Meet WOU’s newest president, Dr. Rex Fuller, and his wife, Susan. Story starts on page six.
"I give because the training of our future leaders should not only be academic, but also through exposure to leadership in the classroom, through extra curricular experiences in the field, and throughout the community. Western provided this before me, for me, and continues to provide these tenets to ensure the future."

George Jeffery ‘94

Interested in giving back like George?

Contact us at:
WOU Foundation
Western Oregon University
345 Monmouth Ave. N.
Monmouth, OR 97361
wou.edu/giving
Message from the editor

YOU MAY HAVE noticed a slight change in this issue of the Western Edge. In an effort to use our resources effectively and reach more of you with greater frequency, we’ve reduced the number of pages per issue. This means we will now be able to deliver a new publication four times each year, and mail to a wider group of alumni, friends and supporters of WOU.

Denise Visuño ’99, director of publications and creative services

Fighting hunger in Oregon

EVERY FEBRUARY, THE Western Oregon University campus sees a subtle shift in behavior. There’s an increase in the number of fundraisers. Food collection bins pop up all across campus. Faculty and staff put on their competitive game faces. Serious discussions about food scarcity and insecurity take place—all part of the campus culture surrounding the annual Governor’s State Employees Food Drive.

WOU takes this food drive seriously. In fact, this year marks the 11th consecutive year that WOU has raised the most pounds of food per employee out of Oregon’s public universities. The campus collected the equivalent of 96,158 pounds of food this past February. All but 875 pounds of that came from cash donations (almost $25,000), which helps food banks pay bills and buy food that can’t be donated (e.g., fruits and vegetables).

Let that sink in for a moment. Nearly 100,000 pounds of food to help Oregonians.

Needless to say, WOU works hard to support local food banks like the on-campus Food Pantry and Ella Curran, located in Independence. A 2014 study of our students found that 59 percent of those surveyed were “food insecure” at some point during the previous year.

The Oregon Food Bank distributed more than 1 million emergency food boxes each year for the past four years. They’ve found that 34 percent of those receiving emergency food are children. Food insecurity is a real threat in our communities and Western works to ease its impacts and give help to those in need. The Governor’s State Employees Food Drive was established in 1982 by Governor Atiyeh. Since its inception, the food drive has raised the equivalent of 70 million pounds of food. President Mark Weiss said, “I’m proud of the generosity and concern of the WOU community by consistently stepping up in this meaningful way.”

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Most Wanted Foods

Consider donating healthy, non-fat and non-starchy products.

- Meat
- Canned & boxed meals
- Peanut butter
- Pasta & rice
- Cereal
- Milk
- Cooking oil
- Fruits & vegetables
- Shelf-stable milk
- Nuts & seeds
-矫
- Soft drinks
- Juice
- Water
- Perishable items (applies only to food drive donations)
- Homemade items
- Noncommercial canned or packaged items
- Alcoholic beverages, mixes or soda
- Open or used items

503-282-0555
oregonfoodbank.org

Food will be collected and distributed by:

WOU NEWS

Fighting hunger in Oregon 1
Building relationships, sandwich by sandwich 2
The importance of winding down 3
Devised theatre 3
WOU’s annual Academic Excellence Showcase returns this spring 4
Teaching Research Institute recruits for low birth weight study 4
WOU advising recognized for eight consecutive years 12

WOU ALUMNI

Alumni volunteer networks: The work of a few for the success of many 5
Class notes/In memoriam 13

FEATURED STORIES

Leading WOU into a new chapter 6
WOU welcomes its 23rd president to campus 6
Rex Fuller, next president, knows what matters at WOU 9
Third time’s a charm 9

WOU ATHLETICS

Wolves’ winter wrap up 10
Q&A with Hannah Deede 11

ON THE COVER: WOU welcomes our new president, Dr. Rex Fuller, and his wife, Susan to campus. This special feature begins on page six. Photos by Denise Visuño.
Building relationships, sandwich by sandwich
CATHY CLARK REFLECTS ON LIFE, SANDWICH MAKING AND THE INGREDIENTS THAT GO INTO BOTH

By Jennifer Halley, class of 2015
Reprinted with permission from Western Oregon’s student newspaper, the WOU Journal

VASETZ DINING HALL is always bustling with people throughout the week, especially during lunchtime.

Students mill around, trying to decide what to eat, while employees hustle to get everyone what they need. Voices rise over one another in an effort to be heard, the tinny whine of silverware echoes throughout the crowded building, and the drilling ring of the cash register all mix together in a raucous din.

Lunch time at Valsetz is a chaotic couple of hours. Through it all, however, one person stays constant. She spies her regulars right as they come through Valsetz’ double doors and waves at them, beckoning them over.

Once they arrive at the deli counter, she begins to make their sandwich, already memorized in her head – even if that student has only been to get a sandwich once.

As she makes their sandwich, she talks to them, genuinely curious about how their day is going, about who they are as a person. She interacts this way with every student she comes across, every day.

Lovingly dubbed as the Sandwich Lady by her regulars, Cathy Clark works as the deli production assistant for Valsetz Dining Hall.

She has worked there for the past 28 years, and in those 28 years, she has never missed a single day of work. “I enjoy what I do,” Clark said. “It’s not a job, it’s a privilege.”

“When I went in [to get a sandwich], she immediately said hello and asked my name before I picked up a tray,” Lara Valachovic, a sophomore, said. “It was finals week, so she asked how they were going and reminded me not to let myself get too stressed.

“It’s definitely obvious she loves her job, or at least talking with students,” Valachovic added.

Clark’s passion for people is apparent in the way she interacts with her customers. She understands how hard college can be, and how big of a transition it can be.

“To have played a small role in making that transition a little easier, that’s special,” Clark said. “That’s why I like what I do.”

She added that everyone wants to go somewhere that they feel remembered, and where she works, “the northwest corner of Valsetz,” Clark knows it is a place where students feel acknowledged and special and, ultimately, remembered.

She can tell by the students who become her regulars, or just by the student “that comes in and beams and says thank you.”

Students are not the only people Clark impacts, though. “Cathy is great to work with; she is very reliable,” said Ashleigh Hawkins, a senior who works with Clark at Valsetz. “She is really very funny and has a great sense of humor. [She’s] a great person to be around.”

Clark is quick to recognize her fellow co-workers in how hard they contribute to making Valsetz an inviting place for the students. They also put their hearts into their work and for Clark, that is what keeps her going.

“We are a supporting team, a community spirit,” Clark said of her co-workers. Before Clark began work at Valsetz, she went to Northwest Christian University, intending to study social work.

Even though attending NCU did not work out, “this job has kind of evolved into that,” Clark said.

She said that she can learn more from the outside world, than in a classroom, and everything she has learned in her life is valuable.

She added that each job can be an area of opportunity, in that “we should never stop fine-tuning [ourselves].”

Growing up with a father in the Air Force, Clark has seen a lot and met a variety of people. She was born in Corpus Christi, Texas, started the first grade on the East Coast and even lived briefly in Okinawa, Japan.

According to Clark, she is a certified firefighter for the forestry department and worked there for a year.

Eventually, she settled her roots in Monmouth when she started working for Valsetz and has lived here ever since. Outside of work, Clark busies herself with her two cats, interacting with her neighbors, and enjoys doing anything with her hands, whether it is landscaping, gardening or building something.

Clark has two policies she lives by: “to do no harm in my words and actions,” and “to leave it a little better than the way we found it.” If she can still work at Valsetz when she’s 80 years old, then “let’s do it,” Clark said.
The WOU Newsflash Street Team, a student social media team, was asked to select one blog post from their blog to share in Western Edge. Here is the winning post written by team member, Kyle Kern:

The importance of winding down

_Reprinted from the WOU Newsflash Street Team student blog_

COLLEGE CAN BE a stressful time from pages of notes to quizzes, to that eight a.m. class where one cup of coffee just isn’t cutting it. While studying, reviewing and attending class is of utmost importance at this level of education, it is also essential to remember to wind down after a long day of hard work. While this sounds like an obvious piece of advice, it is one that many students often forget.

**FIND WHAT YOU LOVE, AND TAKE TIME TO DO IT EVERY DAY.**

Doing something you enjoy every day is often an activity that is overlooked, but it is needed not only for your psyche, but also for your studies. In Europe it is a common practice to take time out of the day immediately after school to relax and unwind before studying. This could be something as easy as catching up with a friend, going on a walk around town, curling up with a good book, or watching your Netflix favorites, whatever it is that brings peace to your mind allows your brain an allotment of time to relax before focusing again.

**BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER**

Your brain is a powerhouse, it works every day for us, and we often forget that sometimes it needs a break from the college norm. Effective studying habits include planning ahead and scheduling blocks of time to studying and taking breaks. It is recommended that for every hour of studying, a break of 20 to 30 minutes should take place. Remember that during these breaks, homework shouldn’t be thought of. Before studying turn off your phone; this can be a challenge, but it is one that should at least be considered. Your study time shouldn’t be one full of distraction; just like your break time shouldn’t be distracted by your work. During your breaks get up and walk around, look away from your book and your computer and text back your friends, anything that relaxes you. Then at the end of the break, studying shouldn’t feel so bad anymore. It is important to reward yourself for your work. After your work is done be proud of yourself. Relaxing shouldn’t take away from productivity; it should be a part of it.

**THE BREAKDOWN**

After school, be sure to take time for you. Find something that you enjoy doing and devote some time to it before hitting the books again, it will benefit not only your mind and body, but it could also help you focus.

_To read more of the student media team posts and see their photos of campus and various events, visit wou.edu/newsflash._

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**Devised theatre**

WOU STUDENTS WITH a passion for theatre arts had a unique chance this year to be involved with a devised theatre production. Generally speaking, devised theatre is a collaborative effort to create a script and production from scratch. Dr. Michael Phillips, associate professor of theatre, worked with students all year to develop “Frankie’s Flights of Fancy,” a devised production to be performed on campus May 27 through 30.

In fall term, Phillips worked with students to build the story and narrowed it down to a basic plot. In winter term, the course was about creating elements for the story, like puppets, masks and specialty props. There is no formal class in the spring, instead students participate in rehearsals for the performance. Different students were involved each term—unlike the devised production he led two years ago, which featured the same group of students during the year.

“The process changes every time because of the nature of the show,” Phillips said. “This show in particular had so many technical elements that we took a divide and conquer approach in terms of how students were engaged.”

Phillips wanted as many people from across campus to get involved as possible; he’s worked with graduate music students to create the score and an art class to create animations. “I think devised theatre has really exploded lately and gives students a different type of theatre to experience,” he said, adding “It’s important that we do it.” He noted that some have loved the opportunity to create their own art, while others prefer to work with an existing script.
WOU’s annual Academic Excellence Showcase returns this spring

ON MAY 28, 2015, WOU will celebrate student academic excellence. The entire day will be dedicated to the presentation of student scholarly activities, including original research papers, projects, artwork, performances, and upper-division course projects, presentations, and papers. The showcase is organized by the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi and the Program for Undergraduate Research Experiences (PURE).

To demonstrate the importance of student scholarly pursuits at WOU, faculty are encouraged to cancel their classes, and require students to attend their peers’ presentations. The primary objectives of the showcase are to provide an opportunity for presenters, giving them experience that will be useful in furthering their education and careers, and to expose the entire student body to the breadth and importance of the scholarship that is being conducted across campus.

The list of departments for this year’s showcase include: Abby’s House, Anthropology, Art, ASL Studies, Behavioral Sciences, Biology, Business and Economics, Chemistry, Communication Studies, Computer Science, Criminal Justice/Forensic Anthropology, Dance, Earth and Physical Science, English, Writing and Linguistics, Graduate Programs, Health and Exercise Science, Honors General Science, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Mathematics, Model U.N., Spanish, Music, Sociology, Theatre, and Teacher Education. For this year’s schedule of presentations, visit wou.edu/showcase.

Infographics for 2014 Showcase by Ava Howard, Ethan McMahan, Bryan Dutton, and Janeanne Rockwell-Kincanon.

Teaching Research Institute recruits for low birth weight study

THE TEACHING RESEARCH Institute at Western Oregon University and Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) have teamed up to study the effects of low birth weight on the development of certain brain functions. These functions, commonly referred to as executive function, influence attention, organization, planning, working memory, and other skills necessary for school-readiness.

They are recruiting babies and their parents or guardians to join in the study. Specifically they are seeking babies aged 6 to 8 months whose family can commit to three typical infant/toddler evaluations during the next three years. The study will include babies born low birth weight and those born full term.

“To date, there is no single comprehensive measure of executive functioning (EF) for children ages 6 months to 3 years,” said to Dr. Patricia Blasco, principal investigator on the project. “In fact, many studies of EF in the Low Birth Weight (LBW) population have been retrospective, that is to say once the child is school-age and already experiences learning difficulties. If EF deficits are identified earlier in life, interventions can be put in place earlier to bolster skills and buffer deficits, hopefully leading to better success in school and day-to-day activities.”

Funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, the three-year study is looking for families of infants and toddlers born LBW who do not have major medical conditions, and babies born full term without known delays. Children born LBW or pre-term are being recruited from OHSU Neonatal Intensive-Care Unit (NICU) and follow-up clinic, and from Salem Hospital. The full term children are being recruited in the central valley area of Oregon and the Portland area.

Led by Dr. Sybille Guy, the research team at TRI will work collaboratively with Dr. Sage Saxton and the clinical assessment team at the Institute on Development and Disability at OHSU.

“This is a dream come true for all of us,” Blasco said. “I have been interested for many years in the development of children who are born early and the effects on brain development in terms of executive function. These findings will provide new scientific knowledge and a better understanding of EF skills and deficits in young children who are born LBW and preterm.”

If you have a child between 6 and 8 months of age, and are interested in participating in the study, please contact Mandy Stanley at 503-838-8495 or email stanleya@wou.edu.
Alumni volunteer network: The work of a few for the success of many

By Emily Lafon, alumni relations coordinator

EVERYONE HAS A passion, something that makes them so happy they would do it forever if time and money and resources allowed. Some people’s passions run so deep that they are able to inspire others to get involved and can change people’s lives and paths through their acts of service, their commitment and their positive attitude.

Volunteerism is something that many people are passionate about, and luckily for the alumni office, we have been able to acquire fantastic people to help us in areas where we have a large concentration of alumni. During the past year, we have established an alumni volunteer network throughout the Pacific Northwest and further.

Building volunteer networks is something new to WOU and the alumni department and it all began with the vision and encouragement from two special volunteers: Clark ’77 and Donna ’70, ’76 (Tresidder) Hamor.

Clark and Donna Hamor, both alumni of Oregon College of Education, are two of WOU’s most passionate and committed volunteers and donate hundreds of hours each year on the road traveling to college fairs, attending alumni events and serving on the Alumni Board of Directors. Clark is the incoming board president making Donna the incoming first lady. The Hamors have been volunteering in different capacities for more than 20 years, ever since their retirements as Certified School Librarians.

The Hamors work closely with the Admissions Office and frequently travel to various locations to attend college fairs sponsored by admissions. At the fairs, they spend their time at a WOU table or booth and chat with senior high school seniors and their families. The Hamors travel all over the United States, on their own dime, to volunteer their time at college fairs.

In the spring and fall, during college fair season, it’s common for the Hamors to be in three to five different cities and two to three different states in the same week. They may start at a fair in Portland on Monday and end at a fair in Boise three days later. And make three different stops along the way.

The Hamors are now well known throughout the college fair circuit. They have been able to make many friends along the way whom they occasionally stay with when on the road. They enjoy talking with young people and helping them find the right “fit” for college and say the most rewarding part of their volunteer efforts is having the ability to be so involved and feeling they are helping young people make big decisions. They also say they enjoy being on the road and volunteering because it “keeps our minds and bodies sharp” and they always feel appreciated.

Without the Hamors and other volunteers, we would not be able to accomplish as much as we do and would not be able to reach as many folks as we do. Through having dedicated alumni volunteers—locally, regionally, and nationally—we are now able to broaden our horizons in terms of what and where we are able to do and go.

It’s people like Clark and Donna who have a passion for volunteering and believe in what the university is doing that make the difference. Having people we can call on to help “rally troops” and engage young people and alumni is the key to success.

We are so thankful to have Clark and Donna and the others who selflessly give their time and resources back to the university so that everyone can succeed and grow. If you are passionate about giving back and want to get involved, contact us to learn more about the volunteer network and how you can make a difference like the Hamors. 🔥
Boyle spent about an hour with Fuller during his whirlwind visit to campus for interviews in April. It was their visit to the Stonewall Center that solidified the feeling for her. Fuller started asking the volunteers about themselves and really made a personal connection. This level of approachability – from introducing himself with only his first name to taking time to listen to people’s expectations of the next president – is a common theme of the buzz on campus after Fuller’s campus interview.

WHY WOU?
Fuller, who currently works as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Eastern Washington University, had a checklist of qualities he wanted in the next institution he’d serve. The school would have to be in the Pacific Northwest so it would remain easy for him and his wife, Susan, to travel and see their family. What drew Fuller to WOU was his reading of the leadership profile for the presidential job description. He said it was clear that it had been carefully crafted and not boilerplate text.

“It spoke to values and expectations for the next president and I felt I had a portfolio that would be attractive,” he said.

This feeling of alignment continued throughout the application process, which lasted from late 2014 until April 2015. He said there were numerous points along the way where he felt he and WOU were a good fit. He pinpointed WOU’s “legacy of student success, access and quality that are qualities crucial to our future as a nation.” He added that it, “fit a whole list of characteristics that I wanted to see in my next opportunity.”

During the interview process, he began noticing consistencies among the people he met. All had a deep desire to see the university excel and he found they were committed to making that happen. This became apparent through the questions he received and his observations during the on-campus interview.

“These all had an underpinning of consistency that pointed to this notion that student success matters to WOU and everyone does their best to make that happen.”

He found this perspective was not limited to just the students and employees of the school. “I think there are community members wanting to see WOU excel and wanting the opportunity to engage the next president to talk about how to get to the next level.”

He added that he sees great opportunity for enhanced visibility and partnerships in the greater community, which will lead to strong enrollment – something he believes is vital in today’s environment. “This will be a critical piece going forward – to raise our visibility – so we’ll be the school of choice for students.”
THE PATH TO PRESIDENCY

Fuller didn’t set out to become an academic, let alone university president. It wasn’t something he dreamed of as a child, or even as a college student. It’s clear, however, that his path was a natural progression for someone with his skills and vision.

In college, Fuller’s plan was to become a city manager. He majored in public administration and even interned in the field during summers. However, as common for many, his life plan changed. The more courses he took, the more he became enthralled with how economists approached problems. Economics was originally just an elective area to support his public administration work, but it quickly became his passion. Two faculty members he admired gave him advice, which led him to working toward a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Utah. The mentoring by these faculty members shaped Fuller’s view on the important role of teachers in higher education.

When Fuller was at the all-but-dissertation stage of his doctoral program, and married with two young children (youngest a newborn) – he needed a job. As it turned out, when he started job hunting most positions were in higher education.
He interviewed in both universities and for research-focused projects in the private sector, and it became clear that he was best suited for a college environment. "A university setting allows for a blend of research interests and lets you be part of an organization," he said.

While working as an untenured assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin–La Crosse, an opportunity presented itself and he became acting associate dean of the College of Business Administration at the school. He was encouraged to apply for the position by other faculty he had worked with on committees and task forces. "I took that encouragement and put my hat in the ring," he said.

Looking back, he laughs about his unusual path to academic administration. The common path is for an academic to become department chair and continue moving up the ranks. Fuller made the move early in his career.

Gary Dukes, WOU’s vice president for student affairs, was a colleague of Fuller’s at Colorado State University–Pueblo; Dukes serving as dean of student life and Fuller as dean of the Hasan School of Business. "I felt his focus was always on students," Dukes said. "Rex wanted students taking business courses to have the best experience possible: from the faculty to the advisors. Knowing how much our campus cares about the student experience, I think he will do really well here."

PAVING A NEW DIRECTION
Fuller is joining Western at an unusual and promising period in the university’s history. The same day that he begins his tenure (July 1, 2015) the university becomes an independent public institution governed by a Board of Trustees. Fuller recognizes the importance of this opportunity for WOU.

"Anytime you have change there's a degree of anxiety," he said, but emphasized this as a positive change. He finds independent boards are more responsive to the needs of the university than state boards. Fuller added that one of the biggest advantages of an institutional board is that they can be effective advocates for WOU. Because they are not employees of the university, their voices often have added value and impact. After meeting many of the new board members, he has developed deep respect for where the board is going and

“He valued my opinion, so I gave it. I really felt heard by him.”

Gabbi Boyle, WOU student ambassador

He was also impressed by the WOU alumni he has met so far, and hopes that they will help to open up communities for recruiting new students. "Alumni are in a unique position to say 'this is what it was like for me,' which is not something most employees can do," he said.

One of his primary goals is to reach out to alumni and ask them to reengage with Western. He also hopes they will consider funding scholarships for the areas in which they majored. "Students are paying a bigger share these days and alumni can help students fulfill their dreams."

Fuller has been thinking about his first moves as president. His first priority is to learn as much as he can as quickly as possible. One mistake he’s seen administrators make is coming in and assuming things need to change based on their experience at other institutions. "I want to come in and learn why things are the way they are—how they’re done at Western and be respectful before critiquing, if needed," he said. Fuller wants to meet people in their offices and work spaces, see the facilities, and listen. A lot.

Boyle confirmed that Fuller is a great listener. During their tour, he asked what she’d like to see accomplished in the first year. "He valued my opinion, so I gave it. I really felt heard by him." She observed she wasn’t the only student who felt that way. When she dropped him off at a catered lunch in the Hamersly Library, she witnessed him immediately approach the students working at the event and thank them for working. "He made them visible," she said, reiterating that she has a really good feeling about him and what he’ll do for Western.
Rex Fuller, next president, knows what matters at WOU

THE SCENE: Rex Fuller, a finalist for the Western Oregon University presidency, is having lunch on campus. He spots the student server’s name tag, greets her by name and introduces himself, “Hi, my name is Rex.”

That simple anecdote illustrates why Dr. Rex Fuller will be a good fit for WOU as its next president. This matters because WOU has been a success story under two consecutive strong presidents – John Minahan and Mark Weiss – while Oregon, Eastern Oregon and Southern Oregon universities have struggled with transitions in leadership.

WOU, like Oregon’s other public universities, now faces a new transition: operating under its own independent board of directors. No longer will WOU be constrained by a statewide higher education bureaucracy. But no longer can WOU count on the expertise and business services provided by a centralized university system. WOU is on its own.

Fuller gets that. As provost at Eastern Washington University, he understands how to work with an independent institutional board. He grasps the unique role of a regional college, where the emphasis is on student-faculty interaction. A former business school dean, he knows the value of building community connections.

Plus, Fuller is a West Coaster. Prior to Minahan’s inspired leadership, WOU struggled under two presidential misfits, who did not understand the Oregon culture, let alone WOU and its college town of Monmouth.

WOU likes to bill itself as the most Oregon of Oregon universities and as a school that provides a private college education at a public university price. Both claims are accurate.

The oldest public university in Oregon, WOU predates statehood. More important, the overwhelming majority of its students come from Oregon. WOU has avoided the trend of targeting out-of-state students, whose higher tuition holds down tuition prices for in-state students.

Yet WOU remains fiscally sound. It is raising in-state tuition only two percent next year, the smallest increase among the state universities.

Many of its students come from the Mid-Valley. Many are the first in their family to attend college. They succeed thanks to relatively small class sizes, a talented and passionate faculty that puts teaching ahead of research, and the university’s increased attention to student advising and other systems to help students succeed academically.

Fuller knows WOU’s reputation for academic success. As a student-centered leader, he is a good choice to build on that tradition.

AS PRESIDENT MARK Weiss nears retirement, he offers advice for the new president and for the Western community as he reflects on the “best job I’ve ever had.”

Yet, this isn’t the first time Weiss has retired. In 2001, Weiss left the international electronics firm of Siemens AG because he wanted to focus on his family. “I traveled quite a bit, and I felt like I was away too much,” Weiss said. “We decided that I would indeed retire, and I was fortunate to be in a situation to do so.”

During that first retirement, Weiss did some consulting work, but his wife, Meg, wasn’t satisfied. “For about two years, my wife kept on telling me I was failing in retirement, and I need to find another job,” Weiss said. He said Meg discovered the Western position for executive vice president, administration and finance while they were visiting their children who were attending Willamette University.

“It was the right time for me and the right time for the university, I think, to bring perhaps a new perspective on financial management, and I was just delighted with the job,” Weiss said. “I worked for John Minahan when he returned as president, and he and I just hit it off fabulously. “I really appreciated his mentorship. If it were not for him, I absolutely would have failed in this job because of the difference in cultures in a corporate world versus a world of academia. And, he helped me understand that in large part,” Weiss said.

After Minahan retired in 2011, Weiss moved into the role of interim president. The appointment was made permanent the following year. He attempted to retire a second time after tirelessly working to ensure the university was fiscally stable. However, when it was announced that the Oregon University System was dissolving, he offered to stay and lead WOU through this major transition.

When he steps down June 30, Weiss plans to model Minahan and his interactions with the university community.

“My goal is to really be very much in the background and make sure I stay out of the way of the new president, just as John Minahan was,” Weiss said. “No matter how much I may have called him for advice, he actually tried not to provide it because he wanted to keep a certain distance and felt that new administration should not be influenced by perspectives from the past necessarily. But, of course, I’m available, if and as needed.”

Yet, he does have some advice for the new president, Rex Fuller.

“My tips and advice would be to absolutely empower our staff and help them in being as successful as they possibly can be,” Weiss said. “Empower them. Don’t micromanage their activities—you really

continued on page 12
Wolves’ winter wrap up
by Iain Dexter, class of 2015

INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD
The 2014-15 indoor track and field season ended on a high note March 14, with junior Badane Sultessa becoming Western Oregon’s third NCAA Div. II Indoor All-American in program history. Sultessa finished fourth overall in the men’s 800-meter run with a time of 1:51.36, just 0.66 seconds off the Great Northwest Athletic Conference record he set the day before in the preliminary run. Sultessa was also named the GNAC Newcomer of the Year for the indoor track and field season.

Junior Stephanie Stuckey was the other lone competitor for the Wolves on the final day of the season, finishing ninth overall, just one off of All-American honors, in the women’s one-mile run.

Senior Brady Beagley joined Sultessa and Stuckey at the NCAA Div. II Championships in Birmingham, Ala. Beagley ran in the men’s one-mile run, but did not advance to the finals after finishing in 12th place, just 0.37 seconds from advancing to the finals.

In the conference championships, the men’s team finished in sixth place with 61 points while the women’s team tied for seventh with 32 points. Freshman Cody Warner had an excellent meet, placing third in the men’s 60-meter dash, and first place in the men’s 200-meter. Junior Sam Naffziger placed third in the men’s 800-meter and Beagley took home first place in the mile run.

On the women’s side, junior Rochelle Pappel took fifth place in the 60-meter hurdle. The team of freshman Suzanne Van De Griff, and Megan Rose, junior Bailey Beeson and senior Audrey Hellesto set the school record in the women’s 4 x 400-meter relay, placing fourth overall in the event. Junior Emmi Collier wrapped up the notable finishes, taking second place in the women’s shot put.

Western Oregon’s track and field teams are continuing their year in the current-outdoor season.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
The women’s basketball team did not end with the record that they would have hoped at 8-18, but an improving team under second-year Head Coach Holli Howard-Carpenter could be ready to break-out next season. Senior Dana Goularte continued to be one of the most dominant players in the GNAC in her final season as a Wolf, becoming the sixth player in program history to reach the 1,000 point plateau, ending her career with 1,199, sixth on the all-time list. Goularte was named to the All-GNAC Second Team for the second straight season. The Wolves lose two other players: juniors Elise Miller and Angie Titus. Miller played in 22 of the team’s 26 games this season, starting all but one of them. She led the team with 3.2 assists per game and 49 total steals. Titus played in 19 games for the Wolves, starting in 17. She was limited by injuries in the second half, but averaged 3.5 rebounds and 4.2 points per game in her final season. With 10-of-13 players returning next season, with a young core of players including sophomore Jordan Mottershaw (12.0 PPG) and freshman Sami Osborne (8.8 PPG and 6.2 RPG), the team looks poised to continue their growth in the 2015-16 season.

MEN’S BASKETBALL
The 2014-15 men’s basketball season was one for the record books. The team was invited to the NCAA Div. II National Tournament for the first time in program history after finishing as the GNAC’s regular-season champions. The Wolves entered the big dance as the #8-seed, but were defeated by region’s top-seed and host school Azusa Pacific University 67-75.

WOU finished the year with a 23-7 record and entered the conference’s tournament as the #1-seed, but were upset in the semifinals by Western Washington University.

The team enjoyed one of the best regular
You were the only D2 player to receive an invitation to try out for the Women's National Volleyball Team and U.S. Collegiate National Team. What was that experience like for you?

I was nervous at first being the only D2 student-athlete there. Before the first session started a group of us started playing and I quickly realized that I was competing at a high level—and knew I would be able to represent well.

What will you remember most about being a student-athlete here at WOU?

One of my greatest memories is how the student-athletes are treated and cared for not just by the athletic department but by the faculty as well. When I started at Gonzaga, I was just another athlete. Coming to WOU I quickly found out how much people care for you and want to get to know you—and see you succeed both on the court and in the classroom.

What is one moment that will always stick out for you during your time here?

I would say it would be my senior night game here this past year. Playing in that game and having my family there supporting me as they have been throughout my career and with my teammates was truly amazing, and showed I could do anything that I set my mind to. It also hit me that I would be earning my degree and being able to walk across the stage and receive my diploma.

You will be heading overseas to play professionally. Where will you end up playing, and what might this mean for you?

I was contacted by one of the directors who is in charge of the many leagues back there. He saw me compete at the USA tryout, I signed with Bring It Promotions which represents the leagues and now I'm in a waiting period. They will begin to look where I might end up which could be Germany, France, Austria, Sweden or Switzerland. It just depends on team needs, but any of those places will be great.

I should know my location in a few months. This is a dream come true for me, I had always wanted to play professionally and finally being able to do so is still surreal. I'm excited to live in another country and learn from some of the great volleyball players in the world and also to be able to showcase my talents.
Scholarship Thanks*Giving Dinner
Did you miss out on the fun at our annual thank-you dinner for scholarship donors and the students they support? Here are a few images that capture some of the excitement. Balloons, icebreakers, conversation, special speakers and a traditional thanksgiving feast were just a few of the evening’s highlights. Watch it on wou.edu/woutv, and click on the “What’s Happening” channel.

WOU advising recognized for eight consecutive years

ACADEMIC ADVISING IS one of the most effective ways to support student success. Effective academic advising supports the many goals of students including intellectual development, career exploration and personal accomplishment. A close relationship with a caring and supportive academic advisor can often be the key to a student’s success at WOU.

Every year NACADA, the Global Community for Academic Advising, holds an international competition to recognize the very best academic advisors. The results, as they are a strong example of the university’s continued emphasis on student success. Three more members of the WOU community have been recognized for their outstanding commitment and excellence as academic advisors. Since 2008, WOU has received more awards for academic advising excellence than all other Oregon colleges and universities combined.

2015 NACADA award winners
• Jesse Poole, counselor, Academic Advising and Learning Center: new advisor award
• Arlene Courtney, professor: certificate of merit, faculty advisor
• Sheree Solario, Student Enrichment Program: certificate of merit, primary role advisor

Third time’s a charm
Continued from page nine

have great staff in place. Make sure that they’re successful at doing their jobs because that’s what I’ve tried to do. I think we’ve done okay.”

Weiss encourages the campus community to support and interact with the new president, but most importantly, be flexible. “We must also be willing to change,” he said. “Now, I’m not sure what exactly I mean by change, but the world around us is changing significantly and has changed significantly. [In academia,] my observation is that we’re slow to change—many times for good reason and, sometimes, because we’ve always done things the way we have.

“We just simply need to be more flexible. We need to help students get to graduation in an efficient manner, so they’re not racking up debt that they’ll never be able to pay. I always say that affordability equals access, and you can’t have access to a university if you can’t afford it,” Weiss said.

Change also provides opportunities. “I’m feeling the time is right to make the move here, and let this new board start off with a brand new president, and move forward in a great direction. I’m confident we have a great team here,” Weiss said.

However, he said, retirement “is happening with very mixed emotions because of the love that I’ve come to have for Western—all its faculty and staff, particularly the students that I’ve come to know over the years, and the difference that this institution makes in their lives. I mean, that’s what we’re here for, and that’s the satisfaction that is much more direct and impactful.

“This is the best job I’ve ever had. And, I’ve had a few, but this has been really, really good.”

In his retirement, Weiss will continue his community activities, particularly as a member of Salem Health board of trustees. And, it offers him the chance to fish.

“But, it’s not catching the fish; it’s about being outside and enjoying the experience of going fishing or being on the ocean or being on the bay,” Weiss said. “It’s about the experience, not necessarily about the result. I think every fisherman would say that, but nevertheless, it’s nice to catch a fish once in a while.”
Class notes

David Taylor ’77 has written a book, Code Name: Houdini (The Jake Tolbert Incident). Taylor recounts a memory of his time at WOU: “Mr. Slawson was a very dynamic writing and literature professor who was both encouraging and inspiring. There were many others at WOU. As I approach retirement and an end to a very long professional association with the defense department, my writing interests are coming forward.”

William Burt ’86 was recently honored as a silver medalist in the 2014 Readers’ Favorite International Book Award Contest for the second edition of the first book in his Christian fantasy series, “The King of the Trees.”

Sean Gallagher ’90, who has served as the Lake County School District No. 7 superintendent for eight years, is leaving Lakeview, Ore. to take over as superintendent for the Brookings-Harbor School District beginning July 1.

Christina Perry ’95 started her new job as the superintendent of the Salem-Keizer School District on July 1, 2014. She was superintendent of the Dallas School District for 10 years.

Scott Polen ’96 is the new principal at Lorna Byrne Middle School in Cave Junction, Ore. William Carl ’99 joined the law firm of Glenn, Reeder and Gassner as an associate on August 1, 2014. Carl earned his law degree at Willamette Law School.

Marti Hofenbredl ’02 is now the principal of the Faulconer-Chapman School in Sheridan.

Micah Smith ’03 was recognized by the The Oregon State Sheriff’s Association with its Deputy-of-the-Year award for his dedication to solving cyber-based child abuse crimes.

Lisa Lien ’03 is one of 10 students in PCC’s inaugural Lactation Education and Consultant Program. Lien is a recipient of the program’s Shannon Floyd Scholarship that supports minority students or students who plan to work with people of color.

Rex Hoffman ’05 is working as a counselor at Creswell Middle School. Hoffman spent a year as a parole and probation officer with the Marion County Sheriff’s Office. The previous year he served as school counselor at Hawthorne Elementary School in Sweet Home.

Christopher Scott ’05 married Katherine Dick in September 2014. He is employed at Northern Oregon Regional Correctional Facility as a group life coordinator.

Kristen Aamodt ’10 married Robert Oberst in August 2014. The couple lives in Hanford, Calif. where they train for domestic and international “Strongman” competitions.

Zachary James ’11 and Emily Sellers plan to marry in a backyard ceremony June 27, 2015, in Medford. James works as a teacher at Abraham Lincoln Elementary in Medford.

Gregory J.K. Garcia ’12, ’14 was honored with the Heritage Center Service Award for his 2014 exhibition “Boys of Summer: Mid-Valley Baseball” and for creating an extensive archive of oral history. He was presented with the award by Kylie Pine, WOU adjunct anthropology professor.

In remembrance

1930s
Viola M. Wilson ’34
Gretchen M. Anning ’35
Frances E. Price ’36

1940s
Francis R. Weaver ’47

1950s
Aubrey V. Loo ’50
Cornelia C. Coen ’55
Hollis E. Hilfiker ’57
Adeline G. Osborn ’59
Kenneth H. Deacon ’59
Jane M. Barnard ’59

1960s
Alan D. Henrickson ’61
Claude E. Smith ’61
Dick A. Unruh ’64
Roger Engle ’65
Miriam A. R. Adams ’67
Ted D. Baimbridge ’67
Gail P. Walters ’69

1970s
Daniel W. Wells ’70
Arthur J. Taggart ’71
Mary C. Bailey ’71
Emily A. Moore ’71

1980s
Lloyd Lovik ’83
Caroline S. Heinta ’87
Harold D. LaFountaine ’89

1990s
Kimberly R. Masog ’92
William M. Pennick, III ’95
Kevin P. Walters ’97

Debrah K. Oglesby ’71
Edwin J. H. Holst, Jr. ’72
Deborah S. Card ’73
Lawrence L. Musil ’73
Jake Hurlbert ’74

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Time to reconnect.
Time to reminisce.
Time to rediscover campus.

Time to save the date!

October 16 & 17

WOLVES
2015 Homecoming and Reunion Weekend