Mission 1856 is a new campaign calling on all alumni for their support!

In honor of our founding year, we are looking for 1,856 donors to give back this fiscal year for the continued success of Western and our students. We ask you to join us in helping raise awareness and fiscal support for our students as well as raise our alumni participation rate to help our alma mater attract and retain our quality students.

A high alumni participation rate for WOU carries weight in U.S. News & World Report’s America’s Best Colleges ranking. According to the report, there is a strong correlation between the most highly-regarded liberal arts colleges in the country and their alumni participation rate for the school’s annual giving campaign. Increasing our alumni participation rate is one way Western can move up in this important industry ranking. In the end, a higher ranking in U.S. New & World Report means our alma mater is recognized as the excellent liberal arts college we all know it is!

Alumni can give back wherever they choose: support your own program, athletics, the arts, or the area of greatest need, which is the Annual Fund. You define what is important to you.

No matter the size of your gift, please consider participating in Mission 1856 with us this year. Your personal involvement in the campaign can send a strong signal to your former classmates, your fellow alumni and to potential students and donors.
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Congratulations go to Connie Wildfang—she chose the winning name in our WOU Magazine naming contest. Well done, Connie!

On the cover
Trem das Cores, 2010, 37” x 52”, oil on canvas, by Gregory Poulin, non-tenure track associate professor.
"The painting takes it’s title and inspiration from a song by Brazilian singer-songwriter Caetano Veloso. The song, which is infused with lyrical descriptions of color and imagery, poetically recounts a train ride through brazilian cities and countryside," said Poulin.

WESTERN EDGE
The Western Oregon University Magazine • Spring 2012
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wou.edu/magazine
Dear alumni and friends of WOU,

As many of you vividly remember, freshmen and some sophomores come to campus a week before classes start to move into the residence halls and begin a week of orientation experiences. On “move-in” day, I visit with students and their parents. It’s a wonderful time with “cheers and tears” as young people take the next step in their journey toward independent adulthood.

This fall, I was chatting with a father about his daughter. He told me that this would be her sophomore year. I asked him how her first year worked out and he said something that made me feel especially honored to be a part of Western. He said, “Seeing my daughter a year ago when she first moved into the residence hall and seeing her today has been like watching a flower open up. She has matured and grown in ways that I never expected. I am so proud of her.”

We, at Western, share that pride in all of our students and alumni. Whether you came in as a freshman carrying boxes into the residence hall or a graduate student committed to advancing your education, we are proud of all that our alumni have accomplished thus far and, likewise, proud of the great potential you carry into the future.

I don’t have to tell you this is a difficult time. Many of our students struggle to begin and complete their education. Increasingly, college graduates across the country face a rapidly changing job market in a shrinking, competitive world. These issues are huge. But, instead of shying away from these challenges, Western is committed to continue to offer educational options that will provide our graduates outstanding opportunities for success in this changing economic climate.

I’m pleased to share with you two recent examples of new, faculty-developed programs that address current needs.

First, Dr. Elisa Maroney and professor Amanda Smith, both in the College of Education’s Division of Special Education, created the new Masters of Interpreting Studies program last spring. The degree will teach students who have already earned degrees in American Sign Language how to teach ASL to others. This degree is delivered in a new, “hybridized,” format. Most of the curriculum will be provided via the internet culminating in students coming to Western in the summer for a two-week intensive experience. When this degree
From the Provost

Proposal came before the Oregon University System Provost Council for review, there was unanimity among that group – it was considered an outstanding idea with great potential participation and recognition. Already it has succeeded in attracting students from New York, Ohio, Washington, California and Oregon.

Secondly, Dr. Rob Winningham, chair of the Division of Psychology, is recognized nationally for his expertise in issues surrounding gerontology and has been an invited keynote speaker around the country. While Western has seen a huge increase in the number of students desiring to enter the health care arena via nursing, many want options other than nursing. Last year, Winningham realized that a new bachelor’s degree in gerontology would be very beneficial in meeting demands in this growing area and he worked diligently to design the degree program. I am pleased to report it is now in place.

These are just two examples of how the innovation and dedication of our faculty impacts the lives and careers of our students and alumni. There are many, many more.

I would also love to hear from you. What was your campus experience like? Was there a particular professor who made a difference in your life? Or just let us know what you are doing today.

Thank you for choosing Western Oregon University and thank you for your continued interest and support. It is the energy and optimism of our students, both present and past, that keeps us all going. We will continue to do all we can to make you proud.

Kent Neely

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Elisa Maroney, Amanda Smith and Rob Winningham
Retirement isn’t for everyone. And after a brief stint at it, Mark Weiss found that it most definitely wasn’t for him. He soon realized he had way too much time on his hands, and volunteered to serve on a hospital system board, an economic development board, and other charitable boards as a result. He enjoyed feeling productive with his influx of extra time, but didn’t feel he was making the kind of impact as he had during his career.

Should he return to the corporate world and resume his 17-year-long career with Siemens Power Corporation? No, that would have been all too easy. Instead Weiss took a leap of faith, and accepted the position of executive vice president of finance and administration for Western Oregon University in 2005. This is his first job in higher education. It could be considered kismet that Weiss ended up here. He was living in Washington state at the time, while his daughters attended Willamette University. During a visit to Salem, Weiss’ wife, Meg, noticed a job listing for a finance position at WOU. The job announcement said that someone who could manage and "work with change" was needed. He believed his skills matched the job description. They did—and fast forward six years—Weiss was chosen to step in as interim president, replacing the retiring Dr. John P. Minahan.

That last career transition was something he never expected. The Oregon State Board of Higher Education appointed Weiss to serve as president through June 2013. Weiss is glad he was able to take on this appointment as he has grown to love this campus and all that the university community has to offer. “It’s the best job I’ve ever had; both the finance position and now the presidency.”

“Answering the (unexpected) call

Mark Weiss

“I’m glad to be here—and at this point in my career—I couldn’t think of a better place to be.”
Becoming president, let alone working in higher education, was something that hadn’t crossed his mind. But according to Weiss, the most unexpected part of all was the gratitude. “What surprised me most is the appreciation of my colleagues around the university for taking on the challenges of the job. That really surprised me,” he said. “I feel very privileged and honored to have been asked to take this on, but to feel the warmth and generosity from comments I received after being appointed was actually surprising. Mostly because I didn’t grow up in academia and I’ve probably followed the road much less traveled for a university president. I’m glad to be here—and at this point in my career—I couldn’t think of a better place to be.”

Due to financial constraints and budgetary challenges, these are difficult times for anyone to take over such a position. However, Weiss has found that his background in finance and management throughout his entire career has prepared him well for his roles at WOU. “My experience in the corporate world has given me the confidence to trust in my instincts and my intuition. It’s allowed me to make decisions that aren’t necessarily the most popular decisions, but are necessary because they are consistent with the goals and mission of this institution.” For Weiss, whenever he makes a decision it’s the students’ interest that comes to mind first. “How we support our students is the underlying basis for any tough call that needs to be made.”

Weiss uses his own experiences as a college student to maintain his focus and efforts to meet WOU’s mission. He attended a large state university in New Jersey and remembers sitting in classes with hundreds of students. “I simply got lost in that environment,” he said, adding that he’s a first-generation student himself. He recognizes and encourages that a major part of WOU’s focus is to help students find themselves and succeed, being able to move on with their lives and be successful. Weiss appreciates the support systems that WOU offers, such as financial aid, small student-to-faculty ratios, advising, and much more.

Even more than the support, Weiss enjoys being able to talk to students at events. Hearing their stories, the challenges they faced while growing up or continuing in school, is a very rewarding experience for him. He loves being able to attend the variety of events offered on campus from athletic events to theatre performances to the Academic Excellence Showcase.

Despite his 24/7 job, Weiss tries to find time to pursue a few hobbies. He enjoys reading, and ever the “numbers” man, he likes the challenge of trying to understand the math behind the physics used in cosmology theories. He also loves to go fishing. “I don’t seem to be too successful at it though,” he joked. He’s fished with several folks on campus and claims they are usually more successful than he. But this past year, Weiss caught a big one while fishing with Ron DeVolder ’68…the big one he caught, however, was a gift in excess of $2.3 million from Ron and his wife, Norma, and the Lynn Roberts Ramsdell Irrevocable Trust. In honor of this gift, the university’s new science laboratory building will be named the DeVolder Family Science Center.

More good news on the horizon

WOU also received a $250,000 grant from an anonymous donor in support of the construction of the DeVolder Family Science Center. Both gifts will help WOU make significant progress toward funding this necessary building, which is slated to open in time for fall term classes in 2013.

The current Natural Sciences Building was built in 1969; it is aged and stretched to capacity. WOU has seen an enrollment increase of 23.3 percent since fall 2006, which has led to a corresponding demand for more science courses. Courses related to health care have been the most popular, particularly the expansion of the nursing partnership with OHSU has seen the highest rate of growth. The

"The DeVolder Family Science Center construction project at Western Oregon University represents an exciting chapter in the annals of institutional history. The increased instructional space and modernized facilities gained by the project will greatly contribute to the quality of student learning and academic preparation at WOU."

Dr. Steve Taylor, chair of the Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and professor of geology.
Education grant used for iPads to help teach high school algebra

This past fall, a class of graduate students learning math education at Western Oregon University will be able to use iPads in the classroom, thanks to the Algebraic Thinking Project, a three-year grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education. The purpose of the grant is to improve algebra instruction in K-12 schools. The WOU students will be researching mathematics misconceptions and reviewing iPad apps that claim to address those misconceptions. Now, in winter term, the class is taking the iPads into an algebra class at Central High School in Independence to help the children learn important algebra concepts.

“It has been really exciting to see how teaching and learning changes for both the WOU and CHS students when they are able to use the iPads in their classes.”

Dr. Rachel Harrington

Professor of special education visits center for special needs children in Qatar

Hank Bersani, professor of special education recently returned from a visit to Doha, Qatar where he was invited to tour the Shafallah Center for Children with Special Needs, and to participate in an international forum on disability issues.

The Shafallah Center was established at the behest of the First Lady; Her Highness Skiekah Moza bint Nasser, wife of His Highness the Emir of Qatar, to meet the demands of the Qatari society to establish a center that provides comprehensive services to children with disabilities.

Periodically the first lady sponsors international forums on important issues relating to disability. This year Bersani was invited to participate in the Fifth International Forum titled “Crisis, Conflict and Disability: Ensuring Equality.” Under the patronage of Her Highness, nearly 300 leaders in disability issues are invited from across the globe. This year, Bersani was one of the invited experts from over 30 nations who were hosted for the three days of meetings, as well as a day of cultural experiences in Doha. Invitees also included several other current and past first ladies, including the former first lady of the United Kingdom, Cherie Blair; Dr. Ernestina Naadu Mills, first lady of Ghana, and the first ladies of Shri Lanka, Namibia, and Macedonia.

Sessions at the forum reviewed the United Nations Charter on the Rights of People with Disabilities, and the issues facing people with disabilities in Iraq, Afghanistan and Haiti. Much of the forum was directly relevant to the work Bersani is doing in Vietnam with the Forgotten People Foundation.

The city of Doha and the nation of Qatar have been in the news quite a bit recently, including a recent segment on 60 Minutes. Doha is the home of Al Jazeera Radio, and has recently agreed to be the host for the political headquarters of the Taliban. This was Bersani’s second trip to Doha. Previously he was invited to the Third International Forum on Sport and Disability.

Answering the call, continued from page five

biology and chemistry courses have seen gains of 43 and 79 percent, respectively. The capacity limits of faculty and lab/class spaces are most felt in the 100- and 200-level courses, which are required for all WOU undergraduates as part of the Liberal Arts Core Curriculum. More than 3,500 students take science courses annually.

The DeVolder Family Science Center, which will be designed to achieve the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver certification, will include approximately 21,000 square feet of new space for science programs on campus. It will provide at least six new 1,200 square foot laboratories, in addition to ancillary preparation, storage and office space. This facility will serve the transfer of the entire Chemistry Department and the anatomy-physiology components of the biology program. The remainder of the Biology Department as well as the earth and physical sciences will expand into the remainder of the Natural Science Building.

During the remainder of Weiss’ term as president, he plans to:

- continue the good work that has begun to ensure completion of the DeVolder Family Science Center,
- make sure WOU’s faculty and staff have what they need to ensure the success of our students,
- determine the role that WOU will play in the state’s goal to have 40 percent of its population college educated, and
- establish a plan to manage change at WOU so the university can continue to thrive and sustain itself in the likelihood of continued reductions in federal and state funding.
Students recognized for clean up efforts during flooding aftermath in January

Several WOU students have been honored with Heritage Stewardship Recognition certificates from the Heritage Programs of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for their efforts in saving collections at the Independence Heritage Museum. When flooding on Jan. 19 began filling the museum’s basement, director Peggy Smith began re-organizing the collections. She reached out to Roben Jack Larrison, curator of the Jensen Arctic Museum at WOU. From there it didn’t take long for a team of students and staff from WOU to hear the call and run to the museum to help. Most students were football players and members of the Wolves Helping Others club.

The Western Oregon University students who received certificates are Rebecca Eldred, Marcus Cuellar, Trent Gallegas, Summer Swonski, Stacy Potter, Daniel Aumua, Sean Fujinaga, Brad Hall, Emily Bridges, Pristene Delegato, Spencer Bell, Hannah Seely, Justin Cassens, Chris Ekstedt, Jessica Sandalo, Robert Elmer, Chelsea Beecroft, Katie Williams, and Brian Plasker.

Mark your calendars!

The seventh annual Academic Excellence Showcase will be held on May 31, 2012. Celebrate the academic achievements of our students as they present original research papers, projects, artwork, performances, and more. Visit wou.edu/events/academic_excellence for more information.

Cannon Gallery of Art
"The Age of Greed, Against the Light"

Ting-Ju Shao is a Taiwanese ceramist and book illustrator. Her narrative mixed-media installations, incorporating comical, hand-built multiples of the human figure and birds, critically address social and environmental issues and the human condition. The exhibit runs April 4 to 27, 2012.

Opening reception: April 4, 4:30 to 6 p.m. Gallery hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Change in the Smith Fine Arts Series schedule

Due to financial constraints Leny Andrade has cancelled her Smith Series performance scheduled for April 14th. While the Smith Fine Arts Series is disappointed that Ms. Andrade cannot make it our way, the series has taken this opportunity to put together a brand new show: Rio Nights, which features several extremely talented Brazilian musicians including bassist Wagner Trindade, pianist Cassio Vianna, vocalist Rosemary Bergeron, and special guest vocalist/guitarist Eduardo Mendonça, backed by the always exciting American Metropole Orchestra. The show will feature a wide variety of Brazilian music from the Bossa Nova to Samba.

Recording artist, vocalist, composer, percussionist, and musical arranger, Eduardo Mendonça is one of the leading Brazilian singers in the United States. The Series was fortunate to secure Eduardo Mendonça at this late date. You can also take a listen to him on his website at showbrazil.com. Mendonça currently resides in the Seattle area performing throughout the United States and Canada with his own group Show Brazil! Serving as an ambassador for the music and spirit of Brazil, Mendonça has performed for Nelson Mandela, Pope John Paul II and for legendary Brazilian musicians such Geraldo Azevedo, Alcione and Roberto Menescal.

Rio Nights
April 14, 2012, 7:30 p.m. • Rice Auditorium
For more information or to purchase tickets, please call 503-838-8333.
There are some folks on campus who seem to be involved in everything and know everyone. They walk from one end of Western Oregon University’s campus to the other with a constant stream of people saying hello. Jon Tucker is one of those people.

Tucker, the director of Werner University Center and Student Leadership and Activities, hadn’t started out his path in higher education planning to go in to student affairs. It was a life-changing event when he was 24-years-old that altered his dreams and goals. A week after completing his master’s in industrial relations and human resources at the University of Oregon, he was diagnosed with cancer. Tucker’s life was put on hold while he spent a year with his family so they could take care of him while he recovered. During that year, he thought about his passions and how much he enjoyed being a resident assistant in University Housing. Tucker realized that he could make a career out of what he loved – student affairs.

He is glad he trusted his gut and followed a career in student affairs. “The student contact and constant ever-changing nature of what I do has kept me in this field. No day is ever the same as the previous day, which works well for my personality,” he said. He’s not exaggerating when he says no day is ever...
the same. Tucker manages a staff of 13, works with the PLUS (Peer Leaders Understanding Students) team, attends a plethora of committee meetings and events from Staff Senate to Student Media Board to planning meetings for Homecoming.

A big project he has been involved in for the past couple of years has been the remodel and construction of an addition to Werner University Center. A large room with a wall of windows was constructed above the lobby for the Pacific Room, providing a multipurpose lounge and meeting room space on the second floor. The project also shifted around some of the offices, creating more lounge space for students. This is one of the many facets involved in a student affairs position.

Student affairs wasn’t the only career path that Tucker considered. “It was either student affairs or astronomy.” He joked that maybe when he retires from student affairs, he’ll get a master’s in astronomy so he can teach. Although his career hasn’t followed the skies, astronomy has remained a hobby.

Another hobby of Tucker’s is volleyball. He has travelled internationally for tournaments, and his current schedule has him playing both locally and regionally. Travel is also one of Tucker’s passions. He went to Costa Rica last fall for vacation and has participated on multiple Alternative Break Trips through WOU (including Cape Verde, Africa, this past December). His plan is to go on a big trip every two years.

Jon Tucker is a very busy man, but it’s that busyness that has encouraged him to stay at WOU. “If you had asked me when I first got here if I was going to be here for almost ten years, I would not have believed you. But suddenly I am,” he said.

“It is a function of the relationships and the people I’ve met, the ability for me to connect with students. In my role at another institution I may not have had that chance. That’s a huge positive for me. I love to be able to walk across campus and say “hi” to too dozen people along the way because people just make connections that are more meaningful at Western than I’ve experienced at other schools.”

Winner of the 2009 Mario and Alma Pastega Award for Staff Excellence, nominated by his colleagues, Tucker’s enthusiasm and work ethic have earned him respect and admiration from people all over WOU. Angie Barry, office coordinator for WUC, said, “Jon is a wonderful role model for students, staff, and faculty at WOU. In the midst of all of that he does, he maintains an exceptional attitude and offers unconditional support to those fortunate to be around him. Jon is well on his way to leaving a positive and lasting impression on our campus, and his efforts to improve our university will undoubtedly be felt for years to come.”

Greek Life

Change remains a hallmark trait of life on a university campus and Western Oregon University is no exception. One big change to WOU is the addition of a student-initiated Greek life system. Students approached the Student Leadership and Activities Office in late 2010 about establishing these organizations on campus. The involved students will choose the national organizations to work with in creating WOU chapters.

Greek life fairs have been held, and more will be held, to raise awareness and garner interest from other students. Trenton Nettles, coordinator for campus life and activities, hopes to see eight sororities and fraternities established. Initially they will not have homes, but will be structured through meetings and events like other student organizations. Houses are given to Greek life organizations through donations, such as university alumni or famous members of that specific organization.

According to Nettles, statistics show that students involved in Greek life do better in college and get more involved in their schools, as well as become more prepared for life post-college.

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Students, faculty and staff of WOU created a community garden on campus this spring, just north of Hamersly Library. The first seeds were planted under the leadership of Dr. Emily Plec’s COM 380 course in environmental communication. The students and volunteers tended the garden over the coming months, which included several work parties. The WOU Garden Club is a subgroup of the Sustainability Club. Donations to support the garden can be made to the WOU Foundation, at wou.edu/giving.

To expand the project beyond the classroom, the WOU Garden Club was formed to keep the garden running all year. The club’s purpose is to promote environmentally sustainable and organic growing practices. In September, the club donated the garden’s bounty to the campus community to help address food security concerns. This project has continued to grow and is always open to volunteers. To become involved, search for WOU Garden Club on Facebook, or email garden@wou.edu.
His name is Nik Karr, a 2009 Western Oregon University graduate in community health education and former cross-country standout. After graduation, Nik entered Boston University for a year in pursuit of a Master’s Degree in Public Health. As part of that program he decided to serve in the Peace Corps in Vanuatu, an island republic located in the South Pacific. No more than two years ago, he lived down the street from the Monmouth Burgerville, but now he resides on the eastside of the island Maewo in a rural village called Naviso.

Day-by-day Nik devotes his time to serving the people of his new community, educating them about health concerns such as hygiene and sexually transmitted
A clean water system in rural Vanuatu

Only three taps serve the 500 people village of Naviso, and the damaged and wasteful water system frequently causes the Primary School tap to run dry. Under Nik’s leadership alongside the local government, the community has chosen to develop a new water system with funding for parts, shipping and labor gathered from the regional governance and donors abroad.

diseases. Nik is one of the first volunteers to serve in this remote area of Vanuatu, where he has no access to modern conveniences such as running water or electricity. Occasionally he hikes for three hours to the highest point on Maewo to make a phone call back to his family in Oregon. Aside from this touch of Western culture, Nik has assimilated fully into his new community, suppressing his desires for Big Macs and Facebook to experience a different culture and fulfill his new role as a community health supervisor. This role requires commitment, knowledge, and planning—all skills and attributes that he gained while at WOU. With his foundational schooling, Nik has begun applying his education in a substantive and unique way, by disseminating knowledge and developing infrastructure to improve the health of his new community.
His focus on community health has directed his work towards disease prevention and water sanitation. These relevant issues have inspired him to spearhead a rural water system development project to restore the water system in the local community. The current system has had no maintenance or upgrades since its construction in 1979, leading to a gradual deterioration of the pipes with limited resources to fix the damaged system. Some damaged areas spray and puddle water, producing breeding grounds for mosquitoes in an area with endemic malaria. The damage to the pipes also results in the potential pollution of the water supply, further compromising the health of the villagers. Only three taps serve the 500 people village, and the damaged and wasteful water system frequently causes the primary school tap to run dry. Under Nik’s leadership alongside the local government, the community has chosen to develop a new water system with funding for parts, shipping and labor gathered from the regional governance and donors abroad. Though the process is long and arduous, Nik has fully devoted his efforts while overseas to restoring the clean water system for the people of Naviso.

As alumni, we share the experience of walking at commencement, tasting the pinnacle of our hard work as we graduate from our alma mater. However, few ponder the varying trajectories of those that walk beside us—those classmates that we never knew. Where will the world take them, and to what purpose might they commit their lives? The opportunities available to WOU graduates have become increasingly expansive and nearly limitless. A life after WOU can be impactful and significant in many ways; and as we reflect on our own legacies as WOU alumni, we should consider Nik’s work, providing the timeless benefit of clean water for villagers that have accepted him as their family. You cannot gauge the importance of clean water for the people of Naviso, but the benefits will last generations. Nik’s actions demonstrate the quality and relevance of a WOU education, as he applies the knowledge he learned in Monmouth to improve the health of those living at the far reaches of the globe.

Want to know more? Take a moment to learn more about Nik’s Rural Water Development Project by reviewing his webpage at tinyurl.com/ruralwatersystem.

Working to secure clean drinking water in a remote village in the South Pacific is a wonderful example of an impactful life after WOU. Please visit the webpage above or email Justin Karr, Nik’s brother and fellow WOU alumnus, at jkarr06@wou.edu for more information on how you can support this project.

Justin Karr (Nik’s brother) graduated from WOU in 2011 with two bachelor’s degrees through the Honors Program (psychology with a minor in biology and social science with an emphasis in political science). Karr was the 2011 Delmer Dewey Award Winner for outstanding senior male and was a cross country and distance runner for track and field. He is now in graduate school at the University of Victoria studying clinical neuropsychology.
Western Oregon University was especially bustling with energy on Thursday, Oct. 20, 2011 as Vicente Fox, the former president of Mexico from 2000 to 2006, visited campus. He was the 2011 Dr. Arne S. Jensen Lectureship Series speaker. In addition to his keynote address, Fox provided students of WOU and surrounding high schools the opportunity to meet with him in a session spoken in Spanish. He also attended a private leadership lunch and a private reception, which featured the mariachi musicians from Woodburn High School.

The event marked the launch of the Latino Education and Access Program (LEAP), which will provide scholarships to Latino students at WOU who encounter financial needs that prevent them from completing their degree at WOU. MAPS Credit Union was the title sponsor for the event and NORPAC Foods was the founding donor for the LEAP Scholarship program. Gifts can still be made to that program at wou.edu/giving.

Former President of Mexico Vicente Fox encourages students as the Arne S. Jensen Lectureship Series presenter this past October
The 2012 track & field season is almost here and many of the Western Oregon University student-athletes are training in preparation for the indoor and outdoor season. Senior hurdler Janna Vander Meulen is looking a couple of years ahead however, as she begins the first leg of her training for the 2013 Deaflympic Games in Budapest, Hungary.

Vander Meulen, who is currently majoring in exercise science, will represent the United States in the 100 meter and 400 meter hurdles, and may even be a member of a relay team. She was discovered by the United States of America Deaf Track & Field (USADTF) team based on her collegiate times of 14.82 in the 100m hurdles and 1:06.27 in the 400m hurdles.

The head coach of the USADTF team, Thomas Withrow, contacted Western Oregon’s head coach Mike Johnson about Vander Meulen’s interest level in joining the squad. Through Coach Johnson, Withrow was able to get in contact with Vander Meulen and offer her the opportunity to be a part of the USADTF team at the 2013 Games. Vander Meulen happily accepted the chance to both represent her country and continue competing on the track following her collegiate career.

“I never thought that I would have the chance to continue racing after college until the coach of the USA team contacted me,” Vander Meulen explained. “We talked about
the Deaflympics and the process leading up to the Deaflympic and what I need to do to prepare.”

Vander Meulen will officially start training and competing with the USADTF this summer at the 2012 World Deaf Athletics Championships from July 15 to 21 in Toronto, Canada. After the completion of the 2012 NCAA Track & Field Championships, Vander Meulen will spend much of the rest of the summer training with the USA team. She will be looking to not only improve on-track performance but also to acclimate herself with many new teammates, whom Vander Meulen mentioned she is eager to meet.

Following training with the USADTF team and the World Championships this summer, Vander Meulen will return to Western Oregon University for one more year to complete her bachelor’s degree. She will also continue her training on the track with coach Johnson and Wolves’ assistant Isaac Frederick as she works to keep her fitness level and improve her posture and form heading into the Olympic Games.

Despite the wonderful opportunity Vander Meulen has been given, she has also been forced to overcome a number of metaphorical hurdles to achieve her goal of competing in the 2013 games. First she was submitted to an audiogram, to determine that she is indeed deaf. All members of the team are required to take the audiogram test in which they must be at 55 decimals or more. This is because there are no hearing devices used during the games and the runners must get used to races being started with a series of lights.

The second challenge will be on the financial side. As the USA does not provide financial assistance to amateur athletes representing the country in international games, Vander Meulen and her family will be paying for the cost of the trip. This burden did not seem to detour the excitement of her or her family at all: “I know this will be a fantastic opportunity and my mom is very excited as well, so we are starting to save the money.”

While Vander Meulen is aware of the opportunity to represent her country and see the world, she is currently focused on putting together the best track and field season she can for the Wolves. “My goal is to earn a personal record this season so I can try to beat that time when I am in the Deaflympics, especially in the 400m hurdles,” she explained.

In the mean time as Vander Meulen continues to train in preparation to represent the red, white and blue of the United States, we can be happy to have her on the Western Oregon University campus sporting the red and white colors of the Wolves.

by Danny Barnts
Immediately upon being hired as head coach, Bergeson, a Longview, Wash., native, started installing discipline to the program both on and off the court. He created a mandatory study hall for the whole team to make sure they were getting their schoolwork done.

"The first thing we did was clean up the academic side," said Bergeson. "You have to establish your academic integrity as a foundation to organization. Basketball may have attracted them here but we all know the reason they are here is to get their education. That has to be valued, preached and put into action.

"It was a pretty simple formula to overhaul the organization of the academics. You can always get a guy's interest in basketball but a straight line must be drawn between the athletic and academic dots. They have to see the correlation of how academic success can lead to championships."

While the head coach has changed, many of the faces on the team have remained the same. The team is built around a corps of student-athletes who have been playing together for four seasons. The 2008-09 recruiting class of Kyle Long, Blair Wheadon and Kolton Nelson has been starting along each other for the better part of three seasons and the trio is on pace to become just the second set of teammates in GNAC to all score over 1,000 points in their career. The Wolves also brought back four other letter winners for Bergeson's first year, keeping the talent but changing the structure of the process.

That word 'championship' has been whispered around the men's basketball program from the minute the team began training for the 2011-12 season. It was not just the fact that the Wolves were bringing back their whole starting lineup, including the trio of senior guards, it was a true confidence and belief the team was building.

"I feel we provided an environment for the minor successes to happen each day," explained Bergeson. "By working hard on the court, taking pride in the weight room, seeing their times decrease and their bodies change they can see the dots leading in a direction and each of these are pennies in the bank that they are investing in their own experience here. By investing daily they can start to see where the path starts to go, which we hope is a championship."

Besides 'championship,' a variety of other buzz words have started cropping up around the men's basketball team: 'hard work,' 'commitment' and even 'soldiers.' In fact, the team has dedicated itself to becoming the most physically fit team in the conference. The student-athletes put in numerous hours in the weight room in addition to their hours spent practicing on the court, including individuals working on skills at 6 a.m., grueling workouts and some members of the squad changing their diet to match that of a hunter-gatherer lifestyle.

"There is a certain amount of pride that comes from doing something out of the ordinary and something others might not be willing to sacrifice to do," Bergeson explained. "One of the pillars of our culture is sacrifice. The question amongst the coaches and players is 'What are you willing to sacrifice to get what you want?' Your actions everyday show your commitment level to the organization.

"In the end you have to look yourself in the mirror and say 'Did we get it done or didn't we?' he continued. "To give yourself a chance for success at that level, the ownership and the process comes down to the players and staff all being in there together. We (as coaches)
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WOU welcomes new basketball coach
by Danny Barnts

are sweating and working hard right next to them and we are all pushing each other to that end goal. There are ways each day to invest those pennies towards our end goal, and we have to be in it together.”

By pushing the Wolves past what is expected and sacrificing more than other teams in the league, Bergeson was not only getting his team in peak physical condition he was building a sense of unity amongst the young men.

“I really believe that all ends have to lead to the team,” Bergeson said. “It’s easy to lose sight of the individual when you only think about team, but the individual is important too. Each individual must be made to show how important they are to that organization but they are only important if they are doing their job. If they put themselves above the organization they are no longer important. There is individual accountability and team accountability, and both are equally important in the sense you can’t separate one from the other.”

Through team building, and by installing structure and discipline in the team, Coach Bergeson has started to lay the foundation to bring Western Oregon its first ever men’s basketball GNAC title.

“I have no way of knowing when we will win a GNAC Championship but I know we are going to,” said Bergeson. “One of the first things we did when we got in here was say that championship was going to happen and everything we do needs to directly correspond to how we get there.”

by Danny Barnts

“Expecting ownership from the student-athletes was a big step for us—it’s ownership from the players and everyone else in the organization.”

New artificial turf field opened for play this winter
The new turf field is now open for play. Students voted in 2011 to designate student fee money to create the turf field, which will be used primarily by the intramural sports of rugby, lacrosse and flag football. The field also has markers for soccer. Construction began September 2011 and started with the removal of an existing softball field. The turf field is designed to be used in any kind of weather and it has lights so students can safely use it in the evening.
With only 25,000 alumni, Western Oregon University is often considered a small fish in the Oregon University System pond compared to its counterparts down Highway 99 and I-5, but if you live in Hawaii, Oregon or Vancouver, Wash. you may see two of our alumni in your living room every day.

by Adrienne Hare
Kirk Matthews ’69 starts his day each morning at 2:30 a.m. and arrives at Hawaii’s KHON2 just after 3 a.m. As the morning anchor of KHON2’s “Wake Up 2Day” being a morning person is a must for his job. “There are lots of details that have to be taken care of before we go on the air at five in the morning. We have a three-hour show that includes lots of news and interviews. Once the live broadcast is done, I focus on several different areas - the environment, concerns about our senior citizens, financial issues and medical concerns. I have to head out of the station and do a story for the evening newscast each day. I’m usually finished around noon,” said Matthews.

Matthews came to a broadcasting career in a roundabout way. After transferring to Oregon College of Education as a sophomore, he had originally planned on following in the footsteps of his father and becoming a teacher, but it seemed as though fate would have other plans for Matthews. “It was a turbulent time in the sixties and while I took some education courses, I ended up getting a general studies degree. I became involved in political science and took several courses. The combination of English, writing and current events gradually led me to try my hand at broadcasting. I am still in touch with friends who went on to teach and I admire them greatly. I’ve never been sorry about my career path and I still work with young people whenever I get the chance.”

When asked about how WOU (which was considered at the time a “teachers college”) prepared him for a life on camera his response is enthusiastic. “My education at OCE was the perfect preparation for my career.” Matthews said that he is often asked by young people hoping to pursue a similar career what journalism school they should attend. His response is to not focus on whether there’s a journalism program or not but rather to be sure that you attend a school that gives you opportunities. “That’s what OCE offered me. I learned so much about the world - past, present and future - thanks to the wonderful professors and instructors there. I wish I could name them all - Richard Beck, Jack Bellamy, Guy Rooth - I’m the luckiest man in the world, thanks to all of them.”

Matthews has covered many major events including the eruption of Mt. St. Helens, “The most memorable story I covered was probably the Mt. St. Helens eruption. The BIG ONE happened on a Sunday morning and I remember sitting at a typewriter and a telephone from eight in the morning until midnight. The story went on for weeks (and is still going on). I’ve had the chance to interview presidents, great musicians and artists, world changers—but my favorite stories are the ones that involve young people and the energy they bring to the world. Thank goodness for the next generation.”

Knowing that each day will bring something different is what excites Matthews the most about his career in broadcasting. “When that alarm goes off at 2:30 in the morning, I look forward to what’s going to happen next. It’s a big world out there and I have the chance to tell my neighbors what’s going on.”

Kirk and his wife Linda Coble (who also worked as a broadcaster for KOIN in Portland as well as in Hawaii) reside in Honolulu.

Kirk Matthews, class of 1969
News anchor for “Wake Up 2Day,” KHON2 Hawaii. Kirk is married to Linda Coble, and they have two daughters, Jenna, who resides in Eugene and Erin, who lives in Los Angeles.
Follow Kirk on twitter: @KHON2Kirk
As a reporter for Portland's KGW, Katherine Cook's '02 "workday" is anything but typical. She's got to be ready to be anywhere, at any time. "You always have to be prepared for anything—snow coverage on Mt. Hood, a forest fire in the summer, or sitting in a courtroom covering a murder trial. And if there's breaking news, we might drop everything and switch gears completely!"

Cook, a former WOU athlete, started broadcasting right here at Western, while working on WOU's weekly sports show. "Reporting sports stories is still a passion of mine," says Cook, "I don't get to cover them very often, but ironically, last year I earned my first Emmy nomination for a sports story I wrote." When asked how WOU prepared her for a career in broadcasting Cook says, "Western's communications program helped me develop my ability to think critically and on my feet. I had great professors who helped me hone my writing skills and build confidence as a public speaker."

Cook has covered major stories both here in Oregon and in Colorado where she began her professional career after college, but it's the people she remembers most, "The Happy Valley man who lost his right to garden in the nude, much to his neighbors' relief. The young Iraqi boy who came to Portland for a prosthetic leg after losing his during a US airstrike. I remember walking through Holly, Colo., after a tornado hit it. People's homes were destroyed, but they hung American flags outside what was left of them, to show their spirit of survival."

"Getting to meet so many people and learning about things that I would never have experienced outside of work is both a blessing and a privilege," said Cook when asked about the most exciting part about her job. "Being able to touch thousands of people with one person's story, you think, wow, I helped facilitate that connection! That's exciting. Flying around in 'Sky 8' is also pretty fun."

When Katherine's not covering the hottest stories in the Portland metro area, you can usually find her running, playing the violin, spending time with loved ones and staying active in her church. "I'm also getting into home improvement—I just finished tiling my kitchen backsplash. Operating a tile saw is very empowering!"

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Wolves Auction on Saturday, April 28!

Katherine will be this year's emcee, along with guest speaker, former NBA basketball legend A.C. Green.
1920s

In remembrance

Vestal Willett Matter Loveall '28 on April 20, 2011 at age 103. After earning her degree in education, Vestal taught elementary school in both Polk and Marion Counties, including some double duty stints as principal. She married George Alfred Matter III in 1928. They spent their lives in the Salem area where they raised their three children. Vestal became active in 4-H, cub scouts, and PTA, as well as teaching Sunday school at their church and volunteering. After retirement, Vestal remained an active member in her community, and was involved in numerous associations.

1930s

In remembrance

Claire B. Thomen Crook '31 on March 25, 2011 at age 101. Claire was born in Basel, Switzerland but moved to the United States in 1913. The car salesman who sold her her first car and taught her how to drive ended up being George Crook, the man she would marry. In 1947 the couple moved to Oakridge and retired in 1975. During retirement Claire was a member of a gardening club, the Methodist Church, and loved to travel.

Esther Adams Huff '37 on Feb. 28, 2011 at age 95. Esther was born and attended school in the Portland area. While in school she worked for her aunt and uncle, where she met Douglas Huff. They were married in 1942. The couple settled in Fairview and resided there for 50 years. Esther loved raising her children. She became active in 4-H, cub scouts, and PTA, as well as teaching Sunday school at their church and volunteering.

Maxine Williams '37 on March 25, 2011 at age 93. After receiving her degree, Maxine began her career at Cloverleaf School. In 1938 Maxine moved to Juneau, Ala. where she met and married her husband. The couple briefly lived on Douglas Island, but moved back to Willamina, Ore. where they raised their three children. Maxine worked as a substitute teacher and later moved to McMinnville and worked at the Linfield College library.

Frances D. Reynolds '38 on March 26, 2011 at age 93. Frances was raised in Beaverton, Ore. She taught at Rock Creek Elementary School for five years and married Kyle K. Reynolds. The couple moved several times, but planted permanent roots in Pumpkin Ridge, where they lived for 60 years. Frances began working as a library assistant at North Plains Elementary School and remained there for over 20 years, until she retired in 1988.

Edna Keisecker Hawley '38, '57 on April 3, 2011 at age 92. Edna was born in Firwood, Ore. Edna taught her entire life. She began teaching when she was only a teenager in a one-room, eight-grade country school. Later she taught first and second grade at D.A. Grout Elementary School in Portland. In addition to her regular teaching load, she tutored older students.

Caroline Jane Roach '39 on April 7, 2011 at age 92. After earning her teaching certificate, Caroline began teaching all eight grades at the Ninety-One School. She married Bill Roach in 1941. The couple moved to Portland, and then to Milwaukie, where she went to work for the Oregonian in the Reference Library. In 1969 she started teaching at Riverside School in Oak Grove.

Class notes

Sybil Burgress Plumlee '32 celebrated her 100th birthday on April 29, 2011.

1940s

In remembrance

Leroy Hartman Mason '41 on May 7, 2011 at age 92. Leroy grew up in St. Helens, Ore. where he was a very involved student. During World War II Leroy served as a second lieutenant in the Army Air Corps. After the war, Leroy received both his bachelor's, and master's degrees in education. Leroy married his college sweetheart, Siegra Young in 1943. He took over his father's jewelry store until 1961, when Leroy began his 20-year teaching career. Leroy loved outdoor activities and to travel with his wife.

Phyllis Lorraine Rattray '41 on May 5, 2011 at age 91. After Phyllis received her bachelor's degree in education she began her teaching career first in Spring Valley, Ore., and then in Texas. While Phyllis worked as a USO girl for a year, she met and married her husband, Alexander Rattray. Phyllis served as a dance instructor, a Red Cross volunteer and later a librarian for a school for the deaf. After Alexander's passing, Phyllis retired to her father's farm in Keizer in 1985.

Harry Earle Wojahn '41, '48 on April 15, 2011 at age 94. After World War II ended, Harry decided to continue his education, and attended WOU, where he received his degree in elementary education.

Marian Elizabeth Warren '42 on March 13, 2011 at age 89. Marian began her career as an elementary school teacher. World War II brought soldiers to Camp Adair, where she met and married Fred Warren in 1944. The couple and their three children moved to Moses Lake, Wash. Marian earned her master's degree in education then returned to Oregon in 1980 after retirement. Marion served on numerous boards and enjoyed taking part in clubs and teams and loved nature.

Evelyn Rudin '44 on Sept. 5, 2011 at age 91. Evelyn married her high school sweetheart, Ross Rudin, in 1941, the couple later moved to Coos Bay. Evelyn taught kindergarten for 30 years. Ross and Evelyn were active members of the First United Methodist Church. She was also active in the local P.E.O. Chapter C.S. for several years. In retirement, Evelyn and her husband spent a happy 15 years traveling to Mesa, Arizona and spending the winters there.

Darlene Mae (Jones) Helm '48 at age 86. After completing her teaching degree, Darlene taught in various towns in the Willamette Valley, and on the coast. She married Owen R. Helm Jr. in 1956, and lived in Mohawk, Ore. until Owens's death. Darlene raised their children in McMinnville, Ore.

Are you a WOU graduate?

Our WOU Criminal Justice faculty wants to know about your accomplishments! ‘Re-connect’ with our faculty by requesting our CJ newsletter, or just let us know what is the best way to get in touch with you. Simply send Dr. David Murphy, murphyd@wou.edu a quick email so we can update your contact information.

We look forward to hearing from you!
1950s

In remembrance

Evelyn Gibbs ’50 on May 31, 2011 at age 84. Evelyn was born and raised in Portland. She married Ralph William Gibbs in 1951. They settled down in Albany, where they lived for 50 years. She was an active member of her church, P.E.O and several clubs; Evelyn was also an avid sewer and quilter.

Janet Abelson Baker ’51 at age 81.
Raised in northeast Portland, she earned her bachelor’s degree and married Morrie Baker the year she graduated. The couple spent the early years of their marriage all over Texas, Tennessee, Wyoming, Nevada and South Dakota. Janet was a teacher until she retired in 1989. She loved volunteering, and traveling, especially to the Oregon coast. She also loved being a grandmother and spending time with her family.

John Arichie Padberg ’51 on Sept. 3, 2011 at age 83. John married Jeanette Settles in 1950. John taught at Milwaukie Junior high, Corbett Elementary and several Portland high schools. He also cashiered and sold tickets at the dog and horse races, sold real estate, owned a filbert farm, and a donut shop. He retired in 1993 and bought a mobile home with his wife so they could travel the country. The couple moved back to Beppner in 1996 where he was a devoted member of several different clubs.

Leslie Marion Heckathorn ’52 on July 7, 2011 at age 78. Leslie taught at elementary schools in Albany, Monroe, Shedd and Brownsville; she retired in 1997. Leslie married Lee Heckathorn in 1953. The couple moved to Brownsville in 1967 where they resided since. Leslie enjoyed reading, history, traveling, genealogy and family reunions.

George Ten Eyck ’52 on Aug. 18, 2011 at age 84. George married Nanette in 1950. George earned his bachelor’s degree in Education from WOU (OCE), as well as his master’s degree from Oregon State University. He worked as a junior high school math teacher in North Bend for 32 years.

Charlotte Jean Spear ’52, ’54 on Jan. 26, 2011 at age 78. As a former Queen of the Bethel, Charlotte was a devoted 4-H member who won numerous awards in horticulture as well as an accomplished seamstress. Charlotte taught in Portland Public Schools until she retired after 40 years of service. In retirement she traveled throughout the continental U.S. in her trailer and spent time with her husband on their farm in Yamhill.

Crystal Lillian Bayley ’53 on June 25, 2011 at age 98. Bayley taught in various cities and states. She met and married Harry R. Bayley, but they were later divorced. Crystal retired in 1976 after 36 years of teaching. She was an active member in her church and her community, especially the Crown Point Historical Society.

Lucy Collins Bellinger ’53 on Sept. 12, 2011. Lucy met her husband of 62 years on the Willamette University dance floor. After earning her degree from Western, she taught at Hoover Elementary School and later at Little Red School House. She loved playing cards, especially bridge. In Lucy’s earlier years she loved to travel, camp, ski, and play the piano and cello.

Charles C. Holmes ’54, ’55 on April 8, 2011 at age 89. In 1941 Charles joined the U.S. Navy; his duties took him all over the world, which inspired his love for travel. After his honorable discharge Charles went back to school and began working for the Multnomah County Sheriff’s Office. It was during this time when he met his wife, Charlotte. Charles worked for many years teaching at the Chemawa Indian School until retirement in 1978.

Harrell A. Smith ’56 on June 24, 2011 at age 83. Harrell held the position of assistant superintendent in the Elk Grove Unified School District for 17 years. Prior to his administration career Harrell played professional basketball. He considered his career in education to be his passion and calling. His semi-retirement allowed him to continue teaching when he became a professor to prospective teachers.

Marilyn Joyce Bourn ’57 on May 6, 2011 at age 75. Marilyn graduated valedictorian from Corning Iowa High School. She spent her summers staffing a forest fire lookout, as a test subject for medical research, and attending summer school. She spent six months living in Brazil on a 4-H cultural exchange program. Marilyn taught in schools all over the northwest.

In 1961 she married Robert Dean Bourn and they lived in West Linn until 1980, when they decided to spend their time traveling the U.S. and Canada.

Shirley Mae Motz ’57 on April 15, 2011 at age 77. During high school and college Shirley enjoyed using her gift of music, and always felt honored to sing in a church. Shirley taught Sunday school, vacation bible school and served as a deaconess. She also taught first and second grade in the Portland and Beaverton school districts. In 1959, Shirley married Donald L. Motz. Together they built a business from the ground up in Portland. Shirley loved to cook and entertain her friends and family.

Richard A. “Dick” Farrington ’58 on Feb. 15, 2011 at age 85. Farrington joined the U.S. Navy when he was only 17-years-old, and served in World War II. Following his discharge, he went back to school and married Annie Adair in 1947. He received both his bachelor’s and master’s degree in education. He moved to Lebanon and began his teaching career at Waterloo School, where he later became the principal. In 1976, he became the principal of Crowfoot School where he held the position until his retirement in 1984.

Eunice Agatha Munger ’58 on June 23, 2011 at age 95. Born in Philomath, Ore., her father was a pastor and her family moved often as he pastored for churches all over the U.S. Eunice attended Central Bible Institute in Springfield, Missouri, and became an ordained minister and evangelist. After receiving her teaching degree in 1958 Eunice taught in Barstow and Concord, California and retired in 1980.

Victor Lowell Barnick ’59 on Feb. 26, 2011 at age 77. Barnick received both his bachelor’s degree in elementary education and his masters in teaching and counseling. Barnick met his wife, Lois, while attending school, and they married in 1954. He taught in Salem and surrounding school districts for 51 years. In his spare time he enjoyed woodworking, gardening, cooking, going to their beach house, traveling and spending time with his grandchildren.
Melba Niemela '59 on Feb. 19, 2011 at age 91. Niemela taught elementary and middle school science in the Salem-Keizer School District until she retired in 1981. She enjoyed the outdoors; she loved camping, fishing, skiing, and hiking. She also enjoyed reading, but her favorite thing was having family gatherings in her home.

**Class notes**

Norman Bartel '57 and his wife, Judy, have three children, six grandchildren, and three grand-dogs. Norman retired in 1960. In addition to graduating from OCE, so did his wife, his son, his youngest daughter, and his daughter-in-law.

**1960s**

**In remembrance**

Harley Willard Branigar '63 on July 12, 2011 at age 86 During World War II, Harley served in the Pacific with the 96th infantry division. After the war, Harley earned his degree from WOU and married Betsy Dreier. During his career he taught school in Aumsville and Hubbard, worked for the Oregon State Board of Health, and the Linn-Benton School District. Harley moved to Alaska in 1976, where he administered the federal education programs and retired in 1985.

Cynthia Joyce Giesbrecht '63 on Aug. 24, 2011 at age 69. Cynthia worked in sales at Meier and Frank Department Store and also for her brother, Gene in his medical office.

Linda Lee Girod Parkhurst '63 on June 17, 2011 at age 84. Linda married Ralph Earnest Parkhurst on November 23, 1949. She taught at Keizer Elementary School, Liberty Grade School and later became the principal at Denver-Conner Grade School. The couple then moved to Lebanon in 1961, where Linda continued her career in education until she retired. Linda and Ralph built their dream home in Yachats; where they lived for 24 years until Ralph's passing.


Kathy Kendrick-Henry '65 on Aug. 28, 2011 at age 65. Kathy moved to Lebanon and began her 30-year teaching career at Crowfoot Elementary, then taught at Waterloo Elementary. She was recognized as teacher of the year in 1985. In retirement Kathy volunteered for the victim advocacy program at the Linn County Court House. She attended the Crowfoot Baptist Church and enjoyed doing crafts, knitting, sewing and scrapbooking.

Frederick “Fred” Merch Clayton '66 on May 11, 2011 at age 96. Shortly after Fred began teaching, he met Geraldine Gould, whom he later married. The couple's family quickly grew after the birth of their four sons. The family moved to Oregon and settled in Astoria. Fred worked as a teacher, school administrator, librarian and carpenter. During this time he also earned his master's degree. The couple retired together in 1981. Fred had many hobbies, but his passions were his family, his friends, and traveling.

**Class notes**

John K. Alexander '64 is a professor of history and distinguished teaching professor at the University of Cincinnati. Alexander is also the author of “Samuel Adams: The Life of an American Revolutionary.” The work, published in May by Rowman & Littlefield, was featured as an Editor's Pick in the July 2011 History Book Club offerings.

Karlyn Greenway '65 was an elementary teacher for two years. She then taught for Estacada Overseas Dependent Schools for five years, and later taught preschool in Colorado Springs for 14 years. Greenway married in 1970 in Germany. She has one stepson, one daughter and one son, in addition to five grandchildren.

Kathryn Hunter '65 is now a freelance journalist in her hometown of Mount Angel. After receiving her degree in journalism, Hunter worked for several newspapers for many years.

**1970s**

**In remembrance**

Alan Bart Chandler '70, '76 on March 17, 2011 at age 69. Alan was born and raised in Spokane, Wash. Alan retired from the State of Oregon, Department of Corrections in 1997 after working there for 33 years; he retired as the assistant director of institutions. In retirement Alan enjoyed traveling, playing racquetball, fishing and spending time with his friends.

LaRene Cross Saxton '70 on June 2, 2011 at age 80. LaRene married Clifford Saxton. The couple spent 59 wonderful years together. They moved around quite a bit before settling down in the Salem/Keizer area, where they lived for the last 44 years. LaRene was an elementary school teacher at Highland Elementary School for 17 years. LaRene loved spending time with her family, and she also enjoyed reading, knitting, playing classical piano, and traveling.

Craig Bernard Larsen '71 on Aug. 6, 2011 at age 64. After Craig graduated from Western, he met and married Carol Buchanan in 1982. He worked as a realtor and belonged to the Catholic Church.

Wyatt Alan Newman '71 on April 13, 2011 at age 69. Wyatt married Nancy Mcgee in 1964. Wyatt was an educator at Poynter Junior High and at Hillsboro High School as a political science and American history teacher. Wyatt also taught numerous classes at Bend High School. He enjoyed writing, reading, running, cooking, playing board games and exploring historical areas. Wyatt also served in the U.S. Army and the Army Reserves; and retired as a major.

Patsy Lou Theiral '71 on May 4, 2011 at age 63. Patsy grew up in Medford, Ore. Pat became an elementary teacher in Riddle, Ore. In 1973 she married Richard Theiral. She worked as a substitute teacher and as a homemaker until 1999, when she went to work as a special education teacher at Riddle High School. Pat was a very active member in the community and school programs during her life in Riddle. She was involved in various clubs, and numerous associations.

Leonard Joseph Federico '72 on July 15, 2011 at age 82. After Leonard graduated with his degree in education
he joined the military. While serving in Spokane, Wash. he met and married Ruth Langdon and together they raised seven children. He began his career in education in Springdale, Wash. where he served as served as principal, history teacher and coach for various sports. They moved to Oregon and he worked as vice principal and football coach at Cascade High School. He later became the principal and then the superintendent of the school district, retiring in 1996.

Richard M. McKenna ‘73 on August 31, 2011 at age 67. Richard was a graduate of Central Catholic High School, The University of Portland, and WOU. He also joined the National Guard. Richard realized his passion was community corrections, retiring as the parole and probation division commander in 2003. In retirement, Rick volunteered for Criminal Justice Consultants, Community Partnership for Change, for several non-profit boards and was served on both the Drug Court and the Board of Bridgeway Recovery.

Julie Ann Montgomery ‘74 on March 8, 2011 at age 59. Julie was born in Portland, Oregon. She graduated valedictorian from her high school in 1970. She married Carlos Montgomery in 1978 and taught second grade at Sherwood Elementary School in Pendleton for 30 years.

Michele Portman ‘76 on Sept. 21, 2011 at age 61. After earning her bachelor’s degree from WOU (OCE), Michele went on to pursue her master’s degree from Arizona State University. Michele was a counselor at Cottage Grove High School for 22 years, and was recently elected to the South Lane School Board; and in May was awarded the Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Service award for her extensive volunteer work.

Linda Marie Reeves ‘76 on April 23, 2011 at age 65. Linda grew up in Monmouth. While attending school, Linda met Roger Reeves and they were married in 1966. The couple spent most of their married lives in the Gresham and Damascus area. Linda Taught at Powell Valley and Dexter McCarty Schools before taking some time off to raise their three children. Linda loved to travel with her husband, tea parties with her grandchildren, reading, jazzercise, cheering at her family’s sporting events, and was a very involved member in her church.

Thomas Ruhl ’77 on July 7, 2011 at age 61. During the first 10 years of his career Thomas taught first grade in Canby and West Linn school districts, he later served as the principal at both Sunset and Stafford Schools in West Linn as well as the superintendent of Sauvie Island School District. More recently, he mentored graduate students and created the Doctor of Education program at Lewis and Clark College. Since 2006, he has directed the Master of Arts in Teaching and the Master of Education programs at Marylhurst University.

Class notes

Barbara Cummings ’70, ’90 and her husband, Don, started their business in 1980, incorporating in 1981. Their son, Christopher, is now the president.

Claudia Sinclair ’70 graduated with her degree in education and went on to teach in Washington for eight years. She married Cam Sinclair. They have two daughters, and four grandchildren with one more on the way.

Penny Blackwell ’71 married her high school sweetheart, James Blackwell in 1993. She and James have one son. After Blackwell received her master’s degree in education, she began teaching French and English at Central High School, in Independence, Ore. Blackwell retired after 30 years of service.

Jean Rix ’71 retired from Pacific University in 2005; she worked for the Departments of Exercise Science and Athletics.

Janet Schultz ’71 retired from the Hillsboro School District in 2005, but still continues to substitute for friends ad help with reading assignments.

Foster Odom Jr. ’73 and his wife, Lona, celebrated the marriage of their daughter on July 9, 2011.

Wilda Watson ’73, ’76 retired in 2005.

Marilyn Fishwick ’75 retired from full-time teaching in June. She worked for the Medford School District at the time of her retirement. Fishwick and her husband, Phil ’76 celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary in August. The couple met on campus at Campbell Hall.

Mike Rooney ’76, ’80 has been in Klamath Falls for 15 years. After a year-long sabbatical in Guanajuato, Mexico, he has been a counselor at Mazama High School the past three years. The past two years he has served as the head boy’s basketball coach compiling a 45-10 record, and winning third place at the state tournament. Rooney and his wife Margaret have three children: Grace, Adam and Nora.

Kenneth Lehto ’76 currently serves as a city council member for the City of Monmouth, Ore.

Loise Schrenk ’76 retired after 30 years of service to the Central School District.

Cynthia Petrovich ’79 retired from the Anchorage, Alaska School District in 2009, after 30 years of teaching.

William Rhoades ’79 has been recently selected to be the new West Linn-Wilsonville School District superintendent.

1980s

In remembrance

Fred Farris ’80, ’87 on May 27, 2011 at age 64. Fred graduated from Oregon School for the Deaf (OSD) and then attended Gallaudet College. Fred taught and coached at OSD until he retired in 2003. Fred focused all of his energy into teaching American Sign Language at Linfield College and South Salem High School, as well as a regional course at WOU. He was very involved in many different aspects of protecting American Sign Language as well as the Deaf community.

Lynn Karl Lamvik ’85 on Feb. 18, 2011 at age 52. Lynn grew up in the Rose City Park and Parkrose area of Portland where he cultivated his life-long passion for athletics. He graduated with his degree in corporate fitness. For 21 years he was a recreation therapist at McLaren youth and correctional facility. He was just as passionate about his children as he was about sports and loved being a father.

Richard Karl Kreitzer ’87 on March 22, 2011 at age 55. Richard grew up in Stayton, Ore. where he attended school, and spent his time playing sports and fishing. He met his wife Meera while attending college and they married in 1981, having two daughters. The couple lived in Salem
where Richard worked at North Santiam Plywood. After graduating Richard began doing the assessing for Marion County. In 2006 he was elected as Marion County Tax Assessor, re-elected in 2010, and held the position until his death. Richard supported many charitable organizations and helped build a church in Guatemala.

Class notes

Barbara Gibby ’83 received her degree in counseling from WOU (OCE) and went on to work with the State of Oregon as an adjudicator for the Department of Employment. In 1989 she earned her degree in clinical psychology from Pacific University and then interned at Portland State University and the Salem-Keizer Permanente clinic. She graduated in 1993 and her residency was obtained through Tillamook Family Mental Health and Salem-Keizer Permanente Clinic. She obtained her license with the State of Oregon in 1995 and has been self-employed in Forest Grove, Oregon since 1996.

Emily Breeden ’84 was recently honored by the Central Education Association as a Central School District Primary and Secondary teacher of the year.

John Conroy ’88 and his wife, Jeannette, have lived in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho since 1995. Conroy is currently the CEO of one of the largest homeless-serving agencies in the 10 northern counties of Idaho. Conroy and his wife met in college and have been married for 23 years and have three children.

Class notes

Mary Tashiro ’91 is working on obtaining her licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) certification.

Chris Skinner ’92, deputy chief of the Hillsboro Police Department, was selected from a pool of 41 candidates to be the new Richland Police Chief. Skinner has worked for Hillsboro police for 10 years, including the past three as a deputy chief. He also spent 10 years at the Benton County Sheriff’s Office in Oregon.

Vanessa Jones ’96 completed her fifth year as principal of Newell and Tulelake Elementary Schools in Tulelake, California.

Sara Woodward ’96 and Matthew Heverly ’95 married in 2000 and now have a daughter, Viola. Matthew earned his master's degree at UW Tacoma and teaches in Tacoma. Sara has her master's degree and supervises special education in Clover Park School District.

Ryan Hayes ’99 and Yue Cao were married on February 11, 2011 in Wuhan, China. They will make their home in Seattle, Wash.

Brent and Sarah King ’99 welcomed their fourth child into the world on April 1, 2011. Katherine Elizabeth King, joins brother Aidan (7) and sisters Sophia (4) and Addison (2). The Kings reside in Monte Vista, Colo. where Brent works as an associate professor of psychology and Sarah works as a registered nurse.

Class notes

John ’00 and Connie Hatcher ’99 welcomed their son, Caleb Edward, into the world on August 15, 2011. He joins big sister Haylie and big brother Timothy.

Sheila (Pockrus) Reade ’00 received her Associate of Applied Science Degree in Nursing from Linn-Benton Community College, and is now a registered nurse at Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital.

Teresa Alonso ’02 received the 40 under 40 Award in 2009, which was announced in the Portland Business Journal. She also received the New leadership Oregon Women Leaders Award in 2007.

Jessica ’02 and Marc Miller recently celebrated their daughter’s third birthday.

Maren Greif ’02 married Roger Vernon on September 24, 2011 in Warren, New Jersey. The couple currently resides in Jersey City, where Greif continues to work as a senior managing editor for Random House Children’s Books in New York City.

Peter Ness ’02 was named the new principal of Santiam Christian Elementary School. For the past nine years, he has taught physical education, health, anatomy, and physiology. He was also the health and physical education department head, varsity track coach, junior wrestling coach, and the co-class advisor of 2006 and 2010. Ness and his wife, Kimberly, have four sons, and the family lives in Monmouth.

Maria Bonifacio ’03 was recently awarded the 2011 “Staff Makes Students Count” award for the University of Alaska.

Dan Primus ’04 will take reigns as the district attorney of Umatilla County. After he graduated from WOU he went on to earn his Doctorate of Jurisprudence from Willamette University School of Law.
Nicole Perry ’07 married Jesse Shafer ’11 on May 29, 2011 in a vineyard ceremony at Domaine Margelle Vineyard in Scotts Mills, Ore. They are living in Monmouth while Nicole completes her Master of Arts in Teaching at WOU.

Kelly Gordan ’08 married Anastasia on September 18, 2010. The couple met at WOU in 2005 and let their love grow on the campus over the next three years.

Brent Redpath ’10 married Shannon Lettow whom he met while attending Western. He is now in his second year of graduate school at Oregon State University.

Attention OCE grads!

We recognize your pride in our alma mater – whether you know us as WOU or remember us as OCE – and want to honor your school spirit! A limited number of OCE baseball caps (light gray with red stitching) are available for alumni purchase, and are available at the WOU Bookstore.

One size only • $15.95

Faculty & staff
In remembrance

Betty Lou Abrams on Sept. 6, 2011 at age 80. Betty Lou moved to Oregon when she was 20, then met and married Gale Dean Abrams. The couple had three children, and after they were grown and gone Betty worked at OCE as an administrative assistant in the Special Education Department for 11 years. Betty enjoyed reading and was an avid Blazer fan.

Victor Baldwin on June 16, 2011 at age 73. Victor began his work with the Oregon State System of High Education in 1968 as an assistant research professor with the Teaching Research Division. He became the director in 1978 and kept the position for 20 years. In his semi-retirement he worked as a principal investigator in deaf-blindness with what is currently the National Consortium on deaf-blindness.

John Casey on May 4, 2011 at age 80. After graduating from high school John enlisted in the air force, and was stationed in Alaska. After being discharged at the rank of Staff Sergeant in 1954 he decided to continue his education in fine arts, becoming an art professor at WOU (OCE) in 1965. Above all he was a painter; his work was included in juried and invitational exhibitions at art museums. He also helped found the Unitarian Universalist Ash Creek Fellowship in Monmouth and was certified as a Lay Minister.

William Shannon Hanable on May 17, 2011 at age 73. After graduating from high school William served in the Air Force for 12 years, where he met his wife Eloise. After leaving the Air Force, they moved to Anchorage Alaska, where William finished up his degree. While in school William started a Navel Reserve career in 1969, he worked here until he retired as a commander in 1994. He taught public history courses, which lead him to be appointed as the executive director of the Alaska Historical Commission.

Arthur McElroy on Aug. 8, 2011 at age 89. Arthur married Valeria McElroy in 1949 and he served in the Navy. Arthur returned home to pursue an education, then taught special needs children in Parkrose and Portland. He later earned his doctorate which led him to years of professorship at both Western Washington and Western Oregon University.

Ruth Hatfield Million on April 6, 2011 at age 87. Ruth met Elmer Million while attending school, the couple later married in 1944. They had five children and moved to McMinnville in 1964. Ruth earned her certificate in piano performance from Cincinnati College of Music and her Master’s of Music from the America Conservatory of Music in Chicago. Ruth worked for Western as a music professor and retired after 22 years of service.

Guy Harlin Rooth on May 1, 2011 at age 75. As a boy Guy loved hunting and fishing, and soon developed an enduring fascination with nature and the world. Guy married the love of his life, Catherine Logan in 1959 and they had two children. Guy graduated with a degree in geology, and went on to earn his doctorate in both geology and paleontology. Guy was a professor of geology and oceanography at WOU for 32 years.

Ed Stineff on Aug. 21, 2011 at age 72. After Ed graduated from Linfield College in 1960 with a bachelor’s degree he started working for Boeing, and then spent his military service in the Army in Boston. After his time in the Army, he moved back to Seattle to begin his career in the insurance business with Safeco. Ed’s career led him to Monmouth, where he purchased his own agency, which is now known as Stineff Insurance. He sold his agency and retired in 1996. Ed was the president of Monmouth/Independence Chamber of Commerce and served as president of Western Oregon University Foundation.
Calling all graduates between 2002 and 2011! You are invited to join WOU's premier young alumni giving society, the GOLD President's Club.

Reserved exclusively for Graduates of the Last Decade, the GOLD President's Club is a way for young alumni to give at levels appropriate to their stage in life. The levels of gifts are determined at the beginning of each fiscal year and are specific to the year you graduated. Young alumni can join at special, reduced giving levels according to graduation years and still receive all the benefits that President's Club donor would receive.

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- Make plans to connect with other young alumni.
- Take pride in knowing that you are one of WOU’s most distinguished supporters.

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WOLVES ATHLETIC AUCTION

Saturday, April 28  Salem Conference Center  Save the date - this year’s speaker is A.C. Green!  wouwolves.com