising honors individuals and institutions making significant contributions to the improvement of academic advising.

“It’s really a reflection on the quality of work that they do. All three are committed to student success and it’s clear they all view it as a privilege to work with students...it’s an honor for one person to get an award, but to get three awards is phenomenal.”

Karen Sullivan-Vance, director, Academic Advising and Learning Center
National Rex Mix award recognizes WOU for excellence in communication studies

Western Oregon University is known for its quality education programs and attentive faculty. The Communication Studies Department received official recognition of that fact by being named the top undergraduate communications program in the country. A well-deserved honor, the department earned the National Communication Association’s (NCA) Rex Mix Award, which is only presented to one undergraduate program each year. And this was the first time WOU applied for this award.

The intent of the award is to recognize quality, innovative, theoretical, and practical programs. Past recipients include Wake Forest University, Hope College, Seattle University, and Whitworth College.

Nick Backus, department chair and associate professor of communications, was thrilled to be honored with this recognition because the NCA is considered the main association in the field of communication studies, and this is known to be a highly competitive award. “This award increases opportunities for students. If people heard about the program and that we’re nationally recognized for quality, I think that the skills, ideas and knowledge that they bring to a workplace will be more credible,” said Backus.

This award was based on an external evaluation by reviewers. Emily Plec, associate professor of communications, said: “These are reviewers who have no knowledge of WOU, its programs, or who we are – it really speaks to what kind of a gem we are. We talk about WOU being that best kept secret in the west, this helps us get that secret out.”

Emily Plec, associate professor, communication studies

The 27 students enrolled in the new OHSU-WOU joint nursing program demonstrated their newfound abilities in a high-tech simulation lab located on WOU’s campus. During an open house held on Friday, Oct. 17, more than 100 visitors received tours of the renovated facility and new labs, free blood pressure screenings and got to see the sim lab in action. For most of these students, it was their first time doing these simulations, and the first time they all did it for such an audience.

Open House for OHSU-WOU nursing program showcases state-of-the-art technology
Education has been a key component of Western Oregon University’s heritage and it remains a strength to this day. Several divisions within Western have been awarded more than $2.3 million in grants to serve both deaf-blind children and youth in the talented and gifted program.

Fewer than six percent of children with deaf-blindness are served by a teacher with training in this area. Learners who have both hearing and vision losses require specific instructional techniques to learn to communicate, develop concepts, learn to interact, gain mobility and acquire independent living, academic, and vocational skills.

Currently there are over 10,000 children who are deaf-blind across the country and they are as varied as the number reported. Over 90 percent of children with deaf-blindness have one or more additional disabling conditions. The delivery of intervention requires not only a knowledge of the impact of deaf-blindness on the child’s development, unique needs and learning style, but also of effective instruction, accommodations, and assistance technology that incorporates strategies in recognition of the child’s deaf-blindness.

The Teaching Research Institute (TRI) and the Regional Resource Center on Deafness (RRCD) were each awarded $800,000 to recruit and train personnel to meet the needs of students who are deaf or deaf-blind. The funding will be spread over the course of four years by the Office of Special Education Programs. The two grant awards were among only 23 that were awarded nationally.

“Extending a Legacy: Training Personnel to Serve School Age Children in Low Incidence Disabilities through the Development of Helen Keller Fellows” is a collaborative effort between TRI and nine geographically dispersed universities. The program address the critical shortage of qualified personnel in low incidence disabilities with particular emphasis on simultaneous vision and hearing impairment.

Helen Keller Fellows is a collaborative endeavor among each university’s master’s degree program in low incidence disabilities to develop a cadre of geographically dispersed and networked teacher leaders who will be able to provide evidence-based practices and positively impact the broader educational system.

The second grant, rated ninth out of 48 proposals, helps support WOU’s bachelor’s program in American Sign Language/English interpreting, which prepares educational interpreters to serve hard-of-hearing and deaf children (birth to 21 years). This funding opportunity provides stipends that cover the majority of tuition expenses for students and allows qualified individuals to consider the field of educational interpreting who might not otherwise have the resources to attend this professional preparation program.

The ASL/English interpreting program is the only bachelor’s degree interpreter education program in the Pacific Northwest; however, its national reputation attracts students from throughout the United States. Traditionally half of the accepted students are selected from other states and transfer to WOU to complete this major. This degree program is housed in RRCD, along with six other deafness-related degrees, continuing education, and technical assistance programs.

The U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Special Education Programs awarded $610,000 to TRI, to be spread over five years. The grant will help to provide technical assistance and support to Oregon’s young children and students with deaf-blindness, their families and service providers.

The Oregon Deafblind Project will promote efforts to identify children...
Grant awards  
continued from page 5

who are deaf-blind. When a child is registered with the project, the child’s family will receive free training and technical assistance via phone, e-mail or face-to-face. All of the training is individualized to meet the needs of each child.

Talented and gifted (TAG) students benefit from the third grant group. WOU’s College of Education, TRI, and Division of Extended Programs were awarded $106,350 by the Oregon Department of Education to develop a Talented and Gifted Regional Planning Center at WOU.

This center has four primary functions. First, it will identify professional development needs of teachers who serve TAG students. The second function is to develop responses to those needs. The center will also provide professional development opportunities that benefit TAG students. The fourth function is to coordinate access to resources on best practices in gifted education.

The program will offer online modules, Web-based presentations, regional workshops and application-based trainings throughout Oregon. Dr. Taylor, also the coordinator for this project, said: “Meeting the needs of talented and gifted students requires collaboration between and among educators, administrators, parents, higher education personnel, and local communities. This project will bring together these groups to maximize the learning outcomes of students.”

Successful spring searches bring new faculty

Thirteen new faculty members welcomed this fall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Credentials</th>
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| Erin Baumgartner   | Assistant professor of biology  
| Credentials: Associate professor and assistant professor at University of Hawai'i-Manoa; National Science Foundation GK-12 teaching fellow; graduate teaching assistant at University of Hawai'i-Manoa. Education: 2002 Ph.D., Zoology, University of Hawai'i-Manoa |
| Kristin Latham     | Assistant professor of biology  
| Credentials: Visiting assistant professor at Willamette University, co-instructor at Oregon State University; postdoctoral research associate at Oregon State University. Education: 2005 Ph.D. Molecular and Cellular Biology, Oregon State University |
| Patricia Flatt     | Assistant professor of chemistry  
| Credentials: Adjunct faculty at Lane Community College. Education: 2000 Ph.D. in biochemistry, Vanderbilt University; 1994 M.S. in plant ecology, University of Denver; 1992 B.S. in biology at University of Denver |
| Thaddeus Shannon   | Assistant professor of theatre  
| Credentials: Production manager and lighting designer for Do Jump Movement Theater. Education: 2007 Ph.D. in systems science, Portland State University; 2001 master's in systems science, Portland State University |
| Ryan Wright        | Technical director  
| Credentials: Technical director for Annie Russell Theatre at Rollins College. Education: 1997 bachelor's in theatre arts, Rollins College |
| Cat McGrew         | Assistant professor of communications  
| Credentials: Teaching experience in communication, health communication and teaching design. Education: 2007 Ph.D. in communication, Ohio State University; 2001 master's in organization system design, Antioch University |
| Eliot Dickinson    | Assistant professor of political science  
| Credentials: Taught political science at Hope College. Education: 2004 Ph.D. in political science, Purdue University; 1999 dual master's in German and political science, Bowling Green State University; 1994 dual bachelor's in German and political science, Washington State University |
| Fran Ni            | Assistant professor of rehabilitative counseling education  
| Credentials: Teaching assistant at the University of Connecticut, full time instructor at Tzu-Chi College of Technology in Taiwan. Education: 2008 Ph.D. in counselor education, University of Connecticut; 1998 master's in creative arts therapy, Hofstra University |
| Carl Schroeder     | Adjunct instructor of ASL studies  
| Credentials: English instructor at Gallaudet University, and ASL program coordinator and associate professor at Montgomery College. Education: Ph.D. candidate in applied linguistics, Georgetown University; 1988 M.Ed., American University |
| Amanda Smith       | ASL/English interpreting  
| Credentials: Freelance interpreter for 10 years and adjunct assistant professor in the Interpreter Training Program at Johnson County Community College. Education: 2007 master's in interpreter pedagogy, Northern State University |
| Daniel Lopez-Cervallos | Asst. professor of health and physical education  
| Credentials: Teaching assistant at OSU; research intern at the HIV Integration Project at the Benton Co. Health Dept. Education: 2008 Ph.D. in public health, OSU; 2007 graduate certificate in geographic information science, OSU; 2004 master's in public health from Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador |
| Jeffrey Armstrong  | Assistant professor of physical education  
| Credentials: Associate professor at Hope College, assistant professor at Eastern Michigan University, and a graduate teaching assistant at the University of Toledo. Education: 1998 Ph.D. in exercise physiology from the University of Toledo; 1986 master's in exercise physiology from West Virginia University |
| Rachel Harrington  | Assistant professor of mathematics education  
| Credentials: Graduate teaching assistant at Oregon State University, professional development provider for Clarion University, and a high school mathematics teacher. Education: 2008 Ph.D. in mathematics education from OSU; 2007 master's in mathematics education, OSU |
Kent Neely had no intention of pursuing a career in higher education administration when he began college. Not to mention the unusual route he took to get there. Now the Provost and vice president for academic affairs of Western Oregon University, Dr. Neely began his undergraduate career as a theatre major.

How did you end up in higher education administration?
At Oklahoma City University, my passion was drama. I wanted to act. Soon, however, I discovered that my interest was actually on the business side of theatre. I'd also been interested in teaching from a young age and earned a secondary teaching certificate in addition to my undergraduate degree in speech and drama. My undergraduate experiences taught me that I wanted to combine my love for theatre and my desire to teach, so I entered graduate school with the intent to become a theatre professor. After finishing my doctorate in 1976, I began teaching theatre. Most of my teaching career was at the University of Minnesota, where I was also managing director of the university theatre. In 1994 I joined Boise State University as the chair of the Department of Theatre, and then I became associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. I became dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in 2001, where I stayed until joining WOU.

What drew you to WOU?
The kinds of innovations that have gone on at Western have demonstrated that the institution is looking to continue to grow and be innovative to respond to student needs and financial challenges. I credit President Minahan for having this kind of vision and I hope I can help to provide the kind of security with the way the institution operates so that it can continue to flourish. I am interested in sustaining the strengths of this university. Western has a strong heritage of liberal arts and teacher education.

Now that you're here, what do you plan to do?
Western has a remarkable commitment to diversity and I will work to grow that diversification. It's important for this institution and higher education in general to commit to a long-term effort. Our master's in information systems and nursing program are two new areas that we need to continue to build. The nursing program in particular is a turning point for the institution in addressing the nationwide and statewide nursing shortage.

What's your impression of campus?
From the moment I got here, people have been very welcoming. It is a real community. I've been meeting business folks who are proud that WOU is in Monmouth. And people on campus genuinely care about this place, the community and the students. People here believe in what this community has to offer.

Assuming you have spare time, what do you do for fun?
I enjoy reading, particularly non-fiction. I love listening to music, especially female jazz vocalists. I like to cook; I'm no chef but I know my way around the kitchen. I like walking my rat terrier, Scooter, and, when time permits, I am thrilled to ride my motorcycle among Oregon's great scenery.

Do you miss teaching?
I was in the classroom for 25 years and enjoyed it thoroughly. Teaching is energizing and rewarding. There are few pleasures greater than knowing you have opened the mind of a student to new ideas and stimulated a young person's intellect. I miss that interaction, certainly, but my job as provost is quite time intensive and it would be very difficult for me to teach regularly now.

Enjoying the weather so far?
Oregonians say that there is a great deal of rain during fall and winter. I lived in Minnesota for 17 years so I know what long winters are like. Here in the Mid-Willamette Valley, I won't have to worry about shoveling snow half the year!
When a new school year begins, students and teachers of all ages ask about the summers of their friends and colleagues. Two Western Oregon University professors have a lot to share when answering that question - they spent part of their summer in China.

Diane Tarter and Kim Hoffman, both art faculty, spent about two weeks in China building relationships and experiencing art academia in another part of the world. The trip was sponsored by the Office of International Students and Scholars Affairs, coordinated by its director, Neng Yang.

Hoffman and Tarter met with representatives of four universities. They gave lectures at two of them, talking about their own work as artists, art in the United States, philosophy on how to make art, and what art school should be about.

One of the university visits, to the Dalian Polytechnic University, was particularly productive. It will provide several opportunities for the future, including sending WOU faculty over as visiting professors, inviting WOU students to visit and live in university housing, and for faculty exchanges. Hoffman said the next step is to have some of their faculty come to WOU.

Building relationships is focus of art professors visit to China

“They are very committed to making this a successful interaction. They are very welcoming and love to have Americans visit and go to school there,” he said, adding that it’s difficult to prepare students for such opportunities without proper language preparation. He hopes to see increased offerings for WOU students in that area.

When relating the cultural differences, Hoffman noted how struck he was by how modern China is. “The architecture in large cities is outstanding, dramatic, contemporary, and exciting,” he said. In addition to the beauty of the city’s architecture, he was amazed by the vast number of Japanese and American cars on the roads.

Tarter, chair of the Creative Arts Division, recalled how everyone seemed to be able to sense everything around them. “They had a spectacular sense of space. It’s interesting to see how a large population has as made adjustments to live together. Their awareness of space is very evident in traffic (in vehicles and walking), as well as how spacious public areas and university facilities are.”

She was amazed by the amount of support for art schools in China. The facilities, extensive offerings and space for students to work were enviable. “There were sculpture studios in huge open spaces, several stories high. There were riggings to move things across the room.”

Tarter hopes that they learned some new things to incorporate into their respective classrooms, and that they can build on this experience to develop future exchanges and friendships.

“Before we went, I wasn’t sure exactly what our task was, but once we got there the essence was pretty direct. It was the first step of making contact with other artists and faculty.”

A second-year international student at WOU, Jin Chen had a surreal moment over the summer when two of her American professors spent time with her during their visit to China. Chen is an art major and has had many classes with Hoffman and Tarter. During their trip to China, they stopped in her home town of Dalian, where they visited with Chen at Dalian Polytechnic University, College of Design.

“I never imagined the moment we’d meet. When I came into that room, it was so familiar,” said Chen. “It’s like I’m the host and they’re the guest and I should do something for them.” Chen plans to graduate from WOU in the spring, but she’ll miss the campus - especially the friendly people, beautiful scenery, and cozy atmosphere.
Anthropology professor continues field school in Sonora, Mexico

The land lacks grass, but has no shortage of tumbleweeds. The houses are built of scrap materials on an old land fill. The wind blows dust into every crevice, and pollution from a copper smelter that used to operate across the border has settled into the overgrazed soil.

Though on the surface it may look grim, Agua Prieta is full of hope and a desire to succeed. Assistant professor of anthropology, Doug Smith, Ph.D., spends his summers working with the people of this Mexican border town.

He is a tireless advocate for applied anthropology: anthropological work that has a direct application to practical problems.

“Anthropological research ought to be useful; we need to give back,” Smith said. He has developed an applied anthropology field school in Agua Prieta in the state of Sonora.

Smith works with a bi-national grassroots, non-governmental organization called DouglaPrieta Trabajan. The field school is organized around the work of this organization, but students are able to pursue a research question that interests them, including education, public health, and labor and employment.

This organization, and Smith’s work, is centered around self-sufficiency. “People are very dependent in the border towns. They arrive without prospects, are dependent on the government and even the really good jobs don’t pay enough,” he said, adding that they rely heavily on charity, which reinforces dependency on handouts.

Jose Ramirez, the head of Dougla-Prieta Trabajan, noticed a competition between churches in the town. They tended to work against one other, hindering their attempts to help the community. Ramirez hopes to enable inhabitants of Agua Prieta to become more self-sufficient so they can improve their economy, environment and community togetherness.

Smith believes the key to that is the ability to grow food. The soil in Agua Prieta is not fit to grow crops so Dougla-Prieta Trabajan and Smith’s field school participants worked to improve that this past summer. They planted a cover crop to enrich the soil and hope to start planting crops and medicinal plants this spring. Smith admits it will take years to get the soil to where it should be.

“If they can grow food, they’ll have better health, better food and a better economy,” Smith said.

The piece of land that’s being turned into a planting field is centrally located. It will include gardening, rain water harvesting and be an energy efficient operation. The locals working with the organization will build climate appropriate and energy efficient homes using adobe, a traditional skill that is getting lost among younger generations.

“This is going to be a step-by-step, family-by-family project,” said Smith. The families in Agua Prieta need answers now, and patience can be difficult when there are so many challenges to face.

Being in a position to take students to Agua Prieta to contribute to the effort, he’s happy to be involved on behalf of the university and to be providing vital support for this community through the field of applied anthropology.

“We have too many major problems to solve and we can’t limit ourselves to gathering knowledge just for academic journals. Anthropology needs to be more active in public affairs and more visible in the wider community,” said Smith.

The student field school will continue next summer. He is actively looking for opportunities to provide scholarships to students to participate in the program.
June 14, 2008 was a sunny day - which is never a guarantee in Oregon. Excitement bubbled throughout the New P.E. Gym as nearly 700 students donning black and red robes gathered together. There were hugs, smiles, laughter and tears as they prepared to walk in front of their friends and families to collect that degree they worked so hard for. The 151st class of Western Oregon University graduates made a mighty presence that day and showed great promise of their contributions to come.

Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski was the keynote speaker for the ceremony.
Six award recipients were honored at commencement. In addition to the Delmar Dewey, Julia McCullough Smith, and Mario and Alma Pastega awards, the outstanding graduate student award was presented for the first time.

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT

Adam Bates

Adam Bates received his master’s in music, and chose to perform an original composition of his, rather than give a traditional speech.

Bates’ relationship with music had a rocky start. At the age of six he had piano lessons, but didn’t like having to go to a stranger’s house for lessons. It wasn’t until middle school, when he returned to music. He played trombone from then until junior year of high school. He then switched to percussion and joined a rock band.

“Adam is quickly becoming well-known as a performer and composer throughout Oregon, and with the release of the latest Whirled News album, his national and international credibility will begin to rise as well.”

Keller Coker

Bates paid for his associate’s degree at Umpqua Community College with a music scholarship and playing with a local jazz group; one of his teachers suggested he attend WOU for his bachelor’s degree.

He completed his bachelor’s in music from WOU in 2003 and earned his master’s in music at this year’s commencement ceremony. Bates also hopes to pursue a doctorate in the future so he can teach music at a university.

While pursuing his degrees, he arranged many big band compositions and wrote for the Western Hemisphere Combo. “There’s something about organizing sound that appeals to me. People are always looking for ways to organize things.” For Bates, it’s about organizing sound and having something to perform that shows his strengths on the instrument. “I love to perform...I write stuff so that I have something to play,” said Bates.

“Adam is the finest composition student I have ever taught,” said Keller Coker, associate professor of music. He found Bates’ compositions so engaging, he applied for and received a Faculty Development Grant to produce a recording of ten of Bates’ compositions for the group Whirled News. He said the final product is the best recording of his career. Coker added, “Adam is quickly becoming well-known as a performer and composer throughout Oregon, and with the release of the latest Whirled News album, his national and international credibility will begin to rise as well.”

Although the graduates are the focus of the ceremony, the faculty and staff are an integral part. They represent the students’ journey, the triumphs, and the pitfalls. In addition to the student awards, two faculty members and a staff member are honored as part of commencement.

MARIO & ALMA PASTEGA AWARD

EXCELLENCE IN SCHOLARSHIP

Marita Cardinal

The faculty award winner recognized for Excellence in Scholarship was Marita Cardinal, Ph.D., a professor of health and physical education. A dancer since the age of five, Cardinal found a way to combine her love of dance and movement with her academic interests and has carved a niche for herself that has provided her with a variety of research paths.

Her father, a physical educator, introduced her to kinesiology during elementary school. When she reached college, she saw other sides to dance culture – she saw students exposed to extreme requirements of college-level dance such as injurious body positions and movements and unhealthy practices.

“I want students to feel empowered that they have the knowledge and skills to take care of themselves and be healthy,” said Cardinal. “I don’t want them to let negative stereotypes affect their self-identity and long-term health.”

Cardinal said that this kind of support was lacking when she was in college and she realized that she wanted to provide it for her students. She designed a dance wellness curricular model for dance programs as her dissertation, earning her doctorate of education from Temple University in 1993. Since then, her research has branched into several directions.

She has studied screening programs that assess dancers’ current health issues and developed conditioning programs for remediation. Creative dance and movement integration in the classroom is another research focus of Cardinal’s. She wants to provide resources for elementary school teachers to teach their students through movement. A third research focus of Cardinal’s is physical activity promotion for the general public, finding ways people can add physical activity to their lives for better health.

Cardinal was recently named the National Dance Association Scholar/Artist Award recipient for 2009 and the 2008 Faculty Academic Adviser of the Year. This fall she began teaching classes for both the Health and Physical Education Division and the Theatre and Dance Department.
“Dr. Andrews deserves this award because he has been an inspiration for me and encouraged my desire to become a teacher. He wants every student to succeed and works hard to help students in every way he can to achieve that goal.”

Onest Robert, WOU student

MARIO & ALMA PASTEGA AWARD EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
Kit Andrews

Kit Andrews, Ph.D., associate professor of English, earned the Mario and Alma Pastega Excellence in Teaching Award. He has brought a global perspective to the classroom, having taught for the Peace Corps in West Africa, a Fulbright Scholar in Germany, a visiting professor in London, and recently taught in Kassel and Ludwigsburg, Germany. Prior to his 25-year teaching career, he worked on a dairy farm in Switzerland and taught English at a Club Med in Tunisia.

Andrews received his doctorate in comparative literature from the University of Oregon in 1992. He joined WOU in 1998 and says he's stayed because of the faculty and students. “I'm always amazed at the level of commitment to students, research, and to the university. Also the flexibility of the English department and the Humanities Division has allowed me to teach a range of courses that keeps me from becoming stale,” said Andrews. His courses have covered topics ranging from world literature to mythology to philosophy of history to the modern novel.

Andrews thrives off of the success and enjoyment of students. He appreciates that students acknowledge the work of the faculty, and let their professors know when they've helped the students.

He also respects the student’s intelligence, hard work, and efforts to improve. He said students tend to care about each other and help out their classmates, adding that there is a class atmosphere at times at WOU that is humane and intellectual at once.

Not only has Andrews inspired his students to learn, he has inspired many to become teachers themselves. “Dr. Andrews deserves this award because he has been an inspiration for me and encouraged my desire to become a teacher,” said student Onest Robert. “He wants every student to succeed and works hard to help students in every way he can to achieve that goal.”

MARIO & ALMA PASTEGA AWARD STAFF EXCELLENCE
Teresa Hutchinson

This year's winner for Staff Excellence was Teresa Hutchinson (née Bybee). Faculty, staff and students hear Teresa Hutchinson's voice everyday, but not everyone has had the opportunity to get to know her. As the telecommunications coordinator for Western, she is the voice for the phone and voicemail system and is the one to go to with any telecommunication needs.

Those who may have visited her in person would recall her generous nature and colorful M&M collection. Hutchinson joined WOU in 1995 after working at Oregon State University. She wanted to work in a smaller, more close-knit community. “It's like an extended family,” said Hutchinson. “You get to hear about things going in people's lives. And I like the way everyone works together here to make Western a better place.”

Hutchinson is an integral part of WOU’s day-to-day operations. She works with departments on campus to meet their telephone needs and puts together the annual campus directory.

Recently, her projects have included helping implement a new emergency notification system for campus, wireless access and support for other computing projects. Hutchinson is often called upon to provide expertise for the Oregon University System when they are testing programming software for telecommunications across the seven campuses.

She enjoys all of the projects she works on and sees herself retiring in this role. “I love working with people, finding out their needs and how to provide options and solutions to meet those needs,” said Hutchinson.

The Mario and Alma Pastega award has significant meaning to Hutchinson. A native Oregonian having grown up in Corvallis, she witnessed the work that the Pastegas did for the Corvallis community. Hutchinson said: “It's amazing to me that I'd get an award linked to the Pastegas. It means a lot to me because I've always admired them and the great things they do.”

LouAnn Vickers, an employment and recruitment specialist at Western, believes that it's Hutchinson's approachability that leaves a lasting impact on the campus community. “Because of her calm and caring demeanor, Teresa manages to make the individual feel that their situation, or perhaps crisis, is worthy of her time. I believe it would be a challenge to find someone on campus who would not agree with the selection of Teresa for this award.”

“Because of her calm and caring demeanor, Teresa manages to make the individual feel that their situation, or perhaps crisis, is worthy of her time.”

LouAnn Vickers, WOU staff
The first-generation experience

The transition to college – moving away from family, enjoying and balancing new freedoms and responsibilities – is difficult for any student. But for first-generation students, it can be much more difficult.

First-generation students comprise just over half the student population at Western Oregon University, 52 percent during the 2007-08 academic year. These students are the first in their families to go to college. Not having family members to share their experiences hasn’t been an insurmountable obstacle to WOU’s students. This article highlights four of our many outstanding first-generation students.

ANDREA ARCE

Andrea Arce decided to stay at Western after earning her bachelor’s in social science this past June. She’s now a counselor with the Admissions Office, more specifically the multicultural recruitment coordinator. As a first-generation student, she brings a unique perspective to her position of working with prospective minority students and their families. While in high school in Mt. Angel, Arce didn’t believe she was college material.

“It was really hard getting here because it wasn’t thought of for me. It wasn’t part of my household,” said Arce. It was her high school counselor who encouraged her to try anyway. And, boy, did it pay off. Arce was the recipient of several scholarships that culminated in a full-ride for her college career, including a Diversity Scholarship and David S. Brody Scholarship. She made the most of that financial freedom by participating in a six-week intensive study abroad program in Australia. She backpacked the east coast of Australia and Fiji. Arce later studied abroad in Mexico, and was part of an Alternative Break trip to Peru.

When it was time to start college, she went to campus a week before the beginning of fall term for the Summer Bridge Program. “The best start I could have had was with that program,” said Arce. She was able to get acclimated to campus before the pressure of campus life began.

"Not everything comes second nature to us [first-generation students]. You have to want to learn...I haven’t seen anyone in my family go through it, so it’s difficult. But once you get here there’s so much support.”

Andrea Arce ’08
“Not everything comes second nature to us [first-generation students], we have to learn study and time management skills,” she said, adding, “You have to want to learn. I haven’t seen anyone in my family go through it, so it’s difficult. But once you get here there’s so much support.”

Being a globetrotter wasn’t all Arce wanted to do with her time at WOU. She dedicated herself to on-campus organizations including the Student Enrichment Program, an organization dedicated to first-generation students, and the PLUS Team.

Now that she’s an alumna, her focus is still helping first-generation students. Her experiences as a first-gen, and the amazing experiences she had on campus will enable her to communicate her story to families of other first-gen minorities. “It’s very important to relate to the person who’s helping you. If I see these students here next year, or at any college, I’d be so proud of them. They can do it, they can make their dreams come true and we’re here to help,” she said.

TINA TRINH

Service learning played an integral role in Trinh’s time as a student at WOU, particularly the Alternative Break and Student Enrichment programs, which she credits for supporting her throughout her education. She also received the Julia McCulloch Smith award for outstanding female senior in 2008.

“The Student Enrichment Program really helped a lot by being encouraging. Anytime I had a concern, they helped. Having their guidance made a big impact on my college experience.”

Tina Trinh ’08

Trinh, a graduate of psychology, participated in Alternative Break trips to Montrose, Colo., Las Vegas, and Butte, Mont. The trip to Montrose was one of her fondest memories of college. She was a freshman and one of the trip advisers was her psychology professor at the time. She enjoyed seeing her professor outside of class and it helped her get acclimated during her freshman year, realizing that professors are real people and it’s fun to see them out of the classroom element.

Even more than helping her adjust to college life, Trinh appreciated the Alternative Break trips because of the positive impact it had on the local communities.

“The trips were a good opportunity to use your time wisely and help someone in need. The giving of myself just because,” said Trinh. “I want people to know that there’s love out there – people who care about them and want to help them. It’s important to do what you can, when you can because you never know when you’ll need that help later.”

These activities held such importance over the past four years that she accepted a job with AmeriCorps Vista and has been placed in WOU’s Service Learning and Career Development Office. She’s also interested in a career in mediation and hopes to eventually go to graduate school.

Her experience as a first-generation student has impacted her choices in activities, service and her future. But she believes that being a minority further impacts her experience as a first-gen.

“I think it’s different because of the fact I don’t have people in my family who understand and can help me through the process.”

She strongly believes that the passion, at least initially, has to be stronger for first gens. She said they aren’t prepared for what happens at college. “The Student Enrichment Program really helped a lot by being encouraging. Anytime I had a concern, they helped. Having that guidance made a big impact on my college experience,” said Trinh, adding, “you don’t know what to expect but when you get here you fall into a groove.”

MELISSA LALACK

Help can come in many forms. Melissa Lalack, another first-gen student, has coordinated a project that will help homeless youth coming out of correctional facilities such as Hillcrest in Salem. Project Backpack, through WOU’s Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, helps kids who won’t have a place to go once they are released, to get a jump start on getting settled in a new life.

While Lalack was doing a practicum at Hillcrest for her master’s in criminal justice, she talked to a lot of kids who told her they’d be on the street or ‘couch surfing’ when they left the facility. She couldn’t believe the state would let this happen, so she decided to help.

Lalack led an effort to gather donations for backpacks for the youth. These backpacks include hygiene items, water, food, supplies, a first aid kit, basic clothing items (such as underwear, socks, a sweatshirt), blankets, bus passes, and a resource list showing shelters, medical services and help for finding a job throughout the state. The kids expressed how difficult it is to find
a job without transportation, so she believes the bus passes are an especially important part of the backpack.

“The reason these youth are in the correctional system a lot of the time is because they don’t have the family to support them… It’s a struggle to not go back to the situation that got them into trouble in the first place.”

Melissa Lalack ’08

STEVEN BALDWIN

Steven Baldwin, the Delmer Dewey winner for outstanding senior male, has served his community in other ways. His life experience has helped him define clear goals for his future.

A non-traditional student, Baldwin had an 11-year military career before coming to WOU. His undergraduate experience made him aware of his desire to provide rehabilitation counseling for veterans.

After completing his bachelor’s in communication studies this past June, he began working toward his master’s in rehabilitation counseling at WOU. He eventually plans to earn a doctorate and wants to work for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to help reintegrate veterans into society. He was an intern with the Salem Veterans Center, assisting displaced homeless veterans with clothes and benefit information.

“I want to help those people who have gone through so much. I know what they have gone through firsthand,” said Baldwin. “I know I’ll be affecting people’s lives in the end. All they know and what they’re used to is what they’ve done. They need motivation. I want to be a liaison to them, to help them figure out what they want to do with the rest of their lives.”

He said his military experience made him more motivated and driven, and taught him to not take things for granted. Baldwin has focused on academics during his two years at WOU, after transferring from Clatsop Community College. He wished he had more time for clubs and other activities, but he got involved where he could. He helped organize the Communications Club and participated in the Conversation Partner program, where he forged friendships with several international students from the Middle East. When Baldwin asked one of his conversation partners what he wanted to do while in the United States, the student said he wanted to go skydiving. Baldwin made it happen.

Baldwin attributes his success to setting realistic goals. He sets small goals that are easily achievable then allows them to snowball, making him more motivated and giving him increased self confidence. “If you think too big, you set yourself up for failure,” he said, adding that he doesn’t like to think beyond five years in the future. ■

“...continued on page 21
Elzie joined the small Newport community as a ninth grader when his dad retired from the U.S. Air Force. At the time, he saw the move as just one of many he’d experienced as a self-described Air Force brat. “I soon found that Newport was unlike any place I had previously been,” he said. “Newport was a small town where everyone knew everyone else. That made it special to me – a close knit community of hard working Americans from all walks of life doing all manner of work.”

Elzie describes a colorful, easygoing central Oregon coastal community made up of lumber mill workers, truck drivers, fishermen, dock workers, small business owners and civil servants. “It was and still is a very rich and interesting mix of people in a very scenic and beautiful setting,” he added.

The 44-year-old sees a similar variety of skills and personalities among the Marines he leads today. Group 37 builds “grounded aircraft carriers in the desert,” according to Elzie. The group builds and maintains the support and logistical infrastructure required for Marine aviation assets to operate in a land-bound environment. Accomplishing this mission requires a wide array of skills and more significantly to Elzie, a whatever-it-takes attitude.

Elzie and the Marines under his command have nearly perfected this “not risk averse, whatever it takes” attitude, challenging themselves to apply their special skill sets to out-of-the-box tasks. As a result, the group, an aviation ground support element, has successfully supported missions that would traditionally fall under the control of Marine Corps ground support units.

Under Elzie’s command, Group 37 has made significant, unique contributions to mission accomplishment, according to Brig. Gen. Randolph D. Alles, commanding general of Third Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) and Elzie’s supervisor. “I give guidance and they execute,” said Alles of his group commanders. “(Elzie)’s done a very good job of taking the intent and coming up with ways to execute. He’s created a number of innovative ideas to execute intent.”

Two of Group 37’s innovative missions, the establishment and support of an expedient repair and refuel location in al Jazirah desert and of mounted ground combat patrols at Al Asad Air Base, were very helpful to the MEF, ac-
it takes” to succeed: as leader of Marines

cording to Alles, because they reduced the demands on I Marine Expeditionary Force ground combat units.

“This group is doing more stuff than previously,” said Sgt. Major Roger E. Jenness, the sergeant major of Group 37 and Elzie’s senior enlisted adviser. “We’ve embraced non-traditional missions in addition to traditional missions. We’re supporting the ground combat elements by providing infrastructure because the colonel wanted us to be part of it.”

Even as Elzie finds new ways to effectively employ the varied skill sets the Marines of Group 37 bring to the table, he’s quick to remind observers that none of the group’s non-traditional missions would succeed without a certain spirit.

“It’s nice to be part of an organization that doesn’t just rely on skills,” he said of being the commanding officer of Group 37. “These Marines have a spirit of adaptability and ingenuity. Their mind set is ‘this is the job that needs done and we’re going to do it.’”

The Marines of the group take this same ‘whatever it takes’ attitude to missions big and small, according to Elzie, as they tackle improving essential services for Iraqis living in al Anbar province. The squadron has assisted in improving schools, digging wells, improving medical facilities, and developing power plants while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Elzie sees these humanitarian missions as essential to helping the Iraqis’ build their economy which is crucial to the success here in Iraq.

Elzie has seen the impact of supporting humanitarian initiatives. During his 23 years in the Marine Corps, he has deployed to assist in hurricane recovery support and was integral in establishing a large-scale demining initiative in the country of Yemen. This is his second Iraq deployment.

“In 2005, I deployed to Iraq as the commanding officer of 8th Engineer Support Battalion. We were located in the midst of the Sunni triangle, which at the time was the heart of the insurgency that we have been fighting,” said Elzie. “Our work was dangerous, dirty and demanding. I was honored to be working with true patriots, all volunteers, who understood that we can and should make a difference in this part of the world.”

“Savage insurgents who wanted to rule in the same way they wage conflict – with unmitigated brutality against all, including innocents,” overwhelmed the Iraq Elzie saw in 2005.

“Seeing the changes here in Iraq is stunning,” said Elzie about the Iraq he has seen in 2008. “The local populations are working with us and the central Government of Iraq. Life is returning to some sense of normalcy for most Iraqis. I never doubted, because day in and day out I interact with the new ‘Greatest Generation.’ I am so proud of this generation of Marines and sailors who volunteer to serve.”

Although Elzie himself has contributed to the successes of missions with international implications, he doesn’t count these accomplishments as among his most significant. Professionally, he says being lucky enough to be in leadership positions within the Marine Corps, especially since 9/11, as among his greatest accomplishments.

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competition and
When WOU senior outfielder Sara Tucholsky woke up on Saturday, April 26, 2008, she was just one of a thousand-plus college athletes across the country that would play in a softball game later that afternoon.

With one swing of the bat and the charitable act that followed, Sara’s day changed dramatically. In a sports moment that would later win an ESPY and be viewed by a half-million people on YouTube, Tucholsky and Central Washington University players Mallory Holtman and Liz Wallace were involved in the sportsmanship story of the year.

In a game between the Wolves and Wildcats that had playoff implications, Tucholsky belted her first-ever home run but blew out her knee just past first base. Holtman and Wallace carried her around the bases to complete her home run journey, ultimately helping WOU secure a 4-2 win.

WOU went on to claim the conference championship and advance all the way to the NCAA Division II west region title game. Central Washington’s playoff hopes were over.

But the attention showered on the trio was anything but over. The former opponents, now friends, spent the next five months traveling all across the country, telling the story to a nation that was starved to hear it.

From Yankee Stadium in New York to the Ellen DeGeneres Show in Los Angeles, the girls made the rounds. In between, Tucholsky, a first-generation college student, found time to graduate from WOU with a business degree in June and have surgery on her ACL.

“It’s obviously was a very big adventure and the craziest time of my life,” the 22-year old said.

Things have settled down a little bit for the Forest Grove native, but she still has appearances lined up, about one month, for the foreseeable future. She will be in Las Vegas this fall for an event with the Garth Brooks Foundation and will appear with her new friends Holtman and Wallace at a number of motivational seminars across the country. A movie about the story is a possibility.

Meanwhile, she works for the Hillsboro School District as a site supervisor for an after school program, helping kids make positive choices—while still trying to figure out what she wants to be when she grows up.

“I am still not sure about that,” she laughed. “But it has to have something to do with inspiring others and being a good role model.”

It would seem that she has that part already figured out.

SARA’S TOP THREE

She has thrown out the first pitch at major league baseball games in Seattle and Arizona, been featured on a six-minute story on ESPN and even turned down an invitation to the White House. Here are three of her most memorable moments:

1. **Yankee Stadium and the All-Star game.** “We got to hang out in the dugout during the home run derby, and they had a presentation on the big screen about us during a break in the action. That was pretty amazing.”

2. **The ESPY’s in Los Angeles.** Sara, Mallory and Liz carried an ‘injured’ Justin Timberlake around the stage: “The whole red carpet scene and meeting world-class athletes and actors was a thrill. We actually had better seats than most of them.”

3. **The NCAA Softball World Series in Oklahoma.** “I have been watching that on TV since I was ten years old, and it was such a thrill to get to see it in person.”

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The Oregonian and the Great Northwest Athletic Conference joined forces this summer, using the image of Mallory Holtman and Liz Wallace carrying the injured Sara Tucholsky (photo at left), to create a unique sports poster, titled “Sportsmanship scores.” The poster has been a big hit, and was sent to every high school in Oregon and Washington.

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**All-Star game Yankee Stadium:** Sara, Liz and Mallory with David Wright, New York Mets third baseman.

**’08 ESPY Awards: Best Game, Best Upset and Best Play:** Super Bowl champion New York Giants (Kevin Boss ‘07), Best Sports Moment: Sara Tucholsky ‘08.

**NCAA Softball World Series in Oklahoma:** Mallory, Sara and Liz enjoy a moment at the college softball world series.
What do Wolves football, OCE bowling and a 60-year-old WOU graduate have in common?

In the case of Jack Boatwright, they come together to make for a very interesting story.

Jack Boatwright was a student at Oregon College of Education in the mid-1970s and was a member of the Wolves bowling team that placed second at the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics national championships. But he never finished work on his degree, as a new marriage and job distractions left him a few credits short.

Last fall, he started following the WOU football team during its very successful 9-2 season, reading about the team in the newspaper and listening to the games live on the Wolves Web site. He and a fellow co-worker, former WOU women’s basketball player Miranda Lamb, even wore their letterman’s jackets to work to celebrate Western’s victory in the Rotary Bowl.

Boatwright’s excitement about the football team led him to look around the Web site to see if there was any archived information about his bowling team.

Boatwright, who lives in Sisters and grew up in Salem, discovered that he just needed one class to graduate in his new major of interdisciplinary studies, so he took philosophy.

“I am 60 years old, but I felt like I could still relate to the students, because I have kids of my own in their early 20s,” he said. “We all got along great. The students liked to refer to me as the 31st-year senior.”

“I’ve been asked a number of times, why? Why get your degree at this stage of life? Your career is behind you. There were two reasons: it had been nagging in the back of my head for 31 years, and I had promised my dad that I would. He was extremely disappointed when I dropped out after winter 1977. And, although he passed away in 1993, I still owed it to him.”

Jack Boatwright ’08

When there wasn’t, he called the school to inquire about nominating the team for the Wolves Hall of Fame.

After visiting the campus to drop off the nomination form, he asked himself a question: “Why didn’t I graduate?”

“I walked into Nancy France’s office (the Registrar) and announced that I wanted to graduate,” Boatwright recalled. “She first looked at me strange, but we then marked out a plan and I was on my way.”

After completing his classwork, Boatwright walked across the stage with the rest of his graduating class in June at McArthur Field, which of course is also the home venue for the Wolves football team.

“The funny thing is, that while WOU football was the catalyst in getting me back on campus to get my degree, I still haven’t seen a game;” he laughed. “I am still working on that one.”

rb
Personally, the unassuming father of three says, picking a fantastic woman to be his wife is his most significant accomplishment. Della Smith met Daniel Elzie on the campus of WOU during the first month of the first year he attended the university. The couple have been together ever since, according to Elzie, who describes his wife as the model of selflessness.

Meeting the future Mrs. Elzie permanently holds top honors on Elzie's list of three fondest memories of WOU. She has proven the perfect partner in Elzie's commitment to family which pervades his leadership. He's truly a family man, according to Jenness noting that the colonel spends as many dinners as possible virtually at the dinner table with his family via web cam. “He’s the most family-oriented guy I’ve met,” added Jenness. “And he extends his dedication to family throughout the command by taking the time to do something for families every single day.”

Elzie's small town roots, his selfless and supportive wife, and the friends he made while attending WOU continue to influence the 44-year-old. He notes the friends he made while living in Landers Hall as continuing to impact his life even 20 years after leaving the university.

Pushing through the initial doubt Elzie experienced as a college freshman has significantly shaped the path his life has taken. Third on his list of top three fondest memories from his time at WOU is the overarching impact that a college education has had on his life. “I wasn’t entirely certain that I even wanted to go to college; the recruiter from WOSC changed my mind, and in the process has changed my life,” he said. “The professors challenged me and in that process, gave me confidence. I certainly do not lack for confidence, but it was borne from my experiences at Western.”

Today Elzie would tell his freshmen self to be sure to meet Miss Della Smith, never quit learning, and play hard, work harder. He would say it with confidence born of learning and experience and faith. He would say it as a man who hopes, when all is said and done, to be remembered simply as a good husband, good father, and an average Marine.

Colonel Elzie speaking to his Marines as they prepare to deploy for Iraq.

Staff Sgt. Kimberly S. Leone is currently pursuing her master's degree in strategic communications and media management through the University of Missouri - Columbia. Leone is deployed to al Asad, Iraq as the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) public affairs chief.

The first-generation experience: Melissa Lalack, continued from page 15 and take over the project once she completes the inaugural batch of backpacks. The next person to take it over will have some big shoes to fill as Lalack and her team garnered a lot of support for the project.

Performance Health Technology in Salem donated $1,000 to the project, which has been used to purchase the backpacks and some supplies. The Monmouth-Independence community has stepped up to provide donations in supplies and funding as well.

“The kids are our future and we need to help out the youth that are growing up right now without families and places to live. We need to step-up and help those kids so they can grow up and contribute to our society.”

Your engagement. Your input. Your support.

Find out how you can make a difference at www.wou.edu/giving
Dear Fellow Alumni,

On September 29, I was privileged to begin my new role at Western Oregon University as director of Alumni Relations. After more than three successful years of working as an admissions counselor for WOU, I decided to bring my recruitment talents and passion for WOU to the Cottage.

As graduates of this university, you and I know how much our time here on campus has shaped our lives and the life of this institution. As alumni, we can continue to have a meaningful impact on campus through active involvement and participation in alumni events, the WOU Annual Fund, and supporting current academic and extracurricular programs affiliated with the campus. In the coming months and years, please join me and other alumni in supporting this institution and the current student population.

I look forward to meeting and hearing from you all as I settle in my new position and know together we will all do our part as active alumni in continue the tradition of preserving this institution for future generations. Go Wolves!

Sincerely,

Christopher Wheeler
Director of Alumni Relations
1920-1929
Daisy (Wickstrom) Murphy '20 celebrated her 109th birthday in Olympia, Wash. Born in 1899, Daisy earned a teaching certificate from WOU. She has voted in every election since women won the right to vote. Daisy keeps up on current events with the help of caregivers who read the newspaper to her.

In Remembrance
Ellen (Wallin) Nyberg '29 June 6 at age 98. Ellen was born in Östersund, Sweden. She was two when her family immigrated to the U.S. She was teacher-principal at Cherry Grove Elementary for 45 years. She retired in June 1974.
Deborah (Smith) Snyder '29 Jan. 24 at age 96. Deborah served in the Red Cross during WWII in the South Pacific. She was a teacher and homemaker who also worked on the family farm in Olalla. She moved to Portland in 1962 and was active with the Oregon Historical Society, The Nature Conservancy and Northwest Ministries.

1930-1934
In Remembrance
Robertta (Peterson) Smith '30 Aug. 23 at age 98.
Iola Walch '30 '63 Jan. 16 at age 96.
Dorothy (Cochrane) Shaw '31 '60 Aug. 13 at age 100. Dorothy taught for the Beaverton School District. She taught first grade for 35 years.
Esther (Buche) Wilson '31 Aug. 6 at age 99. Esther served in the Women’s Army Corps and was a teacher in Oregon and Washington.
Hazel Jean (Woodward) Larkins '31 Mar. 13 at age 95. Hazel taught vacation Bible school and Sunday school.
Elsie Pearl (Chamberlain) Wilson '31 '59 Mar. 24 at age 97. Elsie was an elementary school teacher for Lents and Wilkes elementary schools in Portland, Selma and Lakeview.

Zoe “Blanche” (Daugherty) Lindland '32 Sept. 6 at age 97. Blanche lived in the Molalla-Cantby area and worked for the Clackamas County treasurer’s office, as well as for the Swan Island Dahlia Farm in Canby.
Evangeline “Eva” (Benton) Steinhauser '32 Mar. 6 at age 95. Eva was an elementary school teacher for 23 years in Minerva, Deadwood, Elmina, Junction City and Eugene.
Grace M. (Ellingsen) Greenough '33 Feb. 25 at age 95. Grace taught at the elementary school in Coquille, retiring in 1939.
Rina A. (Romiti) Yerkovich '33 Mar. 20 at age 95. Rina was a volunteer for the American Red Cross for more than 20 years.
Ruth Louise (Beight) Dawson '34 '61 Mar. 12 at age 93. Ruth worked for one year in the Government Works Project preschool nursery in Albany and Klamath Falls. She taught in North Albany and several other rural schools. She spent her last 19 years of teaching at Grand Prairie School, retiring in 1973, and was a volunteer with the SMART program.

1935-1939
Victor '36 '41 and Melba '41 (Whitney) Black celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on April 13 in Dallas. Carl is a former postmaster and Melba was a teacher and school secretary. Both retired in 1973.

In Remembrance
Neva (Pepperling) Ayers '35 July 2 at age 92. Neva’s teaching career took her from a one-room schoolhouse in the Willamette Valley to a first-grade classroom in Baker City. She was an active member and past president of the Retired Teachers Association.
Maxine (Willett) Humphrey '35 June 17 at age 92. Maxine taught elementary and kindergarten students for 25 years in Tangent, Albany and Fairmont. Maxine served on the first school board of Santiam Christian School and worked on many projects for the Albany School District.
Lucy M. (Quigley) Nelson '36 Jan. 23 at age 91. Lucy was a teacher for St. Ignatius School.
Ruth (McCullough) Sommerville '36 '74 Feb. 21 at age 92. Ruth was an elementary teacher in Corbett Grade School, Gresham Grade School and Cotrell Elementary School.
Ramona (Luette) Huserik '38 '55 June 24 at age 90. Ramona was an elementary school teacher for more than 40 years. She taught at Mountain Dale, Sauvie Island, and Skyline Elementary School for about 30 years.

1940-1944
Richard “Rick” Cantrell '40 and wife Idonna are the grand marshals for the 2008 Dufur Threshing Bee.

In Remembrance
Elizabeth “Betty” (Mohr) Gordon '40 Feb. 8 at age 88. Betty was a second grade teacher in Portland from 1956 until her retirement in 1980.
Louis William Graven '40 Feb. 29 at age 92. Louis served in the Army. An industrial arts teacher, he taught throughout Oregon, including in Vale, Clatskanie, Creswell and most recently in Tigard.
Eva (Davidson) Parks '40 June 27 at age 88. Eva taught school for many years in the Willamette Valley.
Betty (Mock) Norwood '41 Apr. 28 at age 88.
Eleanor Lucile Johnson '44 Jan. 30 at age 82. Eleanor taught in schools for many years.

1945-1949
In Remembrance
Bernice V. (Haveman) Grazen '45 '59 '78 Mar. 7 at age 95. Bernice taught at several country schools and she was president of the Monmouth Women’s Christian Temperance Union, led a children’s Good News Club in her home and sponsored a child in Kenya through World Vision.
Lila Hilja (Haggren) Collman '46 '62 Mar. 19 at age 82. Lila worked as a substitute teacher and taught cooking at Clatsop Community College. She was a member of the Lower Columbia Power Squadron and recently became a life member of the United States Power Squadrons, earning her 15th Merit Mark. She was a charter member and secretary of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Frotilla 64.

1950-1954
In Remembrance
John Lamers '50 Sept. 22 at age 90. John served in the 4th Armored Division under General Patton’s Third Army, and was honorably discharged in 1946. In 1961, John and his family moved from Corvallis to a property near their current home and began livestock and crop farming. He considered his greatest accomplishment to be the completion of his vision of converting nearly 500 acres from brush to a productive tree farm with the aid of his family.
James “Jim” Ethelmy Gooding '52 '58 Feb. 15 at age 82. Prior to finishing high school, Jim enlisted in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Jim and his wife, Evelyn, ran the 433 Café on Burnside while attending college. He taught for nine years at Woodstock Grade School, and was a middle and elementary school teacher and coach in Gresham. He retired in 1984 after teaching for 23 years.
Lester M. DeHart '53 Apr. 25 at age 77. Lester taught and was principal at the Bay City Grade School. He was principal at Chapman Grade School in Sheridan from 1962 to 1987, and interim superintendent and principal of Sheridan High School for a year before he retired. He was a past president of the Oregon Western Region of Elementary Administrators and a member of the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators.
Pearl (Mollet) Langeland '53 '54 Sept. 27 at age 101. She taught at Mission Bottom School, Keizer, and Cummings Elementary and in Woodburn before her retirement in 1972.
1955-1959

Don ‘55 and Frances (Williams) Brostrom ‘55 have moved from Dallas, their home for 37 years, to their new home west of Monmouth. The house was built on a 40-acre site they purchased in 1960, which they hoped to be complete by their retirement. Nearly 20 years and a few battles with the State Land Use Commissions later, the house was finally completed. • Sherry (Ripple) ’57 and Robert “Bob” Lady ’61 ’65 celebrated their 50th anniversary June 22. They have two children and 11 grandchildren. They are both retired, but Sherry still works as an ordained Unity minister and is in charge of adult education at her church. • Sally (Edgar) Larsen ’57 retired in 1990 after 30 years in the classroom. She has been married to Dick Larsen for 48 years, and both taught in Tillamook. They have two adult children, a granddaughter and five step-grandchildren. They moved to the Aloha area in 1992. “The chalk dust in my blood urged me to go back to the classroom, so for about 12 years I have been ‘Grandma Sally’ to first and second graders, and love every minute. Life is good!” • Janice (Kenison) Cole ’59 ’70 and her husband Bill celebrated their 50th anniversary this August.

In Remembrance

Jenneva M. (Maine) Briggs-Bess ’55 Apr. 6 at age 93. Jenneva began her teaching career in a one-room school on a ranch in Wyoming from 1940 to 1942. She taught from 1953 to 2006. Her interest in world understanding gave her an opportunity to teach English to elementary age children for one summer at a private school in Mexico City, and organized an exchange program with sixth graders. She worked with the program until she retired and accompanied a group of 28 children to Mexico City. Elizabeth “Betty” (Carlisle) Lienkaemper ’55 ’57 Apr. 10 at age 92. Throughout Betty’s career of more than 20 years, she taught elementary school students in Coquille, Wilkes, Welches and Estacada. During summer breaks from teaching at Welches and Estacada, she kept books and managed the front desk at Bowman’s Mt. Hood Golf Club. Leslie “Les” Allen DeGandhi ’56 ’62 Feb. 22 at age 77. Les began his teaching career in Culp Creek, Ore. He taught at Bolton Elementary School for five years before becoming Cannon Beach Elementary School principal in 1962. Les was the first principal at Seaside Heights Elementary School and the last principal at Seaside’s Central School. He retired in 1988. After retirement, he owned with his sons, the Dory Launch Grill and the Family Market in Cannon Beach. Carolyn Louise (Jones) Howells ’56 ’63 Jan. 19 at age 73. Carolyn taught high school English classes for over 35 years. She began at Nestucca High School, moved to Dallas High School and retired from Willamette High School.

In Remembrance

Ruth (Arthur) Delaney ’60 Feb. 27 at age 97. Ruth was a remedial reading teacher for Portland Public Schools, where she worked for more than 20 years. George Lameman ’60 at age 73. George lived and retired in Blanding, Utah. He was a social worker for the State of Utah Department of Social Services. Vera Mae (Porter) Terry ’60 May 28 at age 68. Donna was a public school teaching in Portland and Battleground, Wash. Mildred “Midge” (Yoshimura) Morikami ’61 May 9 at age 69. Midge was a retired state Department of Education teacher in Niu Valley Intermediate School. Grace V. (Bartruff) Edwards ’62 Oct. 24 at age 88. Grace and her husband moved near Independence, where they farmed for over forty years. She also taught the fourth grade at Morningside Elementary School in Salem for 17 years.

1960-1964

In Remembrance

Richard Gardner ’61 Sept. 17 at age 77. Richard was a professor at Michigan State University. Donna M. (Snider) Lagota ’61 May 28 at age 68. Donna was a public school teaching in Portland and Battleground, Wash. Verla Mae (Porter) Terry ’60 Aug. 5 at age 92. Verla was a third grade teacher in The Dalles. She moved to Portland in 2006.

In Remembrance

Dean Osterman ’65

When Dean Osterman ’65 was senior class president and commissioner, he noted that the college did not have class rings. He met with the bookstore manager and they designed a ring together, chosing a garnet for its red color. When it arrived, Osterman took it to the student council and it was voted as the college’s first official class ring. He is still the proud owner of the ring to this day.

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1965-1969

Don Weaver ’68 retired in May 2006 from the Bonneville Power Administration. He worked 22 years at the BPA Headquarters. He was hired as a mathematician and later worked in the Power Scheduling and Planning Division. From 1968-1972 Don served in the air wing of the US Navy in San Diego. He taught mathematics at Mohawk High School in Marcola, Ore from 1972 to 1980. • Linda (Kunzman) ’69 and Philip “Lynn” Fresnour ’70 celebrated their 40th anniversary this August. • Jim Zuevol ’69 is a retired public school teacher, principal and superintendent, living in Tucson, Ariz. He requested we pass on this message: “I am eternally grateful to two great OCE professors: Dr. Glogau & Mr. Tetz, for helping me to develop an understanding of our contemporary society that enabled me to become, hopefully, a successful American public schools.”

1970-1974

Josie (Peterson) Reid ’70 is still singing, acting, directing, gardening, painting, substitute teaching, fishing, traveling, grandparenting, enjoying retirement, and married to the same man for 38 years. • Steven S. Smith ’71 ’83 recently retired after many years teaching social studies in the small schools of Eastern Oregon. He resides near Baker City. • Randy Franke ’73 is leaving retirement and running for Marion County clerk. He had served as a Marion County commissioner for 24 years, prior to retirement. • Lori (Scheffer) Sandvig ’74 has lived in Edina, Minn. since 1974. Married to Mark Sandvig, they have two daughters, Kate, 25, and Lauren, 24. She has been working out of her home as executive secretary for a non-profit educational organization. • Sandi Lonnquist ’74 has resigned as Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce CEO. She plans to move to Southern California to be closer to her family. During a 20-year career, she had been program coordinator for the Stanford Fund Partnership at Stanford University and earlier taught leadership at Jordan Middle School in Palo Alto.

In Remembrance

Rachel (Vancil) Gamroth ’67 Oct. 10.
investigator and as a parole/probation officer, but most recently as a contractor, “Handy Gramps.”

Richard Beeler ’71 July 6 at age 71. Richard was supervisor of shelter care for the Washington County Juvenile Department. Ellen “Pat” (Stingle) Davis Smith ’71 Mar. 15 at age 91. Pat taught first grade and special education in Heppner, Sweet Home, Junction City and Corvallis. She moved to Portland in 1989.

Genevieve A. (Moore) Burgett ’71 Apr. 10 at age 59. Genevieve worked in Tillamook County schools with Title I students.


Genevieve (Shockey) Erickson ’73 Sept. 27 at age 77. Genevieve was preschool teacher for Oregon School for the Deaf. She was married to William Erickson ’70.

Sandra (Gerdies) Strassel ’73 Oct. 3 at age 58. Sandra taught at Swallotail School in Hillsboro and Visitation School in Forest Grove. Lynn Marie (Frickie) Ramsey ’74 June 30 at 56. Lynn worked with Special Education students at Fairview, Mary Eyer School and Student Services at Salem/Keizer School District. After her retirement, she returned to Salem/Keizer Schools to help create and run the Intake Support Team which helps expedite placements for high needs special education students who move to Salem.

Teresa “Terry” (Ogden) Tennant ’74 ’81 Mar. 21 at age 56. Terry taught high school at Willamette High School and at Santiam Christian. She then substituted for a few years. She most recently was a home health care provider and also worked as a bundle hauler for the Albany Democrat-Herald.

1975-1979

Frank Barnett ’75 and wife Linda celebrated their 50th anniversary on June 10. Mark Caulfield ’75 is a candidate for Position No. Three on the Keizer City Council. He is being backed by current city councilor Jacque Moir. He is a retired investigations commander for the Salem Police Department and has taught courses in criminal justice at WOU. He currently owns his own business.

Greg Fishwick ’75 is the new dean of arts and sciences and is one of three new deans at Umpqua Community College. Greg is working on the development of new programs and has taken charge of the viticulture and enology program the college is currently working on. Previously he worked at Rogue Community College for about 11 years, counseling and teaching some classes.

Melini (Cox) Altermatt ’76 was named (elementary) Teacher of the Year by the Central Education Association. Melini teaches at Monmouth Elementary and previously taught for a year at Henry Hill Elementary and nine years for elementary schools in Albany. She arrived at MES in 1989.

Todd Lucich ’76 has joined the Bison Gear organization as the new vice president of sales. Todd has over 27 years experience in the Power Transmission Industry, and was formerly a vice president of distribution and national accounts with Rexnord Industries.

Peggy Ann Rentz ’77 and Thomas Dickerson were married Nov. 24. Peggy works as a bill collector for Harvest House Publishers of Eugene and Thomas works as a warehouseman at Harvest House Publishers.

David Taylor ’77 is Senior Defense Analyst with Science Applications International Corporation – currently on contract in support of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Pentagon, Washington DC.

Perry Martin ’79 ’88 is the new president of Maryknoll School in Honolulu. He plans to take up residence in Hawaii with his wife, Leann, a third-grade teacher. Perry has served for more than 30 years in education, including twelve years teaching in Saudi Arabia. He served as principal of Sacred Heart School in Medford for eight years before becoming principal of Marist High School in 2004.

Janice (Trotter) Michael ’79 is retired after teaching for 27 years in the Lower Kuskwokum School District in Alaska. She and her husband, Ted, have two girls, Chelsea, nine, and Brittany, ten, and live in Sitka, Alaska.

In Remembrance

Michael Harris ’75 ’86 Sept. 17 at age 57. Michael was a math teacher at Dallas Middle School, Silverton High School, MacLaren School in Woodburn, and Mountain View Middle School in Beaverton. He retired in 2005 after 22 years at Judson Middle School in Salem.

Clinton Shultz ’75 Sept. 22 at age 60. Clinton was an elementary school teacher.

Marilyn J. (Wilson) Foote ’76 ’79 Mar. 11 at age 64. Marilyn had a 22 year career with the Bend schools as a teacher and counselor, retiring in 1990.

Suzanne (Keech) Graves ’77 July 7 at age 79. Suzanne taught in California before relocating to Salem, where she taught the talented and gifted for several years. She was honored with several awards for teaching excellence. She had many one-woman shows across the U.S. and her paintings received many Best of Show awards. They relocated to Fallon, Nev. in 1984, where Suzanne worked with the Lahontan Valley Literacy Project.

1980-1984

Bobbie Holsberry ’80 received the Oregon Music Educators’ Service and Leadership Award as a former past president of OMEA at the 2008 state conference. She was also presented the Achievement Award of the Alpha Rho State Organization of the Delta Kappa Gamma International Society at the state convention May 3–5, 2008.

Sheryl (Bouchard) Sandige ’82 ’88 teaches calligraphy for the GATE program at McKinleyville Middle School in Humboldt County, Calif. A cancer survivor of three years, she also works as counselor at the Humboldt Community Breast Health Project in Arcata. Sheryl lives with her husband, David, a corporate pilot, and their daughter and son.

James Bridges ’83 is a community clinic director in San Diego.

Janell Ediger ’83 ’95 is the new principal at Liberty Elementary in the Greater Albany School District. Janell’s teaching career was from 1958 to 1974, after which she took the Trans-Siberian Railway and volunteered in many shows for the Pentacle, WOU, Chez Robert and the Ashland Shakespearean Festival.

Michael Pence Hathaway ’84 Mar. 12 at age 63. Michael was a hearings officer for the Oregon Department of Corrections in Salem and Portland.

Kevin Leader ’84 Sept. 15 at age 46.

Adventurous by nature, Kevin purchased a motor scooter and explored the islands of Japan. After teaching for a year in Japan, he took the Trans-Siberian Railway and traveled from China to Europe. Kevin visited over 20 countries and most of the U.S., and he visited Japan again with his wife,
Roxane, and her family. After returning to Oregon in 1991, Kevin began his 17–career as a research biologist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

1985-1989
Susan (JANS) ’85 and husband Greg Alderson ’01 became grandparents on July 3, 2007 to a baby boy, Hayden Price Alderson. • Louis Bailey ’85 is the new principal of West Linn High School. He has been in education for 22 years, most recently as principal of Baker Prairie Middle School.

In Remembrance
Woodine R. (Mitchell) Lamb ’85 May 16 at age 74. Woodine taught in the Newport and Newberg areas before moving to McMinnville, where she was a special education teacher.

Ludim (Silva) Aleman ’86 Apr. 8 at age 63. Ludim taught at Adams, Newby and Grandhaven elementary schools, and worked with ESL students at Patton Middle School and McMinnville High School, before retiring in 2004.

1988-1989
Linda (Fothergill) Bednarz ’88 and her husband, Warren, celebrated 25 years of marriage on Aug. 6, 2008. • Jeff Conroy ’88 the executive director for St. Vincent de Paul North Idaho. He oversees operations in five counties in northern Idaho, which includes job services, two thrift stores, Child Care Food Programs, art outreach programs, parenting classes, housing and life skills classes for the homeless, soup kitchens, emergency services and shelters, veteran services, FEMA, and building HUD Housing. Jeff completed his master’s in organizational leadership from Gonzaga University.

• Sheron (Wegener) Farmer ’88 was named as the head track and field coach at Molalla High School. • Dan McGraw ’88 will be featured on tuba in a performance of Handel/Beethoven's Judas Macabre in the winter concert of the Oregon Coast Chamber Orchestra (OCCO). Dan has taught music at all levels, including piano, low brass and jazz. Before joining OCCO, he was a member of the Juneau Symphony. • Mitch ’88 and Cathy (Lane) Teal ’88 celebrated their 20th anniversary Aug. 20. They have three children, Collin, 16, and 14-year-old twins Kelsee and McKenzie. Mitch is the special needs trust director for the Arc of Oregon and Cathy is a human resources specialist at Salem Hospital. They also own Bronze Planet Tanning Studios in Keizer and West Salem. • Brunk Conley ’89 of Sublimity has been appointed as the new state command sergeant major of the Oregon Army National Guard. Brunk previously had been command sergeant major, serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. He joined the Oregon National Guard after serving active duty in the Army from 1982 to 1986. In civilian life, Brunk teaches chemistry and physics at Staleyton Union High School. He and his wife, Laara, have five sons. • Kim (Manion) Pittsley ’89 has lived in Keizer the past 20 years. She has been married for 20 years as well, and has two daughters. Pittsley has been a school counselor for 17 years. She counseled for five years at the Cherna Indian School and for another five years at Portland Public Schools at the Indian Education Program.

1990-1991
Ed Esse ’90 and wife Kim (Mullen) ’91 have been teaching for 17 years in Lancaster, Calif. • Philip Rodin ’90 ’96 was just hired as the new computer science teacher at Sprague High School in Salem. He has been teaching math there for the last seven years. He has also taken on responsibility assisting the athletic director this year. His wife, Melinda (Haeftlen) ’90, teaches at Pringle Elementary. • Jay Schmoyer ’90 ’92 and Gretchen Schmoyer ’97 ’04 welcomed the birth of their son, Trevor Brady, on May 13.

In Remembrance
Dennis Tollenaar ’90 May 14 at age 55. Dennis was a middle school teacher with Salem-Keizer schools for many years before becoming a school administrator. He was principal of Lord High School in Woodburn before his retirement. • Christopher Martinson ’90 Aug. 21 at age 40. Chris was a third-generation commercial fisherman. Before joining the family fishing business, he worked for the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Department Marine Division. • Pamela Jean (Hulse) Christensen ’91 June 11 at age 55. Pamela was a sign language specialist and worked as an interpreter for the Deaf for 19 years. • Rhonda Sue McNeil ’91 Mar. 29 at age 51. Rhonda worked at Selmet Incorporated in Salem.

1992
Scott Balion ’92 and Dawn Reiche ’94 ’95 ’98 were married Aug. 8 at Wallowa Lake. • Charles “Ed” Dennis ’92 was elected council president for the Hillsboro City Council in 2007. • Darcy (Tichenor) McGowan ’92 and her family returned to Oregon in February, after living in Sweden for the past nine years and Montreal, Canada before that. Darcy and husband Andrew have two daughters, ages four and eight. • Damara (Goff) Paris ’92 ’94 was recently promoted to Capital branch manager at Sprint-Nextel. The promotion entails marketing oversight of all Sprint Captioned Telephone and WebCaption services for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing in the U.S. In February 2008 she was recognized for her work at Sprint-Nextel with the People’s Choice award. • Tracy Prall ’92 received an appointment to Marion County circuit judge July 15 from Governor Kulongoski. She has served as a full-time pro tem judge in Marion County since 2005, presiding over civil, criminal and domestic-relations cases. Most recently, she was overseeing the juvenile court docket, worked in civil litigation and also served as a Marion County deputy district attorney.

1993-1994
Angela (Ernst) Capps ’93 ’98 and her Redmond women’s basketball team won the championship in the Bend Metro Park and Recreation women’s league. Her team which is made up of eight Redmond School District teachers went undefeated in the regular season and won the championship game. • Curt Currey ’93 recently joined Western Mortgage Brokers, Inc. of Eugene as a mortgage consultant. He previously worked with Pacific Home Funding of Eugene for the past nine years. • Ken Hobson ’94 completed his Ph.D. in philosophy at the University of Iowa in May. He has a one-year appointment at Iowa State University in Ames, for the 2008-2009 academic year. • Betty ( Weninger Smith) Imbolt ’94 currently works for the Oregon Department of Transportation. She received a M.P.A. from Lewis & Clark College in 1997.

1995-1997
Tona (LaRue) Brewer ’95 completed her master’s degree in instructional and performance technology from Boise State University. She currently works at Bonneville Power Administration as an HR specialist/instructional designer. • Stephanie Myhre ’96 was just named School Improvement coordinator for Cherry Park Elementary in Portland. She has been a teacher at this school for the past 11 years. She also serves on the board of directors for the Oregon Education Association. • Eldon Thompson ’96 third novel, The Divine Talisman, was released this summer and marks the conclusion of his Legend of Asahel trilogy. • Nicole (Miller) Williams ’96 was named new assistant county manager. She had been the county clerk since 2005 and previously was the chief deputy clerk for nearly five years. Williams was raised in Clatsop County and chose to return to the area after she completed college to raise her family. She and her husband, Ty, have two sons, Clay, nine, and Bo, five. • Mary E. (Fender) McMillan ’97 is engaged to marry Matthew J. Dressel on Sept. 27, 2008 in McMinnville. Their new family will include Mary’s two daughters: Alyssa, eight, and Kayleen, three.

1998
Chrysfe (Civella) Berda ’98 and husband Christopher are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Collin Christopher Berda. He arrived on March 19 and joins his brother Christian Robert Berda who was born on Feb. 22, 2007. • Jennifer Griffin ’98 and her mother founded the Pathways Therapeutic Health Center in Keizer in 2001. • Nicole Hancock ’98 has returned to Steel Rives LLP’s Boise office. Previously, Nicole served as corporate counsel for Syngenta Seeds, Inc., a global agriculture company, where she managed the legal department for its NAFTA vegetable seeds business. Nicole is on the board of directors for Idaho Women Lawyers and is on the Fourth District Bar Association’s Law Day committee. She is admitted to the state bars of Idaho and Oregon, the U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. • Jennifer Roberts ’98 married John Stoup Aug. 22. They are expecting a baby girl, Jesse Elizabeth, on Oct. 4. They are both on active duty status with the U.S. Coast Guard. Jennifer is a store keeper and John is a gunners mate. She also has a M.B.A. in management. • Joseph Shinkle ’98 was one of 20 musicians selected from 300 chosen at a regional casting call in Portland to take part in a national casting session for Nashville...
Robert “Downtown” Brown ’99 ’00 and Michelle “Shelly” (West) Brown ’00 live in Waterford, Calif. and have two girls. Robert is a special education teacher at Waterford High School and coaches cross country and track while Shelly also works as a special education teacher for Pitman High School in Turlock.  

• Robyn Forty ’99 is engaged to be married to Ray Baehler on Nov. 15.  
• Roberta (Burnham) Greb ’99 moved to Sacramento, Calif., in 2000, taught kindergarten in a Christian school. We then moved to Prescott, Ariz., in 2003, where she is a substitute teacher for grades K-5 and special ed classes. She is currently raising two of her grandchildren, ages five and three. She would like to reconnect with Rie Oshio, a psychology student who attended WOU from 1998-2000.  
• Andrea (Mumney) Roesor ’99 has been married for four years to Thomas M. Roesor. They welcomed Daniel Lincoln Roeser Jan. 18, 2007. She and her husband own a music store in downtown Toledo. MainStream Music is a thriving retail store and mobile DJ/karaoke business.  

Lisa (Miller) Harlan ’00 was recently named the principal of Cheldelin Middle School in Corvallis. She has worked previously as a middle school assistant principal and a Spanish teacher.  

• Ronda Barrow ’01 married Donald “D.J.” Hempler in Pacific City, Ore. in mid-July. Ronda is a paralegal and probation officer in Polk County and D.J. serves in the U.S. Army.  
• Jonathan Gordon ’01 is the director of Athletic Media Relations at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Wash.  
• Marty Lee Harris ’01 and Kris Evan Schroeder eloped and were married on Mar. 7, 2008 in Reno, Nev. He is employed as a wild land firefighter by the U.S. Forest Service and she is employed as a social worker.  
• ’01 Jessica Ratliff is teaching kindergarten at Clear Lake Elementary in Keizer. She has been teaching for six years. This is her first year at Clear Lake.  
• Adam Slaton ’01 graduated with Masters of Education in Educational Foundations and Leadership from George Fox University and lived abroad developing and building a school, as well as leadership programs, in the Dominican Republic for five years. He is currently serving on the alumni board at WOU and is involved in service organizations.  
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2002  
Bart Christopher Bishop ’02 and Jenica Denise Knox were married June 28 in Gresham. Jenica is a first-grade teacher and Bart works in sales for Halton Co. The Bishops will make their home in Troutdale.  

• Stacey Lynn Duda ’02 and Kevin Jones were married March 29 in Bend. They currently live in Portland, where Stacey teaches and Kevin attends OHSU Medical School.  
• Maren Gref ’02 recently joined Random House Children’s Books as a managing editor after working for the Random House Publishing Group for the past four years, located in New York City.  
• Army Reserve Capt. Aaron L. Hoffman ’02 returned to the 378th Military Intelligence Battalion at Fort Sheridan, Ill., after being deployed to an overseas forward operating base in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He is an air traffic control equipment repairman with 15 years of military service.  
• Lindsay McCaragar ’02 completed the WOU M.A.T. program in 2008 with a health education focus. He is currently the Gervais High School Varsity Baseball coach, in his fifth season. Lindsay married Molly Pearmine ’00 in 2001 and they have three little girls Gracey, five, Lilly, three, and Addy, one.  
• Jacob Schauffler ’02 is the newest head coach for the Eagle Point High School football program. Schauffler spent the last three years as the defensive coordinator at Phoenix High School and was ranked top in Class 3A in 2005. Prior to that, Schauffler spent three seasons at Rogue River as a defensive coordinator and helped them to their first state playoff appearance since 1979.  

2003  
Khristina Harris ’03 was hired by Hennebery Eddy Architects, Inc. as staff accountant. Harris has five years of bookkeeping and account reconciliation experience.  

• Sarah Iander ’03 and husband Paul have relocated to Denver, Colo., from Orlando, Fla. She is a traffic coordinator at Echostar corporate headquarters.  
• Kimberly Reynolds ’03 and Douglas Jadin ’04 were married Jan. 12 in Bend. Kimberly is a manager at Nine West in Woodburn and Douglas is a machine operator for Geico in Salem. The couple lives in Keizer.  
• Corey Simonsen ’03 is the new sixth, seventh and eighth grade science teacher at Riley Creek School. This is his first official teaching job. He’s excited about this job because he loves teaching middle school. Corey is looking forward to working with the Watershed Council in their Stream Team project.

2004  
Jerry Ambris ’04 is a community developer for the Farmworker Housing Development Corporation. Jerry began working with FHDC in the summer of 2005 and was a key leader in the development of Colonia Amistad in Independence, the first housing development for farm workers in Polk County. In 2007, Jerry was also selected as one of 18 participants in the Neighborhood Partnership Funds’ Future Leaders Initiative, a year-long program aimed at preparing new leaders in the community development field.  

• Matthew A. Barreau ’04 was hired after graduation as an assistant coach by Adams State College in Alamosa, Colo., for cross-country and long-distance and recently was hired by Portland State University as assistant cross country and track and field coach. He continues to go to educational conferences to further his coaching accreditations and had been in 31 of our 50 states.  
• Chona Brown ’04 married Paul O’Donnell July 5. They are expecting their first child.  
• Elizabeth (Jundt) ’05 Brodie Cavaille are teachers in Salem. Elizabeth teaches special education at Forest Ridge Elementary and Brodie teaches at McNary High School in Keizer.  
• Heidi S. Lorenzen ’04 and Jon R. Waisanen were married April 12 at the McMinnville Grand Ballroom. Heidi is an educational assistant at the Astoria School District and Jon works for United Parcel Service in Warrenton. The couple lives in Warrenton.
AlumNotes

2005
Kevin Arndt ’05 is teaching algebra and math lab at McNary High School in Salem. This is his first year teaching. His wife Erin (Nickolson) Arndt ’03 is a social studies teacher in her third year at McKay. The couple is expecting a child in December and live in Keizer. • Brodie Cavaillé ’05 earned a master’s degree in education from the University of Nevada, Reno in 2008. Cavaillé subbed for two years and taught one year in the Reno area. He returned to Salem and married Liz Cavaillé ’04 ’06 in August. Liz is a special education teacher at Forest Ridge Elementary School. • Megan Fennimore ’05 earned her M.Ed. in school counseling from Lewis and Clark College in June. • Greg Giesbrecht ’05 married Holly Dobbeck May 23. They live in Independence. • Scott Hochstetler ’05 is an assistant professor of music at Goshen College and directs the Men’s Chorus and Chorale. Scott taught at Western Mennonite School in Salem for five years, and has also taught on the faculties of Corban College and the University of Michigan-Flint. • Felipson Ramos ’05 is completing his second year of a 28-month master’s degree program for physician assistants in Pacific University’s new College of Health Professions. • Sarah (Parson) Tomlin ’05 graduated with a master’s in social work and a graduate certificate in gerontology from Portland State University. She is a geriatric care manager for Sound Options, Inc.

2006
Amy Gino ’06 and Jefferson Coyle ’06 were married on June 21. Amy is a fourth grade teacher and Jefferson is an academic counselor. They live in Phoenix, Ariz. • Chelsea Farrington ’06 ’07 and Andrew Stockner ’08 were married July 19 in Silverton. Following a honeymoon in Hawaii, the newlyweds are making a home and starting their teaching careers in Salinas, Calif. • Jessica Powell ’06 was accepted to the Clinical Laboratory Science program and will be starting classes up at OHSU in September. • Rory Lasseter ’06 is an English teacher at Dallas High School and Stephanie (Blakely) Lasseter ’07 is an algebra and geometry teacher at McNary High School in Salem. • Lerey Sanchez ’06 and brother Demetrio performed their musical rhythm and hip-hop skills in a rap performance for students at a Woodburn Art and Communication Academy Assembly where Lerey works as a guidance counselor, on Feb. 6. • Melissa Vanoudenaeghen ’06 of Cornelius and Andrew Peter Ackerman of Portland were married Aug. 11, 2007 in Verboort. Melissa teaches math at Five Oaks Middle School in Beaverton and Andrew is an instructional assistant and coach at Yamhill Carlton High School. They live in North Plains.

2007
Erika DeBello’s ’07 and Chris Wherry ’08 were married July 25 in Monmouth. They both live and teach in Forest Grove. • Nicole Gibson ’07 and Michael Kennedy were married Aug. 25, 2007 at St. Mary’s Catholic Church. The bride and groom live and work in Richland, Wash. Nicole works at NWCPA Group, and Michael works at Energy Northwest. • Jon Hildebrandt ’07 has created a series of ball-handling DVDs called Superhandles. The latest video features former Portland Trail Blazers play-by-play announcer Bill Schonley as the voiceover. • Corey Knudson ’07 and Ingrid Garber ’07 were married in Salem on May 16. • Jennifer (Esparza) Rosales ’07 and husband Edgar live in Portland. Jennifer is working for OHSU as a research assistant in the Senju Lab of Ocular Sciences and also part-time as a Leasing Consultant. • Second Lt. Cameron Wolf ’07 of U.S. Marines received his commission on March 28 at Quantico, Va. after a ten-week course of intensive academic and physical training. Cameron joined the Early Start Reserve Program in 1999 and served in Iraq with an engineering company in 2005. • Stephanie Lasseter ’07 is in her third year of teaching. During 2007-08, she taught algebra and leadership at Corvallis High School. She is teaching algebra, math lab and geometry at McNary High School. Her husband Rory teaches English at Dallas High School.

2008
Emily Parent ’08 teaches chemistry at McNary High School. • Rose Walker ’08 is the program services coordinator for the Marion-Polk Food Share. She is working on expanding childhood nutrition programs and the expansion of the Senior Food Box Program.

In Remembrance
Margaret “Peggy” Louise Hiatt
June 17, 1922 - August 24, 2008

Dr. Margaret “Peggy” Louise Hiatt passed away at her home in Monmouth, on August 24, 2008. Peggy was a long time member of the Monmouth community, and served as a faculty member at Oregon College of Education, now Western Oregon University, from September 1949 until June of 1983. Peggy’s first assignment at OCE was in the Campus Elementary School, where she taught intermediate age youngsters. Soon she moved across the courtyard and joined the “Education Department,” where she remained until her retirement.

Throughout her lifetime, Peggy actively contributed to all aspects of the college community and served as a consultant to school districts and developed materials on Higher Levels of Thinking Skills.

But she didn’t just teach – she traveled. Her intense curiosity about other people and places kept her always on the move. Her expertise in photography allowed her the opportunity to share her travels with many individuals and groups in the community. Peggy also loved children, and was endlessly generous with both her time and money in supporting battles against world and local hunger. She paid for goats to go to families in Nepal, and Native American children to go to college in Arizona.

She established the Hiatt Scholarship for students intending to become elementary education majors at Western Oregon University. She truly believed in the education of our teaching students, and if you wish to be a part of that tradition as well, please consider remembering Peggy by contributing to this scholarship fund.

Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship
Do you know a student who would benefit from a WOU scholarship?

Now that you are a member of the Alumni Association, you may refer a current or future WOU student for the Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship. This $1,000 scholarship is based on merit, and includes academic achievement and/or participation in extracurricular activities. The application deadline is June 30, 2009. For more information and to download the application, please visit www.wou.edu/alumni.
Our commitment to help students and families more effectively plan for and afford the cost of attending and graduating from WOU. We guarantee that undergraduate students will have the same tuition rate as the year they entered for four academic years. WOU is the only public university in the western U.S. to offer this guarantee to students and their families.
“Walking Into Wholeness”
2008 Spring Dance Concert performance
Dancers: Chelsea Bowman, Brittany Humphrey, Diadra Smith
Choreographer: Rebecca Chadd