

The magazine of
Willamette University
Summer 2016

Willamette

Inside: John Waller '98 ventures into uncharted territory; Students grapple with questions of justice; We find out what makes professor Bill Duvall so great. And, the life lessons we learn from Commencement.





Danny Santos JD'86, associate dean of student affairs and administration in the College of Law, leads graduating students to Commencement.

Another outstanding group of Bearcats crossed the Commencement stage in May to celebrate their achievements and join the ranks of our global alumni community.



Taking time to savor the moment, a College of Liberal Arts graduate pauses for a selfie with President Thorsett.

It was a pleasure meeting the families of some of our graduates and learning about the various paths our students took to get here and where they are headed next. Many come from families who made significant financial sacrifices to send their children to Willamette. Others became the first in their families to complete a college degree. And most traveled great distances to attend Willamette and pursue a liberal arts or professional education — or both — in our outstanding Pacific Northwest setting. The growing diversity of our student body was also evident, as the class of 2016 represents a variety of backgrounds, perspectives and experiences.

To truly make our campus the inclusive and welcoming community we desire requires our collective efforts to support the broad range of voices and experiences reflected in our students, staff and faculty. We must make the Willamette experience mirror the world in which we all live, work and learn.

Across the country, and in particular over the past year, students asked important questions about what it means to create an inclusive community. They called on higher education leaders to consider the important difference between being diverse and being inclusive. The latter implies that diversity is woven into the very fibers of an organization — or a university — and is one of the elements that makes it a distinct and truly exceptional place.

At Willamette, our motto calls us to a higher standard. We not only acknowledge inclusivity — we lead the way in putting it into practice on a daily basis. Recent conversations have revealed that, although we've made strides towards inclusivity in recent years, we have not yet achieved this ideal.

In April I convened a task force on equity, diversity and inclusion charged with recommending whether Willamette needs a cabinet-level position, such as a chief diversity officer or a VP of equity and inclusion, to help us more fully become the kind of community to which we aspire. Its work has already

brought important issues to light, and I am confident the task force's continued conversations with members of our community, coupled with a detailed review of other campuses and topical literature, will help move us forward.

This fall we're also implementing a new test-optional admission policy for undergraduate students. Researched and developed by the faculty admission committee, the test-optional policy gives applicants the option to forgo submitting standardized test scores and, instead, write an additional essay about how Willamette's motto resonates with their educational and career objectives.

This initiative provides a more holistic approach to reviewing our applicants and offers greater access for all students interested in Willamette. You can read more about it in professor Sammy Basu's "In my Humble Opinion" article on p.54.

As a community we all need to work together to reaffirm our values and make Willamette a better version of itself — just as we aim to guide our students through their personal growth and transformation. As you read the stories in this magazine, I invite you to think about how your Willamette experience shaped your perspective — and how you're using what you discovered here to make your own communities more inclusive and supportive.

Non nobis solum nati sumus,

Stephen E. Thorsett
President

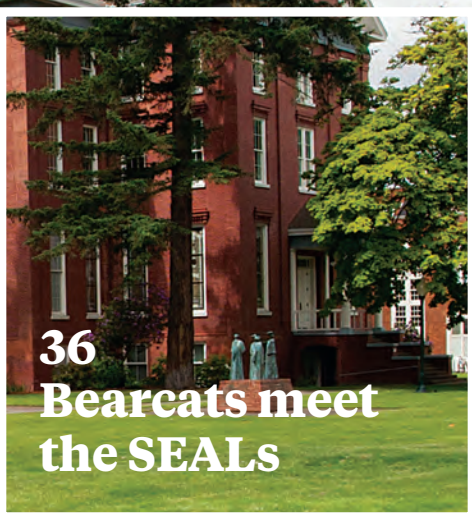
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John Waller '98 is one of only a few people known to have set foot in Oregon's hidden Valhalla Gorge.

Photo: Ben Canales



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Roses in the Sesquicentennial Rose Garden bloom in front of Eaton and Waller Halls.

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Send address and name corrections to magazine@willamette.edu.



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>In Box

Like Hawaii itself, Lu'au has the potential to serve as a place of love and healing.

Each image captured from Lu'au, as on the cover of the spring magazine, contains a hidden story of hard work, community and resilience. Parallel to this year's theme of Hawaii's musical evolution, "Mai Ka Hala i Ka 'Ānō" ("From Past to Present"), Lu'au has evolved significantly. Students have deliberately tried to make it a supportive space at Willamette that also advocates for the cultural resurgence of Kānaka Maoli, the indigenous people of Hawaii and their descendants and others throughout Polynesia.

Lu'au is the connective thread that brings many of us together. Despite the all-nighters, meetings, emails, six-hour rehearsals, frustrations and tears, we pull it off every year — all while being full-time students. Lu'au exists as a reminder of our loved ones, food, culture, environment and sense of belonging that sometimes is not reflected in Salem, Oregon or Willamette.

Like Hawaii itself, Lu'au has the potential to serve as a place of love and healing. This year's special guests, Hāwane Rios and Pualani Case, exemplified this love of their home and its sacred lands through song, chant and activism. Just as they were respectful guests in Oregon, everyone who participates or watches Lu'au is a guest to the event's representations.

To the audiences of this and future Lu'aus, thank you for supporting our efforts. I ask that we all continue to treat one another, Lu'au and Hawai'i with respect. Beyond the stereotypical rainbows, hula dancers and palm trees, Hawai'i is a place of struggle, a place of love, and the place many of us call home.

— Carol Li '17
Lu'au Committee



As theatre manager at Willamette University, I was delighted to read your recent profile on Bobby Brewer-Wallin, associate professor of theatre and costume designer ("Tools of My Trade," Spring 2016, p. 6-7). The piece gave a fascinating glimpse into the realm of one of our crucial team members. During my nearly six years here, I have been reminded consistently and frequently of the high level of resourcefulness, creativity and perspicacity demonstrated by our talented faculty and students.

The 2015-16 season found us exploring Brixton, England, in the late 1800s, traditional 14th century Japanese Noh theater, and the modern artwork of Bob Rauschenberg, all within the confines of a not-quite-55-foot-square, flexible, black box space. The ingenuity and effort required in set-building, lighting, sound, costumes and countless minutiae to bring these plays to life is staggering and remarkable.

In 2016-17, our travels will take us into the world of Shakespeare and the plethora of works inspired by his oeuvre. I encourage alumni and members of the Willamette community to join us and see what Bobby Brewer-Wallin and the company have in store. I guarantee they will be transported and transfixed by the extraordinary talent both onstage and behind the scenes.

— N. Andrew Toney JD'02

Where's Tufton?

Readers searched high and low to find Tufton Beamish in the spring issue of Willamette magazine. Kudos to Cari Jermann, the first on-campus reader, and Dave Monnie '83, the first off-campus reader, who discovered "Tufton Ridge" in the video game on p. 30. Monnie also correctly realized that the ridge's GPS coordinates of +044.93718, -123.031073 are actually those of Waller Hall.

Where's Tufton hiding in this issue? Send your sightings to magazine@willamette.edu.



We love to hear from you! Send us your thoughts and feedback about articles in Willamette magazine.

Email magazine@willamette.edu or send letters to University Communications, Willamette University, 900 State Street, Salem OR 97301. Published correspondence may be edited for length and clarity.

As the student speaker at Commencement 2016, Anelise Zimmer '16 drew on her Willamette experiences and urged her fellow new graduates to find the courage to climb life's mountains.

> What are your strongest memories of Commencement?

I didn't tell my parents I was going to be the speaker, so one of my favorite parts of the day was seeing their reaction when they spotted me at the head of the parade walking from Goudy to the Commencement tent.

My dad had found out accidentally earlier that day, but he didn't tell my mom. They were both beaming, and my mom started crying. It was extra special because my parents are moving to Abu Dhabi soon for my dad's job with the State Department, so it was the last time for a while that my family would be together. Walking onto the stage, I remember seeing all my friends in the crowd giving me the thumbs-up. I was nervous, as I'd never done public speaking before.

> How did you decide the theme of your speech?

Being at Willamette — and what you get from life in general — is so dependent on the people you surround yourself with. In my speech, I wanted to thank the Willamette community and recognize how special it was to have those relationships. Some of my friends cried when they heard it.

I also thought that in light of recent events at Willamette and all over the world related to equity and inclusion, it was crucial to remind my peers about the importance of holding ourselves and others to high moral standards when making decisions that affect those around us.

> What was some of the advice you offered the Class of 2016?

Using the example of a hike that my friend Liana Olson '16 and I took to the summit of Mount Adams, I talked about how it's impossible to plan or prepare for everything that happens to us — and that we don't know our limits until we test them.

I wanted to remind people that everyone takes a few wrong turns in life. Struggling to

choose between jobs and internship opportunities, a lot of my friends — and myself — were convinced that there's only one correct path. As Liana and I found when we initially hiked in the wrong direction on Mount Adams, we're bound to make mistakes, no matter how much we plan. But most of those inevitable wrong turns won't be completely detrimental to our future — and they could even create some of our best experiences.

> What else did your adventure on Mount Adams teach you?

I learned that some people — like the ones who said that Liana and I shouldn't attempt to tackle the mountain because of our gender — will always doubt you, but you can't let their assumptions deter you from trying. Self-doubt is self-destruction.

> How did your time at Willamette affect you?

Willamette's motto really resonated with me as Liana and I summited Mount Adams. Neither one of us would have climbed it alone, but we pushed each other to do something outside our comfort zones and held each other accountable. This sort of camaraderie is in the culture of Willamette. When I came here four years ago, I never expected to receive so much compassion from my community.

At Commencement, I knew my success was largely a result of my peers, professors, parents and all the other people who helped me along the way.

> What are your plans now that you've graduated?

I'm working at Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska until early fall. In January, I'll head to Malaysia on a Fulbright Award to teach English. Before I go, I want to drive the Alaska-Canada Highway — and I hope to find a Willamette friend to share that adventure. ☒





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Sarah Crabb '18 spent much of last summer working in the cold, covered in dirt and mud. And she loved every minute.

The art history and archaeology major was taking part in Willamette's Archaeology Field School at the Ness of Brodgar in the Orkney Islands of Scotland. Willamette is the only American university to partner with the Orkney Research Center for Archaeology and the University of the Highlands and Islands on a project that's uncovering exciting new knowledge about the Neolithic world.

During her four weeks in the Orkneys, Crabb helped excavate the 5,000-year-old temple complex, which is older than Stonehenge and thought to include up to 100 buildings in a walled enclosure. Since excavations began in 2003, archaeologists have found evidence of paved walkways, carved stonework, colored facades and some of the largest roofed structures built in prehistoric northern Europe.

About 10 percent of the site has been excavated so far, but archaeologists have already learned much about its former inhabitants.

Crabb says even simple things such as food waste, pottery and stone artifacts can impart important information about how societies lived and adapted to their changing world: "From the food they ate to how they interacted with the environment, these people made changes to benefit their society."

This summer, Crabb headed off to warmer climes to pursue her passion for the past. She's working on two projects in Italy, excavating Roman baths and a villa and examining ancient human remains. Eventually, she hopes to earn her scuba certification so she can explore maritime archaeology.

"I love everything that has to do with art and people of the past," she says. "It's important to recognize people's contributions and to reopen their stories."

Modern archaeology uses high-tech, sophisticated equipment such as GPS systems, satellite images and ground-penetrating radar. Yet, in many ways, the discipline's essential approach and processes have remained the same for decades. Crabb, pictured here in Willamette's archaeology lab, explains some of the tools she uses out in the field.

1. Trowel

Although she has several trowels for use on digs, Crabb treasures this one with a red Arabic letter "S" carved into the top of the wooden handle. Professor Emeritus David McCreery, who retired in May after 27 years at Willamette, presented Crabb and the other three students in his "Archaeological Methodologies" class with the personalized implements.

2. Yellow twine

Once the initial excavation grid is laid out in squares of yellow twine, Crabb uses a plumb-bob to ensure that the walls of the dig remain straight. "You never want to dig down in archaeology," she says. "You dig across the layers of soil."

3. Tape measure

Archaeologists use tape measures to mark the length and width of excavation sites and also artifacts. When she traveled to Orkney, Crabb had to make sure she took a metric tape measure. "The U.S. is about the only place that still uses inches and feet," she says.

4. Wooden tools

For close excavation around samples of pottery or bone, Crabb uses wooden tools rather than metal ones that could scratch or damage the artifacts. Some of the tools are basic sculpting implements that she buys at art stores.

5. Toothbrush

"Almost every archaeologist has a toothbrush on site," says Crabb. "It's handy for cleaning excavated objects that could be damaged by bugs or acid in the soil."

6. Waterproof notebook

As archaeologists often work in wet, dirty and muddy places, a waterproof notebook is essential for making meticulous notes and detailed sketches about sites and artifacts. "Archaeology is a destructive process," Crabb explains. "Once you move an object, no one will ever see it again in that original setting. Your notes and sketches are all that remain."

1



ENERGY



AND

ENTHUSIASM

GREAT IDEAS



FROM
CONFUSION
TO
CLARITY

CREATIVITY



SENSE
OF
HUMOR

DRIVING
&



COMMITTED



CHALLENGE



MEN
TOR

PRactical
use of



KNOWLEDGE

LOVE OF
LEARNING

ENLIGHTENMENT



PERSONAL



GROWTH



L · I · F · E O F T H E M I N D

As history professor Bill Duvall retires after 45 years at Willamette, we look at how he and other legendary faculty members have helped students discover the enduring benefits of a liberal arts education.

by Tina Owen
Illustration by Peter Strain

It's a few minutes past 8 a.m., and many of the sleepy students gathered in the Eaton Hall seminar room look as if they'd much rather crawl back into bed than debate the French Revolution.

"How are you all not interested?" Bill Duvall yells suddenly, pounding on the desk for emphasis. His blue eyes flash as he surveys the now-alert students. "Come on! There's sex, prostitution, political corruption and violence!"

Over the past 45 years, students taking the legendary history professor's classes have witnessed many such dramatic scenes intended to jolt them into an awakened intellectual state. Duvall has even been known to jump on top of a desk and wave his arms in the air to drive home a point about Foucault, Nietzsche, Sartre or some other European intellectual luminary.

Such incidents only feed his reputation as a charismatic — and contradictory — character. Many students adore him; others chafe at his no-nonsense style. Some people describe him as a brilliant academic and a caring mentor; others call him an "intellectual provocateur" and "an anarchic lone wolf." That last description probably delighted the man who likes to joke that he went into academia so he'd never have to work a day in his life.

In fact, Duvall did work one previous job: a half-day at a Wonder Bread factory before

he was fired for not keeping up on the production line.

While an academic's work may not be as physically onerous as a factory worker's, the life of the mind requires hard effort and presents unique challenges. Duvall successfully met those challenges. He earned a bachelor's degree from Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington; a master's from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia; and a PhD from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

At Willamette, he has not only taught intellectually rigorous history courses, but he achieved the rare feat of getting students excited about texts like Kant's "Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics." He excels at leading the small-group seminars that require professors to possess both the comprehensive knowledge to guide the discussion and a nimble mind to follow the conversation's leaps into unexplored areas.

As director of a three-year National Endowment for the Humanities grant, Duvall helped design Willamette's first freshman seminar program, World Views, and later the Faculty Colloquium series. Along the way, he amassed a collection of teaching honors, including the 1998 Oregon Professor of the Year Award.

Duvall's favorite song is Tears for Fears' "Badman's Song," and Willamette's own radical has often delighted in swimming

against the current. He served as draft counselor for students seeking conscientious objector status, and in the 1980s he pushed the university to divest its financial interests in apartheid South Africa.

In one of the few grainy photographs of him that exist, Duvall sports a checked shirt and a large, bushy beard. He looks more like a lumberjack than a scholar.

When he decided to retire at the end of the past spring semester, Duvall hated the idea of a "big fuss." Eventually, he consented to a public lecture in his honor, given by his former Willamette colleague, history professor Myles Jackson. Despite his tough outer shell, Duvall was visibly touched by all the students, alumni, faculty and staff who packed the lecture hall and sent him commemorative letters of well-wishes, appreciation and fond memories.

A Willamette tradition

In his passion for his subject and his ability to inspire his students, Duvall represents the best kind of teacher. Yet he insists he's nothing out-of-the-ordinary. Especially not at Willamette.

"The university has a long tradition of people who are great in the classroom," he says, checking off the names of "academic giants" such as Ivan Lovell, Chester Luther, Howard Runkel and George McCowen. "It's a thrill to have that sense of heritage, and I

flatter myself to think that I'm in the same position that Ivan Lovell held, teaching the same courses he taught."

Willamette's history of teaching excellence isn't "one-size-fits-all," Duvall adds. Instead, it's diverse, encompassing different styles and approaches. "Great professors don't all do things the same way," he says. "Team-teaching showed me things that I couldn't do but that other professors do really well."

While Willamette professors may be unique in their approaches and personalities, they share some common qualities. The stacks of nomination letters for the Oregon Professor of the Year Awards yield insights into the stellar teaching that takes place across campus. In addition to those accolades, Willamette faculty regularly receive other awards, whether from the Mortar Board student honor society, their university colleagues or external organizations.

"Students come to a small liberal arts institution like Willamette rather than universities with huge lecture halls because they want this kind of teaching," says Duvall. "They want to find a place where they fit. People who teach at this institution and the students who come here — they're kind of made for each other."

Duvall knows from personal experience what happens when the institutional "fit" is wrong. In 1970, he accepted a job at California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, teaching general education history classes to the sons and daughters of San Joaquin Valley ranchers. "The kids wore crumpled cowboy hats pulled down over their eyes, had cigarette packets tucked in their sleeves, and practiced roping bushes between classes," he recalls. "They weren't interested in European intellectual history."

The examined life

Willamette, on the other hand, attracts both students and faculty interested in developing what Socrates would call "the examined life."

One former student of art history professor Roger Hull, the 1993 Oregon Professor of the Year, commented on Hull's ability to inspire a "lifetime commitment to discovering the pleasure and profundity of human experience." The student added, "Good teaching is about one's life, not just one's experience of the classroom."

Faculty like Hull and Duvall have loftier goals than simply helping students pass a test or earn a degree. They want to introduce them to the life of the mind, an enduring intellectual fervor that leads to rewarding experiences, ideas and opportunities. One of Duvall's former students said, "Bill's great talent as a teacher is to make students love

ideas, to learn to trust their own ideas and to value intellectual debate."

Another student said what he learned in Duvall's classroom changed both his personal evolution and the course of his life: "As the product of a middle-class family in a small Oregon community, I came to Willamette with a limited sense of what the world had to offer. I left with an appreciation for the diversity of cultural and social experiences that shaped my life."

Uncomfortable with such compliments, Duvall gruffly says, "I'm a teacher of great books. I put in front of students the texts of Europe's great thinkers from the last four centuries. *They* pose ideas and challenges that push students to think."

Many of his students, though, vividly recall Duvall's part in helping them explore those ideas and become critical thinkers. In his classroom, learning is a dynamic activity that requires energy and commitment on the part of both teacher and student. A master of the Socratic method of teaching by questioning, Duvall pushes for in-depth reflection and answers. "Why?" he prods. "What do you mean? But what if...?"

"It's not information delivery," Duvall says. "It's about reading, thinking and talking to students. I tend to think of myself as a choreographer; I want the students to dance with me."

A love of learning

Duvall readily acknowledges that he learns from his students. As they venture on this mutual journey, great teachers make their students feel included and respected. Modeling the best aspects of a liberal arts education, they listen to students' points of view and remain open to new ideas.

That's one reason Duvall has never felt stale after decades of teaching. "Students see different things in the readings," he says. "In one recent discussion in the 'European Intellectual History of the 19th Century' class, there were a couple of comments that I'd never thought of before — and I've been teaching the text for a long time."

Memorable teachers revel in the joy of such new discoveries. A former student described chemistry professor Arthur Payton, 1994 Oregon Professor of the Year, in this way: "His formidable command of the subject material is only one component of his teaching magic. Clearly, he has never forgotten what it is like to be a student (in fact, he approaches his subject with a student's wonder). He gives the strong sense that science is about unraveling the mysteries of the world."

Politics professor Richard Ellis, the 2008 Oregon Professor of the Year, incorporated research by his students into some of the

books he published — and publicly thanked those 33 undergrads in the books' acknowledgement pages.

One of those research assistants said, "He asked for my opinions and treated them with seriousness and respect. Few things inspire a student more than being treated as a partner by someone they deeply admire."

High expectations

Although countless students enjoyed Duvall's challenging approach to learning, others bemoaned the fact that his tough courses lowered their GPA. One undergrad, only half in jest, said: "You had to have, actually, you know, READ the material to actively participate in class discussions."

Many of Willamette's undergraduate classes are on par with graduate-level courses at other institutions. While they set exacting standards, professors provide their students with the tools and knowledge to reach their full potential.

Professor emerita Frances Chapple, who became Willamette's first Oregon Professor of the Year in 1990, taught physical chemistry — a subject rife with difficult and abstract concepts. The entire class often met late at night to work through the problem sets, and their professor would frequently join them to share her expertise. Chapple's intense love for her subject, along with her contagious energy and enthusiasm, inspired her undergrads to excel.

"The challenge, rigor and level of commitment expected of us was exceeded only by her commitment to us," said one student. "She encourages us to respond and perform simply by virtue of her enormous dedication to us."

Mentors and role models

As experts and specialists in their field, Willamette professors often do more than teach. They conduct research, create works of art, write numerous books and articles, and forge professional networks that they willingly share with students to help with internships and potential careers.

Physics professor Daniel Montague, who received the Oregon Professor of the Year Award in 1995, took his undergrad students every year to conduct research and experiments at the Intense Pulsed Neutron Source at the Argonne National Laboratory near Chicago.

Willamette sophomores performed as well as graduate students, recalls a professor from another university, who adds, "It was because the students always knew where they were headed, how certain — but not all — difficulties were to be overcome, where they could go for help, and how the work was the responsibility of all. Then there was

★ ★ IMPRESSIVE PROFESSORS ★ ★

Since 1989, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Higher Education have presented the Oregon Professor of the Year Award to outstanding undergraduate instructors

who excel in teaching and positively influence the lives and careers of students.

Willamette has earned more of these honors than any other West Coast institution.



IN BILL'S NAME

Since he arrived on campus in 1971, Bill Duvall has taught an estimated 4,200 students, representing about 20 percent of all Willamette undergraduate alumni.

Although Duvall retired at the end of this past semester, he'll continue to have a positive effect on students through a scholarship being set up in his name. The Professor William E. "Bill" Duvall Humanities Scholarship will make awards to rising juniors and seniors majoring in one of the College of Liberal Arts' departments of the humanities (history, English, religious studies, philosophy and art history) who have demonstrated high academic achievement and intellectual curiosity.

To contribute to the scholarship, visit willamette.edu/support/how or call Mike Bennett '70 at 503-370-6761.



From top left to right:
1990 Frances Chapple, chemistry
1991 Mary Ann Youngren, psychology
1993 Roger Hull, art
1994 Arthur Payton, chemistry
1995 Daniel Montague, physics
1998 Bill Duvall, history
2003 Suresht Bald, politics
2005 Jerry Gray, economics
2008 Richard Ellis, politics
2010 Karen McFarlane Holman, chemistry
2013 Sammy Basu, politics

the example that Montague himself set: how to comport oneself, work hard, and enjoy that hard work and the fruits it bore."

Years after graduating from Willamette, many students stay in touch with the mentors who provided critical advice and support.

Students of politics professor Suresht Bald, the 2003 Oregon Professor of the Year, recall her door always being open for undergrads. "The mentoring I received from her was unequaled during my later graduate studies, and I sometimes called upon her for assistance and guidance," wrote one. "She recognizes that a true teacher's job does not end on graduation day."

Chemistry professor Karen Holman, the 2010 Oregon Professor of the Year, earned her students' admiration and respect as a strong, positive role model of a successful woman in a scientific career. Wrote one student, "Her success in her career, family life and personal interests provide an example everyone should have in their formative years."

Duvall inspired a number of students to follow his path into academe. Associate professor of history Wendy Petersen Boring '89 credits him with helping her decide to pursue graduate studies in history rather

than law school. She says, "He gave me a vision for a life formed by a passion for thinking and teaching."

Committed and caring

For many Willamette professors, providing that kind of life-changing education doesn't just happen in the classroom, lab or music studio. Professors meet students for coffee and a chat at The Bistro. They invite them to dinner at their houses, where intense discussions on philosophy or politics carry on far into the night. They hold impromptu study sessions during evenings or weekends.

Generous with their time, as well as their knowledge, they provide a reassuring presence when students are ill or stricken with crises of confidence. Boring describes Duvall's enduring compassion for students who were sick, angry, on academic probation, lost or directionless: "They all tell of him taking the time to find them after class in the library or The Bistro, in order to encourage them, to listen, to help, to walk them to find help, to introduce them to other faculty, to make them feel worthwhile and welcome."

Similarly, Holman took a group of

first-years on a walking tour of town, pointing out her favorite restaurants and introducing them to her friends in the record store. It was, according to one student, an example of Holman's "eagerness to invest herself personally in us and what we were trying to learn, not only in her class but in the college experience at-large."

Such commitment to students helped affirm Duvall's decision to stay at Willamette for almost five decades. "I've never really been tempted to go anywhere else," he says. "My goal was to be in a classroom, with only about 15 students. That's a privilege."

As he looks back on a career filled with accomplishments and friendships, Duvall says he's most grateful for "the wonderful stream of students who've come through my life and classroom."

For Bill Duvall, like Willamette's other great professors, it's always — first and foremost — been about the students. ☐

Share your memories of great Willamette professors.
 Email magazine@willamette.edu.



Willamette’s Easy Riders Beat the Competition

Bike-friendly Willamette outpaced other institutions in a statewide challenge to encourage more people to cycle.

Members of the university community pedaled their way to first place in the Salem-Keizer league of the Oregon Bike More Challenge, held in May to coincide with national Bike to Work Week. Organized by the Portland-based Bicycle Transportation Alliance, the challenge attracted some 11,700 riders on 832 employer-based teams. As well as winning in the Salem-Keizer league, the Willamette team of 35 riders also placed fifth overall among participating Oregon universities and colleges.

Chemistry professor **Chuck Williamson** was one of only four riders across the state who managed to cycle for all 31 days.

“Willamette does a lot to foster and support a sustainable cycling culture — from plentiful cycle racks on campus to the Bike Shop, which offers advice, bike repair and maintenance, as well as free rentals for students, staff and faculty,” says **Joe Abraham**, director of the university’s Sustainability Institute. “The Challenge was a great way to show or remind people how easy it can be to ride a bike as part of our everyday routines rather than hop into a car.”



Fiske Rates Willamette Best

The 2017 edition of “Fiske Guide to Colleges” again recognizes Willamette as one of the country’s “best and most interesting” schools. The guide, which examines more than 300 colleges and universities in the United States, Great Britain and Canada, lauds Willamette for its personal atmosphere, rigorous academic offerings and small class sizes.

Students who graduated in May:

366

from the College of Liberal Arts

92

from the Atkinson Graduate School of Management

141

from the College of Law

Living and Learning on Campus



According to rumor, a ghost frequented the four-story, gray-stuccoed building on Cottage Street. The elevator was temperamental and the air-conditioning nonexistent. Nonetheless, Willamette students loved Haseldorf.

At the end of the spring semester, the popular residence hall — a beloved home away from home for students since 1985 — closed its doors for the last time. The change prompted an outpouring of sad comments and fond memories on the alumni association’s Facebook page.

To compensate for the loss of its rooms, the university began to renovate and expand other residence halls this summer. Doney — once shared with the offices of Campus Safety and Housing and Community Life — is being converted into an exclusive living space featuring double rooms with kitchenettes and private baths, as well as an impressively modern common area with a kitchen and dining room. Twenty-two new beds

will bring the total occupancy to 224 residents.

Baxter will add capacity for 10 more residents, along with a new elevator, gender-inclusive restrooms, a remodeled lounge and renovated student kitchens.

The residence hall will also accommodate two of the new Living Learning Communities (LLCs) available to incoming first-year students in the fall. LLCs allow students to live, study and socialize with others who share the same interests. Baxter will house the Health and Wellness LLC and the Sustainability and Society LLC. The Global Living LLC will be based in Shepard Hall.

Enjoy a photo slideshow and memories of Haseldorf at willamette.edu/go/haseldorf.

“Shine a light into dark places, instill hope and build community.”

— Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, speaker at the College of Liberal Arts commencement ceremony on May 15, urging the Class of 2016 to make a positive impact on the world.

Behind the Mask



In a unique theatrical production on campus earlier this year, famed Mexican artist Frida Kahlo and an ancient Japanese form of theater came face-to-face.

The production featured two plays that explored the themes of compassion, love and attachment: the traditional Japanese Noh drama “The Feathered Mantle,” performed in English, and the world premiere of poet **Judy Halebsky’s** Noh-style play, “The Weaver and the Dress,” about Kahlo and her husband, Diego Rivera.

Noh theater is a classical form of Japanese musical

drama featuring iconic, stylized wooden masks that depict the characters being portrayed.

Willamette’s Theatre Department rented two Noh masks for the celestial maiden characters in “The Feathered Mantle.” For “The Weaver and the Dress,” it commissioned renowned Tokyo-based woodcarving artist **Hideta Kitazawa** to create a wooden mask depicting Kahlo’s face.

There’s Something About Us



The video opens with a scene of **Alison Hsiao ’16** playing a piano on the stage of the Elsinore Theatre. Then the viewpoint shifts to an aerial view of the Willamette campus, followed later by scenes of students lounging in the sun by the Mill Stream and rugby players running around on the Quad.

The university — one of the sponsors for “There’s Something About Salem” —

also plays a large role in the video created by Allied Video Productions to announce Salem as the destination for the 2017 Oregon Governor’s Tourism Conference.

The fast-paced, lively production showcases a diverse range of attractions, from restaurants and wineries to family-friendly activities and Oregon’s outdoor splendor. In just a few months, it received almost 100,000 views from people across the country and around the world.

As well as discovering the highlights of the Salem area, those viewers realized the university’s place in the life — and at the heart — of the city.

Watch the video at willamette.edu/go/salemvideo.

A Bright Outlook for Scholars

Willamette was named one of the nation’s top producers of Fulbright Scholars for the 2015-16 academic year.

One of only two undergraduate colleges in Oregon to make the list, Willamette saw two faculty members selected for the government-funded Fulbright Scholar Program that enables American academics and professionals to participate in advanced research and teaching opportunities around the world.



Binford

W. Warren Binford, an associate professor of law and director of the Clinical Law Program, spent four months at the University of Calgary after being named the inaugural chairholder of the Fulbright Distinguished Visiting Research Chair in Brain Science and Family Wellness in Canada. Philosophy professor **Ivan Welty**



Welty

received an appointment at Vietnam National University.

\$252,552

The amount raised during Willamette’s second 24 Hours of Giving philanthropic event earlier this year. Thanks to all the alumni, parents, students, faculty, staff and friends who invested in the continued success of our university!

A lush forest scene with a mossy rock face and a stream flowing over rocks. The scene is filled with green moss and ferns, with a stream flowing over large, dark rocks. The background shows a dense forest of tall trees.

IN NATURE'S GRIP

FILMMAKER JOHN WALLER '98 JOURNEYS
INTO UNCHARTED TERRITORY TO SHARE
STORIES OF DISCOVERY, BEAUTY AND LOVE

BY JULIE H. CASE



John Waller '98 is rappelling through a 40-foot waterfall. Water gushes over his camera, bounces off his helmet and cascades into the virgin rock crevices all around. A rope snakes overhead and out of view. Waller tugs it to test its hold, and then he begins to rappel farther down the waterfall. His nervous breath is mostly obscured by the roar of water.

Waller, an environmental science grad turned filmmaker, is descending into Valhalla.

He and his team are among the first people in recorded history to see the Valhalla Gorge, although in the end more than 340,000 households and 28,000 online viewers will also lay eyes on this rugged, remote slice of Oregon.

This episode — of Waller's life, of the documentary he is making with Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB), "Discovering Valhalla: Oregon's Hidden Gorge" — begins nine waterfalls above the hidden slot canyon deep in the heart of the Mount Jefferson Wilderness. Like most slot canyons — gorges with steep walls, created through erosion and typically deeper than they are wide — Valhalla was carved by water and is now framed by waterfalls. It's also remarkably well-hidden, covered all around by dense brush. In fact, until U.S. Forest Service veteran Mike Malone spotted the canyon from a helicopter while fighting a forest fire in 2010, only a few wilderness-lovers even knew it existed. It took Malone years of poring over Forest Service and topographical maps to pinpoint the slot canyon's location about 20 miles outside Detroit, Oregon. Now, OPB and Waller have told Valhalla's story.

Only about 60 miles from Portland, the landscape around the little-known Valhalla Gorge is full of spectacular beauty — and potential dangers.

Waller, business partner Ben Canales and professional guide Jared Smith begin their traverse of the newly named gorge in a dish-shaped basin framed by two waterfalls. They call it Shangri-La. The men are wet from the moment they follow a fork of the Breitenbush River out of a glade, filming all the while. At the end of the first day, and multiple waterfalls and caves later, the team makes camp on a rock

“THAT’S A GREAT LEADER”

When he graduated from Willamette in 1998 with a major in environmental science, Waller did not set out to become a filmmaker. Instead, he headed to Detroit, an hour east of the Willamette campus, to work for the Forest Service. Summers he served on the hotshot fire crew and conducted spotted owl surveys; in the winter he traveled Europe. By 2001 he

“WHEN THE ROPE CAME DOWN, WE KNEW THERE WAS NO HIKING UP AND OUT ... THERE’S ONLY DOWNSTREAM, INTO THE UNKNOWN.”



John Waller and his team descend waterfalls to make their way to the hidden Valhalla Gorge.

ledge along the water’s edge — water that roars and teems and growls like a constant companion. You hear that sound, the crew says. You feel that sound. You’re in that sound.

For the next two days they are in that sound in a whole new way as they descend waterfall upon waterfall. They haul themselves, cameras, climbing gear and equipment toward the 200-foot-long slot canyon covered in moss as smooth and velvety as a putting green. Waller almost makes the descent look easy, although it isn’t. Unknowns are dangerous, and Valhalla is full of them.

The uncharted pool at the bottom of a waterfall could be knee deep, or 8-feet deep. The next stretch of river trail might hold a treacherous logjam or an unscalable cliff. The water is so cold that it will kill a person without a wetsuit. There’s no cell service, no place for a rescue helicopter to land. The nearest remote Forest Service road is only a few miles away, but thanks to the topography it might as well be 20 miles distant.

There’s an uncomfortable instant on the second day of the five-day expedition when the team reaches a 40-foot fall and has to rappel it, taking all the gear as they go and leaving behind nothing — including the climbing line.

“When the rope came down, we knew there was no hiking up and out,” Waller says. “There’s no other way out. There’s only downstream, into the unknown.”

So, down they go. Upstream would require someone to climb the waterfalls — including some very steep and technical drops — to place anchors. “It’s just a lot easier to go downstream than upstream,” Waller says.

And yet, John Waller has always gone upstream.

was in Portland full time working as a backcountry and whitewater guide. He returned to college, earned a master’s degree in education and started teaching ninth-grade science.

Then, in 2004, he launched his own video production company, Uncage the Soul — the name comes from a tagline he used in the email newsletters he sent to family and friends while traveling the world. Back then, he was guiding part-time to make ends meet. Today Uncage the Soul produces documentary films, brand anthems, tourism videos and more for everyone from Nike to OPB. The company grosses around \$1 million a year in terms of full video production. It’s not very big in the industry, says Waller, but he and Canales consider it a success for the lifestyle it affords them.

The business was about six years old and Waller was high in the Willamette Valley treetops when he met Jule Gilfillan, a producer for OPB’s 27-year-old magazine show, “Oregon Field Guide.” During the filming of “Treeverse” — a documentary about two tall-tree arborists on a five-day, one-kilometer, never-touching-the-ground trek through the Oregon white oak canopy — Waller impressed Gilfillan.

“He was tackling a really complex assignment in a unique fashion, and he was having a blast doing it,” says Gilfillan. “Everyone on his team was living in mud and rain. It was March — not a pleasant month in the Willamette Valley — and the entire crew was committed to this. Nobody was complaining. Everybody was having a great time. And I thought, ‘That’s a great leader.’” When Gilfillan saw the film, she was even more blown away. Four years later Waller and Gilfillan were making “Discovering Valhalla: Oregon’s Hidden Gorge” together.



**“IT IS THE LIGHT THAT ACCENTS MY BEAUTY.
IT IS THE LIGHT THAT WILL CONSUME ME.”**

CONSTANT EVOLUTION

Outside, it's sunny, but inside the pock-marked turquoise ice cave it has begun to rain. Sunlight and water pour simultaneously through a hole melted into the roof, as the camera pans to capture the scene. The cave's mouth scallops, and widens, and then scallops again. "It is the light that accents my beauty. It is the light that will consume me," a woman's voice explains over the sound of running water. For seven minutes the ice caves melt and evolve before our eyes.

Waller's documentary "Requiem of Ice" was a year and five gear-laden trips up Mount Hood in the making. In October 2013 he and Canales began documenting the deterioration of the Sandy Glacier Caves — the largest glacial caves system in the Lower 48. Since the filming nearly two years ago, some 40 to 50 percent of the system has collapsed. On each excursion, using time-lapse, high-speed and aerial photography, the men revealed the massive scale and intimate details of two caves that extend deep into Mount Hood's Sandy Glacier. In the film, rivers form, snow blows and a kaleidoscope of stars passes over the cave's newly formed oculus. It is simultaneously breathtaking and heartbreaking.



A rare spectacle of icy beauty, the Sandy Glacier Caves on Mount Hood are melting and eroding.

Waller wasn't always this good. Trial and error taught him how to make films. Shoot. See errors. Fix. Repeat.

"Neither running a business nor filmmaking and photography was anything I had a formal experience or education in. It was a lot of spending time doing it, and kind of refining my own character and personality in that work," he says. Even today he's constantly encountering new equipment, new scenarios and new business issues, which means he has to be constantly learning.

"I really attribute my experience at Willamette to learning how to learn. Not exactly in the rote information I learned in classes, but the process by which you figure something out or learn about something," he says. "On a daily basis I have to figure stuff out. Where does the confidence that

you'll be able to figure it out rather than be paralyzed come from? I can trace a lot of that back to Willamette."

The work has changed him. He pays more attention to the minutiae than he used to, noticing not just the big vistas but also the subtle details and how to bring them to life. He's a lot better at asking questions, at not coming to a meeting with judgment and answers, but rather as a blank slate. He has seen a lot of unexpected things happen, he says, which has made him less reactive to unexpected situations. Perhaps that's to be expected when you're shooting inside a waterfall or a melting cavern of ice.

Glaciers and seashores; slot canyons and oak canopies: It's obvious that Waller's work is shaped by nature. He loves the outdoors and spends a lot of time there so it's only natural his work would celebrate

it. Yet he isn't on a mission to save the world or protect its wild places. In fact, he might even argue that his work, like "Discovering Valhalla," puts those wild places in peril.

"You have this beautiful canyon, untouched by humans, and here we were producing a big documentary about it," Waller says. "Part of me feels responsible for the consequences of that. Inevitably people will go there. Combine all these small impacts and you have a big one. It doesn't take much to make an impact that lasts hundreds of years, and that's a bit troubling to me. That's the environmental science major coming out in me 'The consequences of collective action on a landscape.' I haven't been able to shed that, either. I think the pros would nod their heads and say 'Yep, you get it.'"

SEE MORE

Uncage the Soul regularly works with such clients as Fast Company, Land Rover, National Geographic, Nike, Oregon Public Broadcasting, PBS, TEDxPortland and Travel Portland. You can see some of the company's commercial work and documentaries at UncageTheSoul.com.

Mending the Line: In "Mending the Line," Uncage the Soul followed fisherman Frank Moore as he returned to Normandy, France, to fly fish the rivers he saw while serving in World War II. Watch the trailer at UncageTheSoul.com or at mendingtheline.com, and rent or download the entire movie from Vimeo at vimeo.com/ondemand/mendingtheline.

Learn more about Waller's work with Oregon Public Broadcasting: "Discovering Valhalla: Oregon's Hidden Gorge" — "Oregon Field Guide" heads into the Mount Jefferson Wilderness to reveal the previously uncharted Valhalla Gorge. opb.org/television/programs/ofg/episodes/2709

Treeverse: Waller teams up with tall-tree arborists for a "treeverse" through the canopy of Oregon white oaks near Canby. See the "Oregon Field Guide"'s story about Waller's making of "Treeverse" at opb.org/television/programs/ofg/segment/treeverse

Above and below: In "Mending the Line," the Uncage the Soul crew take WWII veteran Frank Moore back to Normandy, France.





Filmmaker and explorer John Waller is in his element in Oregon's wild places. (Even professionals take selfies.)

“WHERE DOES THE CONFIDENCE THAT YOU’LL BE ABLE TO FIGURE IT OUT RATHER THAN BE PARALYZED COME FROM? I CAN TRACE A LOT OF THAT BACK TO WILLAMETTE.”

LEARNING ABOUT LOVE

The boats land near shore in grainy black and white. Men, knee-deep in the ocean and clad in uniforms and packs and helmets, hold guns aloft as they wade toward shore. Fast-forward — 7 minutes or 69 years — and there’s the soldier again, surrounded now by lush, green foliage. Knee-deep again in French water, he uncurls a fly line overhead and then watches it unspool away from him down the river.

Only about 70 percent of Uncage’s work is commercial, produced for clients such as Nike, Adidas, Travel Portland and Stella Artois. Maybe it’s because Waller isn’t overly motivated by money, maybe it’s because storytelling is in his soul, or maybe it’s because he loves doing good in the world while fueling his own independent spirit. Whatever the reason, he’s driven by this other 30 percent — the less lucrative jobs, the passion projects such as “Requiem of Ice” and “Mending the Line.”

Several years ago Waller was on the Umpqua River producing a short tourism video when he asked his subject, 91-year-old fly fisherman Frank Moore, what in his

life remained undone. The answer — that Moore dreamt of returning to France to fly fish the rivers he had humped past as a World War II soldier — would not let the filmmaker go.

“I just couldn’t go on not making that happen for him. It wasn’t an option,” says Waller. Uncage the Soul gathered its resources, launched a crowdfunding campaign that raised nearly \$60,000, and took Moore and his wife of 70 years, Jeanne, to Normandy to fly fish those rivers. From this they produced the 45-minute documentary “Mending the Line.”

While on the surface the film may seem to be about a WWII veteran’s healing journey, or a fly-fishing excursion, Waller says “Mending the Line” is actually a love story. The Moores’ marriage withstood his two years in the war, a business, and the loss of a child — all heartbreaks and vulnerabilities they shared with Waller and his crew. And yet, while the couple may be in their 90s, they still act like honeymooners.

“That project made me a lot more loving for a lot of people in my life. It taught me a lot about love,” Waller says. “It’s really a

model for how to be in a relationship with another person, whether you’re married or not. You look at it and think, ‘Yeah, I’d like something like that, it looks pretty good.’”

What’s scripted next for Waller himself remains to be seen. In March he temporarily closed the business and took off on a 21-day rafting trip down the Colorado River. He swore to himself it wouldn’t be a working trip, that he wouldn’t become attached to or distracted by the one camera he was bringing along. Several projects awaited his return: a recruitment video for the Portland Police Bureau, a piece for the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation about trekking the Grand Canyon, and another job in Machu Picchu.

In between all those, Waller will spend some time at his favorite place in Oregon. As for where, he won’t say. Waller knows about the beauty and tragedy of sharing wild places. ▣

Freelancer Julie H. Case writes regularly about travel, alums, wine and geeky stuff for regional and national publications.



Karya Schanilec



Shayna Weimer

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

STUDIO ART SENIORS SAY GOODBYE TO WILLAMETTE WITH A SHOW OF TALENT.



Every spring, hundreds of people flock to a month-long exhibition at the Hallie Ford Museum of Art. Instead of the works of a famous artist, they're drawn by the creativity of Willamette studio art seniors.

The Senior Thesis Exhibition represents the students' work over the course of two semesters, their in-depth exploration of the challenges that professional artists face, and a bittersweet farewell to the university.

The six studio art majors who graduated this year offered diverse approaches and artistic visions that encompassed drawing, painting, photography and sculpture.

The show provides students with a rare and valuable opportunity to become familiar with the professional practices and expectations of the art world. "The chance to show your work in a respected art museum is a benefit that Willamette offers that many institutions don't," explains associate professor of art Alexandra Opie. "It puts students ahead in their professional preparation if they do want to go into a career in art."

The seniors create artist statements that describe their work and intentions; collaborate with museum staff to design, curate and install the exhibit; and give a public presentation about their work in a gallery talk. "Some find the experience draining," says Opie. "For others, it confirms that art is the direction for their lives."

On the day of commencement, many students take their proud parents for one last look at their art displayed on campus. The next day, with the exhibit over, they reclaim their work and begin their new lives as Willamette alumni.

Whether their path leads to graduate school, a museum or an art studio, it will emerge in the same way as their senior thesis: through commitment to self-discovery, experimentation and the hard work of acquiring new skills.

SHAYNA WEIMER '16 created a sensitive set of portraits to address the social stigma of mental illness. After talking with members of the Willamette community who suffer from mental illness, she drew their faces, using their own words to create the lines and shading. In her artist statement, she wrote: "In showing the faces together as a series, I intend to raise awareness of the commonness of mental illness and create a sense of community among those living with it."

KARYA SCHANILEC '16 captured the essence of dance through photography. Isolating moments within a dance, she created composites of images of performers' arms and legs set against a black background. In her artist statement, she wrote, "Photography allows me to capture the most subtle of movements, so they may be appreciated beyond happening just in that time."



Laura Cannon



Alexandra Ramsey

Laura Cannon '16 created abstract wire sculptures as a way of dealing with the death of her friend, **Sierra Carroll '16**. “It was essential to try to find some way to express what I was experiencing,” she wrote in her artist statement, in which she also dedicated her work to Carroll. “The repeated motion of twisting the wire together became meditation and, as I worked, my mind would be completely quiet.”

Alexandra Ramsey '16 used her camera to reveal a new way of looking at the world. Her extreme close-up photographs of everyday objects show the rich rewards to be gained when people slow down and pay attention. “Through isolation, the objects become nearly unrecognizable and abstract as they take on entirely new forms,” she explains. “This frees us from the constraint of looking at something with a preconception and allows us to see it in a new light.”

Mara Brassem '16 photographed her collections of items, such as plastic dinosaurs, to imbue the mundane with meaning. In her artist statement, she explained, “Just as an archaeologist uncovers ancient artifacts, studying each to build an understanding of the past, I have laid out these simple objects gathered over the years to highlight their particular qualities and make people think about their own accumulations.”

Shelbie Wolfe '16 experimented with both visual elements and unpredictable processes. She combined various materials, such as bleach, resin, acrylic paints, food coloring, sand and salt. Then she painted the resulting mixtures — textured, runny or sticky — onto 6” x 6” wooden squares “to create intimate materials that would bring people close to see the details.”



Mara Brassem



Shelbie Wolfe

4 TO WATCH



EACH AUGUST, AN UNDERGRADUATE TEAM PLANS AND MANAGES EVERY ASPECT OF THE WEEKLONG OPENING DAYS PROGRAM THAT WELCOMES NEW STUDENTS TO THE UNIVERSITY AND SALEM. HERE FOUR OF THE LEADERS TALK ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES.



MICHAEL CHEN '18

Math major, economics and environmental science minor

Why I joined the program:

Since the moment I arrived on campus and saw all the energetic Opening Days leaders, I knew I wanted to be one. My Opening Days leader pushed me out of my quiet shell and motivated me to become involved within the Willamette community.

What I enjoy most about it:

I get the chance to bond with awesome first-year and transfer students before anyone else does. It makes me smile at the end of the day knowing that I made an impact (small or large) on a new Bearcat.

How it's affected me:

Opening Days has given me the opportunity to become an even better mentor to others. I aspire to teach mathematics one day, and I want to demonstrate inclusivity, lifelong learning and enthusiasm in my classroom.



CADEN CROWSTON '18

Civic communication and media major

Why I joined the program:

In addition to being an incredibly fun time, Opening Days introduces students to college in a safe and informative way that helps them form close bonds with their peers.

What I enjoy most about it:

Many people say forming social relationships is one of the biggest components of the first week at Willamette, and it feels good to help foster these relationships and watch them grow as the year progresses.

How it's affected me:

This experience has definitely improved my leadership abilities, such as communication skills, planning and the art of compromise. The great thing about Willamette's student leadership model is that it gives a large amount of responsibility to student leaders.



KANDACE KING '17

Economics major, French and Francophone studies minor

Why I joined the program:

My Opening Days experience as a first-year student was absolutely incredible. I had wonderful leaders who really made Willamette feel like home, as well as a great group of other students to bond and share some of my first college memories with.

What I enjoy most about it:

I enjoy knowing that I am one of the first representatives of Willamette that many students encounter — and that the university trusts me with such an incredible responsibility.

How it's affected me:

This experience has taught me a lot about service leadership, interpersonal skills, working on a team and being adaptable. I've found so much fulfillment that I'm looking into student affairs as a possible future career path.



BRIDGET SUMMIT '17

Theatre major, psychology minor

Why I joined the program:

I became involved with Opening Days because I had a pretty hard freshman year at Willamette, so I am empathetic to situations that might arise for first-year students.

What I enjoy most about it:

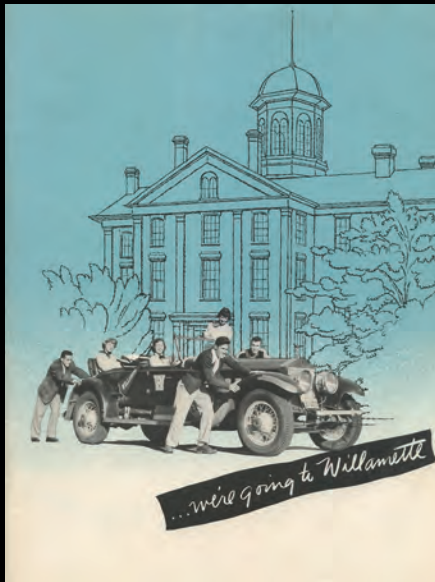
As Opening Days gathers people from all areas of the community, I've been able to meet people I never otherwise would have encountered. Plus, it's very heartening to see people who love Willamette so much that they want to share it with others.

How it's affected me:

When I became involved with Opening Days, I was very lost in terms of career direction. Now, my goal is to take a year off after graduating and then go to grad school for some sort of career in student affairs. So Opening Days has completely changed my life and helped me find my purpose.

In words and images, these two admission viewbooks — one from the 1950s and the other sent out this summer — portray what students find here on campus: renowned faculty, collaborative learning and the practical idealism of a liberal arts education; friends to last a lifetime; and a motto that inspires us to make a difference in the world. The hairstyles, fashions and cars may reflect the passage of years, but the spirit of Willamette is timeless.

1950s



2016





■ Associate professor of politics Melissa Michaux teaches a course on reforming criminal justice at the Oregon State Penitentiary in Salem.



QUESTIONS OF JUSTICE

An unusual class takes Willamette students inside prison walls to discover a new perspective on crime and punishment.

By Kristin Ohlson

The 34 students in Professor Melissa Buis Michaux’s “Reforming Criminal Justice” class settle their chairs into a big circle, waving across the room at classmates they didn’t get to speak to earlier and hastily finishing up conversations with neighbors. It’s a dismayingly hot day to be on the top floor of a five-story building in a room that faces the late-afternoon sun, a room with no air-conditioning, only two shades for three large windows and a few white plastic fans that whirl furiously but don’t cool. For a few minutes, everyone moans about the heat.

Then Michaux asks everyone to go around the circle and talk about what they’ve learned from the class, which started in January and is now in its final weeks.

Alex says, “I’ve learned that empathy and compassion is what will save our country.”

James says, “I’ve learned that good things happen in spaces that encourage community.”

Sam says, “I’ve learned to be a more thoughtful listener.”

Ernest says, “I’ve learned I don’t have to give up hope that the system will change.”

Mandy says, “I’ve learned how variable prisons are among states and within states.”

Joey says, “My biggest take-away is the amount of empathy we experience here every Monday night. Our conversations stay with me all week.”

Ben says, inciting peals of sympathetic laughter, “I’ve learned that I don’t want to read any more Foucault.”

While the class clearly enjoys a sense of camaraderie, two very different constellations of “us” exist in the room. Alex, Sam, Mandy, Joey and 13 others are upper-division students from Willamette University. James, Ernest, Ben and another 14 men are students from the Oregon State Penitentiary (OSP), a maximum-security prison where the class meets for nine of its 15 classes.

Although the university is located less than two miles away from the prison on the same street, the Willamette students’ journey is a huge and culturally challenging departure from their regular lives. They arrive at the visitors’ room desk, where their names are checked off a list submitted by the prison chaplain, Rabbi Avrohom Perlstein. They pass in groups through the metal detectors and an electronically unbolted door into another room, where they sign in and reach their hands through a dark slit in a smoked-glass wall to hand over their IDs to an unseen official and receive a prison badge. Another door slides open and they march through and line up along a hallway, then move to another smoked-glass wall where a shadowy figure on the other side asks for their name and badge number, as curious inmates stare from across the room. Then they climb the four flights of stairs to the classroom.

The inmates’ journeys are much longer, depending on where you begin counting the steps. Many arrived from childhoods of poverty and neglect and abuse, foster homes and juvenile detention, and they’ve been in prison for decades. Some were involved in horrific crimes, including murder. They look oddly collegiate, though: they are all required to wear blue — blue jeans, blue T-shirts, blue sweatshirts — and the blues are imprinted in orange with the prison’s crest. The crest makes their clothes look like college sportswear, except that the word “inmate” is also printed there in bold orange letters.

If some students were a little nervous about going into the prison, some of their parents panicked. Alex Tuchman ’16, a psychology major, wanted to take the class because she’s done

some work assisting victims of crimes and — as she makes plans to attend law school in a couple of years — wanted to understand offenders and the larger workings of the criminal justice system. On the first day of class, she got a call from her father, asking her to reconsider. “This isn’t ‘Orange Is the New Black,’” he pleaded, referring to the popular Netflix program. “You don’t have to go.”

But Tuchman — who says taking the class was one of the most important decisions of her life and changed her trajectory — explains that her parents have come around to a more nuanced view of the inmates. “They understand that people can make mistakes,” she says, “and that their crimes don’t define them.”

Michaux hoped her Willamette students’ experience inside the prison would lead to that gray-shaded view of offenders. “It’s easy to engage in ‘othering’ when there isn’t a human face attached,” Michaux explains. “It’s easy to make judgments — ‘That could never be me’ or ‘Anyone who would do that is beyond redemption’ — when you don’t have someone sitting in front of you. The OSP guys are very open about the wrongs they’ve committed and their backgrounds. When you interact with them, you see the possibility of redemption.”

Or as one inmate says, “When I was a kid, I had one of those View-Masters that you could look through and see things in stereo. Before all of you came here, you had just one image of us. Now you have another image. Maybe you see us in a new way.”



According to the Prison Policy Initiative, the United States currently imprisons about 2.4 million men, women and children and is believed by many to have more people incarcerated than any other country in the world. Some 10 percent of these people serve life sentences. According to Columbia University law professor Robert Ferguson, our per capita imprisonment rate is seven times greater than that of Europe. American inmates also stay in prison longer, sentenced to longer terms than other countries — and much longer than four decades ago. By the Bureau of Justice Statistics tally, 80,000 people are in solitary confinement in our prisons at any given time. All this incarceration is expensive: prisons and jails cost some \$80 billion a year, with strained state and local governments shouldering 90 percent of the bill.

Much of this rise in the prison population stemmed from the War on Drugs, launched by President Richard Nixon in 1971 and escalated in the 1980s by President Ronald Reagan. As discussed by civil rights lawyer and scholar Michelle Alexander in her book, “The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness” — one of the readings for Michaux’s class — “Drug offenses alone account for two-thirds of the rise in the federal inmate population and more than half of the rise in state prisoners between 1985 and 2000 More than 31 million people have been arrested for drug offenses since the drug war began.”

Most of those arrested weren’t “kingpins” or predatory dealers, either. As Alexander points out, four out of five drug arrests in 2005 were for possession. Harsh changes in public policy regarding drugs and other crimes, along with discriminatory policing and prosecution, have been especially devastating for African-American communities around the country. According to the Equal Justice Initiative, black men are more than six times more likely to be incarcerated than white men. Given current trends, one of every three black men born in 2001 will go to jail or prison.

“Society treats offenders as a subclass of human beings. When you treat them in a humane way, you bring out the creative energies of the human that’s trapped in this stigma.”

— Rabbi Avrohom Perlstein



As Willamette students and professors mix with inmates at Oregon State Penitentiary, both groups learn to look past stereotypes.

**2.4
MILLION**

MEN, WOMEN AND
CHILDREN
in prison in the U.S.

80,000

in solitary confinement

10%

are serving
life sentences

U.S. incarceration rate is

7 TIMES

that of Europe

**BLACK MEN ARE
6 TIMES
MORE LIKELY TO
BE INCARCERATED
than white men**

1 IN 3

OF ALL BLACK MEN
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if current trends continue

Undoubtedly, crime often ruins the lives of victims' families, who may lose loved ones, financial security, their health or a sense of safety. But it also disrupts the families of the offenders, who may be deprived of breadwinners, parents and other people who are important parts of the family structure. Almost one in 40 children in America has an incarcerated parent, and the damage to these children can last a lifetime. According to research by the University of Virginia's Prisoners and Their Families Project, children with an incarcerated parent are at higher risk for lower academic achievement, mental illness, family disruptions and crime.

And many of the people sentenced to prison are under 18 — children themselves. The Equal Justice Initiative notes that thousands of such children have been sentenced as adults and sent to adult prisons, and nearly 3,000 have been sentenced to life without parole. At any given time, around 10,000 children are housed in our adult jails and prisons.

These statistics are so staggering that most of us can't take them in — or more likely, we never hear them in the first place because prisoners and their stories are typically walled away from the rest of society. But for Michaux's students, the statistics have assumed an indelibly human form. Willamette students Alex Tuchman and Chantal Snedden were talking to two OSP students about sentences for juvenile offenders. One ran his fingers over the inside of his arm, where a grim tattoo rode above his watchband.

"I was 19 when I was sentenced to 21 years," he said. "It felt like a death sentence. It felt like I died."

The tattoo showed Death holding two swords, standing over a tombstone bearing the inmate's name and the words "RIP: Long Live the King." The inmate says he accepted a plea bargain for two counts of robbery in the first degree and one count of attempted robbery to avoid a potential 160-year sentence if his case went to trial. He is far from unique: Most prisoners are behind bars because they agreed to plead guilty in lieu of a trial.

"I was the king in my family," he says of the motto on the tombstone. "I always made sure we got together and had family reunions, things like that. But when I went to prison, they ended up falling apart from each other."



Michaux began teaching at Willamette University 16 years ago. Her research has focused on welfare policy, and, among other things, she offers students a feminist perspective that looks at how welfare policies can function as a form of social control over poor women. Over the last few years, she started to think about social-control mechanisms over poor men and, through some of the work from scholars such as Michelle Alexander and Marie Gottschalk, realized that many of those poor men were in prison. She saw research showing that counties in Florida with the most punitive welfare policy also have the most punitive criminal justice policy. Intrigued by the connection, she devoted part of her 2014-15 sabbatical to researching mass incarceration.

Michaux found out that Perlstein ran a series of eight-week classes inside OSP focusing on restorative justice, an approach that shifts the emphasis from punishment to repairing the harm caused by criminal behavior. According to the Centre for Justice & Reconciliation, "Restorative justice recognizes that crime hurts everyone — victims, offenders and community. It creates an obligation to make things right." This approach, adopted worldwide

“No matter the harm, damage or magnitude of failure that a person is previously responsible for, it does not prevent the ability to do good in the present.”

— Oregon State Penitentiary inmate

in various settings, addresses the needs of victims, offenders and communities, and aims to rebuild the connections that both crime and the criminal justice system have sundered.

Michaux figured that going to the class and getting a better understanding of offenders would help improve her teaching of the subject, and the rabbi welcomed her to the group. She was a little nervous about how the men would react, though.

“I thought I could be dismissed as a pointy-headed academic,” Michaux says. “Instead, they were grateful that I was there and cared a lot about what I thought. That surprised me, but I was even more surprised by how they were trying to figure out how to have lives of meaning given their circumstances. I thought that was profound. It’s something all of us are trying to do.”

Michaux attended six of the rabbi’s restorative justice classes, then brought freshmen students taking her fall 2015 class, “The Politics of Punishment,” to the prison for a tour and to engage with several prisoners. She saw that the students learned a lot from the exchange and that the prisoners appreciated it, too. While many classes from Oregon universities visit the prison, they generally focus on criminology, not the politics of incarceration or restorative justice.

With input from Perlstein and a group of prisoners, Michaux worked out the details for an upper-division class in which inmates who had been engaged in the restorative justice work and Willamette students would come together as peers, doing the same readings and papers and meshing in critical discussion. She knew her Willamette students would benefit from the class, but she wasn’t sure what the prisoners would get out of it.

As it turned out, they appreciated her students’ interest. “The prisoners told me they feel forgotten by society; about half of them have no visitors from the outside at all,” Michaux says. “And they wanted an intellectual environment where people took their views seriously. They told me not to lower my standards, that they wanted me to grade their papers and give feedback.”

The class focuses on a range of issues related to the causes and consequences of incarceration. Some of the readings prompt students to explore the various motivations behind imprisonment — to punish, to express umbrage, to deter future crime — and think about why it’s different here in the United States than in other countries. Some ask students to examine factors such as peer pressure that drive people to commit criminal acts, or to ponder

what purpose prisons serve and whether they actually decrease crime. Other readings delve into the flaws in our criminal justice system: the racial disparities in policing and prosecution, the emphasis on punishment over rehabilitation, the damaging impact of incarceration on poor families and communities.

Thirty percent of the Willamette students’ grades are based on a research project, undertaken in small groups with inmates, which presents detailed solutions to a current problem in the criminal justice system. One group worked on a revision of visitation policies and procedures to make them more family-friendly; another developed a proposal for increased vocational opportunities for prisoners nearing release. One group chased after visionary reform with a proposal for an “open prison” like Norway’s Bastøy, located on an island and often called the nicest prison in the world — and thought to have the world’s lowest reoffending rate.

All the proposals are directed to a specific audience like the Department of Corrections, a non-profit or a lawmaker. As the groups were in the final stages of researching and consolidating their ideas, Willamette alum Greg Alderson ’11, now the legislative director for Oregon House Speaker Tina Kotek, visited the class at the prison and offered suggestions for crafting more effective proposals.

These proposals draw students into a much-needed national dialog from all parts of the political spectrum about the need to reform the criminal justice system. “Even if you believe that prison is primarily for punishment,” Michaux says, “the problem with our current system is that more than 680,000 people nationwide are released every year. If all we do is punish and not rehabilitate and break the cycle, then we hurt ourselves and the communities to which ex-prisoners return.”

The inmates also brought to class some of their own writings, which had a powerful effect on the Willamette students. Of particular impact was a paper called “Going Forward with Gus,” by an inmate who was sentenced at the age of 16 to 71 years in prison for his role in a double murder. He entered prison 19 years ago, on the day his Willamette classmate Snedden was born.

In this long personal essay, the inmate writes about being selected and trained in 2015 as a volunteer for the OSP Hospice program. One of the men he cared for was Gus, a 63-year-old man dying of cancer. Over two months, the prisoner visited the infirmary for three hours daily to talk, write letters for Gus, and make plans for

“They were trying to figure out how to have lives of meaning given their circumstances It’s something all of us are trying to do.”

— Professor Melissa Buis Michaux

what they would do when Gus felt better — watch the entire Lord of the Rings trilogy, look at all his photographs, listen to lots of Bob Marley. At the end, he stayed with Gus all day and into the night, cleaning him, tending his bedsores, catching him when he’d fall trying to get out of bed.

“Having been both a source of harm and service at the end of another’s life,” he wrote in his essay, “the greatest lesson discovered is that it is possible to experience feelings of redemption, by being a source of love in the exact spot I was once a source of pain. No matter the harm, damage or magnitude of failure that a person is previously responsible for, it does not prevent the ability to do good in the present.”

Willamette senior Sam Gonzalez ’16, a politics major with a minor in Spanish, was one of those struck by this essay. “While we read many important articles about the social science and policy decisions that impact the carceral system,” he says, “they often did not reveal the deeply personal consequences of prison on individuals. The paper and the class more broadly reminded me that stories and individual connections truly do matter. It is easy to forget this when you are studying how to reform a problematic system where successful reform is only measured in recidivism rates and other metrics.”

That particular prisoner is probably the one who piques the greatest sense of cognitive dissonance among the students. Of all the inmates in the class, he has the most disturbing criminal past and the longest sentence — he’s not scheduled for release until he’s 87. Yet, he regrets his earlier crimes and has matured into a man of remarkable grace and compassion.

“Society treats offenders as a sub-class of human beings,” says Perlstein. “But when you start talking to them, you realize they’re someone’s son or daughter. When you treat them in a humane way, you bring out the creative energies of the human that’s trapped in this stigma.”

The few political leaders who speak about reforming our criminal justice system often recommend a simple fix:

Decriminalize the purchase and sale of drugs and release the people imprisoned for nonviolent drug offenses. But Michaux and her Willamette students have learned a more difficult truth: We also need to think about whether to keep people who have committed violent crimes in prison long past the point at which they’re a menace to society.

Even Michaux was leery about changing policies regarding violent offenders until she began visiting the prison. “The inmate who became a hospice volunteer is a pretty incredible example,” she says. “He engaged in a horrific crime, and if you had asked me about him before I started visiting the prison, I would have said that if he could do something that awful at such a young age, he was damaged. But he completely changed my thinking. In that story about Gus, you see such a transformation — from someone who could not understand the value of life to someone who appreciates it more than many people I know.”

Perhaps Michaux and her students will emerge from the class with a reform idea that changes criminal justice for the better — at OSP, in Oregon, or even around the country. Whether or not that transpires, the class has certainly built connections between two disparate groups of humans — college student and convicts — and completely changed how they understand each other. For the students, it may shift their thinking for the rest of their lives — and not just in a criminal justice context. “What I’ve learned,” says psychology major Snedden, “is that there needs to be more community and societal support for humans in general.”

For the men behind bars at OSP, the class has been a lifeline. Instead of watching television and passing their time in other mundane ways, they studied texts and wrote essays — obtaining a new outlook on life’s possibilities they may carry with them if or when they leave prison. Taking Michaux’s course and the restorative justice classes within the prison has even changed the way the men relate to each other and everyone around them.

“Restorative justice calls on the individual to take into account all the ripple effects of their actions,” says Perlstein. “If they change the way they behave and change the way they deal with staff and other inmates, then the inmates themselves can change prison culture. Then, hopefully, the prison system will adapt to better-behaved inmates.”

Perlstein remembers inmates who, as a result of their involvement with restorative justice, have reshaped their behavior and denounced violence as a solution or a means of conflict resolution.

Although small, such changes are a sign of hope for a more positive future. In a place where hope often receives a death sentence. ☐

Kristin Ohlson is an award-winning freelance journalist, author, essayist and fiction writer. Her book “The Soil Will Save Us: How Scientists, Farmers, and Foodies Are Healing the Soil to Save the Planet” was a finalist for the 2015 Oregon Book Awards.

What are your thoughts on Professor Michaux’s class and the issues it raises about restorative justice and mass incarceration?
Email us at magazine@willamette.edu.



To learn more about restorative justice, we talked to Paul De Muniz JD'75, distinguished jurist in residence at the College of Law and former chief justice of the Oregon Supreme Court.

What is your perspective on restorative justice?

A restorative justice approach compels offenders to recognize the consequences of their actions, which can result in lower recidivism rates. Almost half of Oregon's prison population is locked up for violating probation or post-prison supervision, so keeping people from reoffending not only creates safer communities but also has staggering financial implications.

The Oregon Department of Corrections' budget is more than \$1.5 billion; each prisoner costs more than \$30,000 per year — more than triple what we spend per student on K-12 education. Lowering recidivism rates could allow us to invest more in K-12 education, resulting in a better-educated population that would strengthen the state's economy and save even more money over time by decreasing reliance on entitlement and social safety net programs.

Why are programs like this worth pursuing?

In the vast majority of cases, these men and women will be released into our

communities. They face the daunting task of forging a life outside after years of incarceration. Imagine the barriers after serving a lengthy sentence: criminal record, lack of education, lack of contemporary work skills and no professional network.

Even worse, most are alone. Most prisoners, especially those serving long sentences, never receive a visitor, so programs like this are often their only tether to the outside world. Each visit strengthens that outside connection and lessens the odds that participants will land back in prison.

Of course, there are circumstances in which restorative justice approaches may not be appropriate, such as domestic violence or sexual assault. Critics have raised concerns about restorative justice focusing on the betterment of the offender rather than the well-being of the victim, though I'd add that studies suggest participants tend to be highly satisfied with restorative justice programs.

If you had a magic gavel, what changes would you make to our criminal justice system?

I would restore judicial discretion in sentencing. Because of mandatory minimum sentencing requirements, we don't have a system that takes into account both the conduct and character of the offender, so our prison populations swell.

One of the things we're learning about mandatory minimum sentencing policies is that longer sentences have diminishing returns. The longer the sentence, the barriers to a prisoner's successful reentry to society increase. So we need to ask if we're really getting the benefits of these lengthy sentences or simply exacting vengeance.

Thoughtful sentencing practices and programs that reduce recidivism are not do-gooder policies. They are safety policies. When you reduce recidivism, you reduce the number of victims and the costs of reincarceration. The restorative justice approach doesn't just help victims and our communities, it restores the integrity of the criminal justice system.

ON LOCATION

In times of global strife and upheaval, world peace can seem a hopeless dream. But a campus event in April demonstrated international harmony in action.

Almost 200 people gathered at the Cat Cavern for the Atkinson Graduate School of Management's annual dinner hosted by the International Graduate Student Association. A United Nations in miniature, MBA students represented 21 countries.

Various languages filled the air as people wearing kimonos, hijabs and kanduras chatted, hugged and laughed. When the notes of a traditional Turkish dance rang out, most of the crowd formed a large circle, draping their arms around their neighbor's shoulder or waist and kicking up their legs.

Along with food, music and traditions, they shared the most important gift of all — friendship.





Cardinal



**Bearcat swimmers
set seven school
records at NWC
Championships**

**FORE Willamette
Golf Tournament
on Sept. 12 at
The Reserve**

**Willamette Athletics
Hall of Fame
induction on Sept. 22**

& Gold



Jade Smith '17 pitched in 24 softball games, including 19 starts



Bearcats meet the SEALs

For the Willamette student-athletes lined up on the Sparks soccer field, the training session started with a shock: a blast of cold water in the face from a hose wielded by a Navy SEAL.

The unusual event aimed to help the Bearcats increase their mental and physical strength and team spirit through tips and techniques from the elite combat force.

“Aside from the fact that SEALs protect our country, it’s amazing — from a coach’s perspective — what they can do mentally and physically,” says **Leslie Shevlin**, head coach for the Willamette men’s and women’s swimming teams. “And the SEAL philosophy of teamwork applies to all stages of life, not just to student-athletes.”

In 2015, with the help of **Danny James ’91**, a former SEAL and an alumnus of the Bearcats swimming team, Shevlin took her teams to a winter training camp at the SEAL headquarters at the Naval Amphibious Base Coronado in San Diego. As part of that rigorous training, students formed teams to

carry heavy logs while running on the sand or doing squats and crunches.

“I thought the students wouldn’t talk to me again or show up for practice,” Shevlin recalls. “But most said it was the most transformative experience of their lives.”

When the Bearcats couldn’t make it to the Coronado base for the 2016 camp, the SEALs detoured to Salem before attending another event in Oregon. Starting with a presentation on team-building, they explained how members of a team — whether a SEAL boat crew or a university swim team — must work together to achieve their goals, be held accountable and support each other 100 percent.

They also shared a way to improve pain tolerance and develop persistence: repeat a word or phrase, or even just recite the alphabet backwards, as a distraction during tough moments.

Next came a two-hour exercise session, which was voluntary and open to all student-athletes. Under the glare of the

stadium lights, 20 participants from swimming, rowing and football stood along the edge of the field. After being soaked with cold water, the students embarked on a challenging routine of sprints, push-ups, planks, jump squats and more.

“When you go through a difficult or uncomfortable experience like that, it helps you bond with the people who’ve gone through the same thing,” says James, who spent nine years in the SEALs on active duty and in the reserves. “When you’re stressed, wet and cold, you have to dig down deep and find out what you’re made of.”

Swimmer **Shelby Merrill ’17** appreciates the SEALs’ approach. “It was a privilege to work with them,” he says. “The team-building exercises taught us to care about and watch out for our group or team. Many of us were from different sports and had never even talked to each other before, but at the end, we were all a team, cheering each other on.”

Throughout the training, Willamette athletic trainers stood ready to help in case of problems. A couple of students temporarily retreated to the sidelines but returned to the field.



“Students said it was the most transformative experience of their lives.”

“The SEALs had never seen people come back like that, and they said we had some very strong student-athletes here at Willamette,” says Shevlin. “It was interesting to see the SEALs yelling through megaphones but also working with students who were struggling. It was a scary and supportive environment at the same time.”

For swimmer **Natalie Viascas '18**, the tough training turned around a bad semester and a particularly bad day. A nontraditional student, Viascas transferred to Willamette last year, moving with her husband and young daughter from California. She was struggling to improve her performance in the pool, and on the day of the SEAL training, she found out she wasn't getting a good grade in her chemistry class.

“I wasn't even sure I was going to go to the training session,” she says. “But it was amazing. I wasn't intimidated by the SEALs; I was impressed. I loved their tips on mental toughness. It applies to work, school, kids, family and team.”

In fact, after the training, Viascas sent Shevlin an email, saying, “Now I feel like I can do anything.”

Mission accomplished. 

NEWS & NOTES



Lehndorff and Ostrander Selected for Booth and Williams Awards

Hans Lehndorff '16 and **Taylor Ostrander '16** won the J.H. Booth Award and the Jean Williams Award, respectively, for 2015-16 as the Bearcats' top senior student-athletes.

Lehndorff was a four-year letterwinner and a three-year starter on the defensive line in football. In track and field, he won the 2014 and 2016 Northwest Conference championships in the discus throw, placing fourth in 2013 and fifth in 2015. His top throw of 158' 2" is the best by a Willamette athlete since 1963. This spring, Lehndorff also took second place in the NWC in the shot put with a career-best throw of 52' 5.25".

Ostrander competed in eight NCAA Championships: four in cross country and four in track and field. This spring, she won the NWC championship in the 5,000-meter run for the third consecutive season. In 2014, she earned the NWC title in the 3,000-meter steeplechase. During the 2015 cross country season, Ostrander received All-America honors by placing 26th at the NCAA Championships, while helping Willamette finish 10th in the team standings.

For more information about the award winners, visit willamette.edu/go/BoothAward16 and willamette.edu/go/WilliamsAward16.

Men's Golf Places Second in Northwest Conference

For the second year in a row, the Willamette men's golf team took second place in the Northwest Conference standings.

The Bearcats earned first place at the NWC Spring Classic. **Peter Mitzel '17** and **Steven Rodriguez '16** were named First Team All-NWC, while **Chase Lamothe '17** received Honorable Mention recognition.

Willamette won or tied for the team title at seven of 11 tournaments during the season, and concluded the year tied for No. 25 in the Bushnell Golfweek Coaches Poll for NCAA Division III.



Bearcats Win Five Events at NWC Track and Field Championships

Willamette won four individual championships and one relay title during the 2016 Northwest Conference Track and Field Championships in Portland, Oregon.

Hans Lehndorff '16 won the men's discus, while **Taylor Ostrander '16** finished first in the women's 5,000-meter run with a time of 17:32.92. Willamette claimed both 3,000-meter steeplechase titles, as **Jacob Shafi '16** took first for the men in 9:26.70 and **Hannah Bressler '16** won the women's race in 10:56.20.

The Bearcats also won the women's 4 x 100-meter relay. **Jewell Sparks '18**, **Teneah Rushen '16**, **Maura Forbush '17** and **Kylea Johnson '16** ran 48.44 seconds for the second-fastest time in Bearcat track and field history.



Well Read

As the Class of 2016 heads out into the world, Willamette faculty and staff suggest some good books full of career and life advice that's relevant for alumni of all ages.

Adulting: How to Become a Grown-Up in 468 Easy(ish) Steps

by Kelly Williams Brown

“Adult isn’t a noun, it’s a verb,” writes Kelly Williams Brown in her often-hilarious and always-practical primer on life after college. “It’s the act of making correctly those small decisions that fill our day. It is one that you can practice, and that can be done in concrete steps.”

In no-nonsense yet sympathetic terms, Brown offers advice on the minutiae of life, such how to make perfect mashed potatoes and write thank-you notes. She also nails the big-picture stuff — learn to be alone, accept responsibility for your words and actions, and “cope gracefully and eventually move past emergencies large and small via the resilience of the human spirit and the power of safety pins.”

The book is perfect for anyone who needs some help figuring out domesticity, money, friends and neighbors, the workplace, love and tough times. It’s never too late to be a grown-up.

Recommended by Jeani Bragg, director of vocational discernment and leadership development in Career Services



Resonant Leadership

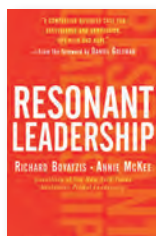
by Richard Boyatzis and Annie McKee

Burned-out, stressed-out leaders (and indeed, many workers) may be more prevalent than ever in American businesses, but authors Richard Boyatzis and Annie McKee offer a solution based on mindfulness, hope and compassion.

As in their previous collaboration with Daniel Goleman on the bestselling “Primal Intelligence,” they show how emotional intelligence — the ability to process emotional information and use it to guide thinking and behavior — is essential for achieving results in the modern workplace without sacrificing health or sanity.

While firmly rooted in the authors’ academic research and real-life consulting experiences, this holistic and ethical view of management also incorporates cognitive psychology and Buddhist philosophy to help leaders get the best from themselves and others.

Recommended by Larry Ettner, professor of management practice in the Atkinson Graduate School of Management



Yes, And: Lessons from The Second City

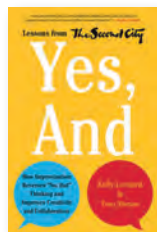
by Kelly Leonard and Tom Yorton

It may sound funny, but lessons from a world-renowned comedy theatre really could improve your career and your life.

The secret weapon is improvisation — an approach that harnesses the power of creativity, communication and collaboration. Aiming to reverse the “No, but” thinking that can stifle ideas, projects and careers, “Yes, And” calls on principles of improvisation used by The Second City theatre group, incubator of comedic talent such as Tina Fey and Stephen Colbert.

As taught to thousands of the theatre’s clients in corporations, nonprofits and other organizations, these principles follow the lead of successful businesses: They encourage people to challenge convention, embrace failure as part of the process, allow any group member to assume a leadership role, and listen to understand rather than merely to respond.

Recommended by Phylis Myles, assistant dean for placement in the College of Law



Extreme Ownership: How U.S. Navy SEALs Lead and Win

by Jocko Willink and Leif Babin

Applying hard-won lessons learned in military action, two former SEALs bring home leadership secrets from the battlefield.

After serving in combat and then as leadership instructors for the U.S. Navy’s elite fighting force, Willink and Babin set up their own consulting firm. In this New York Times bestseller, vivid accounts of the authors’ experiences in Iraq, as well as real-life examples from their consulting company, become case studies. Their theories and tactics, they say, can be applied in business, sports “and, to a broader degree, life.”

In their book, successful leaders check their ego, work with others to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes, attack weaknesses, and consistently work to build a better and more effective team. In doing so, they can change the culture of their team and entire organization.

Recommended by Leslie Shevlin, head swimming coach



**Welcome to Bearcat
World: News, views
and happenings
from the Willamette
alumni community.**



Alumni Awards 2016

The Pride of Bearcats

The alumni association supports and celebrates all Willamette alumni whose actions, careers and lives exemplify the university's motto, "Not unto ourselves alone are we born." Once a year, the association honors some of the most outstanding Bearcats through its Alumni Awards.

At Commencement in May, the association announced seven winners in three award categories.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

The Distinguished Alumni citation recognizes Willamette graduates who, in professional achievement and service to their community, represent their university in an exemplary manner by embodying its highest ideals as represented in the motto.



Roy Chapin '61

An international consultant in animal nutrition, Chapin has dedicated his life to making the world a better place by reducing hunger through improved animal agricultural production. By improving farm animals' nutrition in more than 20 countries in Asia,

Africa, Latin America, and Eastern and Central Europe, he helped increase the milk and protein they produce for human consumption. Previously, while serving in the U.S. Air Force as officer in charge of space nutrition research, Chapin helped develop space foods for NASA. Chapin has served two terms as president of the Oregon Feed, Seed, and Suppliers' Association and is a charter diplomate of the College of Nutrition of the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists.



Nancy Weeks Federici '60

Federici's entire adult life has been devoted to music, community activism and philanthropy. Her Willamette degree in music education and her graduate work in 1963 in vocal performance and music led her to teach vocal music and training. She soloed, sang in musical ensembles, performed in musical theater and conducted choral groups and church choirs. She also worked tirelessly to better her community of St. Helens, Oregon, working in politics, schools and the retail community and on local and state service boards. In return, her community honored her with awards including Young Careerist, Oregon Retailer of

the Year, Woman of the Year and Citizen of the Year. Federici continues to work in music in her retirement in Seattle.



Catharine Newbury '66

Having majored at Willamette in political science and French, Newbury did graduate work at the University of Wisconsin. She then conducted research on colonial state-building and the complicated processes of decolonization in Rwanda and eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, becoming a close witness to some of the most painful events in recent African history. She has also written widely on the origins, processes and aftermath of political turmoil in the Great Lakes Region of central Africa. Through her publications, Newbury has sought to create deeper understanding of tragic events often misunderstood in the West. She has taught a wide range of courses on women, peasant politics and development issues at several universities. Newbury has served as president of the multidisciplinary African Studies Association and as academic director of the Five College African Scholars Program. She retired from Smith College in 2012 and now lives with her husband in Vermont.

YOUNG ALUMNI

The Young Alumni Leadership Award recognizes graduates from the past 10 years for outstanding leadership in their vocation, community service or service to the university.



Amanda Helfer '08

At Willamette, Helfer learned to lead through service to her community — an ethos she has put into practice ever since graduation. Through her work with AmeriCorps and the United Way of Larimer County (Colorado), she rallied thousands of volunteers to actively address and confront poverty, including mentoring at-risk youth, supporting low-income housing residents and championing disadvantaged teens at a local safe house. Helfer also engaged volunteers to help their neighbors affected by wildfires and floods in 2012 and 2013. Recently, Helfer obtained a master's degree in public administration from the Evans School for Public Policy & Governance and aims to put her commitment and compassion to work for a global humanitarian organization. Currently, she researches wage policy issues in Seattle.



SPARKS MEDALLION

The Sparks Medallion recognizes graduates whose lifetime loyalty and service to Willamette reflect the ideals of one of the university's most devoted alumni, Lestle J. Sparks '19.

Donald G. Brown '68 and Carol Anne Brown '67

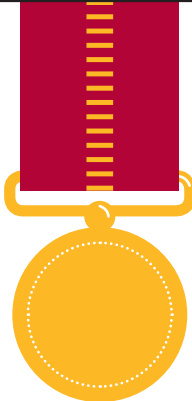
The Browns have been active and loyal supporters of Willamette for almost 50 years, working with alumni relations, development, admissions and the President's Office to further the mission of the university. Don received his bachelor's degree in philosophy and political science from Willamette, while Carol Anne — the daughter

of alumnus Bill Smullin '29, in whose honor Smullin Hall is named — studied here for two years before transferring to Stanford. Don is the retired dean of Trinity Cathedral in Sacramento, and Carol Anne is the retired executive director of the Smullin Foundation. Don has served on Willamette's Board of Trustees since 2004, including time as vice chair, and the Browns regularly host trustee, alumni and admissions gatherings in their own home. In addition, they are leading supporters of Willamette Academy, the university's academic program to help students from historically underrepresented communities advance to higher education.



Peter Wallmark '68

A role model for alumni participation in the life of Willamette, Wallmark freely gives his time, energy and talents to various alumni association boards, committees and activities. With a wealth of business experience — both from his 35-year career as a senior executive at companies such as Nike, and currently as a certified executive coach — Wallmark is a frequent presenter at the alumni association's career events, as well as a mentor for the Atkinson Graduate School of Management's career management program. A member of the alumni association's Portland Chapter committee, Wallmark also served two terms on the association's board of directors.



A CELEBRATION OF THIS YEAR'S NOTABLE ALUMNI will take place during Alumni Weekend, Sept. 22-25. Award recipients will be recognized on Friday, Sept. 23, at the all-alumni Bearcat Bash and then at a special awards ceremony and dinner.

These awards come from you! You don't have to be a Willamette graduate to make a nomination — if you work with or know an outstanding Bearcat, tell us about them. To learn more about the nomination process and criteria, visit: willamette.edu/go/alumniawards.

Class Notes

Remember to submit Class Notes to willamette.edu/magazine, or directly to Class Notes editor Daniel Johnson at johnsond@willamette.edu. Your note may be edited for style and for space constraints.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Couples are listed under the graduation year of the person who submitted the class note, unless they specify otherwise.

1952

Shirley Plummer released her first collection of poetry, "the task of falling rain," published by Turnstone Books of Oregon.

1961 55TH REUNION

Class Liaisons: Alice (Stewart) Pailthorp and Bill Richter

Jerry May published his third book, "Counter Balance," a political-military thriller involving a terrorist threat on the United States.

Gary McBride JD'63 and his wife, Beverly, share time at their homes in Toledo, Ohio; Avon, Colorado; and Columbia City, Oregon. Beverly is a skilled quilter and avid reader, while Gary spends his summers hiking. His hiking journal can be seen at trailjournals.com/monkeywrench2016.

Alice (Stewart) Pailthorp writes: "On Sept. 12, my husband, **Keith Pailthorp '60**, and I lost a rental home of ours in Cobb, California, to the devastating fire that swept through that area, with our nearby Cobb vacation home having been spared. Despite the problems associated with this loss, we made the extra effort to attend Willamette's 2015 Alumni Weekend, which included Keith's 55th reunion.

"Like many returning alums, we came mainly to recapture the past (which we did), but we also came away with a further appreciation of the growth of WU and of its future prospects. In light of our 2015 experience (and the very fulfilling '61 50th Reunion in 2011), we are looking forward to attending Willamette's Sept. 22-25 Alumni Weekend/Class of '61 55th reunion, and hope that many '61 alums will be there."

1962

Rev. Charles Darby and his wife, Rev. Patty Darby, moved from Wichita, Kansas, to Titusville, Florida. Fully retired for over nine years, they still volunteer as pastors at Rocket Town Church. They are looking forward to celebrating their 55th wedding anniversary in October.

1966 50TH REUNION

1969

Class Liaison: Teresa (Krug) Hudkins

1971 45TH REUNION

1974

Patrick Pine MBA'76 is chief administrative officer of the Robert F. Kennedy Medical Plan and the Juan De La Cruz Pension Plan — the benefits plans for the United Farm Workers of America. In April, he spoke at the Northern California State of Reform Health Policy Conference in Sacramento on "Innovations by Employers to Control Health Costs."

1975

Class Liaison: Patti (Lalack) Hutterli

Ken Morris presented a patent-pending protocol for protecting personal and computing device identifying information at the 2016 BioMelbourne Network conference in Melbourne, Australia.

1976 40TH REUNION

1978

Karen (Wingo) Cole traveled to Australia in April with **Kathy (Jensen) Marambe '71** to compete in the International Dragon Boat Federation's Club Crew World Championships in Adelaide. Their support team included **Bob Hermann '71, JD'74**, whose wife, Patty, is a member of the boat crew. The women's team, based out of the Golden Dragons Paddling Club in Portland, Oregon, placed sixth overall in the Senior C (60 and older) Division. "Willamette University was well-represented at the event," says Karen. "Our team



Jerry May '61



Ken Morris '75



Left to right: Karen (Wingo) Cole '78, Bob Hermann '71, JD'74 and Kathy (Jensen) Marambe '71



Milo, grandson of Jay Dressler '79

Building a Healthy Future for Tanzania

In a maternity ward of a Tanzanian hospital, an old woman cried as she cradled a newborn. The joy of welcoming a new life mixed with grief and helplessness at the loss of another: her daughter — the baby's mother — had just died in childbirth.

For **Bobby Griffin '59** and his wife, **Barbara (Roach) Griffin '59**, the heartbreaking sight was made worse by the knowledge that the tragedy, and many more like it, could have been prevented.

"The statistics are quite astounding when it comes to maternal deaths and infant deaths," Barbara says of Tanzania, which has one of the highest maternal and child mortality rates in the world.

The Griffins were invited to the African country in 2001 by the family of a young Tanzanian woman, whose U.S. college education they were sponsoring. Bobby, a recently retired senior executive with the medical technology giant Medtronic, had visited many countries on business, including China, India and Indonesia — but he'd never before witnessed such dismal healthcare. Most Tanzanian hospitals lacked basic resources and equipment and employed few properly trained staff.

Bobby and Barbara knew they wanted to help. So, they not only gave their own money to the cause, but enlisted several major donors to launch the Dodoma Tanzania Health Development (DTHD) non-profit organization in 2003.

Using the non-profit as their fundraising base, the Griffins, along with DTHD's board of directors, supported an experienced



missionary doctor to establish the Dodoma Christian Medical Center (DCMC) in Tanzania's capital.

The Griffins also helped found a for-profit water-bottling company in 2007 to support the ongoing sustainability of the medical center while providing the economically poor region with jobs and reliable drinking water.

"Right from the beginning, our goal has always been to encourage and equip the Tanzanians," Bobby says. "We wanted to make sure we weren't going there to do something for them, but that we were empowering them to do it

for themselves."

Today, the 50-bed center, furnished with new and refurbished equipment and staffed with competent personnel, serves both inpatients and outpatients. In 2015 alone, it completed 350 surgeries and treated 55,000 patients. Occupying 250 acres of land in Dodoma, the project also houses a full-service dental center, staff accommodation and the for-profit business — and construction planning is underway for an additional 100-bed hospital.

The Griffins still serve on the DTHD Board and as co-trustees of the medical center. They continue to make two annual trips to Tanzania to oversee the project's progress. But Bobby is quick to direct the credit for its success to everyone else involved, saying, "You can't get anything done unless everybody works together."

To learn more about the center and its work, visit dthd.org.

trained for over a year to qualify for the championships. We are very proud of our achievement!"

John Dillin Jr. was promoted to associate vice president for the Steier Group, an Omaha, Nebraska-based company that manages capital campaigns for churches, schools and nonprofit organizations.

1979

Atkinson Advisory Board member **Jay Dressler** became a proud grandfather when daughter Kacy gave birth to a son, Milo, in February.

1981 35TH REUNION

1984

Class Liaison: Diane Babbitt

1985

Ingrid Brydolf is co-chair of the health care practice at Davis Wright Tremaine LLP. Ingrid, who practices from the firm's Portland office, was also recently named 2016 Portland Lawyer of the Year in the health care practice area.

Alpha Chi Omega alumnae from the 1970s and 1980s gathered in West Linn, Oregon, on March 6 to celebrate Hera Day and more than 30 years of love, loyalty and friendship. In attendance were **Kathy (Cook) Wraith MBA'86**, **Debi (Carlson) Martin**, **Susan (Oberg) Kruger**, **Kathy (Stinson) Richardson**, **Kathleen (Shank) Reid**, **Janice (Farmer) Dole** and **Kristin (Englund) Stathis**.



From top to bottom: Kristin Englund Stathis '85, Janice Farmer Dole '85, Kathleen Shank Reid '85, Kathy Stinson Richardson '85, Susan Oberg Kruger '85, Debi Carlson Martin '85, Kathy Cook Wraith '85, MBA'86.

Class Notes



Christof Schroeder '86



"Heartsongs" album by Shelley (Markwell) Biss '98



Ryan Calkins '99 and his daughter, Jane



Maegan Vidal '00

1986 30TH REUNION

Christof Schroeder is director of administrative services for the City of West Hollywood, California, overseeing the divisions of legal services and legislative affairs, human resources and city clerk. Previously, he worked as a contract attorney in Phoenix and at Gordon and Rees in San Francisco. Christof's professional memberships include the California and Washington State Bar Associations, the Los Angeles County Bar Association and the Los Angeles LGBT Bar Association.

Robin Henderson is chief executive of behavioral health with Providence Medical Group, responsible for all outpatient mental health and chemical dependency services provided by Providence throughout Oregon. She and her family are relocating to Lake Oswego, Oregon, this summer.

1987

Ron Hittner MBA'89 was recently named Basketball Coach of the Year for the PacWest Conference. He has been coaching girls basketball for more than 25 years at the high school and collegiate levels, with the last three at Blanchet Catholic School in Salem. Away from the basketball court, he continues to operate his growing strategy and technology consulting firm, Hittner & Associates, which is entering its 15th year in business.

1989

Roxann Ashworth recently celebrated her 25th anniversary of employment at Johns Hopkins University. For the past nine years, she has served as co-director of the Genetic Resources Core Facility's DNA Services Division. She and her husband are looking forward to being empty-nesters following their second child's high school graduation.

1991 25TH REUNION

1994

Award-winning playwright **Ellen Lewis** (writing under EM Lewis) received the Oregon Literary Fellowship for Drama as part of the 2016 Oregon Book Awards

ceremony in April in Portland.

Angela Mahoney MBA'00 was recently recognized as a Super Salesforce Women in Tech of 2016. Angela was a co-founder of the Portland Salesforce Developer Group and the Portland Salesforce Women In Tech Group; and last year, was a founding member of RAD Women Training, a mentor-led set of sessions to teach women to code in Apex.

In February, artist **Adam Stennett** began a month-long installation/ endurance performance called the Artist Survival Shack Project. Living and working in a 10-by-10-foot self-sufficient shack in New York, Adam relied on solar and wind power, water collection and filtration, insulation panels grown from mushrooms, and only the food he arrived with or foraged. The project was intended to serve as a proving ground for alternative systems of physical survival.

1996 20TH REUNION

1998

Shelley (Markwell) Biss recently earned her doctorate of philosophy in pastoral counseling from the Colorado Theological Seminary. She volunteers her time teaching parenting classes for women in prison. Also a jazz singer who performed with the Willamette Singers, Shelley released her first solo studio compilation, "Heartsongs," in April (available at shelleybiss.com). In February, Shelley and her husband, **Allison Biss '97**, adopted two children, ages 14 and 15.

1999

To **Ryan Calkins** and wife Lindsay, a daughter, Jane, born in December 2015.

2000

Chris Roberts is mayor of Shoreline, Washington, having previously served on the city council from 2009-2015.

Maegan Vidal was promoted to physician outreach liaison for Randall Children's Hospital at Legacy Emanuel and Legacy Medical Group-Maternal Fetal Medicine.

Embarking on a Hiking Quest



Lindsey Falkenburg '11 and her fiancé, Kyle Knudson, on top of Mount Rainier

Standing at the monument marking the southern end of the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) on the Mexican border, **Lindsey Falkenburg '11** could see little through the dense fog, but she knew what lay ahead: 2,650 miles of terrain stretching all the way to the Canadian border, through high desert, the Sierra Nevada and Cascade mountain ranges, seven national parks and plenty of unoccupied wilderness.

This May, Falkenburg and her fiancé, Kyle Knudson, set out on a five-month journey to hike the PCT. If they finish, it will be their second thru-hike (traveling a long-distance trail end-to-end in a single trip), as in 2013 they completed the Appalachian Trail (2,200 miles). Along with the Appalachian Trail and the Continental Divide Trail (which Falkenburg plans to hike next year), the PCT forms the thru-hiker's "Triple Crown."

Made famous by "Wild," a

memoir by Cheryl Strayed, the PCT is a daunting prospect. According to the Pacific Crest Trail Association, only 3 in 5 hikers actually finish the trail. The rest typically drop out because they underestimate the mental and physical challenges.

Falkenburg couldn't wait to get on the trail, to re-experience what has become a new way of life.

"It's a really simple way to live, and there's a freedom that not many of us get," Falkenburg says. "There's no one telling you what to do and where to be. You get to make all of your own decisions."

A few years ago, the novice backpacker never would have imagined herself thru-hiking. Then, in 2012, she took a backpacking trip in the Grand Canyon while working for the Arizona Conservation Corps. There, she met Kyle — and a crew leader whose stories from the Appalachian Trail inspired the young couple to tackle it.

Falkenburg worked restaurant gigs and seasonal jobs for nearly three years to help fund her PCT trip. She's looking forward to the solitude, the glorious scenery and the chance to be closer to the natural world. She'll chronicle her adventures through her blog (TandemTrekking.com), which also includes Kyle's photographs and a podcast.

Through her blog, Falkenburg aims to capture and share the full spectrum of the thru-hiking experience — from seeing Mount Rainier and the Winthrop Glacier "painted pink and sherbet orange in the setting sun" to an attack by wild bees or having to keep a lookout for black bears.

Of her time on the Appalachian Trail, she wrote, "We didn't have pillows for five months; instead we stuffed our dry sacks full of extra clothes. We slept on sleeping pads that (put) only two inches between us and the ground. Kyle and I

ate out of the same pot for 154 days. We shared a toothbrush. We ate mac 'n' cheese and Clif bars repeatedly. Kyle had one pair of underwear and I had two. Three pairs of socks between the two of us. I wore my pink tank top so long (it) wore out."

Yet Falkenburg enjoys the new perspective that such hardships bring: "Things that are not a big deal in normal life, like taking a shower or washing your clothes, become special experiences on the trail."

Class Notes



Max Charles, son of Meghan (McNeil) Aabo '03 and David Aabo



William Ohara Best, son of Brian Best '06, JD'11 and May (Ohara) Best '09, MAT'10



Alex Compton '06



Michael Stevens '09

Be a Class Liaison

Want to see more class notes from your classmates? Help keep your class connected and volunteer to be a class liaison! The WUAA and the alumni office are constantly in contact with alumni, but nothing is more powerful than the personal touch a class liaison can provide.

Contact the Office of Alumni & Parent Relations at 503-375-5304 or alumni@willamette.edu for more information.

2001 15TH REUNION

2003

To **Meghan (McNeil) Aabo** and David Aabo, a son, Max Charles, born Jan. 19, 2016. Meghan graduated from Western University College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific-Northwest in May 2015 and is completing her post-graduate residency training in pediatrics at Albany Medical Center in New York.

William Stafford was promoted to partner at Perkins Coie, where he is a member of the law firm's labor and employment practice in Seattle.

2005

Class Liaison: Nathan Love

Noreen Murdock MBA'11 is executive director of the Portland Youth Philharmonic Association, which, as the oldest youth orchestra in the U.S., celebrates its 92nd season this year.

Josh Vitulli is an associate in the New York office of the global design firm Gensler, where he works with transdisciplinary ideas from economics, urban design and planning, psychology, sociology, and business development.

2006 10TH REUNION

To **Brian Best JD'11** and **May (Ohara) Best '09, MAT'10**, a son, William Ohara Best, born Dec. 27, 2015. Brian is an attorney at Zupancic Rathbone in Lake Oswego, Oregon, and May teaches second grade at Beverly Cleary School in Portland.

Alex Compton received his PhD in molecular and cellular biology from the University of Washington and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, and is researching and publishing at Institut Pasteur in Paris.

2008

Anthony Harvey will begin the MFA program in theatre arts at the University of Oregon in the fall. Studying scenic design and technology, he'll also teach undergraduates through a graduate teaching fellowship.

2009

Michael Stevens started his own law firm in December 2015. Located in Hillsboro, Oregon, it focuses on employment law, litigation, personal injuries, intellectual property rights and business services.

2011 5TH REUNION

Class Liaison: Shaffer Spaeth

Geneva Hooten became a certified planner through the American Planning Association. She works as a transportation planner for Toole Design Group in Denver.

2012

Class Liaison: Rafael Baptista

Nick Lawson MBA'14 saw his fantasy sports company Pick6 Sports Solutions profiled in SportTechie magazine as part of a series on startup companies.

2013

Class Liaison: Molly Ward

2014

Class Liaison: Alex Schrimp

Tommy Kawamura is a development coach for the Houston Astros' minor league affiliates, the Corpus Christi Hooks (AA) and Quad Cities River Bandits (A). Tommy previously interned with the New York Mets and coached at the American Legion level, after serving as the captain of Willamette's baseball team from 2012-2014.

2015

Class Liaison: Natalie Pate

ATKINSON GRADUATE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

Grace Cruncan MBA '79 co-authored a book, "Boots on the Ground, Flats in the Boardroom: Transportation Women Tell Their Stories," which details the rise of 18 pioneering women in the transportation industry. General manager of Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART), Grace previously worked as a federal transportation official, as well as director of the Seattle Department of Transportation and the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Ann Jackson MBA'84 works as an investigator of research into hospice workers' experiences with patients who hastened death. She has presented her findings in New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Colorado, Illinois and Oregon; testified before legislatures in Maryland, Connecticut and Vermont, and the House of Lords in England; and provided affidavits to courts in South Africa and to parliament in Canada. She retired as the CEO of the Oregon Hospice Association in 2008.

Jus Singh MBA'94 was appointed to the advisory council of the City Auditor's Office in Portland. Jus currently manages Atum, a boutique management consulting firm offering services in strategy, finance and accounting, information technology, supply chain and compliance across the western United States.

Dave Singh MBA'03 launched LeadStack Inc., a company in downtown San Francisco that focuses on professional and tech staffing.

Brandon Ferguson MBA'05 joined Point Inside as its new CFO. Based in Bellevue, Washington, Point Inside is the developer of a mobile app that helps retailers enhance customers' shopping experiences.

To **Ashleigh (Williams) Corker MBA '06** and her husband, Zac, a son, William Takhoma Corker, born Feb. 1, 2016. The family lives in Seattle, where Ashleigh works for Boston-based Wayfair and Zac for the Boston Consulting Group.

Ericka Kingsbury MBA'08 was recently promoted to corporate development and promotion manager at Salem Clinic, P.C., a large physician- and surgeon-owned multi-specialty medical clinic in Salem.

Kristy Bolsinger MBA'09 has joined Seattle-based F5 Networks as senior manager of customer experience and optimization.

Hai Trieu Phung MBA'11 got married in his hometown of Da Nang, Vietnam, in January. He also recently passed the last phase of his PhD in economics management from the Graduate Academy of Social Sciences in Vietnam.

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Andy Kovach MAT'91 was selected as Pendleton (Oregon) School District's next superintendent. Since 2012, he had served as principal at Ontario High School in Ontario, Oregon, where the graduation rate increased by more than 20 percent during his tenure.



Grace Cruncan MBA'79



Hai Trieu Phung MBA'11



William Takhoma Corker, son of Ashleigh (Williams) Corker MBA'06 and Zac Corker

SUBMIT CLASS NOTES at willamette.edu/magazine or directly to class notes editor Daniel Johnson at johnsond@willamette.edu. Your note may be edited for style and for space constraints.

ALUMNI NEWS BITS

Note From Your New WUAA President

I've witnessed great connections between Bearcats, regardless of their graduation years. Though some details have changed over time, all 28,000+ of us share the experience of having spent life-changing years on this campus.

I believe all our lives are enriched not only by this past connection to Willamette — but also by a continuing relationship with the university and fellow alumni. Our alumni association exists to develop and support the community we share. Specifically, we help you keep in touch with other alumni (both old friends and new), campus activities, and student life. Take a moment to think about the other Bearcats in your life already: friends, colleagues, a professor with whom you've stayed in touch, and maybe even a spouse.

There are many ways to get more Willamette connection in your life. Current students and young alumni thirst for mentorship. Fellow alumni nearby would love to strike up conversations. And there are Bearcats everywhere who share your industry, major or interest.

Just by attending Willamette, you're already a member of the alumni association. I invite you to find a new connection by visiting willamette.edu/alumni and clicking into the Volunteer section.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Adam DuVander '01
2016-17 Alumni Association President



New VP for Advancement

Willamette welcomed a new vice president for advancement earlier this year. Shelby Radcliffe oversees the Advancement division and the office of Alumni and Parent Relations.

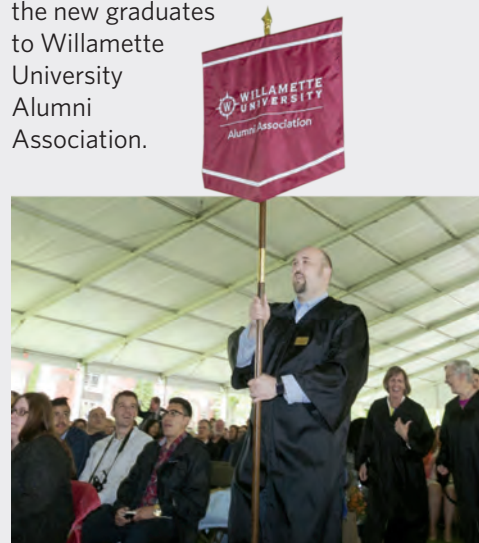
Radcliffe previously worked more than three years as vice president for Institutional Advancement at Occidental College, where she improved essential systems in fundraising and alumni and parent programs. Radcliffe worked at Bucknell University from 1997 through 2012, first as an associate campaign director and later as the director of campaign administration.

An App for Alumni

A mobile app puts the alumni directory in the palm of your hand, connects you to classmates, maps alumni business locations and integrates with LinkedIn to help you find professional connections. The EverTrue app is available for iOS and Android devices. Learn more at <https://web.evertrue.com/network/willamette>.

Welcoming the Class of 2016

Alumni delegates representing the Alumni Association Board of Directors, regional volunteer leaders, and the 50th Reunion Class marched in Commencement in May to honor the Class of 2016 and welcome the new graduates to Willamette University Alumni Association.



In Memoriam

C. Gordon Morris '36

Dec. 25, 1914 - Jan. 11, 2016
After graduating from Willamette with a bachelor's degree in mathematics, Gordon Morris earned a master's in mathematics from Oregon State University in 1938. He went on to become a teacher of math and science, and served as the president of the Medford Education Association. At the age of 100, he revisited Willamette for Alumni Weekend. He was preceded in death by his sisters, **Margaret Morris '34** and **Anne (Morris) Tellvik '42**; and his wife, **Velora (Williams) Morris '47**. Survivors include his daughter, **Carla (Morris) Tate '72**; sons **Leland Morris '75** and **Ronald Morris '75**; and daughter-in-law **Kathleen (Gorman) Morris '75**.

Dale T. Crabtree '38, LLB'53

March 24, 1916 - Dec. 1, 2015
Dale Thomas Crabtree was born in Stayton, Oregon. While completing his undergraduate studies at Willamette, he met his future wife, **Linore (Ingles) Crabtree '41**. After serving in the U.S. Army during World War II, Dale settled with his family in Stayton, where he opened Western Auto Store while earning his law degree at Willamette. He went on to serve several years as the Klamath County District Attorney, as an assistant attorney general in the Oregon Department of Justice, and as an administrative law judge with the Social Security Administration in Eugene, Oregon. Dale was preceded in death by two of his sons, Robert and **Thomas G. Crabtree '61**. Survivors include his wife, Linore, and sons Donald, John, David and Kenton.

Genevieve (Bellinger) Hughes '38

Sept. 6, 1916 - Jan. 30, 2015
Genevieve Alice Hughes was born in Portland, Oregon. She married **Albert Hughes '36** on New Year's Day, 1940, and the couple started a family in Shelton, Washington. In 1963, Genevieve attended night school at St. Martin's College in Lacey, Washington, to earn her teaching certificate. She went on to teach at Bordeaux Elementary School for 17 years. Genevieve was preceded in death by her husband, Albert, and her sister-in-law, **Gertrude Hughes Partlow '40**. Survivors include three children and five grandchildren.

A Century of Life and Experiences

Doris (Clarke) Hamilton '32

May 24, 1910 - Jan. 17, 2016

Doris Hamilton was born in Portland, Oregon, to Mary Bailey Clarke and William Dexter Clarke, who both came from Northwest pioneer families. For the first five years of her life, Doris was raised by her mother on her uncle's ranch in Medford, Oregon, while her father served in France during World War I. She spent the rest of her youth in Salem and attended Willamette with academic interests in history and geography.

At Willamette, she majored in history and participated in Glee, an experience she would later remember fondly. During a time in which few women entered the workforce, Doris became a schoolteacher. Even during the Great Depression, when jobs were scarce, she managed to find work, teaching full-time in Scio, Oregon, and at Parrish Junior High School in Salem. Later, she substitute taught high school in Portland.

After delaying her wedding several years due to the Depression, Doris married **Evans T. Hamilton LLB'34** in 1937. The couple made their home in Portland, where Evans was a founding partner in the Fraser Paper Company. They raised two sons, Walter and Robert, and Doris retired from teaching to become a full-time homemaker.

The family enjoyed an annual summer vacation to Cannon Beach, Oregon, until the early 1950s, when Doris discovered an even deeper love and appreciation for traveling. After the advent of commercial air travel, she and her husband took an overseas trip almost every year. After Evans' passing in 1980, Doris vowed to continue exploring the world, visiting destinations such as Venezuela, Thailand, Turkey, New Zealand, Africa and Antarctica.

Apart from traveling, Doris spent much of her time supporting and volunteering for numerous local organizations, including the YWCA, the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Portland and the women's organization P.E.O. A former chair of her College of Liberal Arts class agent



committee, Doris was also very generous in her contributions to Willamette, and later became a member of the R.A. Booth Society. She will be remembered by family, friends and the Willamette University community as a true giver of time, talent and treasure.

Doris lived to be almost 106, and her lifetime spanned an incredible history. She saw the world go from horse travel to space travel and from corresponding via hand-written letters to satellite and digital communications. She lived under 18 different U.S. presidents, endured the Great Depression and lived through many wars, including two world wars. Informed by this range of life experience, her perspective was unique and her knowledge vast.

Survivors include her two sons and daughters-in-law, four grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and a niece.

A special thanks to Walt Hamilton for contributing to this obituary.

In Memoriam

Betty (Boydston) Foster '42

Dec. 12, 1920 - Dec. 20, 2015
 Florence Elizabeth "Betty" Foster was born in Dallas, Oregon. After earning a bachelor's degree in English at Willamette, she taught English, civics and French at Dallas High School, and later taught French at LaCreole Junior High School, also in Dallas. Survivors include her husband, Jim, and sons **James Foster III '70** and Philip Foster.

Jack R. Chapin '43

Jan. 27, 1921 - Jan. 19, 2016
 Jack Robert Chapin attended Oregon State University and Willamette, where he met his wife, **Mary (Barker) Chapin '42**. After college, Jack returned to his family's farm to operate the dairy and produce several crops. For a number of years, he harvested much of the sweet corn grown in the Willamette Valley, and later expanded the business to harvest many more crops. Jack was known in the agricultural industry for his support of landmark land-use and tax legislation, and he went on to win numerous industry awards, including the OSU Diamond Pioneer Agricultural Award in 1997. Survivors include his wife of 74 years, Mary; his sister, **Lunelle (Chapin) Flannery '38**; and nephew, **Roy Chapin '61**.

Elmer G. Ottum '45

April 3, 1920 - Jan. 30, 2016
 Elmer George Ottum grew up in Pierpont, South Dakota. He attended Willamette as part of the U.S. Navy's V-12 college training program, and earned his bachelor's degree in business administration. He also attended the Harvard University Graduate School of Business Administration. Following graduation and service as a naval officer during World War II, George began a career in banking, moving to Salem's Commercial Bank in 1956. Starting as an assistant cashier, George eventually became president of both the bank and its holding company, Commercial Bancorp. In 1989, he was inducted into the Oregon Bankers Association Hall of Fame. Survivors include his daughter, Adelle, and son Phil.

Rev. Dr. William B. Cate PhD '45

March 25, 1924 - Jan. 13, 2016
 William Burke Cate was born in Texas and raised in Idaho. After earning a bachelor's degree in history at Willamette, Bill went on to receive a doctorate in Christian social ethics from Boston University before beginning a career working in church councils. In 1970, he became the president and director of the Church Council of Greater Seattle, a position he served in until retiring in 1989. He will be remembered by Seattle community members for starting a local food bank, standing up for minority groups and founding the Institute for Ecumenical Theological Studies at Seattle University. Survivors include his wife of 69 years, **Janice (Patterson) Cate '46**; his six children, **Lucy (Cate) Yerby '72**, Nancy, Michael, Sara, **Rebecca Cate '84** and **Mary Cate '87**; and 16 grandchildren, including **Ineke Van Waardenburg '97** and **Ellen Van Waardenburg '09**.

Marian (Erikson) Hood '46

Feb. 19, 1923 - Dec. 24, 2015
 Marian Aplin Hood was born in Long Beach, California, and raised in Salem. At Willamette, she studied music, and during World War II she worked on the B-29 program. After graduation, Marian worked in the governor's office at the Oregon State Capitol. Later, she and her husband moved to Edmonds, Washington, and Marian earned a teaching certificate and master's degree from the University of Washington's School of Music. For many years, Marian sang in the Seattle Opera Chorus and taught music at Northwest University, before retiring in 2002. Survivors include her son, Gregory, and daughters Barbara, Laurie and Paula.

Jack M. Strickfaden '47

April 13, 1922 - Jan. 28, 2016
 Jack Mathew Strickfaden was born in Ferdinand, Idaho. In the mid-1930s, the family moved to Salem, where his father started Capitol Lumber Company. After graduating from Salem High School, Jack joined the Navy and served as a supply officer stationed in the Philippines during World War II. He attended Willamette and the Harvard University Graduate School of Business Administration. After the war, he put his business knowledge to use co-managing his father's company. He later became involved

in trucking and home construction, and served on many local business advisory boards. Survivors include his wife of 71 years, **Madeline (Simmons) Strickfaden '45**; daughters Pat and Pam; and son Rand.

Fred Richardson '48

May 9, 1924 - Sept. 25, 2015
 Fred Richardson was born in Pennsylvania. A veteran of the U.S. Navy, Fred earned a bachelor's degree in education from Willamette, where he also played basketball and baseball. He went on to receive his master's in mathematics and education from the University of Oregon. After college, he taught mathematics and coached high school sports in Oregon. Survivors include his wife, Jean, and a daughter.

John F. Stockman '48

May 25, 1926 - March 13, 2016
 John Franklin Stockman was born in Larned, Kansas, and raised in Rogue River, Oregon. After graduating from Willamette, John obtained a master's degree in mathematics from the University of Colorado and started work for Boeing Aircraft Co. in Seattle in 1951. In the mid-1960s, John spent two years in Canberra, Australia, setting up the Australian government's computer system. Later, he joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, serving in various roles including as the Bishop of Wilshire Ward in Los Angeles. Survivors include his wife, Merlene; sister **Marjory (Stockman) Gossler '49**; brothers Richard and Russell; and two daughters, Karen and Kristin.

Donald L. Alderton '49, JD'49

June 23, 1922 - Dec. 25, 2015
 Donald Leland Alderton was born in Portland, Oregon. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served in World War II as a junior lieutenant. After leaving the Navy, he completed his undergraduate and law degrees at Willamette, and then passed the Oregon State Bar exam in 1949. Don practiced law for 55 years before retiring at age 82. Survivors include his children, Charlotte and Dean.

Frank M. Washburn '50

Feb. 28, 1926 - Feb. 4, 2016
 Frank "Scotty" Murray Washburn was born in Portland, Oregon. He served in the U.S. Army in the Pacific theater during World War II. After returning home, he earned his undergraduate degree from Willamette and his master's from Springfield College. In 1952, he started a career with the YMCA in Salem, where he served as youth work secretary and director of Camp Silver Creek. After various leadership positions with the YMCA of Greater Seattle, he was appointed executive director of YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly in North Carolina, where he served for 17 years. Survivors include his wife, Buena, and five children, Bonnie, Mary Ann, Terri, Scott and Schmidt.

Roland V. Brown '50, LLB'52

Dec. 5, 1926 - Sept. 30, 2015
 Roland "Rollie" Vilas Brown was born in Sutherlin, Oregon. After graduating high school, Rollie joined the U.S. Navy and spent time on the USS Baltimore. When he left the Navy, he attended Willamette University, receiving both an undergraduate and a law degree. He eventually became assistant attorney general for the state of Oregon and later worked for the Oregon Liquor Control Commission and the Veterans Administration. Survivors include his sons Geoffrey, Nathan and Richard, and daughter Elizabeth.

Betty (Dahlberg) Dversdal '50

July 30, 1928 - Dec. 6, 2015
 Betty Mina Dversdal was born in Portland, Oregon. She attended Willamette for two years and then transferred to the University of Oregon School of Nursing. Soon after, she met and married Dr. Arthur Petersen. While Art served in the U.S. Air Force, the couple lived on a military base in Riverside, California, where they started a family. After Art's passing in 1958, Betty and her daughters moved back to Oregon, where she met her second husband, Norman Dversdal. Later, she graduated from Linfield College and worked at several hospitals in southwest Washington. Survivors include her two daughters, **Karen (Petersen) Skoog '74** and Kristen Petersen.

Robert E. Robins '50

March 17, 1927 – March 11, 2016
Robert Edwin Robins was born in Salem, Oregon. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and received his master's of music from Willamette, where he also met his wife, **Margaret (Fisher) Robins '50**. In 1951, the couple moved to Roseburg, Oregon, where Robert became the choir director at Roseburg High School, a position he remained in for 25 years. He also served as the publicity director for the Douglas County Fair for 31 years and served as the editor for Oregon Music Educator magazine. Robert was preceded in death by his wife, Margaret, and daughter Kathleen. Survivors include daughter Betty and son David.

Robert W. Skirvin '51

June 19, 1929 – Aug. 19, 2015
Robert William Skirvin was born in Harrisburg, Oregon. After graduating from Willamette with a degree in economics, he attended Stanford Law School and then University of Colorado Law School, from which he earned his doctor of jurisprudence in 1956. After moving to San Francisco, Bob worked as an attorney for the Crown Zellerbach Corporation. Because of his interest in education, Bob was elected to the board of the Mount Diablo Unified School District. Survivors include his wife, **Elizabeth (Herstrom) Skirvin '52**; daughters Nancy and Beverly; and brothers Weldon and Richard.

Susan (Coggeshall) Whiting '51

Aug. 12, 1929 – Feb. 26, 2016
Susan Whiting was born in California. She attended Pine Manor College in Massachusetts before returning west to finish her undergraduate degree at Willamette. Sue devoted much of her time to philanthropic organizations, including the National Charity League, Pasadena Junior Philharmonic and the Children's Hospital Guild. Survivors include her children, Carol and Sanford II.

Barbara (Freeman) Anderson '52

March 31, 1929 – Jan. 24, 2016
Barbara Janet Anderson was born in Eugene, Oregon, and raised in Milwaukie, Oregon. Barbara attended Willamette for two years, and then returned to Milwaukie to start a family. When her three children were older, she returned to school, studying Spanish at Portland

State University. Barbara was also an active member of St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church in Milwaukie. Survivors include her daughters, Robin and Maren.

John C. Anicker Jr. '52, JD '54

Jan. 31, 1930 – Nov. 22, 2015
John C. Anicker Jr. was born in Multnomah, Oregon. At Willamette, he earned both his bachelor's and law degrees, and met his wife of 62 years, **Joyce (Crouch) Anicker '54**. He practiced law in Oregon City, Oregon, from 1958 until his retirement in 1997. John was president of Rotary International, Oregon City Chapter, and served on the national board of the American Red Cross. Survivors include his wife, Joyce; brother, **Joseph Anicker '64**; sister, Joyce (Anicker) White; children and their spouses, Kimberly Anicker, Cory Anicker Benz, Melissa (Anicker) Delanty and **John C. Anicker III '88**; and nephew **Jeffrey Anicker '95**.

JoAn (Haberle) Widmer '52

March 3, 1930 – Feb. 9, 2016
JoAn Yvonne Widmer was born in Great Falls, Montana, and raised in Albany, Oregon. While at Willamette, she married Leon Widmer, and the couple started a family. JoAn taught art for 14 years in the adult education program at Linn-Benton Community College. Survivors include her husband, Leon; three daughters, DeeDee (Widmer) Blais, JoLee (Widmer) Bryant and **Sue (Widmer) Hayward '82**; and seven grandchildren, including **Ben Bryant '09**.

Ilene (Randolph) Hershner '54

Feb. 27, 1932 – Oct. 5, 2015
Ilene Hershner was born in Vancouver, Washington, and raised in Lake Oswego, Oregon. After attending Willamette, she earned a bachelor's degree in sociology at the University of Oregon in 1954. Shortly after graduating, she married fellow UO alumnus James Hershner and started a family. She owned and operated One If By Land, a Eugene-based antique store, and served on the boards of the Junior League of Eugene, Maude Kerns Art Center and the Eugene Symphony. Survivors include her three children, Julie, Thomas and Nancy.

Paul K. Barkla '54

June 11, 1932 – Nov. 7, 2015
Paul Keith Barkla was born in Colfax, Washington, and spent most of his youth in Eugene, Oregon. At Willamette, he was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity. After college, Paul went to Washington, D.C., where he worked for Sen. Wayne Morse, Sen. Bill Proxmire and Congresswoman Gracie Pfof. During his time in Washington, Paul also became active in the Civil Rights Movement, participating in the March on Washington on Aug. 23, 1963. In 1968, Paul and his wife, Nancy, moved to Wisconsin, where he continued to work on progressive causes and campaigns. Survivors include his children, Ann, Sidney and Paul.

Loraine (Lauber) Summers '54

Nov. 1, 1932 – Dec. 23, 2015
Loraine Alberta Summers was born in Portland, Oregon. At Willamette, she met her first husband, **Harry Summers '52**. The couple married in 1952 and enjoyed 49 happy years together before Harry passed away in 2001. In 2005, Loraine was reunited with, and later married, her high school sweetheart, Vern Emter. Survivors include her husband, Vern; and her three children, Connie, Nancy and Steven.

Kenneth W. Baines '55

Oct. 29, 1933 – Feb. 14, 2016
Kenneth Baines attended Willamette and then the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he earned his bachelor's degree. In 1958, he graduated from the University of Oregon School of Law. He was a member of the Oregon State Board of Bar Examiners and a partner at Wheelock, Niehaus, Baines & Murphy. Survivors include his wife, Doris; brother, John; and children, Scott, Nancy and Susan.

Neil E. Daugherty '55

July 6, 1933 – Feb. 9, 2016
Neil Edgar Daugherty was born in Salem. In 1955, he graduated from Willamette, was commissioned in the U.S. Air Force and married Lou Ceil Jenkins. After completing Air Force training, he became a navigator and an electronic warfare officer, serving until his discharge in 1958. He and his wife then moved to Eugene, Oregon, where he earned a teaching certificate at the University of Oregon, and went on to teach art and math at Eugene schools for 30 years. Neil was preceded in death

by his sister, **Bonnie (Daugherty) Ploeger '49**. He is survived by his second wife, Jackie, and children Mark Daugherty and Kelly (Daugherty) Briggs.

Alma (Felton) Howe '56

April 27, 1934 – Jan. 28, 2016
Alma Ann Felton was born in Clear Lake, Iowa, and raised in Portland, Oregon. She attended Willamette on a scholarship, and while there met her future husband, **Robert Howe '54**. After moving around the Northwest for several years, they settled in Columbus, Ohio, where Bob joined the faculty of Ohio State University and Alma participated in several social service and interest groups. In 1994, the couple returned to the Northwest, making their home in Camas, Washington, where Alma volunteered with local organizations. Survivors include her husband of 60 years, Bob; children Jeanine and Jeffrey; and siblings Harris and Zada.

Charles H. Frost '58

April 4, 1936 – Jan. 26, 2016
Charles Henry Frost was born in Berkeley, California, and raised in Portland, Oregon. He left Willamette after being drafted into the U.S. Army. His active-duty service took place in the Pentagon from 1958-1960. After getting married, Chuck returned to Portland with his wife, Marilyn, and started a 34-year career with Tektronix, which included roles as director of public affairs and vice president of administration. From 1995-97, Chuck served as a senior fellow to Sen. **Mark O. Hatfield '43**. Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Marilyn; children Charles and Laura; and brother, Gordon.

Ann (Lawson) Ross '58

July 22, 1936 – Feb. 5, 2016
Ann Georgia Ross was born in Savannah, Georgia, and raised in Spokane, Washington. She attended Willamette for a year before moving back to Spokane to attend nursing school at Deaconess Hospital and Whitworth College. She completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Washington in 1959. Ann went on to earn a master's from the University of Washington and taught mental health nursing at Shoreline Community College, before retiring in 1999. Survivors include her sister, **Joan Lawson '56**, and daughters Lise and Narda.

A Lifetime of Music

Charles L. Bestor

Dec. 21, 1924 – Jan. 16, 2016

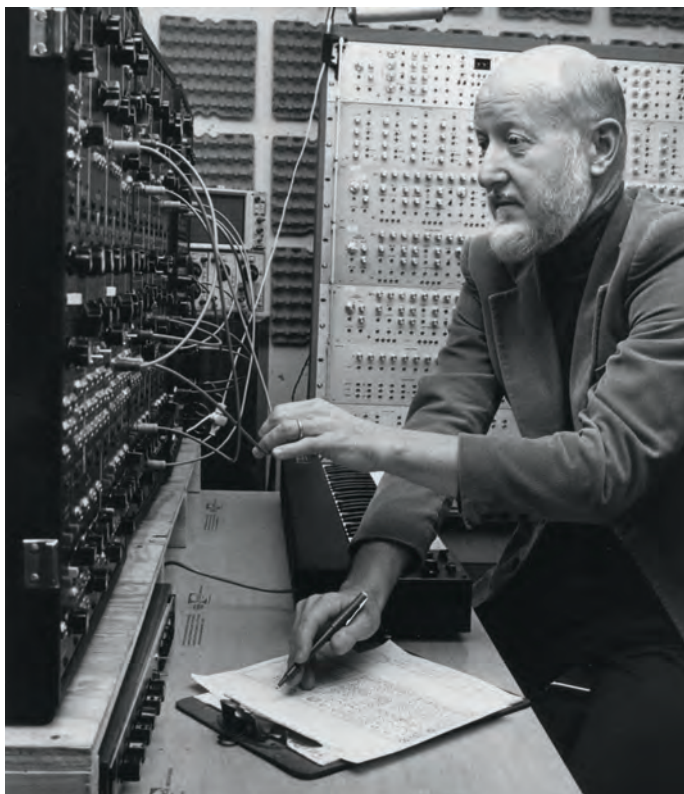
Award-winning composer, educator and former Willamette faculty member Charles Lemon Bestor was born in 1924 in New York City. He grew up around music and the performing arts, spending much of his childhood at the Chautauqua Institution, a non-profit educational and entertainment center where his father, Arthur, was president.

After discovering a love for music, Charles studied French horn in the Juilliard Preparatory Division. But at Swarthmore College, he pursued a bachelor's degree in political science and graduated from the Pennsylvania-based school shortly before serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

While enrolled in the naval officer training program at Yale University, he began studying music composition with German composer Paul Hindemith. During his military service, Charles conducted the Midshipmen's Choir and the Seventh Fleet Symphony.

Before earning degrees from the University of Illinois and the University of Colorado, Charles studied music with world-famous composers and instructors Vincent Persichetti and Peter Mennin at the Juilliard School. Away from the school, Charles also benefited from the tutelage of Vladimir Ussachevsky, a composer who later became known as a pioneer of electronic music.

Soon after arriving at Juilliard, Charles became involved with administrative work and began teaching. He organized music symposiums; taught theory, harmony and composition; and even created the elevator operator schedules.



Perhaps his largest job came with managing the Juilliard Orchestra's first European tour in 1958.

Not long after that tour, Charles left Juilliard to pursue work that would allow for more teaching and composing. He accepted a faculty position at the University of Colorado, then went on to serve as the dean of Willamette's College of Music from 1964-1971.

In the 1970s, Charles served as head of music at the University of Alabama and the University of Utah, before settling at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. In 1992, he became the head of the school's music and dance department and eventually served as professor of composition emeritus until his passing.

As a composer, Charles won numerous awards, including

the Main Prize of the Musica Nova International Competition of the Czech Republic and a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship. His works have been commissioned by the Utah Symphony, the Salem Symphony, the Five College Symphony Orchestras and many other groups and individual artists. He also collaborated frequently with artists on installation pieces.

At the time of his death Charles was working on a double album titled "The Summing Up," which is set to be released by Albany Records this year.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ann. Survivors include his children Charles, Geoff, Phill, **Leslie Ann Bestor '80**, Jenner and Wendy.

Photograph courtesy of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

John H. Smith '59

Dec. 7, 1937 – Nov. 18, 2015

John Henry Smith was raised in North Bend, Oregon, before attending Willamette. An award-winning marksman as a youth, John was also an avid bowler and worked at North Bend Lanes from its inception in 1957 until 1985. He was honored by being named Bowler of the Year twice and was inducted into the Coos Bay-North Bend Bowling Association Hall of Fame in 1978. In 1985, John became the president of SAS Industries, a computer printer ribbon and cartridge manufacturing company. Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Judy; children Tom, Tim and Toni; and sisters Lola and Rosa.

Dr. Glen R. Durham '61

Jan. 5, 1939 – Feb. 15, 2016

Glen "Doc" Durham was born in Portland, Oregon. After graduating from Willamette, he earned a degree from the Oregon Health & Science University School of Dentistry. He established a dental practice in Independence, Oregon, and operated it for 35 years. Survivors include his wife, Sibyll; children Sacha and Guy; and sister Carol.

Janeen (Hardy) Denham '62

May 13, 1940 – Jan. 23, 2016

Janeen Eloise Denham was born in Portland, Oregon. She attended Cleveland High School before earning her bachelor's degree from Willamette. Janeen was preceded in death by her brother, **Justin Hardy '60**. Survivors include her husband, **Dale Denham '60**; brother, Jonathan Hardy; and son, Jerald Ramsden.

Dr. Marjorie (Mikkelsen) Enneking PhD '63

June 21, 1941 – March 13, 2016

Marjorie Ann Enneking was born in Junction City, Oregon, and grew up on a farm in the Willamette Valley. She earned a bachelor's degree at Willamette and a PhD in mathematics at Washington State University before embarking on a 35-year career teaching at Portland State University. After retirement, her love of genealogy led her to spend many hours volunteering at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon. Survivors include her children Nancy and Brian, and siblings Ron, Larry and Nancy.

Stephen T. McPhetres '63

Sept. 7, 1941 – Nov. 24, 2015
 Stephen Thomas McPhetres was born in Kansas and raised in Alaska. After earning his bachelor's degree in music education from Willamette, Steve started a teaching career in Alaska high schools. He taught music at several schools before earning his master's in educational administration from the University of Alaska. Steve then served as a school superintendent in Haines, Alaska, from 1969-1986, and later became the executive director of the Alaska Council of School Administrators, a position he retired from in 1998. Survivors include his wife, Jan; children **Wendy McPhetres '92, MAT'93** and Sam; and siblings Johanna Smith and Sam McPhetres.

Bonnie (Cruson) Bennett '64

Aug. 31, 1942 – Nov. 15, 2015
 Bonnie Lea Bennett was born in Salem and raised in Lyons, Oregon. After attending Lewis & Clark College briefly, she transferred to Willamette and earned a bachelor's degree in art education. While her husband, **David Bennett JD'71**, served in the U.S. Air Force, she taught art at several high schools around the country. The couple eventually returned to Oregon, and Bonnie taught at McNary High School in Salem. Later, the family settled in Beaverton, Oregon, where Bonnie served as the director of the Beaverton School District Art Literacy Program for several years, and sold many of her own sculptures and paintings. Survivors include her husband, David; children **Josh Bennett '93** and **Marcy (Bennett) Stearns '95**; and siblings Buddy Cuson and Merry Jo McCreight.

Bruce N. Black '65

Sept. 19, 1941 – Feb. 8, 2016
 Bruce Neil Black was born in Klamath Falls, Oregon. After earning his bachelor's degree in mathematics and physics from Willamette, he started working at Boeing in 1973. He spent most his 35-year career working on flight systems and avionics for various military aircraft. In 1999, Bruce received his master's in electrical engineering from the University of Washington. Survivors include his wife, Min Yan; daughter Shira Wise; and sisters **Jane Black '67** and Kathleen Black.

Ray D. Sherwood '67, JD'72

April 28, 1946 – March 3, 2016
 Ray Douglas Sherwood played baseball, joined the Beta Theta Pi fraternity and earned his political science degree at Willamette. He served his country in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War from 1968-1970, and afterward completed his law degree at Willamette. He worked for many years as an attorney in Portland, Oregon.

Dr. Susan Scott-Miller '69

Sept. 25, 1947 – March 20, 2016
 Susan Jane Scott-Miller was born in Portland, Oregon. After earning her bachelor's degree at Willamette, she received a master of arts in teaching from Lewis & Clark College and her doctorate in education from the University of Oregon. After living in Germany for a time, she made her home in West Linn, Lake Oswego, and Newberg, Oregon. Susan worked for 20 years for the West Linn School District as a teacher, principal of Stafford Elementary School and as director of personnel. She then served in McMinnville, Oregon, as the principal of Newby Elementary School and as the first principal of Grandhaven Elementary School until her retirement in 2003. Survivors include her husband, Russell Miller.

Michael E. Morrison '69

Oct. 9, 1946 – Nov. 23, 2015
 Michael Morrison was born in Eugene, Oregon. After attending Willamette for two years, he transferred to Salem Technical Vocational School (now Chemeketa Community College), and graduated with a degree in forestry. He then earned a general studies degree from Eastern Oregon University. After getting married and starting a family, Mike settled in Walla Walla, Washington, where he and his brother Glenn operated a craft and hobby store for 13 years. Later, he became an ordained minister and was involved with Pioneer Methodist Church in Walla Walla, serving as an assistant worship leader, among other roles. Survivors include his wife, Teresa; his father, Rev. Edward J. Morrison; two brothers, James and Glenn; and a son, William.

Ward K. Walker '69

July 9, 1947 – Feb. 26, 2016
 Ward Karl Walker was born in Portland, Oregon. He attended Willamette on an athletic scholarship for two years before eventually completing his degree in urban design from Portland State University in 1970. After getting married, Karl moved to Corvallis, Oregon, in 1978 to start his family and later begin a career as an architect at CH2M Hill. Survivors include his wife, Jan; siblings Suzie Armentrout and **Wayne De Vargas-Walker '63**; daughter **Ellie Walker '96**; and sons J.J. and Jonathan.

Elix B. Cook '75

Jan. 26, 1952 – July 26, 2015
 Elix Bryon Cook played football and basketball at Willamette before graduating with a bachelor's degree in economics. He went on to work for Beneficial Washington in Tukwila, Washington, for many years, eventually rising to the position of senior manager. Later, he became the owner of Triumphant Mortgage in Marysville, Washington. Survivors include his wife, Judith.

Katherine (Parish) Carter '81

Nov. 9, 1959 – Nov. 12, 2015
 Katherine De Etta Carter was born in Vallejo, California. After graduating from Willamette, she became an admissions counselor for Idaho State University. Later, she returned to Salem to work for State Farm Insurance as an underwriter and claims adjuster. After marrying and starting a family, Katy relocated to Tumwater, Washington, where she began volunteering and substitute teaching at Michael T. Simmons Elementary. After receiving her teaching certification from Saint Martin's University in 2003, she became a full-time teacher at Tumwater Middle School, and in 2009, became one of the first teachers at the school to receive national board certification. Survivors include her husband, Bill; children Maxson and Madeline; parents Wendy and Edward; and siblings Suzanne and Craig.

Dr. Sean A. East '92

June 18, 1969 – Dec. 1, 2015
 Sean Anthony East was raised in Corvallis, Oregon. After graduating from Willamette with a degree in chemistry and biology, he received his doctorate in veterinary medicine from Oregon State University in 1996. Sean led a highly successful career as a veterinarian at Colorado State University and several animal clinics in the Northwest. Survivors include his two daughters, Maylie and Ellesse.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The obituary for James H. Hitchman '54 in the Spring 2016 edition contained three inaccuracies. 1. Marie S. Corner '22 was the aunt of Marie C. Hitchman '53, not James Hitchman. 2. Marie S. Corner passed away before early 2015. 3. James Hitchman received a doctorate in philosophy from the University of California at Berkeley, in addition to his master's in history. We apologize for these errors and omissions, and thank Sue Corner '90 and John Hitchman '56 for helping us to make the corrections.*

A New Option for Admission

By Sammy Basu

For the past eight decades, sitting for an SAT or ACT test has been an essential step in students' admission to higher education. But are such standardized tests needed to determine whether a student will succeed in college?

A growing number of colleges think not, amid increasing evidence that first-generation college students and those from traditionally underrepresented groups are less likely to undertake or have access to preparation for these tests.

Over the past two years, Willamette reviewed its holistic admission policies and committed to revising them. Since education is a critical component of a just and equitable society, widening access fulfills our motto — Not unto ourselves alone are we born.

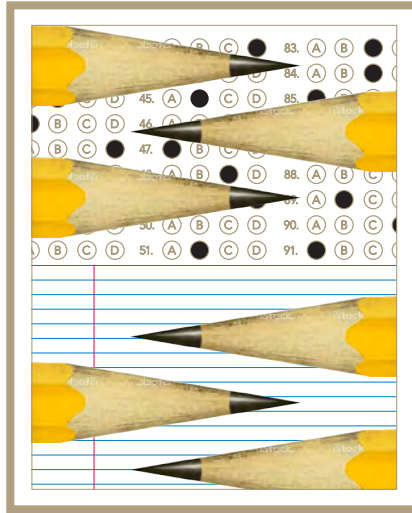
Beginning in fall 2017, prospective undergraduate students applying for admission will have the option either to submit an SAT or ACT score or instead to reflect in writing on how their educational and career goals might align with Willamette's values and motto. Either way, all students will have their high school records holistically assessed.

This new approach better reflects the university's commitment to underrepresented students from minority groups or economically disadvantaged backgrounds, whose lived experiences and perspectives in turn enrich and enlighten our entire campus community.

Since some of those talented students may be deterred from applying to Willamette if they are required to submit SAT and ACT scores, it was deemed vital to signal and share the promise of higher education at Willamette for all students who are smart, curious, creative and well-rounded and who manifest our values about caring for others and community.

The new policy also brings Willamette into line with many other institutions of higher education across the country. Of U.S. News & World Report's top 100 liberal arts colleges this year, 45 have made standardized tests optional for all or many of their prospective students.

In addition, the change reflects Willamette's alignment with another movement in higher education. "Turning the Tide: Inspiring Concern for Others and the Common Good through College Admissions" is a collective effort by leading colleges, including Willamette, to "reshape the college admissions process and promote greater ethical engagement among aspiring students, reduce excessive achievement pressure and level the playing field for economically disadvantaged students."



The College of Liberal Arts Faculty Admission Committee reviewed a number of studies about going test-optional before recommending this change. For two years, the committee of faculty and student representatives reviewed research and talked to members of the campus community at Willamette and other institutions.

Among other information, they learned that a recent eight-year study of 33 test-optional colleges and 123,000 students found only a "trivial" difference of 0.05 percent cumulative GPA and 0.6 percent graduation rates between students who had and hadn't submitted test scores. Other researchers found that students with strong high school GPAs and weak test scores did well in college, while students with strong test scores and weaker high school

GPAs earned lower grades in college.

Overall, while the SAT and ACT remain strong predictors of first-year college performance, informed consideration of an applicant's high school record can be comparably predictive of college success. In fact, an analysis of the last two years of incoming Willamette students found that a holistic review of high school performance, including GPA, was a stronger predictor of first-year students' grades than the SAT alone.

In addition, the SAT continues to be unduly sensitive to demographic factors, such as where and to whom students are born rather than to their abilities, raising concerns about impact on underrepresented and first-generation students. A University of California analysis of data from 1994-2011 that looked, in part, at how well the SAT predicted successful completion found that the test was a relatively poor predictor of whether students, especially those from underrepresented groups, would graduate from a UC school.

On the basis of such national studies and the university's own research, the committee concluded that Willamette could go test-optional and recruit more widely while maintaining — if not improving — academic quality and graduation rates.

Of course, helping qualified students gain admission to a Willamette liberal arts education is only the first step. We also need to ensure we offer the financial aid resources, curriculum, teaching and support services to help our undergraduates navigate the transition from high school to college and then flourish here. Our goal is to help all our students succeed during and after their time at Willamette — doing otherwise is not an option.

Politics professor Sammy Basu chaired Willamette's Faculty Admission Committee, which recommended a test-optional admission process. Read the committee's full report online at willamette.edu/go/testoptional.



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■ ALUMNI IN THE CLASSROOM

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CONNECTING BEARCATS

Alumni association organizations make the Willamette alumni network come alive with a variety of ways to connect Bearcats. From career networking and social events to volunteer and learning opportunities, undergraduate, MBA and law alumni can connect with each other and share their Bearcat pride through chapters, groups and clubs.

In the last year, alumni have enjoyed 58 gatherings and events, ranging from a private tour of the Getty Center in Los Angeles to a New York Yankees baseball game and a volunteer opportunity at the Oregon Food Bank in Portland. Don't miss out on all the fun that's in store for the year ahead!

Portland — 7,954 members
Willamette Valley — 4,924 members
Puget Sound — 3,734 members
Bay Area — 1,610 members
Southern California — 1,237 members
Hawaii — 647 members
District of Columbia — 465 members
New York — 414 members

8
CHAPTERS

Portland Law Network — 2,173 members
Nike Bearcats — 100 members
Sustainability Network (online) — 24 members
Civic Communication and Media Network (online) — 10 members

4
GROUPS

2
CLUBS

Denver — 453 members
Salt Lake City — 226 members



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