Meet the members of our new board of trustees in this issue of the Western Edge. Story starts on page 12.
“Verna and I enjoy great pleasure in supporting the scholarship programs in teaching at Western Oregon University. My long experience on the faculty from 1961 through 1989 enabled me to be a part of the research in teaching and student learning. OCE/WOU received a number of national awards during those years. Our scholarship contributions are our way of continuing the legacy of excellence at WOU—the premier public teacher education university in Oregon.”

Don Duncan, emeritus professor

Interested in creating or supporting a scholarship? Contact us at:

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Western Oregon University
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WOU welcomes new professor and new program in the natural sciences

MOST PEOPLE EXPERIENCE that “ahh!” moment—when they realize what they love to do. For Melinda Shimizu, there have been several of those moments, from studying hanging valleys in Switzerland to working as a student tutor. In fall 2014, Shimizu joined the Earth and Physical Sciences Department, focusing on a new minor and certificate program in geographic information science (GIS). Due to her extensive research background in geology, geography, and GIS, Shimizu began teaching as an assistant professor and helped launch the new program.

Shimizu’s academic career began at Central Washington University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Geological Sciences and performed undergraduate research in seismology. She continued her studies at the School of Earth and Space Exploration at Arizona State University (ASU), earning a Master of Science in Geological Sciences. Her thesis focused on tectonic geomorphology, and through her research Shimizu was introduced to GIS. “Specifically, I used GIS to study hanging valleys in Switzerland comparing the height of the hanging valleys to the thickness of ice at the last glacial maximum,” she said. “I loved it.”

GIS certificate
That experience motivated her to complete a GIS certificate, and switch to the School of Geographical Sciences & Urban Planning at ASU. “GIS is typically a computer-based system that let people explore and ask questions about data that has a ‘where’ part to it,” Shimizu explained. “For example, it could be as simple as asking where something is, or something more complicated like trying to understand how the location of one thing influences the location of another.”

Bringing this new minor and certificate program to WOU made perfect sense to Shimizu, as it enabled her to combine her passions for teaching and GIS. “To be part of developing a great program is an opportunity and challenge I look forward to,” she said.

“The skills taught will be both the conceptual understanding of spatial problems and technologies, as well as the technical skills to use such technology.”

Melinda Shimizu

The new program expands upon the existing geosciences curriculum related to GIS, cartography, remote sensing, photogrammetry, surveying, and quantitative analysis. These areas of study involve melding of computing systems with mapping, images, geographic location, information management and spatial analysis. The curriculum currently includes cartography, GIS I, GIS II, and remote sensing, and will continue to be developed as the program is further established. “The skills taught will be both the conceptual understanding of spatial problems and technologies, as well as the technical skills to use such technology,” Shimizu explained.

The new program is aimed at WOU students looking for a minor to strengthen their technology skills to compete for entry-level information management jobs upon graduation. The program is most relevant to majors in natural science, social science, public policy, criminal justice, and computer science. However, Shimizu expressed that all majors and programs are complemented by GIS because our daily life has a spatial component to it, adding “the proliferation of maps and geospatial technology means that everyone is likely to encounter some form of GIS technology in their lives.” Additionally, GIS and related geospatial technologies are in widespread use across all sectors of the global economy including scientific research, natural resource management, government, industry and business. Shimizu advises students that are interested in GIS to get involved through coursework, research, and internships. “The best way to learn GIS is to start doing it,” she continued, “research and internships will probably give you the best training for future careers that use GIS.”

Presidential search committee membership announced

The State Board of Higher Education (OSBHE) and WOU have announced membership of the search committee to assist in the search for WOU’s next president. The next president, who will replace retiring WOU president Mark Weiss, is slated to start July 1, 2015 at the same time the inaugural WOU Board of Trustees will assume authority over the university. Witt/Kieffer has been selected as the search firm for support throughout this process.

“My appreciation goes out to the members of this committee, who represent the varied perspectives and strengths found within the WOU community as well as Oregon,” said Jim Francesconi, chair of the search committee and representative from OSBHE. “WOU brings great value to our state and the committee recognizes that the next president must be a strong, visionary leader who will lead the university in its continued growth and continue the excellent work achieved during Weiss’ tenure.”

Information about the search process can be found at wou.edu/presidentialsearch.
Developing Elementary Math Instructional Leaders in Oregon

THE TEACHING RESEARCH Institute has been awarded a $1 million grant by the Oregon Department of Education to recruit and educate 60 teachers to become Elementary Mathematics Instructional Leaders. Project DEMILO (Developing Elementary Mathematics Instructional Leaders in Oregon) is a collaboration between WOU, the Willamette Education Service District, and the Oregon Coast STEM Hub to address the need for increased mathematics content knowledge for elementary school teachers.

WOU is the first university in Oregon to offer an Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) approved program leading to an Elementary Mathematics Instructional Leader specialization. According to Dr. Cheryl Beaver, the project director: “Underachievement in math in elementary school becomes a barrier for students who wish to pursue STEM jobs or a STEM college major.”

“The U.S. is predicted to need an additional 1 million STEM professionals by 2020. This project helps us contribute to closing that gap.”

Dr. Cheryl Beaver

Elementary Mathematics Instructional Leaders (EMIL) are teachers, teacher leaders or coaches responsible for supporting effective mathematics instruction and student learning in the classroom, school, district and/or state levels. Their specific roles will vary depending upon the school district, but all EMILs will act as a resource and provide leadership to their colleagues. This is a critical and timely role as the state fully implements the new Common Core State Standards in Mathematics. “Given the time constraints of teachers and the distance challenges of living on the coast or in rural locations, using online and web-video conferencing for professional development is necessary,” noted Ruth McDonald, partnerships coordinator, Oregon Coast STEM Hub.

During the course of three years, three cohorts of 20 teachers will complete the EMIL specialization and employ their instructional leadership to help elementary students succeed and to meet Oregon’s 40-40-20 goal.

Child Development Center earns highest quality rating available

THE HIGHEST QUALITY rating in Oregon’s Quality Rating & Improvement System (QRIS) has been awarded to the Teaching Research Institute’s (TRI) Child Development Center (CDC). The QRIS is a program to raise the quality and consistency of childcare and early learning programs throughout the state. The TRI-CDC is the first five-star quality rated program in Polk County and one of only 26 in Oregon.

“The Child Development Center is committed to quality care and learning for all children,” said Ingrid Amerson, CDC director. “We know that the first years of life build the foundation for lifelong learning and success. That’s why we are among the first early learning programs in Oregon to participate and receive a QRIS rating.”

“A five-star program excels in all the standards that support quality early learning for all children,” said Dr. Ella Taylor, director of the Teaching Research Institute. “Programs must provide evidence that they provide exceptional environments for young children’s learning and development, work with families to encourage ongoing development, and that staff possess significant early learning credentials.”

The TRI-CDC was evaluated through both a portfolio and observation process. Experts in the field of early childhood care and education evaluated materials and observed classrooms using research-based standards that address children’s learning and development, health and safety, personnel qualifications, family partnerships and administration and business practices. Oregon’s QRIS is part of the state’s 40-40-20 educational goals. TRI-CDC provides quality care and education for children 30 months to 10 years of age for WOU students, staff and faculty as well as the surrounding community. Running both a pre-school program and a school-age after school enrichment program, the Child Development Center has been in operation on the WOU campus for more than 25 years.

“Our early learning programs integrate learning activities into each child’s daily routine to meet his or her individual developmental stage. We are an inclusive program serving children of all ability levels,” Amerson said. “Our curriculum for school-age children brings together creative play and project-based programming along with homework assistance and a healthy snack!”

“For 40 percent of Oregon’s students to have some post-secondary education and another 40 percent to attain a bachelor’s degree, they will need to have a strong conceptual understanding of math,” stated Beaver. “The U.S. is predicted to need an additional 1 million STEM professionals by 2020. This project helps us contribute to closing that gap.”
New Instructional Design Certificate offered

THE MASTER OF Science in Education (MSEd) Information Technology program has announced an Instructional Design Certificate (IDC) available to graduate students. This certificate focuses on the planning and creation of learning experiences using technology in the classroom, online, and in informal environments. Professor Mary Bucy is the current program coordinator and has more than twenty years of experience as an informal education specialist.

Instructional design can be defined as the practice of creating instructional experiences which make the acquisition of knowledge and skill more efficient, effective, and appealing. Since the 1970s, instructional design was closely associated with curriculum design, but with recent advances in technology and online learning, instructional design has now expanded into a larger field.

“A lot of the time now, it’s not a professor designing their own class, but a team of instructional designers working to make sure it’s pedagogically sound,” explained Bucy. “They work to ensure that course objectives, lessons, and assessments are all in alignment. Students who receive the certificate can pursue careers at universities, K12 school systems, or businesses working as instructional designers, educational technology specialists, or online teachers.

Approved last year, the IDC was created because many MSEd Information Technology students were interested in the content. Additionally, those in the program were earning degrees, but not with specific endorsements or licenses. With the IDC, students now have the opportunity to earn an additional credential. “The certificate is 24 credits, and can be embedded within the MSEd:

“Students are not just learning and taking tests, they are actually building and creating in these courses.”

Mary Bucy

Information Technology graduate degree,” Bucy noted. “Some students are coming in to earn the certificate and then deciding they want to earn the full master’s degree.”

To apply for the IDC, a student must meet university requirements for graduate admission and hold a bachelor’s degree. Because many students in the Information Technology program are working professionals, the program is offered fully online and can be completed within three terms. “We work with students at whatever level they come in and help them use technology effectively to transform learning. With our online classes, when we ask them to create something, there are also video tutorials to train them,” shared Bucy, “I respond to emails from students with questions, and often record myself demonstrating how to work through problems.”

The IDC was formatted into three modules: curriculum design, digital content and eLearning. Curriculum design teaches students about communication theory and information design. Digital content allows students to use digital tools to create websites and web-based tutorials, podcasts/vodcasts, and mobile technologies. eLearning trains students to build online content and classes, and how to use open source tools.

“Students are not just learning and taking tests, they are actually building and creating in these courses,” Bucy explained. “They can choose to build projects that immediately transfer to their work. They can learn a skill one week, and then use it the next week.”

Bucy feels that the IDC documents a set of skills that are marketable right now. “Technology is infiltrating everything now. People are learning how to use different technologies to help people learn. I believe this certificate will help students beef up their résumés.”

Healthy buildings=healthy people

WESTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY’s Health and Wellness Center (HWC) has achieved gold certification with the United States Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) program.

HWC is WOU’s second LEED certified building; Ackerman Hall received LEED platinum certification in 2011. The building was constructed to significantly lessen water consumption through several features. Native drought resistant plants and drip irrigation allows for a 75 percent reduction in water use for irrigation at HWC.

Domestic water use has been reduced by 35 percent through low flow fixtures. A 98.5 percent reduction in water use for the pool has become possible due to a regenerative media water filtration system.

The sustainable features also include energy efficiencies that enable the building to save 30 percent in energy costs and reduce CO2 emissions by 57 percent over a typical building of its type. These major accomplishments are due to features like extra insulation and air-tightness, as well as energy efficient lighting and natural ventilation in several areas.
WOU student selected as Fulbright scholar

LEAVING THE COMFORT and safety of home is a big step for many college students—imagine going even further and studying in another country. What has happened for Jingwen Tan, a student studying anthropology at Western Oregon University, who was selected as a Killam Fellow with Fulbright Canada. Tan made the decision to leave Monmouth for the University of British Columbia (UBC) for fall semester of 2015. She will continue her studies of anthropology at one of the world’s top anthropology programs where she hopes to learn about indigenous groups of Canada and experience other cultures.

Tan grew up with a multicultural perspective. A native of China, she moved to Oregon with her family at the age of eight. Tan attended Woodburn Communication Arts Academy and chose to attend WOU both because it’s close to her family and affordable place to get a degree. Tan, a first-generation student, originally planned to become a teacher. However, she decided to first explore other subjects through the Liberal Arts Core Curriculum requirement. She took them interested in cultural differences and is willing to put herself out there and take risks of being uncomfortable because she trusts the goodness of other people.” Smith attributes that to Tan’s upbringing in a very supportive family.

After her time at UBC, Tan will return to WOU to finish her bachelor’s degree, which includes a minor in international studies. Tan hopes to take her knowledge and experience to Japan after graduation where she plans to teach English. Approximately three quarters of her family lives in south China and teaching in Japan would allow her to easily visit them.

In keeping with Tan’s interests in anthropology, she’d eventually like to work with indigenous people of South America.

Event planning class raises $13,500 for local non-profit group

A COLLEGE EDUCATION can be more than learning in the classroom—it can give you an opportunity to get real-world experience. Faculty throughout WOU’s academic disciplines incorporate such experience into their courses. Dr. Molly Mayhead in the Communication Studies Department teaches the Communication and Event Planning course (COM 410) where students plan an event to raise money for a local non-profit.

In spring 2014, the student-planned dinner and auction, “Puttin’ on the Ritz: A Roaring 20’s Gala and Auction,” raised more than $13,500 for the Monmouth-Independence Community Foundation (MICF). Mayhead has been teaching this course biennially since 2006 and has worked with a different community organization each time. The idea came from her experience working with students to plan and run the 2006 Northwest Communication Association Conference. “Students spread the word that planning events is both a fun and highly useful experience, so I formalized the course and have been offering it ever since,” she said.

Kyle Rush ’14 took the course last spring and had a fantastic experience. “I decided to take this class because I heard the feedback from students who had taken it prior, the thrill they had in doing so, and from being a part of the larger event itself,” Rush said. “I wanted to be able to challenge myself in a classroom setting while also ensuring that I had a well-rounded education regarding event planning.”

Mayhead connects this out-of-class experience with work in the classroom. She invites event planning professionals to talk with students about the challenges and joys of this line of work. She also has traditional academic assignments to teach students about event logistics for various types (and sizes) of events.

“The course was designed as an opportunity to learn within the academic setting, but also for us each to challenge ourselves and to step outside of our comfort zone, in whatever ways those may be,” said Rush.
IKE NAIL HAILS from Texas traditions of great music and big football games. He was raised in a musical family where everyone brought instruments to family gatherings. His mom (eldest of 10) played piano and his dad (eldest of nine) played the fiddle and guitar. Nail laughed as he reminisced about being one of eight small kids in a single bed, rotating head-to-feet. There was just one rule: you didn’t have to sleep, but you had to stay in bed. He also recalled many times where family members would stop mid-song to argue about someone singing out of tune.

With a childhood like this, Nail had no choice but to carry on the musical tradition. Thankfully for Western Oregon University, he does so on campus as an associate professor of music. He serves as the director of the Western Oregon Symphony and the Western Oregon Winds ensembles on campus. The Oregon Music Educator’s Association (OMEA) recognized Nail’s passion for music and teaching, as he was named 2014 Music Educator of the Year. This award is given to someone who demonstrates exemplary music teaching.

“My teacher has to love their subject and really be invested in it,” he said. Nail demonstrates that investment every day both in and out of the classroom. The OMEAs award was not his first recognition. Nail has been the co-recipient of two Grammy Awards and was named the 2009 Music Educator of the Year by the Oregon Symphony Association.

Not many adults can actually say they grew up to pursue the career they wanted as a child. Nail joined his first band in seventh grade. Within five weeks he knew he wanted to grow up to be a band teacher. “It’s all I ever wanted to do,” Nail said, adding “I believe in the power of music and the necessity to teach it in some way.”

At the age of 19 with one year of college under his belt, Nail married and moved to Happy, Texas (from his hometown of Odessa). He talked the local high school into starting a band and letting him direct it. He taught while attending college, and eventually earned a doctorate in symphonic conducting from the University of Texas, Austin, so he could teach at the college level. He worked at several universities and high schools, eventually settling in Oregon.

Nail, who currently leads WOU’s pep band, noticed during his time at WOU that a fight song was missing from campus culture. He did some research and found old lyrics to the fight song and school hymn in the school archives. Recognizing the lyrics were a bit outdated, he revised them and introduced the updated version during a Homecoming pep rally in October. His passion for music and teaching is demonstrated by his commitment to WOU and its students.
Portland’s Portal Theatre earns rave reviews Edinburgh Festival Fringe

THERE ARE MANY reasons to appreciate the faculty of Western – one of which is the real-world experience they bring to the classroom. Michael Phillips, associate professor of theatre, is one such faculty member. His students benefit from his vast experience, which recently includes the creation of his own theater company called Portal Theatre, based in Portland.

Portal Theatre began with a bang, travelling overseas to perform its first show, No Belles, at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. No Belles tells the stories of underrepresented women in science—specifically the 15 women who have won the Nobel Prize for science (out of 566 winners)—as well as women who should have won because of their major contributions.

The scientists featured in the show include Rosalyn Yalow, Rita Levi-Montalcini, Rosalind Franklin, and Gertrude Elion. The production focuses on their stories, rather than the science.

In Edinburgh, No Belles earned high reviews from reviewers such as The Scotsman (4 stars), The Broadway Baby (5 stars), The Cult Den (10 out of 10), Arts Award Voice (5 stars) and The Public Reviews (4 stars). Portal Theatre returned home to share its first production with Portland in early December, a model it plans to follow in the future by creating a new production each year and performing it locally after taking it to festivals.

“"No Belles is a well-pitched piece of theatre that’s informative, and, perhaps more importantly, inspiring. It has important stories to tell and resonates well after you have left the theatre." The Broadway Baby (5/5)

“On stage their performance was impeccable, genuine and heart-warming. I know it’s early in the month but this is my show of the Fringe this year and anything else will have to be truly great to beat it.” The Cult Den (10/10)

Homecoming Week a windy success in October

Homecoming began with a fun run, bonfire, paint the Wolf and talent show early in the week, and featured a fight song pep rally on Thursday, Oct. 23, 2014. Music Professor Ike Nail helped introduce an updated version of the WOU Fight Song at the Werner University Center plaza, and the crowd was treated to the WOU drumline, pep band and cheerleaders leading them in song.

During the weekend, students and alumni gathered for reunions, tailgaters, fireworks, and football (the Wolves defeated Simon Fraser 27-16). New this year was the family fun zone, complete with a bouncy house for the kids.
The old adage says first impressions are everything. And for Western, the gateway and calling card for many prospective students is the pastoral appearance of the campus. There are approximately 160 acres – 70 percent of it is green space – and 44 buildings that comprise the university’s landscape: Keeping it all pristine is no small feat.

The job falls to the Physical Plant, which is responsible for all the grounds keeping, painting, furniture moving, watering, special event setups and more. The department employs 12 full-time workers within its grounds maintenance, paint crew and carpentry divisions. Yet it greatly depends throughout the year upon the student body as part of its seasonal staff, with as many as 20 students working during busy stretches such as summer term.

“Students are incredibly important, we couldn’t get it done without them,” said Tim Wallen, who manages the university’s Physical Plant.

Andy Avgi drops a shovel into the bed of a bright orange Kubota and squeezes his 6 foot 6 inch frame into the cab. For getting from one end of campus to the other in a hurry, the little utility vehicle beats walking, he said. “And it’s way easier than pushing a wheel barrow around,” said Avgi, a student and employee of Western’s Physical Plant.

He gives the cart some gas and rolls out onto Monmouth Avenue on an overcast, yet muggy mid-August day – about a month from the time Western’s student population would be returning en mass.

Hence, the non-stop activity of maintenance workers.

Avgi passes a coworker trimming hedges and another perched on a ladder outside Todd Hall, installing a window. In front of the Sequoia Commons, two more of his fellow students, Raleigh Shepler and McKenzie Sargent, deftly pluck weeds from a bed of crocosmia flowers.

“I definitely appreciate the campus more since I started working here,” said Avgi, who’s juggled grounds keeping duties with classes and basketball—he’s a star forward for the Wolves – for the past two years. “I know what it takes to keep it clean.”

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“Students are incredibly important, we couldn’t get it done without them,” said Tim Wallen, who manages the university’s Physical Plant.
paint crew. He has only two regular employees – including himself – and depends on up to dozen students working for him during hectic periods. “They are the bulk of my labor.”

“Summer is when the construction and repair activity at Western is most intense,” said Kevin Hughes, Physical Plant grounds keeping director. “During the summer months, the department remodeled laboratories in the Natural Science Building, installed new irrigation in front of the Nursing Center and added lights to the New Physical Education Building. That technical work is done by full-time employees, which makes the students indispensible,” he said.

“Because we get pulled off onto projects, there are a lot of routine duties that our students end up doing for us, the watering, weeding, mowing and edging we would regularly do.” Hughes said. “During the summer, the students help us get caught up.”

Roger Whiteman, a full-time grounds keeper of 13 years, echoed that sentiment. “Summer, for a lot of our permanent guys, is when they take time off,” he said.

“Students are incredibly important, we couldn’t get it done without them.”

Tim Wallen, paint crew supervisor

the university’s appearance caught her eye when she first visited the campus as a high school senior two years ago. She said it’s ironic she’s now working for the Physical Plant.

“One of the things I loved about WOU, and a reason why I actually came here, was because the campus was so nice,” Shepler said. “Once I started the job, it just kind of hit me: ‘Oh I’m part of this now, I get to help make it pretty.’”

Photos (clockwise from top): WOU students Madison Pengra Watanabe and Danielle Hannan paint the front lobby of the Admissions office; WOU student Dusti DeVore works outdoors with the paint crew; WOU staff Randy Bales and Roger Whiteman gather up leaf debris for the campus compost piles; WOU student Greg Harrison takes a well-deserved break from leaf blower duty.

Employment opportunities in Monmouth and nearby Independence that would allow many students to remain on campus during the summer are few and far between. As such, opportunities at the Physical Plant are highly coveted. Students work 40 hours a week during the summer. During the rest of the school year, schedules are adjusted to accommodate classes. Hughes estimates he receives up to 20 job applications from students per term. Wallen sees as many as 30.

Matt Baurer ’14 (criminal justice) graduated this past spring and concluded his three-year stint with the Physical Plant’s paint crew in August. Baurer said he applied for the job because he needed the money and a way to avoid having to go back home to Colton during the summer. “We live on a small farm, but

continued on page 21
Effective July 1, 2015, Western Oregon University becomes a public university with an independent board of trustees focused solely on our governance and success. The new 15-member group represents education, civic and business leadership, campus representatives, and alumni. The WOU president will serve as an ex officio, or non-voting member. Currently, the group is preparing for their leadership roles through orientation to campus, adoption of board by-laws and other core policies, and training on best practices for university board governance. Learn a little more about them (and a few fun facts about the college) on the following pages.

GLORIA INGLE

“I attended Western, which geared me up to want to continue go to school. It took me a few years—I went back to school as a wife and a mother. My time at WOU gave me the certainty that I really needed to be in school.”

EDUCATION: I was part of a village education outreach program through Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka, Alaska. Teachers came to the communities and I was able to work on an A.A., B.A. and M.A. at the same time. I had to spend summers on campus, working as a teacher aide, and I knew then that’s exactly what I wanted to do.

CAREER: I’m a retired principal. People really encouraged me along the way, and I realized I could do the job. My qualification is in special ed, and I taught fourth, fifth and sixth grades in Alaska, before becoming the school principal.

HOBBIES: I enjoy reading and basketry, but don’t get to work on it much anymore. I also love making moccasins.

Gloria Ingle was raised on the reservation of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. Ingle completed a successful 30-year career in education, serving as both an elementary teacher and a K-12 principal receiving her special education and superintendent endorsements. She continues to serve the Confederated Tribes of Siletz as a council member and elder. With her expertise in education, she also contributes on curriculum review and accreditation committees. Ingle attended Western before completing a degree from Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka, Alaska and a master’s degree in educational leadership from the University of Alaska.

JAIME ARREDONDO

“WOU was the first university I was exposed to. When I was in high school I took part in a mentorship program offered by WOU. I didn’t know much about college back then much less what one looked like. Because of the mentorship program I saw myself going to college and knew how to make it happen.”

EDUCATION: I received my B.A. from Willamette University in 2005 (double major in rhetoric/media studies and Spanish with a minor in Latin American studies). I’m currently enrolled in OSU’s M.B.A. program.

HOBBIES: I love spending time with family, following various college and professional sports (especially the Portland Trail Blazers and Oregon football teams), and running.

SOMETHING PEOPLE MIGHT NOT KNOW: I make the best quesadillas. Just ask my wife.
Theodore "Ted" Kulongoski is the only governor in Oregon history to have served in all three branches of state government. While in private law practice, Kulongoski was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives (1975-78) and the State Senate (1978-83). In 1997, he was elected to the Oregon Supreme Court, where he served until mid-2001. He was inaugurated as governor of Oregon in 2003 and was reelected in 2006. Kulongoski understands what it is like for students who face adversity. He spent his childhood in a Catholic boys’ home from a very young age. Following high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Jaime Arredondo’s first exposure to higher education was through his participation in WOU’s Latino Mentor Program; graduating among the inaugural class at McKay High School. Arredondo serves as secretary-treasurer for Oregon’s Farmworker Union and largest Latino organization, Pineros Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste. He also serves Oregon’s youth and families through his participation on the State of Oregon Youth Development Council, the Marion County Commission for Children and Families, Partners for Hunger-Free Oregon, and the Oregon Community Foundation Latino Partnership Project.

"Getting appointed to WOU’s Board of Trustees is an absolute privilege and opportunity," Arredondo said. "I’ve seen first-hand what an education at WOU can do for an individual, a family, and a community."
Lane Shetterly ’77 is a partner in the law firm Shetterly, Irick and Ozias in Dallas. From 2004 through 2007, Shetterly was the director of the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development. Prior to his appointment, Shetterly served seven years in the Oregon Legislature, and served as speaker pro temp of the House. He is chair of the Oregon Law Commission, a position he has held since 1998, and was appointed by the governor in 2005 to serve as a representative on the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws.

During his first session in the legislature, Shetterly was the chief sponsor of HB 2364, which established WOU as a university. In 2010, he received the Henry and Helen Graven Award for his contributions to community, church and society from Wartburg College, Iowa, past recipients of which include Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and Greg Mortensen.

“It is my honor and my pleasure to receive appointment to the new Western Oregon University Board of Trustees.”

CECelia "Cec" Koontz has served the Monmouth community as a city councilor since 2010, treasurer for the Monmouth-Independence Community Foundation, member of the Finance Committee of the Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce, and is a panelist for the Oregon Arts Commission/Oregon Cultural Trust Grants programs. Koontz served on the Monmouth Economic Development Commission and as president for organizations such as the Pentacle Theatre and the Children’s Education Theatre in Salem. In 2012, she was named the Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce’s First Citizen for her outstanding service to her community. Koontz is the business manager for the Central School District and obtained a bachelor’s degree in economics from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma.

“Something people might not know: I have been an actress and director at Salem’s Pentacle Theatre. I enjoy traveling to Oregon’s vibrant rural communities and do strategic planning and facilitation for non-profits around the state (yes, I know that’s a weird ‘hobby’).

1856: The act by the territorial legislature chartering an educational institution in Polk County to be named Monmouth University is passed. The school shares space with the newly organized First Christian Church of Monmouth; room and board is available for students in good families at $2.50 to $3 a week.

1871: The first stage of Campbell Hall construction is completed. The north and south wings and the bell tower are later additions. The Christian College graduating class contains eight students.

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EDUCATION: My formal degree is a B.A. in Economics from the University of Puget Sound. I have been lucky enough to participate in two advanced leadership programs in the state—the Ford Institute Leadership Program and the Pacific Program for Public Service—that have proven invaluable to me as a leader and manager.

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IVAN HURTADO

“I chose WOU because of its close proximity to my hometown, the size of the university, and my desire to branch out. What I quickly learned as a first generation college student is that WOU was a gem. The Student Enrichment Program helped me get grounded on campus and WOU soon became my second family.”

SOMETHING PEOPLE MIGHT NOT KNOW: This past August, my wife and I hiked 72.5 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail. Five nights and six days of life on the trail was challenging, but the scenery was absolutely beautiful.

FAVORITE WAY TO SPEND A DAY OFF: Motorcycle rides along country roads, and spending quality time with friends and family, reading at one of my favorite coffee shops, and volunteering with friends.

LANE SHETTERLY

“I’ve been connected to WOU since I graduated with a degree in music education in 1977. I was privileged to represent Monmouth and WOU while I was in the Oregon legislature. The first bill I introduced as a freshman legislator was HB 2364 (1997), which established WOU as a university. I’m so pleased to be able to continue that in this new way of service on the board.”

CAREER: I’m an attorney in private practice in Dallas. I started practicing law here in 1981. I was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives in 1997, and served Speaker pro tem 2001-04. In 2004 I was appointed director of the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, where I served until late 2007, when I returned to my law practice in Dallas.

HOBBIES: My favorite hobbies include running (I’ve run four marathons and six Hood to Coast Relays), music, travel and reading. My favorite ways to spend a day off might be spending it quietly around the house, or maybe wine tasting with my wife, Francine, at one or two local wineries.

SOMETHING PEOPLE MIGHT NOT KNOW: I sang with the Portland Opera at Carnegie Hall.

1881: Christian College establishes a “normal” department in Monmouth, which helps pave the way for future public funding of the institution as a teacher training school.

1882: Christian College becomes a public institution and the name is changed to the Oregon State Normal School. The school actually receives no government funding until 1893, when the state allocated $22,382 for operating expenses.

1898: The general government, superintendence, and direction of the Normal School at Monmouth was vested in a board of regents consisting of twelve members, and the regents were authorized to receive the deed to the premises.

Ivan Hurtado ’06 earned a bachelor’s degree with a double major in economics and international studies. He was a recipient of WOU’s Student Enrichment Program Student of the Year award. Hurtado is an underwriter for Farmers Insurance and serves Oregon youth through a volunteer directorship of Hillsboro Young Life, which supports the students of Hillsboro and Century High Schools who are often from low-income and/or underrepresented families. He is also a board member of Grace Extended Ministries International.

“My desire as a board of trustee member is to re-invest my time and energy into helping build a better tomorrow,” Hurtado said. “My underlying desire as a Board of Trustee member is no different than the staff and faculty, to invest into the lives of young future leaders, give both the students, staff and faculty the tools to help them achieve something greater than themselves. Dream, dream big and share your dreams with others, and to quote C.S. Lewis: ‘You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.’”
JEANETTE MLADENOVIC

“I got to know WOU through the joint OHSU-WOU nursing program. When I became interim dean of nursing, I spent some time at WOU. We think they’re the appropriate feeder school for our programs.”

EDUCATION: M.D., M.B.A., M.A.C.P.; I trained at Johns Hopkins and Stanford, and served as faculty at five other institutions.
CAREER: I’m committed to public institutions. If it weren’t for my state institution taking a chance on me and making it affordable, I wouldn’t be here. For 18 years I conducted stem cell research. I have a classic academic medical school faculty background. I have usually worked in underserved communities. Currently I am the executive vice president and provost at Oregon Health & Science University.
HOBBIES: I like to speedwalk and cook on a day off. I also like to be outdoors, especially skiing or hiking.
SOMETHING PEOPLE MIGHT NOT KNOW: I have a lot of family in Slovenia – about 42 aunts, uncles and cousins. I go back regularly to visit. Also, I have four kids and enjoy spending time with my family.

Dr. Jeanette Mladenovic has 27 years of experience in academic administration, having held positions as chair or chief of the Department of Medicine, dean for education, faculty and hospital affiliations, and director of research education and career development.

“WOU is one of OHSU’s nursing campuses,” Mladenovic said, “and as such, has provided me the opportunity to learn about the university’s unique mission and programs. Its history of commitment to diverse communities of students makes it essential in the Oregon landscape of higher education. I eagerly embrace the opportunity to participate in Western’s future.” She obtained both her bachelor’s degree and her medical degree from the University of Washington and earned a master’s degree in business administration from the University of Miami, School of Business.

LOUIS TAYLOR

“For me, it’s easy to feel connected to WOU. In fact, it’s quite simple! I was a mediocre high school student, but an excellent athlete. I didn’t appreciate the support system in the beginning, but it truly became the heart of my success. I connected not only with coaches, but even more so with the faculty and staff. The university believed in me academically when they could have turned to a better student; the faculty believed in me professionally to handle their retirements, and for this belief my career was born. I served on the foundation board for more than 10 years so when this opportunity arose, I couldn’t turn down the institution that served me so well.”

EDUCATION: I have a B.A. in international business and a minor in Spanish from WOU class of 1998.
CAREER: My primary career is as an investment broker serving individuals and businesses through my wealth management company. My career focus is to build an investment platform that allows the everyday Main St. investor access to Wall St. vehicles.
HOBBIES: Golf, snowboarding, fishing, camping and travel.
SOMETHING PEOPLE MIGHT NOT KNOW: I am a very meticulous individual—I do not like germs.

1938: ONS is fully accredited by the American Association of Teachers Colleges. The school’s name is changed to Oregon College of Education (OCE) the following year.
1939: Enrollment in the school continues to decline during the war years. In the fall 1939, 138 men and 340 women are registered. By 1943, three men register for fall term; the total is 147. The lowest point is reached in the spring of 1945 when the total enrollment was 117, five of whom were men.
James M. Baumgartner ’81 has been a trustee on the WOU Foundation Board since 2012, and is currently its chair. He served on the Executive Committee of the Oregon Consular Corps for five years, serving as dean in 2008, and was appointed as the Honorary Consul of Canada in Oregon in 2005. He continues a 28-year partnership with the law firm of Black Helterline LLP in Portland. Baumgartner has also been nominated to the State Board of Higher Education, which for the remainder of this academic year will provide governance to the four technical and regional universities of Oregon. Baumgartner obtained a bachelor’s degree from WOU and a J.D. from Willamette University College of Law.

JIM BAUMGARTNER

“I enrolled at OCE to pursue a degree in special education, after working with special education students for several years in high school. After a few years I decided I would not go into teaching, but was enjoying my time at OCE so much that I remained there and was very active on campus with the forensics team, theatre, and dance company. I served as student body president my last year, and received the Delmar Dewey award. I am most thankful for the time and effort the faculty members spent with me. That support, plus the chance to participate in multiple activities, afforded me an opportunity to success I would not otherwise have had. I hope I can assist the university to provide the same educational access and opportunities to students attending WOU.”

HOBBIES: I am an enthusiastic bicyclist, a hobby that started as a student riding with friends on the local rural roads. I still ride several times a week and have ridden throughout Oregon and the Pacific Northwest, including tandem bike tours across Oregon and around Tuscany, Italy with my wife, Ann.

SOMETHING PEOPLE MIGHT NOT KNOW: Ann and I are also active day-hikers. We spend many days hiking in the gorge, coast range, the cascades and central Oregon. We especially love to get into wilderness areas as the snows recede during the summer.

1951: OCE completes the first dedicated library building on campus. The building, now Academic Programs and Support, replaces the cramped Campbell Hall Library.

1952: OCE adds a master of science degree in elementary education. Undergraduate major programs in humanities, social sciences, and science-mathematics for the college are also approved.

Louis C. Taylor ’98 graduated with a degree in international business from WOU in 1998 and served his alma mater as a trustee on the WOU Foundation Board from 2000-10, acting as treasurer from 2007-09. He is an active member of the WOU Football Alumni Association and established the Louis Taylor Football Scholarship in 2004. In 2010, he formed Taylor Wealth Management where he currently serves as a senior financial advisor. He is also co-founder and chief operations officer for Zon Compounding, LLC.

“WOU has played an instrumental part of my success in life,” Taylor said. “It was and is a university that gives individuals hope at furthering their education. My board experience speaks for itself; and the fact that WOU has been granted independent status makes me want to be an instrumental part of the new board, shaping the future of an institution that has shaped mine.”
Marshall Guthrie has served in higher education since 2003, joining WOU in 2010 and now serves as the director of WOU’s Student Enrichment Program. Guthrie participated on the WOU Staff Senate for two years, serving as president in 2011-12. He is involved in his community, serving as a Monmouth city councilor, chair of the City of Monmouth Budget Committee, the Monmouth representative of the WIMPEG (Public, Education, Government) Broadcast Committee, and co-chair of the Ford Family Pathways Project – a community group focused on collaboration between the three local communities: WOU, Monmouth and Independence.

Guthrie’s passion to serve students who are first-generation, low income, or disabled, and achieve the dream of a college education is evident in his work at WOU.

**MARSHALL GUTHRIE**

“As a first-generation graduate of a state university, Western reminded me of home. The campus and the towns of Monmouth and Independence are full of warm people who care about you. I want to do my part to keep WOU feeling like home for students of all backgrounds, and providing the education that everyone deserves.”

**EDUCATION:** B.A. in Communication Studies–Mass Media (2001, The University of Iowa); M.S. in Student Personnel Administration (2004, The University of Central Missouri)

**CAREER:** I’m the director of the Student Enrichment Program, which is focused on providing support to students who are first-generation, low-income or have a disability. This population is a majority at WOU, and will continue to be the primary population affected by the governor’s 40-40-20 goals.

**HOBBIES:** Recumbent biking, home theater, music, and “nerdy” board games.

**SOMETHING PEOPLE MIGHT NOT KNOW:** I’m a Monmouth City councilor. I think we should all be more aware of and involved in our local governance; it has such significant impact on our day-to-day lives. Get involved, make your voice heard, and vote.

**1962:** The south wing and bell tower of Campbell Hall and the Old Grove are destroyed during the Columbus Day Storm. Life magazine features student Wes Luchau’s photograph of the bell tower falling.

Sofia Llamas is an education major and plans to also complete the Bilingual/ESOL endorsement; her anticipated graduation date is June 2017. Llamas embraces her Mexican heritage and actively participates in the M.E.Ch.A. club, Western’s student organization that encourages the Chicano/Chicana students. She is a recipient of the M.E.Ch.A. Outstanding Dedication to Education, Travel and Member Development award and serves in the current year as co-chair of the club and also participates in the Ambassador’s Program.
Dr. Cornelia Paraskevas has been teaching at WOU for 25 years. During her tenure, she has served as department chair, faculty senator, member of the faculty union bargaining team, writing coordinator, and editor of accreditation reports (1996 and 2013). In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Paraskevas actively serves Salem-Keizer schools conducting writing and language workshops for K-12 grades. In the early 2000s, she helped develop a unique four-year partnership with the Oregon Department of Education.

“I am honored to serve on the board of trustees for Western Oregon University. I believe that as an independent institution, we need to position ourselves as the Liberal Arts alternative to high-price private institutions. To ensure our success, we will need to balance the focus and interests of our students, our institution, our faculty, and our continued service to Oregonians.”

**CAREER:** Professor of linguistics and writing.

**HOBBIES:** Quilting, traveling.

**SOMETHING PEOPLE MIGHT NOT KNOW:** I started doing sprint triathlons when I turned 50.

**FAVORITE WAY TO SPEND A DAY OFF:** I like to swim, listen to Greek music, cook, read (not necessarily in that order!).

1967: Student Gayna Miles Meyers suggests that the Giant Sequoia planted outside Campbell Hall by the graduation class of 1887 be lit during the holiday season. The tradition continues today.
JOHN MINAHAN
Former president of WOU, John Minahan has served as both a teacher and educator in higher education for more than 35 years. He joined WOU in 1986, serving as the dean of liberal arts and sciences until 1998 when he was appointed to the position of provost. In 2005, he was appointed president and retired from WOU in 2011 after completing 25 years of service.
Minahan assisted WOU in its progression from a college of education to a comprehensive university, offering degrees in the arts, business, sciences, social sciences, humanities and education.
“I am familiar with the responsibilities of those who serve as university trustees,” he said. “It will be my distinct privilege to serve as a trustee at WOU as the university enters its newest stage of development.”

DANIEL HOKANSON
Major General Daniel R. Hokanson’s responsibilities include the Oregon National Guard and Office of Emergency Management as well as the governor’s homeland security advisor. He received an engineering degree from West Point, and has earned multiple masters degrees in international security and strategic studies. The general’s combat deployments include Operations Just Cause, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom, commanding the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team in Iraq.
Expressing his desire to serve at WOU, Hokanson said, “In addition to my wife being a graduate of Western, the National Guard has a strong and enduring relationship with the university; and the university is a great supporter of the Oregon National Guard and all veterans.”

2000: The Wayne and Lynn Hamersly Library opens, this $14.3 million project is the third building used as a library on the campus.

2002: WOU athletics officially transitions from NAIA to NCAA Division II status.

2003: The City of Monmouth allows alcohol sales for the first time in its 146-year history. The measure passed with 58 percent voting in favor, Monmouth had been Oregon’s only remaining dry town.

2004: Enrollment at WOU reaches 4,500 undergraduate and 400 graduate students.

2010: Ackerman Hall, our newest live-learn residence hall, was named after John Henry Ackerman, president of ONS. It was awarded Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification, making it the first new construction residence hall with that level of certification in the nation.

2013: DeVolder Family Science Center opens, and achieves LEED silver certification. WOU enrollment exceeds 6,000 for fifth consecutive year.

2014: A ceremonial groundbreaking was held for the new Richard Woodcock Education Center, opening in fall 2016.

2015: Effective July 1, 2015, Western becomes a public university with an independent board of trustees focused solely on its governance and success.
have a lot of timber, too,” he said with a laugh. “I would be home splitting wood if I wasn’t here.”

Hughes said he’s willing to take any student who is willing to work hard, though the experience levels of some with mowers, edgers and general maintenance varies greatly. For Avgi, this is old hat – he worked on family berry farms near his hometown of Woodburn since he was a child.

Sargent, meanwhile, lived in a suburb in Northeast Portland and had never mowed a lawn before coming to Western. She said that made learning how to operate some of the equipment “a little freaky at first,” particularly the diesel tractor used to mow acres of multi-use fields at the west edge of campus. That’s one of the tasks that now regularly falls to Sargent and Shepler.

“The funniest thing is when you first put it into gear and ease off the clutch and it just jolts you,” Shepler said. “It scares you the first time, but you get used to it.”

Veteran or newbie, the job isn’t easy. Those days where the temperature hits 100-degrees are grueling. And when fall arrives, students don rain slickers to take on the monumental task of clearing away the seemingly infinite amount of leaves that drop from half the trees on campus.

Baurer said the most “mentally draining” job for him was painting residence hall rooms because of the sheer number of them and the varying levels of abuse the rooms take from students. And the spot on campus that gives him the most anxiety?

“Any time we’re in the president’s area,” he said. “We painted an office up there, and I was like, ‘OK, we need buckle down, use drop clothes everywhere and make sure every line is straight.’”

Baurer said the job has given him some valuable leadership skills, as he often supervised paint crews. He’s also so adept at painting now, his family members have asked him to paint their homes.

“That’s one of the other bonuses, the (practical) skills you learn between working the ground and painting,” Wallen said. “Everybody hopes to own their own house some day and now they can keep it up.”

Western has earned recognition for the appearance of the campus, including honors from the Professional Grounds Management Society and Landscape Management magazine. Hughes said he’s never used that as a way to motivate students, but he hasn’t needed to. Because of the hours they put in, the student workers say they take ownership in the way the campus looks.

“I would notice litter on campus before I started working for the Physical Plant, but I wouldn’t have thought much of it (until) I started working ground,” Sargent said. “Now, when I’m trying to mow and it’s laying there because nobody wants to pick it up? That bugs me.”

Grounds crew repaint the sidewalks on Monmouth Ave. during late summer. Pictured above (l-r) are Ciara Wilkinson, Tim Wallen, Taylor Hetrick, Danielle Harcourt and Alex Britton.

Juniors, close friends and education majors McKenzie Sargent and Raleigh Shepler (l-r) work as part of the grounds crew.
“WE ARE PROUD to welcome these six outstanding individuals into the Western Oregon Athletic Hall of Fame,” said Barbara Dearing, executive director of intercollegiate athletics. “These deserving honorees had remarkable careers and we are thrilled to have the opportunity to recognize their wonderful accomplishments.”

JIM LUKE • BASEBALL, 1960-63
Baseball star at OCE from 1960-63…Three-time all-conference selection…Only freshman named to the OCC All-Star team and NAIA district 2 All-Star Team…Three-time Wolves MVP…Captain of the squad as a junior and senior…Three-time team batting leader, hitting .375, .367 and .338 respectively…Wolves finished second in the region in 1960 to Whitworth, who went on to win the NAIA national title…Now retired from a career in education and coaching.

DARRELL BRANDT • BASKETBALL/BASEBALL, 1964
OCE’s Outstanding Athlete award winner in 1964…Basketball and baseball standout…Inducted into the NAIA District II Hall of Fame in 1981.

BRUCE BRADSHAW • BASKETBALL, 1965-68
Guard on the basketball team and who tragically died after suffering a head injury during an away game at Eastern Oregon University…Was well-liked by his teammates and friends in the campus community…Double major in physical education and mathematics…Given the Most Inspirational Award for his dedication and contribution to the team.

BRIDGET COOKE • TRACK & FIELD, 1979-83
Track and field and cross country standout for OCE from 1979-83…Former school record holder in the 3,000 (10:04.30) and 5,000 meters (17:28.82)…Still holds the WOU school record in the 10,000 meters with a time of 36:16.95, over a minute better than the nearest mark…Ranks second in the 5000m…Won three NAIA District 2 titles on the track…Also earned NAIA All-American honors in cross country…Won the Seaside Marathon in her first-ever try at that distance…Competed in the 1984 Olympic Trials in the marathon…Now works at the Cultural Centro Hispanic Center in Hillsboro…Has received awards for her work with migrant families.

JIM MCCANN • TRACK & FIELD, 1994-97
Four-time NAIA All-American in the long and triple jumps…Still holds the school record in the triple jump (51-6.5), set in 1994…Had a best in the long jump of 24-7, fourth on WOU’s all-time list…Ranks fourth on the school’s indoor list in the long jump and still holds the record in the triple jump…Long post-collegiate career…Still coaches at the collegiate level.

GREG MCCARTHY • BASEBALL, 2002-05
NCAA All-American as a catcher…Played three years in the San Francisco Giants organization…Four-time member of the All-GNAC team…N CBWA West Region Player of the Year…GNAC Player of the Year in 2005…GNAC Freshman of the Year in 2002…Left WOU as the school’s single-season leader in batting average (.442), hits (91) and doubles (23)…Ranks in the top 10 in school history in career runs scored, hits, doubles, home runs and runs batted in.

WOU Hall of Fame inductees announced for 2014
The Western Oregon University Athletic Hall of Fame is proud to announce the class of 2014 inductees. This year the Hall of Fame welcomes Jim Luke, Darrell Brandt, Bruce Bradshaw, Bridget Cooke, Jim McCann, and Greg McCarthy. This will be the 10th induction class into the WOU Athletic Hall of Fame.

WOU will recognize its 10th class into the Hall of Fame on Friday, January 30, 2015 with a reception at 5:30 p.m. in the Werner University Center. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. Call 503-838-8449 to order dinner tickets: $40 individual or $220 for a table of six.
Q&A with Lorrie Clifford ’13

Lorrie Clifford is as tough as they come. A four-year letter winner for the Wolves women’s basketball team from 2009-13, she played in every game during her career and averaged nearly 30 minutes a contest. She graduated with a degree in communications, so it might be easy to assume she would be writing or reporting. Not just yet, however.

Clifford is currently a member of Team USA Women’s Eagles Sevens rugby team. The Sevens team represents the United States in international rugby competitions. They also have the chance to qualify for the 2016 Summer Olympics. During her training, Clifford took some time to catch up with WOU.

How did you become involved with rugby?
Coach Bruce (Greg Bruce, former women’s basketball coach) received an email from a rugby recruiter looking for athletes from different sports. They requested game film and after reviewing it they sent me an official invitation to a crossover camp at the Olympic training center in Chula Vista, Calif. I went through a number of tests for speed, agility and hand eye coordination; I even took a few hits. After that was complete the coach (Ric Suggitt) offered me a six-month contract to stay down there, train and learn the sport of rugby.

How have your basketball skills helped you adapt?
Rugby is a pretty good mixture of all sports rolled into one. It is very similar to basketball as you have to take the right angles, play defense, pass, and protect your try line. Coach Suggitt was a former basketball coach so in his coaching and teaching a number of things transition over, and that helps in terms of using my skills. It’s a lot like basketball—with seven people for each team on the field you’re always involved in the game.

What has been the biggest adjustment for you?
Trying to pick up a sport at a national level that you have never played before can be very frustrating at times. I think the biggest overall adjustment I’ve had to face was coming from being a leader and team captain to being part of a team where you basically know nothing and no one, but want to be the best you can possibly be.

Your team has the chance to compete in the 2016 Olympics, tell us about the qualification process.
We try to start qualifying in December in Dubai and then will compete in other tournaments in Brazil, Amsterdam, London, Canada and Atlanta. In order to qualify, we have to finish in the top four in each of those. If we can’t do that, we have three options. We hope to qualify with plan “A” and use the other tournaments for more practice, and team bonding and building.

International competition is a big portion of rugby, talk about some of those experiences.
We had the chance to go to Fiji, it is such a different culture over there compared to the one here in the states. The individuals and kids there are so grateful for what they have and are so caring for others—many kids run around with socks and only one shoe because they gave the other one to their friend. When you add in the ocean and the views it was just truly an amazing experience. It’s made me very grateful for the opportunities I have.
Peering through the viewfinder, a photographer tries to find the ideal version of their subject in a perfect angle, a fortuitous shadow or wholly distinctive physical feature. For many, it takes time and old-fashioned trial and error to instinctively hone in on these characteristics. Sage advice doesn’t hurt either.
Ashley Dimeo Buchan ’08 (bachelor’s degree in psychology) recalls one such lesson about four years ago not long after starting her photography career. Armed with a backdrop, “chintzy lights” and her first real camera, Dimeo Buchan was charged with handling her family’s Christmas portraits.

She was curious about feedback from her Grandpa Jack, a professional artist who had once shot photographs for advertising firms in New York and San Francisco, and was the former creative director for Portland’s Gerber Advertising agency.

Dimeo Buchan said she over-edited her grandparents’ picture, making them look younger than they were. Her grandfather, “in the nicest possible way,” let her know that the lines on their faces tell a story.

Highlighting – and not distorting – reality was an underlying message. It’s something Dimeo Buchan, an established wedding and studio photographer for the last four years, tries to practice as she strives for that perfect balance between enhancing the subject of a photograph while maintaining its real essence.

Dimeo Buchan’s own life path has involved following her instincts. The Western graduate once had designs on becoming a teacher or counselor. Instead, she turned a long-time love of photography and art into the Salem-based ADB Photographix, a respected – and growing – photography studio that specializes in everything from wedding and boudoir photographs to family and senior portraits. Dimeo Buchan’s work has also earned her recognition from Oregon Bride Magazine and The Statesman Journal’s “Best of the Mid-Valley” competition.

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by Craig Coleman

Photo: Jake Williamson, ADB Photographix
“It’s crazy what one great photograph of someone will do for a person’s self-confidence,” said Dimeo Buchan following a particularly busy stretch in August during which she had shot for 12 consecutive days.

“If it’s somebody who doesn’t think much of themselves and you’re able to get a good picture of them? That kind of stuff brings me to tears,” she said. “People will tell me ‘you changed my life, you made me feel better than I thought I could.’

“That’s why I do it – it makes people happy.”

There was a time when Dimeo Buchan couldn’t have guessed this would be her job, despite a childhood in Beaverton of painting, calligraphy and other art. Her Grandma Marge, a photography hobbyist, “always had a camera in front of my face.” A picture taken by her grandmother depicting a then 4-year-old Dimeo Buchan applying makeup is still one of Dimeo Buchan’s prized possessions.

But sports were her main outlet. Dimeo Buchan was an all-league volleyball player and a star softball infielder at Aloha High School. She was heavily courted by several colleges to play softball – in Oregon and beyond – and wound up attending State University of New York in Buffalo on a scholarship.

A back injury and a case of homesickness would lead her back to the Pacific Northwest before the end of her freshman year.

“I just wasn’t a big fan of New York,” Dimeo Buchan said. “I guess I was just a mama’s girl and being across the country was a bit much for me.”

Dimeo Buchan had always had Western on her radar. She enrolled in the university’s education program in 2004 to become a teacher, but later switched to psychology in hopes of becoming a counselor to at-risk youth. After graduating, she got married and worked at a preschool learning program in Beaverton. However, she left that position to relocate to Salem when her husband was accepted to law school at Willamette University.

Underemployed and restless in the valley, Dimeo Buchan reconnected with photography after her mother bought her a camera – “something she got late night off QVC. It got me into better place mentally,” she said. “I was able to express myself again.”

Dimeo Buchan began shooting landscapes in nearby wine country and took photographs of family members and friends. She practiced manipulating pictures with photo-editing software and teaching herself the technical aspects of photography via online workshops. The more she learned, the more her love for the craft grew.

Dimeo Buchan impressed people with pictures she shared through social media. With encouragement from friends and family and a desire to flex some entrepreneurial spirit, she decided to start her own business. She eventually quit a job at a physical therapy clinic in 2010 and started shooting senior photos, “a lot of food photography” for a catering company and other projects.

Her family expressed some concern about seemingly abandoning her WOU degree, but Dimeo Buchan said psychology meshes perfectly with photography – an integral part of the job is making people feel comfortable in front of the camera.

“You’re anticipating moments by reading people’s body language,” she said. “And you’re getting better pictures because of it.”

Dimeo Buchan shadowed a wedding photographer in 2010 on her first wedding shoot. A year later, she dove head first into the chaos that is photographing wedding ceremonies. Dimeo Buchan shot 17 weddings during a four month span, including some back-to-back shoots on weekends and round-the-clock editing.

“I was running on motivation and adrenaline,” she said. “It was so much more work than I anticipated, toward end of season I was exhausted and pretty overwhelmed.”
Still, the experience made her a better photographer, teaching her about the value of sufficient time to plan and building a rapport with her subjects. “I want to be present and aware for each of my clients,” she said, adding, “The way I portray the pictures is the way they’re going to remember that day so I have a lot of pressure to show that it went the way they wanted it.”

These days, Dimeo Buchan, 30, is trying to expand her business. She’s handling graphic design and photography duties for several political campaigns throughout the state. She’s also been working with students from Chemeketa Community College, training them to shoot and edit in her style. The hope is to someday transition these interns to a staff of paid photographers, allowing her to take on assignments she misses out on as a one-woman show. “That’s where I’d like to be in three years,” she said.

In 2012, Oregon Bride Magazine named ADB Photographix “Best Wedding Photographer in the Willamette Valley.” She earned praise from the publication for an ability to capture natural and unstaged photos. “I want people to be happy with way they look,” Dimeo Buchan said. “We can do hair and makeup and all that stuff, but when comes down to it, I want to show them I can find the best angle of them.”

When Dimeo Buchan isn’t behind the camera, she enjoys spending time with her husband, Waylon, and their dog, Bailey, going to the beach and geocaching. To see Ashley’s work, visit www.adbphotographix.com or find her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ADBPhotographix.
Maria Bonifacio ’03 is one of WOU’s many graduates who continues to contribute meaningfully to society.

Bonifacio worked in University Housing at Western Oregon University after completing her degree. Taking those skills, she moved on to work at University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA). She now serves as UAA’s associate director of residence life, as well as a leader in their SafeZone program.

Maria Bonifacio’s outstanding work with the UAA SafeZone earned her the American College Personnel Association’s Public Service Award, sponsored by the Standing Committee for LGBT Awareness. The award recognizes those who have made significant contributions to higher education through support of those who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans*, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Ally, and Asexual (LGBTQQIAA).

UAA’s SafeZone had dissolved prior to Bonifacio’s arrival to campus. She spoke with other professional staff members about the issues of having limited resources on campus for ally trainings, or for campus community members who were questioning their sexual orientation. She was familiar with WOU’s program and reached out to get the training to lead the team.

“We wanted to show folks that were interested in coming to UAA that it is an open community who supported all students, no matter how they identified and that we were inclusive,” she said. “As someone who identifies as LGBTQIAA, I want to make sure that people – students, faculty, staff – are heard and represented and feel they matter here at UAA.”

While SafeZone is not officially a part of Bonifacio’s job within residence life, it is something she feels is vital to the well-being of the UAA campus community and she continues to volunteer her time to it. She and her colleagues were originally trained in 2010, and have since grown to approximately 30 trainers and 200 trained allies. The UAA SafeZone program is also open to members of the Anchorage community who are not affiliated with campus. “Anchorage needs all the help it can get. Don’t get me wrong—Anchorage is not a bad place for the LGBTQIAA community. Having
more opportunities for the ally training and to educate folks on what it is like to be a part of this usually underrepresented community is always good,” she said.

In a recent training they not only had the ombudsman for Anchorage, several librarians from the local library and representative from multiple advocacy groups in town, they had two individuals from University of Alaska Fairbanks who wanted to take SafeZone to Fairbanks. “I thought from the beginning that we should be open to the public. I want the city of Anchorage to see what kind of things UAA is doing and how we are supporting all of our students,” she said, adding that they have been contacted by companies like BP and Wells Fargo for possible trainings with their staffs.

When asked what advice she would give to LGBTQIAA folks, she said, “Don’t give up. There is someone to support you and give you the resources and ear that you need. You matter here!” And the advice she would give to those who want to become allies for the LGBTQIAA community is to “…just do it. If you are unsure – step outside your comfort box and just go for it! The two-hour trainings that we offer are challenging by choice and are a safe place to ask questions. Really great conversations come out of our ally trainings.”

Mary Bonifacio (above) enjoying the Alaskan outdoors; Maria (far right) with her wife, Dana Sample.

2014 Lambda Award goes to WOU Safe Zone

Safe Zone has become an integral part of the Western Oregon University community, making significant impacts across campus in the eight years since its inception. Safe Zone is a network of WOU students and employees who are not just committed but trained to provide support to members of the campus community regarding LGBTQIAA identities. The organization provides formal trainings, holds awareness events, and has informal lunchtime discussions.

The impact of Safe Zone is not just recognized by those on campus, but has been recognized by the National Communication Association (NCA). The GLBTQ Caucus within NCA awarded WOU’s Safe Zone organization with the 2014 Lambda Award. This award recognizes outstanding contributions to the LGBTQ academic community in ways outside of research and scholarship.

“Since the purposeful and intentional integration of the WOU Safe Zone during the 2006-07 academic year, this campus has really shifted cognitively and culturally to be a place of open support. Seeing the university administration embrace the Safe Zone’s efforts has been heartwarming and rewarding and affirming in the initiative’s reach and scope,” said CM Hall ’00, project coordinator for the Western Region Interpreter Education Center.

Amanda Valdez, WOU student and Safe Zone intern, has found Safe Zone to be an informative part of her college experience. A graduating senior, she wishes she had been involved sooner. “One of the really inspiring parts of Safe Zone is the amount of support we truly have on campus and off.” In addition to steady support from people on campus, local businesses have supported the organization through fundraising efforts.

Western Oregon University Safe Zone

The WOU Safe Zone program seeks to form an ally network of students, faculty and staff committed and trained to provide safe, non-judgmental and supportive contacts for all WOU community members regarding Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans*, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Ally, and Asexual identities. Safe Zone members are committed to providing a campus atmosphere of universal acceptance and assistance. Please visit our website for more information at wou.edu/wp/safezone.
Class notes
Pat Peckham ’56 and her husband, John, recently celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary.

Carol Miller ’77 retired this spring after teaching deaf and hard-of-hearing children for 37 years. For the last 26 years, she worked with the Heartland Area Education Agency in Ames, Iowa. Carol and her husband, Jim, plan to continue living in Ames, but hope to have time for interests including volunteering and traveling.

What’s going on with you?
Send us news of yourself, your relatives, your friends—anyone who ever attended WOU/WOSC/OCE. Please include your current address. Email your news to Emily Lafon at lafone@wou.edu.

Mike Boyce ’83 has another WOU graduate in his family, his daughter, Emily Boyce ’14, earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice.

Juan Cotto ’88 was named Head Football Coach at Franklin High School in Seattle.

Marc and Jessica Miller ’02 welcomed their second child on January 28th. Christopher Gregory Miller weighed 7 lbs, 11 ounces and was 19.5 inches long. Marc and Jessica live in Bend, Oregon.

Staff Sergeant Micah Smith ’03 of the Linn County Sheriff’s Office was recently named Deputy of the Year by the Oregon State Sheriff’s Association for his eight years work in cyber crimes against children.

In remembrance

1930s
Mercy A. Niemi ’36

1940s
Vivian L. F. Todd ’43

1950s
Joe L. Cole ’52
Philip A. Janz ’52
Doyle E. McAninch ’55
Lois L. Burns ’57
Richard J. Sonnen ’58
Mary J. McIntee ’58

1960s
Claudia C. Wyatt ’60
Joseph Scovell ’60
Frances H. Engblom ’61
Alan Henrickson ’61
(Alan’s daughter, Janice [Henrickson] Krout, is a 1986 WOSC graduate and his granddaughter, Lisa Farr, is a 2013 WOU graduate.)
Thomas G. Knight ’61
Wayne M. Flaming ’61
Frances C. Callahan ’62
Mary Heath ’62

1970s
William M. Fullhart ’72
Nancy A. Austin ’73
Carole M. Simpson ’73
Richard J. Rees ’73
Wilma F. Arensmeier ’74
Marion C. Schollian ’75
John M. Podpeskar ’75
Rachel S. J. Murphy ’76
Inabel C. B. Cook ’76
Dennis H. Wallace ’79

1980s
Deborah L. Amos ’83
Renee L. W. Peck ’87
Shannon D. Gooch ’88

1990s
Robert F. Gathercoal ’92
Judy B. Mistkawi ’92
Janet L. Vesper ’95

2000s
Kurt J. Robinson ’06
Anthony McPherson ’10

Friends of WOU
James B. Ellingson
James completed his Ed.D. at UO, which then led to work at the Oregon Department of Education. He decided to return to teaching, and joined the faculty (then OCE) in 1971. Jim was especially fond of walking his dog and ice cream.

Carolyn S. Hall
Carolyn retired from Hamersly Library in 1999. It was a 27-year devotion she held while caring for her five children, her grandchildren, the family farm, the Rollerzone, Gene Hall Music Studios and her husband’s passion for traveling musicianship.
**Julie Wojcicki- Cleave ’03, ’07**
was awarded the prestigious 2014 Milken Educator Award and $25,000 during a special assembly at Hallman Elementary School in Salem. The Milken Educator Award, started in 1987, honors early-to-mid career educators for their teaching excellence.

*Photo (above) courtesy of the Milken Family Foundation.*

**Mark your calendar!**
Join us for a special evening at WOU’s performance of *Pride and Prejudice* on Friday, Feb. 27, 2015. Meet up with alumni and friends at Crush Wine Bar at 5:30 p.m. for appetizers, beverages and conversation. The performance begins at 7 p.m. in Rice Auditorium, and with an intermission, concludes at 10:30 p.m.

Watch as the awkward Mr. Darcy tries to woo the Bennett sisters, in hilarious comedic style, set in England in the 19th century. This play is adapted from the beloved novel first published in 1819 and has been captivating audiences for years.

Cost is $15, which covers ticket purchase and appetizers. Contact Emily at lafone@wou.edu.

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aprilverch.com

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Robert Anglin, Time Out Chicago