“We give because we love this WOU community. The people here are the best - the faculty, staff and particularly the students we have come to know. I have been involved with students as an employer and we have been mentors for student-athletes.

Over the years we’ve enjoyed numerous, magnificent performances by athletes, dancers and musicians as well as attended many inspiring fundraising auctions. WOU is what higher education is all about. The student-athletes are students first and the student workers are hard-working, wonderful young people.

Our ability to help them in a small way is very rewarding. We encourage others to consider giving back to WOU in any way they can.”

~Tom & Carly Neal

Interested in giving back like Tom and Carly?

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

Summer 2015

Health and Wellness Center named for Senate President Peter Courtney

At a naming ceremony just before the university’s annual commencement, WOU named the Health and Wellness Center for State Senate President Peter Courtney, who worked at the university for 30 years. Emceed by President Mark Weiss, speakers included Gov. Kate Brown, former Gov. Ted Kulongoski, Dick Hughes (Statesman Journal editorial page editor), former WOU President John Minahan, Professor Gay Timkin and new alumna Evelyn Garcia ’15.

Courtney, who in November was named presiding officer of the Oregon Senate for a record seventh term, joined Western Oregon University in 1984 as assistant to the president. He served in that position under six presidents until his retirement in December 2014. He also held other roles on campus, including speech communication instructor and Commencement Committee chair.

“Peter immediately advocated the need for new facilities that would serve the health of students’ minds and bodies. His retirement from Western gives us the opportunity to honor him in a way that I believe is meaningful to his dedication to WOU and all Oregonians,” Weiss said.

Courtney began his political career in 1974, when he was elected to the Salem City Council. He will be the longest sitting legislator in Oregon’s history at the end of his current term.

The center features racquetball courts, multipurpose rooms, classrooms, football offices, state-of-the-art labs, and a cardio, strength and weight training area. During his remarks, Courtney said “this building is much more than that to me. This building is about health, it’s about the mind, and it’s about healing.”

Additionally, a new scholarship endowment in Courtney’s name – the Peter Courtney Legacy Scholarship Endowment – was announced. 📜
The graduates had to be pretty warm on this extremely hot day in June, but you wouldn’t have guessed it by looking at them because the room was filled with big smiles and happy people.

This year’s Commencement speaker was Peter Courtney, the Oregon Senate president and recently retired assistant to the president at WOU. Prior to Commencement, a naming ceremony was held to rename the Health and Wellness Center to the Peter Courtney Health and Wellness Center.

Per Courtney’s usual style, his speech was a mix of jokes and serious messages. Early in his speech he joked about the age difference between himself and the graduates. “I don’t know what’s worse, to turn 72 on this coming Thursday, June 18 – or have the graduating class that you’ve been asked to give the commencement speech to cheer when they hear you’re not going to be up here long.”

The theme of his speech was to not live life in fear. “Don’t be afraid. Don’t be like me.” He quoted advice his beloved grandmother gave him when he was young. “Worry and fear are like a rocking chair. They’ll give you something to do, but you don’t get anywhere.” He urged graduates to not be afraid to make a decision, to not fear losing – try again, and don’t fear starting at the bottom.
2015 GRADUATING CLASS QUICK FACTS
• 1,313 new graduates
• 87 percent of graduates received a bachelor’s degree
• 13 percent of graduates received a master’s degree
• Six countries were represented: Australia, China, Egypt, Ghana, India, and Saudi Arabia
• 31 of 36 counties in Oregon
• States represented: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, Washington, and Washington D.C.
• 11 students completed two bachelor degrees at the same time
• 14 students earned their degree with a 4.00 GPA
• 103 students graduated summa cum laude (GPA above 3.8)
• 73 students graduated magna cum laude (GPA above 3.65)
• 98 students graduated cum laude (GPA above 3.5)

Missed the ceremony in June? Check out the Storify (bit.ly/1H3vyNJ) of social media posts from graduates, their loved ones, and the faculty and staff of WOU – all pulled from posts using the official commencement hashtag: #wougrad. View the video on wou.edu/woutv and the photo album on Facebook.

Please note: full versions of each of the commencement stories in this issue are available online at wou.edu/westernedge.

After the processional, distinguished student leaders Michelle Garibay and Joseph Hahn did the presentation of colors. Graduating seniors Rachel Ammons, Laura Killip and Erin Westfall performed the National Anthem with American Sign Language interpreting by Tedi Massey. The program kicked off with a welcome by President Mark Weiss, who took a moment to take a picture of the crowd for WOU’s social media channels. It was not only a day to say farewell to WOU’s graduates, but an opportunity to wish Weiss the best before his retirement on June 30.

Former Governor Ted Kulongoski provided greetings from WOU’s inaugural Board of Trustees. Associated Students of Western Oregon University President Corbin Garner introduced three student award winners who gave brief remarks to the crowd: Eli Zachary (Delmer Dewey Award), Kylie Roth (Julia McCulloch Smith Award), and Erica West Oyedele (Outstanding Graduate Student).

Angie Docherty, interim associate campus dean for the Oregon Health Science University nursing program at WOU, introduced Kacie Svesko. Svesko was this year’s OHSU Golden Lamp Award recipient. Before the long-awaited reading of the graduates’ names, this year’s Alumni Award of Excellence Winner, Lance Marr ’93, took the chance to shout “Go Wolves!” to the crowd.
The facility has adopted one of Courtney’s favorite phrases as its motto: “healthy mind, healthy body.”

In December 2014, Courtney retired from WOU. Commencement was special not only for that reason, but for the fact that he’s chaired the Commencement Committee on campus for about 20 years. It has always been an important event to him. WOU holds a special place in his heart. “I am convinced that if it weren’t for WOU, many of the students who go here wouldn’t get a bachelor’s degree,” he said.

Courtney shared a message for this, and any, graduating class. “Don’t try to plan out your life. If you have, don’t be surprised if it starts to get away from you here and there. You can have a game plan, but it’s going to get loose on you occasionally.”

Peter Courtney

Peter Courtney offers humor and insight as this year’s Commencement speaker

OREGON STATE SENATE President Peter Courtney, this year’s speaker for Western’s Commencement, has had many things to be proud of in his 41-year public service career. In fact, after this term he’ll have the longest legislative career in the state’s history. When asked what stands out to him among his accomplishments, he said, “They were never my achievements.” This humble comment typifies a man who has dedicated his life to serving the residents of Oregon.

He is widely known for his efforts toward improving mental health services in the state. On a drizzly day in October 2004, he and a small group of staff, legislators and media toured the Oregon State Hospital. He described the facility as “ungodly with pigeon dung everywhere and scratches on the walls by former patients.” He noticed a small shed and asked that his group be shown inside.

“I was aghast,” Courtney said. “There were 3,000 or so rotted canisters fused together. Dusty shelves, dank rooms, a leaking shed and a rickety table.” He remembered seeing a book on the table with water stained pages filled with faded numbers and names. They corresponded to the canisters filled with the cremains of former patients. After leaving this shed, later named the Room of Forgotten Souls, Courtney said within days the legislators made a commitment to rebuild the hospital and take care of the cremains in a respectful way. They found that the cremains were from the late 1800s through the 1970s. This led to a revolutionizing change of mental health services in Oregon. “I remember that day. I remember the weather. I remember the silence that fell over everyone,” he said.

Courtney has also had a significant impact on WOU through his service to the university since he first joined campus as assistant to the president in 1984. Since that time, he has been an assistant to six presidents and held additional roles such as instructor of speech communication and Freshman Experience. He has supported higher education in Oregon through his legislative roles, and WOU specifically through his on-campus position. One project he was dedicated to was the creation of the Health and Wellness Center, which came to fruition a few years ago. “The wellness center was important to me,” he said. “I was desperate to get an indoor running track.” The recreation department housed in the facility has adopted one of Courtney’s favorite phrases as its motto: “healthy mind, healthy body.”

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Courtney shared a message for this, and any, graduating class. “Don’t try to plan out your life,” he said. “If you have, don’t be surprised if it starts to get away from you here and there. You can have a game plan, but it’s going to get loose on you occasionally.” Ultimately, Courtney advises students to not get discouraged.

He hopes the graduates love the university as much as he does. “The institution of higher learning I think about the most – and I smile about the most – is Western Oregon University. I’m proud to say she’s a very special and unique place.”
ALUMNI AWARD OF EXCELLENCE WINNER: Lance Marr '93

“When I look back at any personal, professional, or family success that I’ve had, I can trace a portion of that success to my time at Western,” Lance Marr said. “It blessed me with lifelong friends, stimulated my intellectual curiosity, and it also gave me the idea to pursue a career in medicine.”

Marr is a urologist at The Oregon Clinic and his areas of focus include kidney stone disease, several types of cancer, and robotic surgery and minimally invasive surgery. After earning his bachelor’s in biology from WOU he received his medical degree from OHSU.

Looking back on his time at WOU, he found it laid the groundwork for his future. “I almost didn't apply to medical school for fear that I didn't belong,” he said. “I found out my Western Oregon education prepared me very well for the rigors of post-graduate life.” Marr added that he wishes he had been more confident as a student. “I think I wasted a lot of time evaluating whether I was good enough. If you have a passion mixed with a minor amount of aptitude, you are going to be successful.”

Marr has advice for current and future WOU students. He has found that the most important thing about his career, and many other life choices, is having an honest self-awareness of what one really enjoys. He believes that is just as important as identifying what one doesn't enjoy. He also advises students to stay involved with WOU after graduation. “I have had so much enjoyment meeting my friends at a university function or athletic event. I have had further enjoyment by staying in contact with my professors and coaches about current students. Watching these students grow during their years at Western is extremely rewarding,” he said.

A native of Monmouth whose parents are also WOU Alumni, Marr was destined to be involved with campus. He was WOU’s commencement speaker in 2010. “I obviously never get tired of it,” he said, when talking of his campus involvement. Marr said there are many ways to stay involved and it is just a matter of picking a few areas of interest while a student and maintaining them as an alum. One of those interests for Marr is basketball. While a student at WOU he played on the men’s basketball team. As a child, he was ball boy for the team. He has continued supporting the team, and WOU athletics, over the years.

A highly involved alumnus, Marr has kept an eye on the major changes on campus—from new buildings like the DeVolder Family Science Center to the new Board of Trustees. He strongly believes the governance changes provide a tremendous opportunity for the university to grow – be it with more students, increased fundraising, or a more diverse curriculum. “I think the Western community is a great incubator for young people to grow up and mature into the people they want and can be.”

continued on page 6

Photos: (l-r): Peter Courtney, Lance Marr ’93, Tommy Love, Ted Kulongoski, David Yaden; Paul Kyllo and Lance Marr ’93; Kylie Roth ’15
Roth appreciated working with Strapp and other faculty. “At WOU there are unlimited opportunities for hands-on experience,” she said. Roth appreciated that her major required a lot of research, which gave her multiple opportunities to experience new things. “I was able to find out what I’m good at, and what I’m not.”

That hands-on experience went beyond the classroom. Roth’s curriculum vitae is as long as many who have been in the professional world for several years. She did not waste a moment at WOU. Her activities included: WOU Ambassador, secretary for the National Society of Leadership and Success, participant in two Alternative Break trips, student worker at the The Research Institute Child Development Center, childcare provider for Polk County, and an intern at Family Building Blocks, to name a few.

“Kylie was a positive role model, a good listener, and helped her student make academic improvements.”

Chehalis Strapp, psychology professor

“I feel like a lot of these experiences have impacted me,” Roth said. They led her to the realization that she wants to work with children, particularly infants to 10-years-old. She plans to take a year off after graduation and work in human services with children, then attend graduate school for social work or school counseling. “It’s ok to not know what you want to do.”

2015 graduates Rachel Ammons, Erin Westfall, and Laura Killip sang the National Anthem.

DELMER DEWEY AWARD WINNER: Eli Zachary ’15

NOT MANY STUDENTS can say they graduated with a 4.0 grade point average in their major and a 3.94 overall GPA. Eli Zachary, this year’s Delmer Dewey Award recipient for Outstanding Senior Male, can claim that honor. Not only does he have an incredible academic record – he majored in biology (with an emphasis in cellular and molecular biology) and minored in chemistry; two notoriously challenging disciplines.

Zachary’s older sister also attended WOU. He went to visit her during her freshman year and found that he liked campus and the small class sizes. He returned as a senior in high school to visit the Biology Department and met with faculty. “I liked Western,” he said. “After coming here, I knew I made the right decision.”

He is also a member of the Honors Program and completed a thesis involving fruit flies; part of ongoing biological research with two faculty members. “It’s been a taste of what real research is like,” he said.

Throughout his time at WOU, Zachary tried to help other students and mentored a new Honors Program cohort in addition to working hard on his own studies. “In every science class that I’ve taken here, I have felt determined to perform at my best on every test and master every concept. And while it has led to many sleepless nights, I have maintained the position at the top of my class in the Biology Department.”

He plans to continue these interests after graduation by pursuing a doctoral program in gene therapy or stem cell research. Zachary hopes to find a research job outside of Oregon. “It would be an amazing experience to travel and work in a different place than I’m used to.”

Somehow, Zachary managed to be involved with activities outside of his academic department. For three years, he worked as a resident assistant (RA) in campus housing. “Living on campus was something that I really liked,” he said.

During his freshman year he got to know his RA and thought he may want to stick around the residence halls. He got involved with hall government then applied to be an RA. “It was totally different than anything I’d ever done,” he said. “I really love the people that I’ve worked with. Working in housing has been a really good experience for me,” he said. “The way I’ve seen myself change and how capable I feel has given me confidence. That confidence grew with each year. How I go about handling things is just a more comfortable thing.”

When asked what he appreciated most about WOU looking back on his college career, he replied that it was the campus community. “The more involved you are, the more connected you feel. I’ve really enjoyed being involved and walking through WUC and seeing all these people I know and stopping to talk to them.”

The more involved you are, the more connected you feel.”

Eli Zachary ’15
Deaf and interpreting communities can be very close knit and being comfortable with touch is important. It was that closeness that ultimately led her to realize that working as an ASL-English interpreter would be the most-fulfilling career path. Through her work and education she has found an area of focus within interpretation: social justice, and the dynamics of power, privilege, and oppression. She explained that Deaf people are a cultural and linguistic minority group and very aware of their experiences as a marginalized community. She has particularly focused on interpreter of color communities in her research and brings awareness of social justice issues to her work.

Svesko loves challenges, which is another reason she is drawn to nursing. Svesko lives for adventure and wants a fast-paced job that is mentally demanding and requires her to think on her feet. “Having the opportunity to be part of such a dynamically growing field is motivating,” she said, adding, “Nursing truly is the best combination of compassion and adventure. You can go anywhere and do just about anything with a nursing degree.”

Svesko, this year’s Golden Lamp Award recipient, completed a nursing degree from Oregon Health & Science University’s School of Nursing program at WOU. Prior to joining the nursing program she earned a bachelor’s in psychology and had been working at an inpatient treatment facility for pediatric mental health. However, once Svesko started her nursing studies, she knew she had found her true calling. “Once I started this ride I knew I was hooked and now there is no amount of riches or bribes that would persuade me otherwise.”

Photos: (l-r) Eli Zachary; Erica West Oyedele; Kacie Svesko

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD: Erica West Oyedele ’15

A CHALLENGE FACED by many in online academic programs is the difficulty in forming deep connections with classmates and faculty. Erica West Oyedele, this year’s Outstanding Graduate Student, said that problem was minimized with Western Oregon University’s master’s in Interpreting Studies. Although students were only on campus during two summers, West Oyedele said they found ways to form lasting bonds through Facebook groups, videoconferences and other avenues.

“In our field we talk a lot about working with other people and communication. It’s always fascinating that this is something we’re supposed to do very well, but it can be difficult to do online.” She said the summer sessions were critical to helping the students connect.

Raised in California, West Oyedele was only vaguely aware of WOU. But when she became an active interpreter in the community, she heard more about the university. She said interpreter studies programs are rare, particularly at the graduate level. West Oyedele knew she wanted to stay in California as she felt rooted in her Sacramento community, but needed to look outside of the state to further her education. WOU’s distance program turned out to be a great fit, and some of her friends who had attended the university spoke highly of it.

West Oyedele is glad she chose WOU. The expectation is that the students in the program work while earning their master’s, so she was able to immediately apply what she learned in WOU classes to the Interpreter Preparation Program classes she’s teaching at American River College. “I like the practical part of it,” she said. As an online program, students were from all over the place, something that she appreciated.

OHSU SCHOOL OF NURSING GOLDEN LAMP AWARD: Kacie Svesko ’15

FOR AS LONG as Kacie Svesko can remember, she has wanted to make a meaningful difference in people’s lives. One of her earliest memories of elementary school was a rainy day in Oregon. The worms were out and stranded on the sidewalk. “I couldn’t stand the thought of all those poor little guys frying in the afternoon sun, so one-by-one I picked up each worm individually and returned them to their soil home,” she said. “I just kind of became the protector of things that couldn’t protect themselves and somehow that has led me to nursing.”

Svesko loves challenges, which is another reason she is drawn to nursing. Svesko lives for adventure and wants a fast-paced job that is mentally demanding and requires her to think on her feet. “Having the opportunity to be part of such a dynamically growing field is motivating,” she said, adding, “Nursing truly is the best combination of compassion and adventure. You can go anywhere and do just about anything with a nursing degree.”

Photos: (l-r) Eli Zachary; Erica West Oyedele; Kacie Svesko
Dr. Maureen Dolan
EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

DR. MAUREEN DOLAN deeply believes in the benefits of applied sociology and stepping outside of the traditional classroom setting. This has been her mission since joining WOU in 1993. Dolan, this year’s Mario and Alma Pastega Excellence in Teaching Award recipient, taught a Chicano studies sociology course where her students studied how a “culture of low expectations” embedded in the structure of high schools effectively contributed to a higher dropout rate for Latino students. They learned encouragement and specialized programs are needed to correct this problem.

“That is what pushed me out of the classroom,” she said. The Latino Mentor Program was born.

This service-oriented and social justice program has been in constant operation since 1996. It began by taking WOU students to high schools, correctional institutions and alternative high schools to work with at-risk youth. “We encourage higher education as a resource, particularly for youth who are underrepresented,” she said. Now that programs like Upward Bound and AVID exist to work with high school students, Dolan’s program contributes to them, but focuses on alternative high schools, correctional institutions and community organizations.

Dolan’s philosophy of education stems from her study abroad experiences in Latin America. She took sociology courses while living in Chile and implemented a literacy program based on the work of Paulo Freire and his book “Pedagogy of the Oppressed.” In this program, university students worked with people in poor urban neighborhoods. “That was my inspiration,” she said. “The university was a dynamic place in which students are teachers.”

The Latino Mentor Program recently came full circle for Dolan. One of the first Latino high school students to be mentored by her WOU students was Jaime Arredondo at McKay High School in Salem. Now, nearly 20 years later, Arredondo is a member of WOU’s inaugural Board of Trustees and secretary-treasurer for Pineros Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste, Oregon’s Farmworker Union. Dolan fondly recalled encouragement that Arredondo recently shared with her. “He told me that program changed his family’s life.” Not just his life, but his family’s. “He was my first high school student,” she said with a smile, “now he’s our boss at WOU.”

The Latino Mentor Program is now in its second generation. She is sending current mentors to former ones, who now work in the institutions she serves. Dolan has carried a single message throughout her entire career: higher education is absolutely a possibility for traditionally underrepresented populations; even for those who are the “most vulnerable among the underrepresented.”

Dr. Kevin Walczyk
EXCELLENCE IN SCHOLARSHIP

EVERYONE HAS A different path to discovering what he or she is passionate about. For Dr. Kevin Walczyk, this year’s Mario and Alma Pastega Excellence in Scholarship Award recipient, he discovered his passion early in his life: music and composition. He began playing the trumpet in 5th grade then added piano in 6th grade.

At this time, one of the formative experiences in Walczyk’s life occurred. He was in a choir class and his teacher thought it would be fun to hold a composition contest. Walczyk hadn’t composed before, but could read music due to his band and piano background and found that skill translated to writing music. He wrote a piece for choir and trumpet. It won the contest and was performed (with him playing the trumpet) at a choir concert. “That experience got me interested in composition simply because it was a fun process to figure out the puzzle of how to write something for people to sing.”

One may think he came from a highly musical family with the early skills he developed, but when asked, he chuckles in reply. While his mother played the piano as a child and appreciated music, Walczyk said his father “doesn’t have a musical bone in his body.” He remembered being in high school and his dad coming to him with a box containing a speaker he wanted installed in his truck. He thought his passion for music had finally inspired his father.
to appreciate it more. When Walczyk pointed out that there was only one speaker, suggesting he should have two, his father stubbornly replied, “Why do I need two? I’ll only need one to listen to talk radio.” Years later, he still finds humor in that memory and his attempt to make a music-lover of his father.

In high school, Walczyk transcribed many jazz pieces for fun. He would then take the transcriptions to school and his band teacher would perform them. By the end of high school he had written 16 arrangements for jazz band and was allowed to write a piece for combined band and strings his senior year.

He credits his music educators for encouraging and nurturing him. They understood the importance of performing pieces and if it weren’t for them, he wouldn’t be composing – or teaching – music today. “I like teaching,” Walczyk said. “I like working with students who want to accomplish something. They’ve got that fire, but often don’t know how to apply it. I like to show them how.”

Over the years he has found a good balance between teaching and composing. He focuses on writing music while on summer break. “It’s hard for me to compose during the academic year. Composing requires a lot of continuous hours of focus and it’s hard to do both at once,” he said. Walczyk has collaborated with such organizations as the Oregon Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Czech Philharmonic, Kiev Philharmonic, Chamber Orchestra Kremlin, and numerous wind ensembles and chamber organizations throughout the world.

Walczyk participates in composition residencies on other campuses – usually in conjunction with a performance or premiere of his work. He’s grateful for the recognition his work has received. In addition to numerous residencies across the globe, Walczyk’s recent composition honors include the University of Connecticut’s Sackler Prize, the National Band Association’s William D. Revelli Memorial Band Competition Prize, and nominations for the prestigious Pulitzer Prize and Grameyer Award in music composition.

Kellen Hendrickson ’05

STAFF EXCELLENCE

IT’S NOT UNUSUAL for a graduate of Western to find his or her way back to campus in one form or another. Be it as a parent of a student, volunteer, or employee, WOU holds a special place in people’s hearts. Kellen Hendrickson ’05, this year’s Mario and Alma Pastega Award for Staff Excellence recipient, loves WOU so much that he followed the path of many before him and stayed on campus after graduation.

Although he earned a bachelor’s in history, Hendrickson did not go that route with his career. Rather, it was his student employment experiences on the paint crew for the Physical Plant that shaped his future and now he works on campus as a trades/maintenance worker. “I never in a million years thought I’d be working maintenance at the Physical Plant. But I am, and I like it. I’m happy it happened,” he said. Upon graduation he was offered a temporary position within the Physical Plant, which quickly transitioned into a permanent role. Now, nine years later, he’s running his own paint crew of students.

One of the students on his crew, Audrianna Straub, said, “There are a lot of characteristics that you hope for in a supervisor. You want them to be fair and respectful, honest and hard working, reasonable and excited about the job. Kellen Hendrickson exceeds these.” She added, “He puts an enormous amount of effort into the maintenance of our campus; continually striving to be proactive in improvements. He genuinely enjoys his job and this shows through the kindness and fun that he offers to those who work with him.”

When describing his work, Hendrickson said, “I pretty much do a little bit of everything.” This includes painting, electrical work, and repairing furniture. He primarily serves the residence halls and works regularly with students and families. He enjoys working with students and appreciates how they treat the crew. While he finds the staff friendly, it’s different when you go into someone’s home, he said of the residence halls. The students are laid-back and thankful for the quick response, which he is happy to provide as a former resident himself. “I can put myself in their shoes.”
**JOURNAL ARTICLES**


**OTHER ARTICLES**


**FICTION AND POETRY**


**CHAPERTS IN EDITED VOLUMES**


**NONFICTION BOOKS**


WOU student Nicole Larsen has spent her summer working for Treatment Action Campaign, a patient advocacy group for users of the public health care system in Cape Town, South Africa. To read the full story (and see the beautiful photos) on her blog, go to capesquared.wordpress.com.

Among the Twelve Apostles
BY NICOLE LARSEN ‘16

MY TRAVEL IS approaching the home stretch. In a mere seventeen days, I’ll be back on U.S. soil and celebrating the return with loved ones in Alaska. An orientation in Ottawa, Ontario to prepare for my studies in Canada later this year will follow, and then I look forward to settling back in at home in the PNW. For all those at home, I absolutely cannot wait to see you again! South Africa is a wonderful place and I am enjoying my time here, but each of you are dearly missed...

A highlight of the week was spending the public holiday (Women’s Day) hiking along Pipe Track Trail with friends Julia, Conny, Barbara, Miriam, and Marieta. This is a trail I have started before, but previously hiked an hour up and then an hour back. This time around, we spent the day exploring the Twelve Apostles.

The Twelve what? The Twelves Apostles are a range of mountains that face the Atlantic Ocean and the area of Cape Town known as Camps Bay. For only short bursts of the hike do you lose sight of the ocean, and when it is front you, you are constantly trying to decide if it’s more worth it to see where your feet are going, or to stare out at the water.

My internship continues to go well. Being able to split my time between the city center and Khayelitsha has allowed for a very rounded experience. In the township I am able to assist with writing donation letters for provincial health campaigns and with grant applications that would fund large-scale projects, like the Public Transport Voice which “advocates for quality and equality in the South African public transport sector.” Co-workers in the township have given mini-tours and treated me to local specialties like Umgqusho (samp and beans)...

In the city center, I primarily work on the Fix the Patent Laws campaign, which is jointly run by the Treatment Action Campaign and Médecins Sans Frontières. Although it is not the type of work I expected to be doing, being able to assist with research into medicine accessibility in South Africa has been fascinating (as well as intensely frustrating). My interest in public health is continually reaffirmed and I have been shown several avenues of potential careers in the field. Later this week, I have the opportunity to travel with TAC/MSF to Johannesburg for a workshop they are putting on. At this workshop, partner non-profits will receive training on what patent challenges exist in South Africa and media strategies to continue advocating for an improved system.

Sala kakuhle!

Nicole

Follow Nicole’s continuing adventures abroad at capesquared.wordpress.com. This winter, she will be studying (and blogging) in Nova Scotia as a Fulbright scholar.
Wolves earn D2ADA honors
Thirty-two student-athletes highlighted by athletic directors' association
courtesy of wouwolves.com

Western Oregon student-athletes earned 32 distinctions as the 2014-15 Division 2 Athletics Directors Association (D2ADA) announced their Academic Achievement Awards. WOU was among 147 schools honored and a record-breaking 7,320 awards handed out on the national level.

"The D2 ADA continuously strives to recognize the outstanding student-athletes in our division, and we would like to thank and congratulate the institutions that took part in honoring the 2014-15 Academic Achievement Award winners," stated D2ADA President Fran Reidy, director of athletics at Saint Leo University. "As an additional platform to showcase outstanding student-athletes, this award allows the D2ADA to highlight the efforts in the classroom, as well as on the playing field."

To receive a D2ADA Academic Achievement Award, a student-athlete must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher, attended a minimum of two years (four semesters) of college level work, and have been an active member of an intercollegiate team during his/her last academic year.

Western Oregon student-athletes honored by the D2ADA for the 2014-15 academic school year include:

- Jay Leverett (Baseball)
- Connor Thompson (Men’s Basketball)
- Dana Goularte, Jordan Mottershaw, Angie Titus (Women’s Basketball)
- Alexander Bradt, Steven Etheridge, Shane Kuenzi, Kaleb Nelson, Daniel Thomas (Football)
- Savannah Bogan, JoEllen DeLeon, Allison Frost, Taylor Higa, Peyton Moon, Danielle Payne, Machaela Rapozo, Allison Sprecher, Brooke Steinberg (Women’s Soccer)
- Ku’ulei Siolo (Softball)
- Riley Anheluk, Josh Hanna (Men’s Track/Cross Country)
- Nicole Anderson, Emmi Collier, Felicia Covey, Rachel Crawford, Audrey Hellesto, Rochelle Pappel, Stephanie Stuckey, Annie Wade (Women’s Track/Cross Country)
- Alisha Bettinson, Christie Colasurdo (Volleyball)

Class notes

Richard Whitley ’85 has been appointed as the director of the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services. He had served in an interim capacity since February.

Rick Igou ’88 will retire after more than 30 years in law enforcement.

Hilda Farris ’90 is retiring from her second career as a dance instructor and exercise group leader at the McMinnville Community Center.

Mary Lees ’93, ’03 has been named Washington State University’s head basketball coach.

Robert Persson ’95 was recently named by the Oregon Department of Corrections as superintendent at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville.

Chris Griffith ’96 was unanimously approved by the Ridgefield School District Board of Directors to become the new assistant superintendent of schools. Chris has served in education for nearly 20 years.

Robert Freeman ’98 has been named by the Roseburg School District as the next principal of Melrose Elementary.

Alice Zysset ’89, ’98 will begin work as a English Language Arts teacher at Lakeview High School. She has also served on the English Language Arts State Assessment Committee assisting in developing of the state scoring rubric.

Sister Hilda (Alicia) Kleiman ’99 is in her fifth year of teaching at Mount Angel Seminary. In March 2014, she received the Saint Bonaventure Award. This May she received her Doctor of Ministry through the Graduate Theological Foundation.

Heather Sherman ’06 announced her marriage to Joshua Brown. Heather is a teacher for the Hermiston School District.

Brittany Anders ’11 and Garrett Stanley ’11, both of Monmouth, plan to marry July 25, 2015, at The Willows in Perrydale.

Michelle Moed ’13 will marry Tyler Jacob Lake on September 12, 2015 in Medford. Michelle is employed as the office manager with Belle Fiore Winery in Ashland.

Tyler Johnston ’14 has been hired as a police officer in Warrenton. Johnston has followed in his father’s footsteps, Astoria Police Chief Brad Johnston.

Tyler Brunfield ’15 and Eric Loftin ’15 were featured artists in the 20th Annual Recent Graduates Show at the Blackfish Gallery in Portland, which showcased the work of Oregon’s top BFA and MFA graduates.

Abby Cohen ’15 has been hired as agent by Windermere Pacific Crest Realty. She studied business and music and is a longtime resident of Yamhill County.

Friends of WOU

Salam Noor, former professor of Political Science and Salem-Keizer Assistant Superintendent, has been appointed the Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction.


Kate Ristau, young adult author and former WOU faculty member in the English Department, published her novel “Shadowgirl” in 2015.

Submit your class note at: wou.edu/alumni

OCE GRADS:

New alumni merchandise is now available at the WOU Campus Bookstore. Featured here are a coffee mug for $11.50, and baseball cap for $17.25.
In remembrance

1930s
Cecilia M. Kirsch ’31

1940s
Esther M. Thomas ’41
June D. Hopkins ’41
Lucile U. Peck ’42
Mary E. Crippen ’45
Rosemary Malo ’46
Miles G. Olson ’46
Hope I. Grazer ’48
Marjorie M. T. Steinmetz ’48

1950s
Col. Joseph Dennett Formick ’53, ’56
Donald E. Kvernvik ’53, ’58
Carol J. Miller ’55

1960s
Ronald G. Quant ’60
Edward “EJD” Dougherty ’61
Lana R. Parnell ’63
Miriam A. Reel-Adams ’67
Steven C. Rankin ’63
Barbara J. Kahn ’67
Edward A. Moskal Jr. ’67
Dee DeMoss ’68

1970s
Ruth E. Nelson ’70
Charles (Doug) Douglas Sohn ’71
Gary Meissner ’72
Chester (Chet) Neusom Phillips ’73
Joanne M. Hellberg ’74
Ralph E. Rudzik ’76
Eugene G. Lanthorn ’77
Delight Cushman ’79
Sandra Clark ’79

1980s
Patricia K. Holt ’80
Janice Elaine F. Bensel ’80
Daniel W. Johnson ’81
Denise Vivian Ratcliff Anderson ’83
James W. Green ’85

1990s
Michael W. Eichman ’90
Shawna D. Thomas ’92
Pamela Hankins ’99

2000s
Krystie L. Butler ’06
Anna Lysa Wichman ’10
Troy A. Vaden ’12

Friends of WOU
Glen E. Clark
Dr. Ken Myers
Vera S. Harms-Stalnaker

You’re invited!
...to meet WOU’s new president, Rex Fuller

Thursday, Sept. 24, 2015
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Join us at
Mark Spencer Hotel, Nortonia Ballroom
The Alumni Office, President’s Office, and Jim Baumgartner ’89 of Black Helterline, LLC, cordially invite you to a welcome reception for our new president, Dr. Rex Fuller. Shake hands with members of the WOU Foundation, Alumni, and WOU Board of Trustees; and help us welcome President Fuller to Western Oregon University and our community!

RSVP by Sept. 20, 2015
Register by phone: 503-838-8710; email: alumni@wou.edu; or online at: wou.edu/alumni/events

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