

The magazine of
Willamette University
Summer 2015

Willamette

Inside: The pursuit of happiness goes public; We salute veterans on campus; Badge-carrying change agents abound. New Bearcat alumni say hail, farewell and let's do good things in the world.



**Celebrating
community:
Willamette's
13th Social Pow
wow brought
art, dance and
drumming
together in a
kaleidoscope
of colors and
traditions.**

One of the joys of my spring is traveling up and down the West Coast meeting hundreds of potential Bearcats and their families.



Almost 400 admitted students and more than 600 family members attended events in Los Angeles, Seattle, San Francisco and San Jose, and joining me this year were the real stars of the show — a group of current Bearcat students from each area we visited.

Our application pool this year was particularly strong, so students we met had been admitted to the very best schools in the country. Beyond the typical questions about our academic programs, the quality of food in Goudy and life on campus, they wanted to know what sets Willamette apart from the many other schools bombarding them with beautiful brochures and emails.

They'd clearly done their research. They already knew that our students are highly engaged — in the classroom, through campus activities and in the wider community. They picked up on our distinct culture that not only encourages civic engagement but celebrates it.

Nearly every college touts its efforts to engender social justice, but our commitment to others and society runs deeper — it is embedded in the warp and weave of our culture. And Bearcats define civic engagement in different and often deeply personal ways.

Students volunteer tens of thousands of hours each year, go “Into the Streets” during MLK week and participate in efforts like the Take a Break alternative spring break program, giving up free time to address environmental or societal issues. In recognition of that depth of commitment, Willamette was featured on the Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll in three areas in 2014: quality of education, economic opportunity and general community service.

It isn't only our students. Faculty lend their expertise to drafting new public policy regulations and legislation. Alumni disproportionately serve their communities as teachers, police officers, activists, lawyers, local government officials and much more.

Together, their actions, contributions and impact lead to true progress in communities near and far. *Non nobis solum nati sumus*, indeed.

Willamette's historic connection with the seat of civic life in Oregon undoubtedly spurs some of these efforts. Faculty in all our schools and academic programs take full advantage of this unique opportunity for learning, application and collaboration in public policy and service. Just as often as you see a legislator or state official eat in Goudy Commons, you also see a student trek across the street to the Capitol for an internship or class project.

Opportunities to make important and enduring change in the world seem proximate and achievable here. The challenge is figuring out where to begin. Through teaching, learning and mentoring — by faculty, but also with the help of dedicated alumni and friends — Willamette provides our students an outstanding place to start.

On May 17, our new group of graduates prepared to take the next step. With their proud families looking on, they filed into the commencement tent on the Quad. As they headed out into the world, we reminded them what it means to live our university's motto — and to define civic engagement through their lives and careers. Since they're now Willamette alumni, I'm confident they're already well on their way.

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A detail from one of the stained glass windows in Cone Chapel. See more of the windows at willamette.edu/go/stained-glass

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The views presented in Willamette do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors or the official policies and positions of Willamette University.

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>In Box



The spring edition of Willamette magazine was great. The contemporary photo in “Then and Now” (p.23) caught another parallel that surely was not intended. “Then” secretary Kathy Dennis also had red hair. She was also equipped with an office luxury — a wide carriage, IBM Selectric typewriter.

Dean Ringold’s article on the last page was right on target, and I’d love to share it with several educators I know. Throughout my career, I was struck by co-workers’ poor writing and their apparent inability to synthesize ideas and experiences across disciplines.

— Robert Foster ’72, MBA’76

As a proud Bearcat graduate, the proud wife of a Bearcat graduate (Rich Scrivner ’76), and the parent of another proud Bearcat (Jake Atwell-Scrivner ’09), I love to read Willamette magazine. I look forward to the articles and the class notes. This spring’s edition was very informative and I especially enjoyed the “One Person, One Waterfall at a Time” article, which inspired my future summer vacation planning.

One item that I would like to bring to your attention is on p. 39. It shows the Fire Knife dance and states that this performance will be part of the 26th annual lu’au at Willamette. As an alumna coming up to my 40th-year reunion, I can say, without reservation, that the lu’au is way beyond 26 years old. My dear friends Melvin Henderson-Rubio ’74, Joe Cho ’76, Michael Bray ’76, Joe Story ’75, Wendy Kalahiki ’78 (deceased), Debbie (Cleaver) Lindsay ’78, and so many others worked tirelessly to provide the campus with an event which, as you note in the comment box, celebrated Polynesian culture and was enjoyed by hundreds, if not thousands, of students each year.

— JoAnn Atwell-Scrivner ’76

Editor’s note: We checked with University Archives and Willamette’s Department of Multicultural Affairs, and JoAnn is correct that the lu’au has been a treasured part of campus life for far longer than 26 years. While this year did mark the 26th consecutive lu’au, the event appears to date back to 1945, when it was held as part of a campus carnival. The next lu’au was held in 1951, and it then re-emerged for several years in the 1960s. The 1970s and ’80s saw a lu’au on most, but not all, years. And while the lu’au is now sponsored by the Hawaii Club, various fraternities and residence halls arranged the earlier events.

On p. 6 of the spring issue of Willamette magazine, I found my old friend and classmate Tufton Beamish in what appears to be a locker room for speed skaters.

It looked natural to see his name on a shelf of speed skates, as I frequently wrote of Tufton in a newsy little booklet I helped publish for my co-workers at United Airlines at Portland International Airport in the 1980s. I related how Tufton was a competitive figure skater and spent many weekends traveling to figure skate competitions.

When our office complex in the terminal was remodeled in 1996-1997, the walls were removed so plumbing and wiring conduits could be replaced. On the exposed steel beams, I used markers to write “Tufton Beamish.” Some day, the walls will again be removed, and people will read his name.

— Mike Durrell ’64



Tracking Tufton

Several readers managed to find our reference to Tufton Beamish on p. 6 in the last issue of Willamette magazine. Where’s the elusive fellow hiding in this issue? Send your sightings to magazine@willamette.edu.

We love to hear from you — please direct your letters to the editor to magazine@willamette.edu or submit your comments, class notes or other updates via our online form at willamette.edu/magazine. Published correspondence may be edited for length or clarity.

Lisa Murkowski JD'85, Republican U.S. senator for Alaska and this year's commencement speaker for the Willamette College of Law, is one of only 46 women ever to serve in the United States Senate. On the way to and during her successful political career, she's taken on skeptics and the Tea Party — and won.

> **What do you think women bring to politics?** First, it's pragmatism, a practical approach to governing. Most women are used to juggling a lot of balls in the air — job, children, making sure that your retirement account and your kid's lunch are both well-balanced. As a consequence, women don't have a lot of time for nonsense. Women also want to accomplish a job and not spend a lot of time over who gets the credit for it. Plus, women tend to be more collaborative, and that yields a good product at the end of the day.

> **What do you think is most challenging about today's political environment?** Special interest groups or the media push people into lanes on either the far right or far left: "Well, you're a Republican; that means you must be in this camp." Once people are driven into those lanes, it's tough to get back into the middle of the road. And that's hard, because a legislative body has to work to find compromise. Not everyone gets what they want.

> **After being defeated by a Tea Party candidate in the Republican primary in 2010, you ran as a write-in candidate. You became the first person since 1954 to win a write-in election to the Senate. What was that like?** It was a hard option. We had to teach people how to participate in a write-in ballot with a nine-letter last

name like Murkowski. Alaskans had to affirmatively exercise their right to vote. In a very deliberate act and expression of support, 103,000 people effectively said, "This is the person I want, regardless of the fact that she is not her party's candidate, and I will go to the effort to write in her name." I felt extraordinarily humble when I won.

> **What advice would you give women who are considering a political career?** Never wait for the right time, because there will always be something else you should be doing. You just need to jump in the deep end. Sometimes women are hesitant because they think the right time will come — but you have to make it.

> **What are some of your memorable experiences from Willamette?**

Before I went to law school there, I did two years as an undergrad. I wanted to be a teacher, but one of the core requirements was an economics class. I had a pretty lackadaisical view towards it. Halfway through the semester, the professor called me in, said I wasn't doing well and suggested I drop the class. I was so offended that he had so little confidence in me that I not only stayed in the class, but I changed my major to economics. It's great to prove the skeptics wrong. Plus, it's OK to have someone challenge you so you can rise up and find what kind of backbone you have.



E T T E N I V



UNIVERSITY

“I was on the faculty for 41 years. I’m not one who walks away.”

Fourteen years ago, former Willamette University President M. Lee Pelton approached Grant Thorsett with an irresistible offer: agree to serve as faculty marshal during the College of Liberal Arts commencement ceremony and he’d get to carry the university’s first mace.

How could he refuse?

So, every year since then, the emeritus biology professor has devoted one day each May to leading a procession of faculty members from Sparks Athletic Center to the tent on the Quad.

For the solemn yet joyful ceremony, Thorsett sets the procession order. He reserves seating for faculty members, and he places hoods over the shoulders of honorary degree recipients. He also signals when the hundreds of graduates (the exact number

varies from year to year) should stand and make their way to the stage.

For Thorsett, father of President Steve Thorsett, the role allows him to participate in a significant milestone in the lives of students and their families.

“I was on the faculty for 41 years. I’m not one who just walks away,” he says. “I still get a rush just being involved with the festivities and the excitement.”

To perform his duties, Thorsett relies on a few, symbolic tools:

1. Gown

The commencement gown’s design and color indicate academic standing. While Willamette undergraduate and graduate students wear black, Thorsett’s blue gown signifies his status as a Yale University alumnus. The three

stripes on his sleeve show he’s earned his PhD.

2. Hood

The colors of a hood and its lining denote academic discipline and the institution that awarded the PhD degree. So Thorsett’s hood has a yellow velvet border in a nod to his science field and a blue lining in reference to Yale. Graduates from the Atkinson Graduate School of Management wear a hood with a velvet royal blue facing to denote commerce and business, while the border of law graduates’ hoods are purple. Both types of hoods are lined with fabric in Willamette’s colors of cardinal and gold.

3. Tam

A sign of freedom to pursue scholarly activities, most graduation caps are square-shaped to symbolize a book. But when his became worn

after a few years, Thorsett traded it in for a less traditional tam. Made of velvet and derived from the Tudor bonnet, the academic tam can be worn by faculty members with doctoral degrees.

“You don’t see many of them,” Thorsett says. “They are classy looking.”

4. Mace

Academic maces are modeled after medieval clubs carried by the bodyguards of civil officers. Measuring 42 inches tall and weighing 2.25 pounds, Willamette’s mace is made of black walnut, with the university seal embossed in bronze on both sides of its head.

“I’d feel kind of naked leading people without one,” Thorsett says. “It’s a part of the pomp and circumstance — and I like the pomp and circumstance.”



THE VOICE OF CHANGE

Inspired by lessons from Willamette, an alumni-led social marketing company helps people speak up, take action and create a more just and sustainable world.

By Tina Owen

In the mid-1980s, protests against South Africa's apartheid regime shook many American universities. Students at UC Berkeley built a replica of Johannesburg's infamous shanty town in front of the chancellor's office. On other campuses, angry protesters marched, chanted and brandished placards demanding divestment — an end to financial investments in the brutal regime.

Willamette students found a different solution. Leaders of various student groups had been talking about holding anti-apartheid protests when they realized they didn't actually know where the university's board of trustees stood on the issue of divestment. "We called and found that many agreed with us. It was an epiphany," says Eric Friedenwald-Fishman '88, who, as student body president in his senior year, marshaled anti-apartheid efforts on campus. "We realized it was our community grappling with this issue. It wasn't 'us and them,' and we didn't need protests. So, we decided to have a conversation."

With trustees such as Oregon Supreme Court Chief Justice Wallace P. Carson acting as their mentors, the students organized a peaceful, yet passionate, awareness-raising campaign. They arranged gatherings, speakers and an art exhibit. And they convinced the trustees to modify Willamette's policy on South African investments.

Though they didn't realize it then, those Bearcats were "change agents": people who recognize there's a problem to be solved or an opportunity to be seized — and believe they can do it.

In 1989, shortly after graduation, those experiences inspired Friedenwald-Fishman and three friends — John Donovan '88, William Gilliland '88 and Jennifer Viviano '88 — to form a marketing company and pioneer an effective new approach to helping people and organizations pursue social, economic and environmental justice.

"The spark of initiative and entrepreneurship that came from Willamette was really inspirational," says Friedenwald-Fishman. "Willamette's core ethos is that we all have a responsibility in the community. We have to care about what's happening around us and we have to do something about it. That was instilled in us at the university."

Even before they graduated, Friedenwald-Fishman and Donovan applied those lessons by establishing The Bistro on campus. For Donovan, the venture was more than simply a source of coffee and refreshments (even the legendary Buzz bars and Barz bars). As he says, "It also represents the ideals of entrepreneurial problem-solving and working with the administration and other students to create something of lasting value to the community."

The four Willamette friends took those principles of creativity and entrepreneurship to the company they created: Metropolitan Events, now Metropolitan Group. Despite daunting student loan debts, they risked following their hearts, social consciences and Willamette's motto: "Not unto ourselves alone are we born." At that time, few people were familiar with the concept of socially responsible companies or businesses with "social purpose" missions. Plus, few nonprofits even engaged in marketing campaigns. Friedenwald-Fishman recalls, "Many people thought we were crazy and would go out of business."

Yet, their gamble paid off. Within a few years, Metropolitan Group almost exclusively served nonprofits, foundations, socially responsible businesses and government agencies aiming to improve people's quality of life and make the world a better place. Since then, it's provided expertise in strategic communication, resource and organizational development, and multicultural engagement to clients including the Oregon Health Authority, American Library Association, The James Irvine Foundation, The Ford Foundation, Hispanic Scholarship Fund, American Public Health Association and the U.S. Forest Service.

Today, in addition to its Portland, Oregon, headquarters, the company has offices in Washington, D.C., San Francisco and Chicago. For the past two years it's been named to the "Best for the World" list by B Lab, an international body that certifies companies using business as a force for social good (see sidebar on B Corps).

Its website proudly proclaims: "We directly impact social change."

Giving Voice to the Voiceless

Such impact doesn't happen easily or quickly. But as an early leader in social purpose branding and marketing, Metropolitan Group soon identified two key factors affecting the success of social change campaigns. The first is change agents: people or organizations worthy of the silver star badges that Metropolitan Group hands out as fun giveaways. Whether leaders of social movements, CEOs of large corporations or a community member who sees flaws in the status quo, they raise their voices about an issue and encourage others to take action or provide support.

The second concept, which the company calls "power of voice," determines whose existence and opinion register in America's social, cultural and political systems. As a recent Metropolitan Group article explains, power of voice affects who "has access to decent housing, fair wages, healthy food, clean water and quality health care; [can] express their views; has the resources to advocate for their beliefs; has their perspective accurately portrayed in media; votes, influences and makes policy; and has the ability to make change within organizations and communities."

Metropolitan Group works to amplify the voices of change agents. Through powerful brands and messages, it helps clients advance causes, engage the public and influence policy. One recent campaign aimed to give Oregonians a say in a critical project affecting their everyday lives. Every year, residents of the Portland metropolitan area produce 1 million tons of garbage that end up in landfills — a literal waste in both environmental and economic terms. With important disposal and transport contracts up for renewal in 2019, Metro, a regional government for the Portland area, decided to reassess the future of garbage disposal. It enlisted the help of Metropolitan Group to reach out to its constituents — and talk trash.

The Let's Talk Trash campaign aimed to put the public in public policy. As well as hearing people's ideas and opinions on reducing and reusing waste, Metro wanted residents to help shape discussions on important policy decisions that would be made by elected officials. Let's Talk Trash found

creative ways to engage, entertain and educate the public, including a Portland Nerd Night, a film festival featuring local residents' take on trash-related topics, forums with scientific experts and a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and a bilingual play, "El Tesoro" ("The Treasure"), about the virtues of a thrifty life.

"People don't generally think about garbage once it leaves the curb," says Ken Ray '96, public affairs specialist for Metro. "Can we burn it for electricity? Or adopt some other technology to use garbage as a resource? The campaign was an opportunity to get people to think about where it goes, what effect it has on the environment. Folks were genuinely interested and wanted to learn more."

Taking the Long View

While marketing campaigns like Let's Talk Trash may run only a few months or years, changing public attitudes requires a long-term commitment. If successful, such efforts result not only in changes in individuals' actions but also shifts in entire societal or cultural norms. Take the public health battle fought during the last couple of decades over smoking bans. Not long ago, cigarettes were such a ubiquitous feature of American life that people smoked in their offices, in restaurants, at the cinema, on planes and trains — pretty much wherever they felt the urge to light up. Thanks to the work of tobacco-cessation and clean-air advocates, the tide of public opinion gradually turned, with smoking bans and tobacco cessation efforts adopted nationwide.

Today, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) — a change agent working toward a healthier, better future for Oregonians — continues to work on shifting attitudes towards tobacco and smoking. Karen Girard '91, health promotion and chronic disease prevention section manager at the OHA, says, "A big barrier to change is just the way things are. Shifting those perceptions takes time and looking at things a little bit differently."

To help achieve such change, the Metropolitan Group worked for five years for the Oregon Tobacco Prevention and Education Program. The company created the Smokefree Oregon brand and





social marketing campaign to engage not the 17 percent of Oregonians who smoke — but the 83 percent who don’t. It provided information and resources to help smokers quit or prevent youngsters from starting. It worked with business owners, landlords and community colleges to ensure people enjoy clean air in the places where they work, play, live and study.

One particular initiative, the Tobacco Quitline, provided informational material in English, Spanish, Simple Chinese, Russian, Korean and Vietnamese. Like the “El Tesoro” play for Metro’s Let’s Talk Trash campaign, the multilingual posters reflected Metropolitan Group’s belief that respecting cultural context is critical to driving long-term change.

“Lasting change has to be relevant to diverse stakeholders, so Metropolitan Group started doing multicultural engagement early,” says Friedenwald-Fishman. “Just look at the changing demographics of our communities. If we want enduring change, we have to be relevant to a broad cross-section of people who will ‘own’ the values and carry them forward.”

Carrying It Forward

In Metropolitan Group itself, a new generation of Willamette graduates is helping ensure that the university’s principles and ethos live on in the company. Although Friedenwald-Fishman, now creative director, and Donovan, senior vice president, are the sole remaining founders, the company regularly hires Willamette graduates.

“We believe in the need for diversity, so we hire broadly to avoid unintended bias,” explains Friedenwald-Fishman, who also serves on Willamette University’s Board of Trustees. “But generally we

Metropolitan Group grew directly out of its founders’ experiences and education at Willamette University. Today, the company still regularly hires Willamette graduates for the liberal arts rigor they bring to their work on behalf of social causes. Left to right: John Donovan ’88, founder and senior vice president; Rob Sassor ’02, director; Eric Friedenwald-Fishman ’88, founder and creative director; Olivia Stone ’11, senior associate.



From waste disposal to tobacco cessation to the joy of learning, these logos and posters reflect the breadth of work undertaken by Metropolitan Group. The social change agency helps clients such as Metro (Portland's regional government), the Oregon Health Authority and King County Library System in Washington State provide information and communication to improve people's lives.



look for skills that are often found in Willamette graduates: the ability to research, analyze, find meaning, articulate, make a case and understand the power of symbol and narrative.”

Alumni currently working at the Portland office are Rob Sassor '02 and Olivia Stone '11. Stone joined the company after experiencing a career epiphany while working at traditional PR agencies. “I realized I didn’t like just working for a paycheck,” she says. “I wanted to do more than selling smart phones or dishwashers. I wanted to do something with meaning.”

Both alumni enjoy putting their Willamette education to practical and meaningful use. Stone recalls the time when, while conducting research for a client, she realized she was directly applying the Socratic methods learned in rhetoric class. Sassor appreciates Metropolitan Group’s efforts to bring about lasting social changes. He says, “I hear people ask in the hallways questions such as ‘How do we make arts and culture a more celebrated part of people’s lives?’ and ‘How do we mobilize a more diverse social movement to address climate change?’ or ‘How do we build on the momentum of marriage equality to ensure that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender young people are safe to live their truth, wherever they are?’ It’s an honor to work with people who are trying to tackle questions like these, for the benefit of all of us.”

From their perspective over the past 26 years, Friedenwald-Fishman and Donovan relish the work that’s helped conserve millions of acres of land, clean up thousands of miles of rivers, provide access to libraries, schools and healthcare for millions of people, and raise \$1.5 billion for good causes. They’re proud that they stayed true to their company values: doing good work for good organizations that try to make a difference.

They’re also thankful for the way in which Willamette shaped their successful company and their enduring friendships. Friedenwald-Fishman and Donovan were roommates in Matthews Hall while freshmen at the university. Thirty-one years later, they work in offices across the hall from each other and collaborate on work they care about deeply.

Metropolitan Group has earned numerous awards and international acclaim for its efforts to make the world a better place, but the company’s success also ranks high on another scale — one that’s more personal but just as significant. As Donovan says, “I’m very proud that the four of us who started the company are still very good friends.”

Capitol Connections

What do lobbyists, Supreme Court justices and Willamette students have in common?

Turns out, quite a lot. On April 2, more than 100 students and alumni gathered at the Oregon State Capitol for the first Capitol Connections networking reception.

Organized by the Willamette University Alumni Association, the successful event celebrated Willamette's longstanding relationship with the Capitol and also enabled students to learn from alumni who've dedicated their careers to public service.

"Time with state leaders and elected officials is valuable because it's scarce," said Timothy Sekerak '87, chief clerk for the Oregon House of Representatives. "In the future, you want to be able to say, 'You might not remember me but I met you.'"

Other speakers at the event



were Sen. Laurie Monnes Anderson '68, state Rep. Tobias Read '97, lobbyist Cindy Robert '90, Oregon Supreme Court Justice Virginia Linder JD'80 and politics professor David Guterman.

They agreed Willamette students perform invaluable work through internships at the Capitol — with duties ranging from issuing briefs to organizing House and Senate bills. "They have significant responsibilities that allow them to develop their skills and envision themselves as public servants," Guterman said.

College of Law Hosts Public Forum on Vaccines

To vaccinate or not to vaccinate? These once-routine childhood events now invite public scrutiny and heated debate.

Convinced that the procedures are connected to the rise in serious health conditions like autism and autoimmune disorders, more and more parents choose not to immunize their children against potentially deadly diseases such as measles, whooping cough and diphtheria. Yet, their actions could put other youngsters and vulnerable adults at risk of contracting the contagious diseases.

To foster debate and understanding on this divisive topic, the College of Law hosted a panel discussion about vaccines in April. About 100 members of the public attended to hear from four panelists: Steve Green, a Willamette University law professor; Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, a family physician and sponsor of two Oregon bills related to vaccine exemptions; Bob Reinhardt '00, executive director of the Willamette Heritage Center and author of a book on the eradication of smallpox; and Dr. Jay Rosenbloom, a pediatrician and medical director of Children's Health Foundation.

During the moderated discussion and the following question-and-answer session, the panelists touched on political, medical and cultural topics such as individual versus community rights and media coverage of complex health and science stories. All four stressed that people need to educate themselves about this critical public health issue.

"There's more heat than light in discussions about this," Green said. "The rhetoric used is cast in absolutes, and there are no absolute rights. These are difficult questions that need nuanced understanding."

For more insights into this important topic, read Reinhardt's In My Humble Opinion article on page 56.

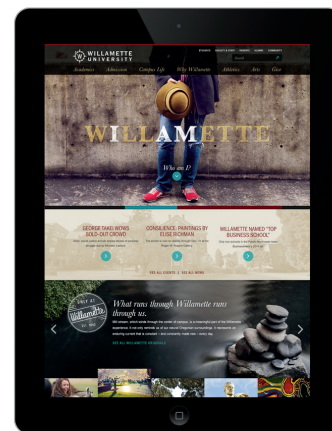


#1
OnStage blog
gave Willamette's
Theatre
Department top
spot in its list of the
best B.A. theatre
programs in the
country.

Willamette's Renewed Website Launches This Summer

A year ago Willamette embarked on an important priority — renewing the university's website to better tell the institution's story to its many audiences. The new site incorporates a stronger institutional identity, is designed in a responsive manner for mobile devices and includes new multimedia tools for storytelling. The new design and content plan is a result of feedback from our community, including students, alumni, faculty and staff.

Check out samples of the redesign at willamette.edu/go/websiterenewal and look for the site to go live later this summer.





Braving the Brownwater

A deal is a deal. On May 2 as part of Atkinson Graduate School of Management's 40th anniversary celebration, President Steve Thorsett and Dean Debra Ringold braved the annual Brownwater Mill Stream Float.

The two agreed to float the creek only if Atkinson raised enough money to endow the Judy O'Neill Scholarship Fund. Alumni rose to the challenge, donating more than \$60,000 in honor of O'Neill, associate dean and director of Admissions, who will retire Jan. 1 after 25 years of service.

In addition to the plunge, more than 300 students, alumni and current and past faculty and staff celebrated 40 years of Atkinson history during a reception at Willamette Valley Vineyards.



\$209,000

The record-setting amount of money donated by generous alumni and friends during Willamette's inaugural "24 Hours of Giving" event on Feb. 17.

Atkinson Celebrates with Major Milestones

There was plenty to celebrate during Atkinson's 40th anniversary this past year. The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International reaffirmed the school's prestigious accreditation, held by only 5 percent of schools worldwide. The excitement was followed by a landmark gift of \$1 million from George and Colleen Hoyt to support scholarships for MBA students interested in not-for-profit careers.

Willamette Singers Achieve Global Recognition

Sometimes lightning does strike twice. This spring, for the second straight year, DownBeat magazine recognized the outstanding talent of a Willamette University choral group.

The magazine's June issue features its 38th annual Student Music Awards, which honor the 17-member Willamette Singers as Best Undergraduate Large Vocal Jazz Ensemble.

For Choral Director Wallace Long, the award stands as a testament to the maturity and competence of Willamette's music program.



"It proves that last year was not a fluke," he says. "To have our work selected by professionals in the field is the highest honor our program can achieve."

DownBeat awards are given to students and student groups

from middle schools, high schools and universities from around the world. Professional musicians and educators judged audio submissions on such qualities as musicianship, creativity, improvisation and technique.



FORTY YEARS OF EXCEPTIONAL MANAGEMENT EDUCATION

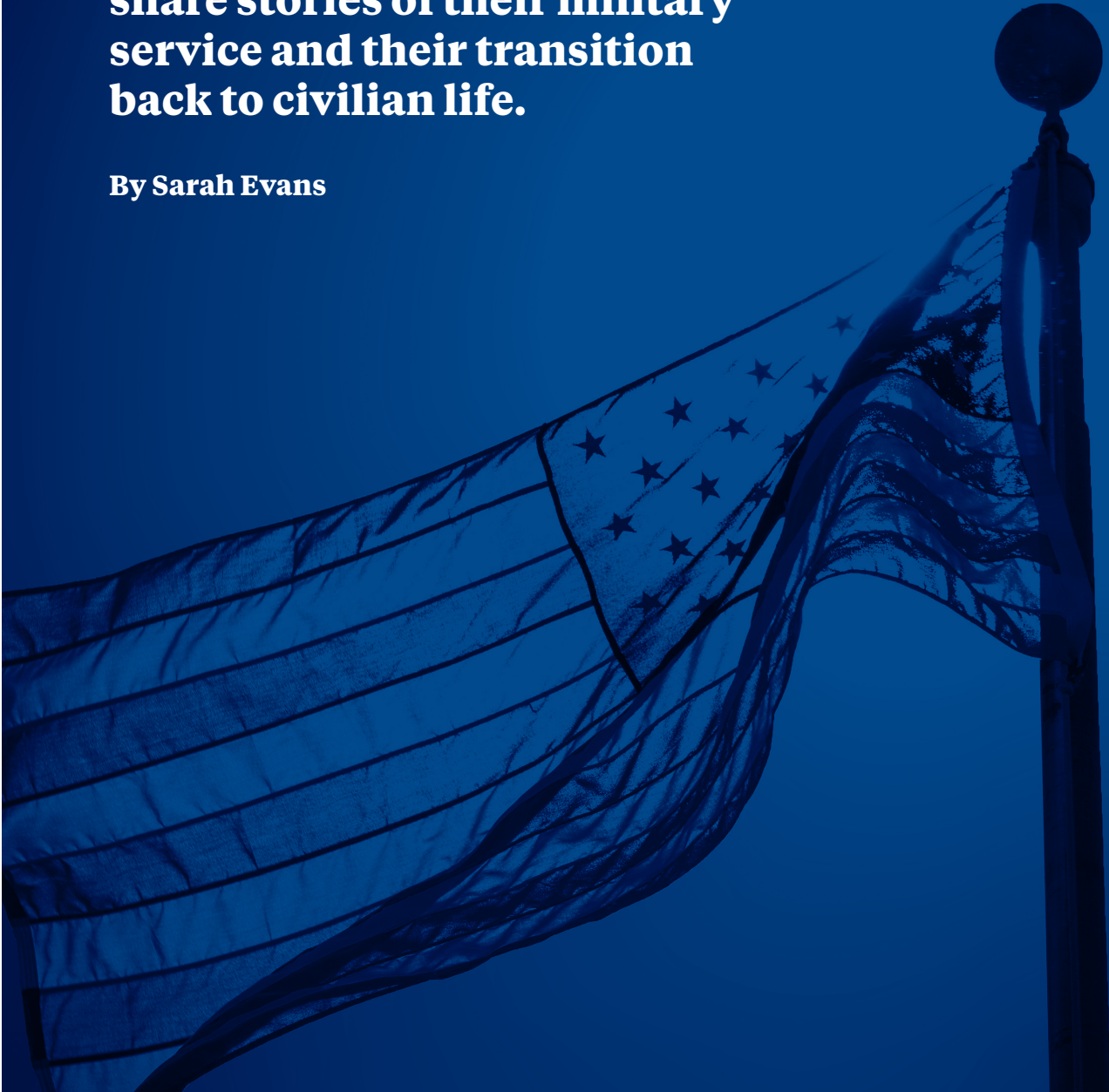
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Princeton Review's ranking of Willamette in its national list of "Best Schools for Making an Impact" in terms of community service opportunities, student government, sustainability efforts and student engagement.

Dispatches from Willamette

**Student veterans on campus
share stories of their military
service and their transition
back to civilian life.**

By Sarah Evans



The official definition is straightforward. U.S. Code Title 38 describes a veteran as “a person who has served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.”

Yet, the cultural connotations, the mental pictures conjured by the word “veteran,” have never been clear. They shift over time, and they diverge depending on someone’s familiarity — or lack thereof — with military life.

At Willamette University — in a state without major military bases — students might not expect to encounter many veterans. But they’re here, and not just in Salem, but on this very campus. Their numbers have ebbed and flowed over the years; this past year, 22 veterans were enrolled — six undergraduates, 10 law students and six MBA for Professionals students. (There

could be others, but we only know about those receiving benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs.)

What becomes clear when you start talking with them is that their experiences, stories and motivations for service are diverse. Sometimes the common stereotypes apply; many times, they don’t.

“Television and the movies will tell you that we all got screamed at in basic training, we all had horrible war experiences, we’re all saddled with PTSD and are going to snap at any minute — and that’s not the truth,” says Oregon National Guard 2nd Lt. Silas Heisler, a third-year student at the College of Law. “The more veterans you meet, the more you realize that there’s not just one mold.”

Here are some of Willamette’s veterans’ stories, in their own words.



JONATHAN BROOKS MBA'15

Jonathan Brooks enrolled at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in July 2001 — just two months before 9/11. Brooks and his fellow cadets became the subject of widespread media attention — National Geographic photographed them during basic training, and when they finished in 2005 with a coincidental 9/11 graduates, Time magazine dubbed them “The Class of 9/11.”

Two years after graduating, Brooks deployed for 15 months as part of the surge during the Iraq War. He spent most of that time leading an Army platoon in Baghdad. After his deployment, he completed more military schooling as a captain and returned to the Puget Sound area, where he had grown up, to teach ROTC for two years at the University of Washington.

In 2013, his service obligation complete and his wife and two children at home, Brooks left active duty to make use of the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill. He enrolled in Willamette’s MBA for Professionals program in Portland.

“I knew I’d been given so much in life, and I wanted to do something bigger than myself.”

Jonathan Brooks MBA’15

But his civilian career was short-lived. This past February, he received an offer to work as an active guard reservist in the Oregon National Guard. The 33-year-old, now a major, plans to finish out 20 years of service in the Guard.

“I was in chemistry class at West Point when the [World Trade Center] towers fell, and it was an interesting moment — a lot of people were like, ‘I’m outta here. I don’t want to do this. This is real.’ But it really bolstered my time there and made it that much more meaningful. ...

I made the decision when I was 4 that I wanted to serve my country. Several men in my family are West Pointers. I remember visiting West Point as a kid — it’s a larger-than-life kind of place where everything is gothic and it looks like a castle — and I thought, ‘Wow, one day I want to do this.’

I knew I’d been given so much in life, and I wanted to do something bigger than myself. I believe in this country and the freedoms we’re so privileged to have, and it’s important to continue to protect that, not only for myself and people currently around me, but for future generations. It’s worth fighting for. ...

When I was in Iraq, I was in two IED [improvised explosive device] attacks. I didn’t wear glasses until after my deployment — I got blown up a couple of times and hit my head, and it changed my vision. I also had two mild traumatic brain injuries, so I had to go through physical therapy and rehab. My wife is a nurse, and she helped me a lot through that process. It’s been hard work, but now I’ve recovered. ...

Occasionally I have to go straight to class from work in my uniform. My cohort used to be like, ‘Whoa, there’s a military person here.’ There’s still a little bit of that stigma. When you want to be in a collaborative environment of sharing ideas, sometimes the uniform can intimidate people. ...

One of my classmates told me, ‘I used to think people in the military were uneducated, and I wondered why they would want to join. It’s been neat getting to know you. You seem to be a person who cares, and you’re trying to make the world a better place.’ He had a change of heart about the military. I appreciated him saying that.”

G.I. BILL: A BRIEF HISTORY

1944: Congress passed the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, commonly known as the G.I. Bill, in an attempt to rectify the poor compensation that had been given to veterans of World War I. The bill provided World War II veterans with education and training; loan guaranty for homes, farms or businesses; and unemployment pay.

1947: In this peak year of G.I. Bill use, veterans accounted for 49 percent of college admissions. They transformed many campuses, including Willamette.

1952: The Veterans’ Adjustment Act of 1952 offered benefits, including payments for higher education, to veterans of the Korean War.

1966: The Veterans Readjustment Benefits Act extended benefits to veterans who served during times of peace. Several subsequent acts increased benefits during the ‘60s and ‘70s and led more Vietnam-era veterans to enter colleges and universities.

1985: Former Mississippi Congressman Gillespie V. Montgomery led a push to revamp the G.I. Bill to continue offering home loan guaranty and education programs.

2008: The G.I. Bill was updated again to provide enhanced educational benefits for service members and veterans with active duty service on or after Sept. 11, 2001. Known as the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, the law also offers the ability to transfer unused educational benefits to spouses or children.

The bill includes the “Yellow Ribbon” program to help fund education at more expensive private schools like Willamette. Schools that participate agree to share the cost with the federal government. Willamette currently has committed to supporting an unlimited number of undergraduates and up to 24 graduate students through the program.

Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

BRIAN MARCEY '16

Brian Marcey joined the Army straight out of high school in 2009, fulfilling a dream he'd had since his early teens. In May 2010, the infantryman deployed for a year to Afghanistan during one of the deadliest times of the war for Americans. His 120-person company saw eight men killed in action, and more than 50 members, including Marcey, earned Purple Hearts for being wounded in combat.

His experience altered his view of the war — he still believed in the overall mission, but his perspectives changed on how it was managed. When he left the Army after three years of service, he went through an intense reflection process. "I thought, 'Why were we over there? Because of politics.' So that made me interested in studying politics," he says.

With that goal in mind, the 23-year-old earned his associate's degree near his hometown of Coventry, Connecticut, before transferring to Willamette as a junior last fall.

"I joined the Army because I wanted to serve my country, and I was very patriotic in that sense. The country has given a lot to me, and I wanted to give back.

Joining the military is one of the biggest services you can provide. Not a lot of people want to do that. ... Yeah, it would have been a hell of a lot easier if I had planted trees for a couple of years, or some other service thing, but I wanted to be in the Army. ...

One day, halfway through my tour in Afghanistan, an RPG, rocket-propelled grenade, came screaming in. I was sitting in the driver's seat of the truck, and it was a direct hit. The gunner was dead instantly. He was the best friend I ever had.

I got shrapnel in both shoulders and my neck. The pieces are still in there because they said it'd be too invasive to take them out. I also had a bit of mild traumatic brain injury — that's the Army's term for concussion. I got evac'ed back to the hospital, and I was there for five days. But I was walking wounded. When I healed up, they sent me back to what I was doing. ...

From Afghanistan to now has been a long journey. I was so socially dysfunctional when I came back. So when I decided to go to community college, I made myself hyper-functional. It was like my life was on the line with every test. I did really well — I had a 4.0.

When I was getting ready to graduate, I went to one of my professors for advice about where I should go next. He told me, 'You don't seem like a kid who's just going to college to party,

"The G.I. Bill is the best thing that you can do for veterans. It gives guys a life after they come back."

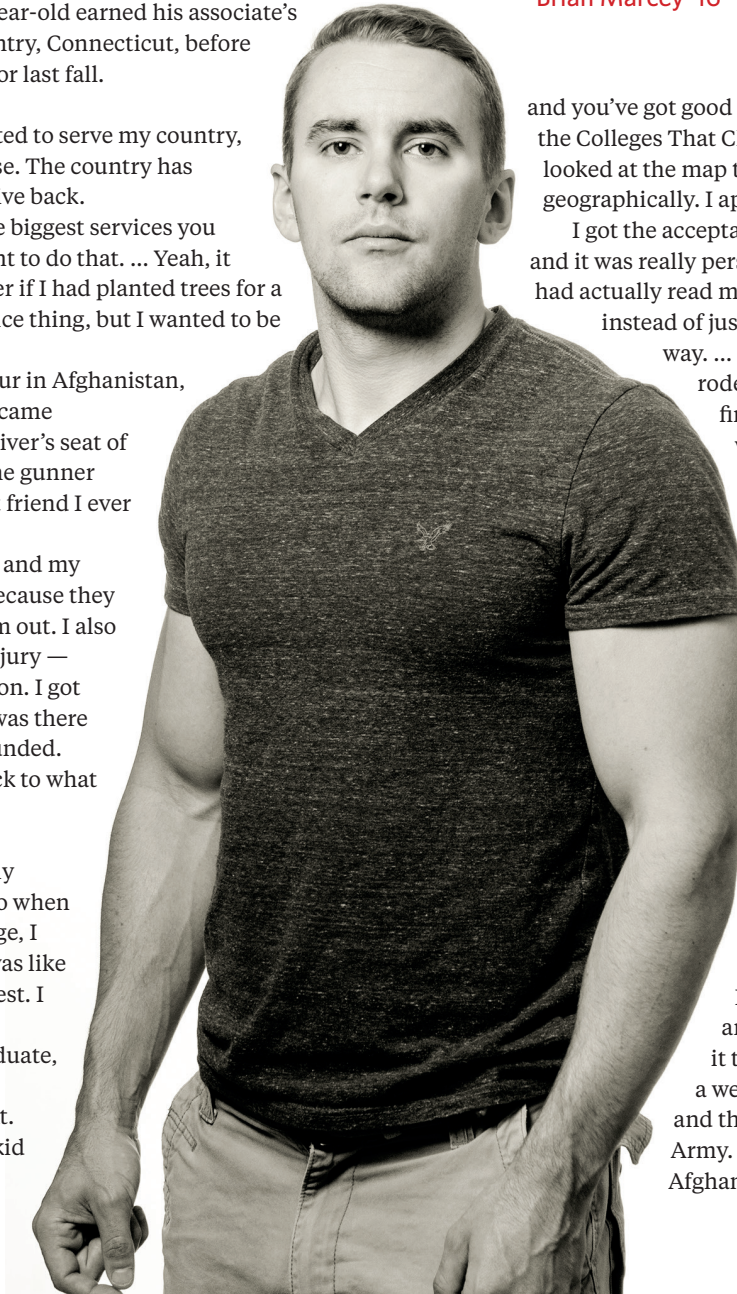
Brian Marcey '16

and you've got good grades, so you should look into the Colleges That Change Lives.' I went online and looked at the map to see where I would want to go geographically. I applied to Willamette, just to do it.

I got the acceptance letter back from Willamette, and it was really personal. I could tell Willamette had actually read my essay and looked at who I am instead of just my GPA, and that went a long way. ... I got on my motorcycle and rode here from Connecticut. The first time I saw this place was a week-and-a-half before Opening Days. ...

The G.I. Bill is the best thing that you can do for veterans. It gives guys a life after they come back. ... You can study whatever you want, and pretty much go wherever you want. It doesn't cover tuition here fully, but Willamette offered me a scholarship and a grant. ...

I'll hear other students say things like, 'Oh, it's finals, I'm dying,' or 'This midterm is going to be the death of me.' Sometimes I feel myself thinking that, and I immediately correct myself and say, 'Just do it.' How hard is it to sit in a classroom for 12 hours a week and write a few papers now and then? This is way easier than the Army. I could be filling sandbags in Afghanistan right now."



“I genuinely feel like the Navy and the country are no better off having had me, but I am worlds different from having had the Navy.”

Abby Fitts JD'16



ABBY FITTS JD'16

Abby Fitts, 36, already had numerous international adventures under her belt before she joined the Navy in 1997. Her family moved from Portland to Yemen when she was 9 so her father could direct an international school. While they were there, Iraq invaded Kuwait and Fitts' family evacuated briefly to Egypt. After she finished eighth grade, her family moved to Korea, where Fitts graduated high school.

She enlisted in the Navy at age 18 because her parents wouldn't pay for college, she says — but she also was following in the footsteps of her father and grandfather, both former Navy men. Her experience with languages led her to the Defense Language Institute to become a linguist in Korean and Mandarin Chinese. Fitts was eventually stationed in Korea and Hawaii, where most of her work was in intelligence. She can't tell you her exact duties because they're classified — to this day, the National Security Agency has to review her resume before she submits it anywhere.

After a 10-year naval career — during which she became a chief petty officer, married an Army serviceman and birthed two of her three children — she and her husband left the military and moved to Oregon to live on his family's 1,100-acre farm near Independence. But Fitts soon sought new career challenges, and she enrolled at Willamette's College of Law in fall 2013.

“I genuinely feel like the Navy and the country are no better off having had me, but I am worlds different from having had the Navy. ... I'm hesitant to use the word 'vet' to describe myself, because my experience in the Navy was so different, and I don't want to dilute the strength of what it means to be a combat veteran. ... You think of the guys who ride in subs and go into enemy territory, or snipers — those people really served. I didn't serve like that. ...

I don't think that someone could right away identify me as a vet. But when they get to know me, they can see how the military is woven throughout how I conduct myself, how I raise my kids, how I relate to people, the expectations I place on myself. My worldview is informed by my appreciation for people who have served, and the reality is that many of the people I walked with are no longer here — not because they got cancer, but because they were killed. There's a gravity to life as a vet that we'll carry with us forever. ...

I was incredibly blessed to be a Navy chief, and that brought with it a family of people I didn't have when I came back to civilian life. I miss those people every day. I also miss the challenge of what it means to do a job that I've always believed was important, a job full of dignity. I am so grateful for the time I had in the service. ...

I once challenged a professor in class when he was talking about the nature of the military climate toward gays and lesbians, before the repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.' I said, 'You have a lot of cultures within the military community, and many of those cultures found something wrong with 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.' He said, 'How do you know that?' And I said, 'Because I am a vet. I was in the Navy for 10 years.'

I'd been in class with many of these students for a whole year, and I had never said anything about my service. ... That illuminated for some people the fact that a veteran isn't necessarily a closed-minded, poor person with no options other than to serve — we don't all fit that stereotype.”

A GRADUATE'S STORY: STEVEN ANDERSON '94, MM'95

"Write about five books that everyone should read and why." Seems like a straightforward question for a college application essay. But try answering thoughtfully while sitting in a foxhole in the Saudi Arabian desert, surrounded by fellow Marines, waiting for a ground war that will likely start any day.

Steven Anderson pondered literature between blowing up enemy munition mines as a combat engineer during the Persian Gulf War. He hoped he could impress the Willamette admission officers enough to enroll him in fall 1991, despite his lackluster academic record of bouncing from one community college to another.

Eventually, he settled on titles including Sun Tzu's "The Art of War," John F. Kennedy's "Profiles in Courage" and Ernest Hemingway's "A Farewell to Arms." He jotted ideas on any paper he could find — napkins, notepads, envelopes — and then mailed it all to his wife in Salem, asking her to find out the proper format for submitting the application.

"Several weeks later, I got a note back from her that said, 'The university said it had to be handwritten, so I just sent them what you sent me,'" Anderson remembers with a laugh. "I thought, 'Well, so much for that one.'"

But just before Anderson returned from the Gulf, he received a surprising letter from Willamette: he'd been accepted.

Up until that point, Anderson says he was "one of those people who needed the Marine Corps a lot more than it needed me." He'd grown up in Bend, Oregon, moved out on his own at age 17 and soon got married and became a parent.

He was intrigued when one of his coworkers joined the Marines — particularly when he learned the G.I. Bill could help him go to college. "I felt like I was flailing around, so I thought the Marines would help give me discipline and direction," he says.

After enlisting in the reserves at age 20, Anderson attempted community college several times, but struggled with motivation. Then his reserve unit was activated in November 1990 to deploy to Saudi Arabia.

"I was in the Gulf when I thought, 'If I survive this experience, I will knuckle down and finish my degree,'" he says. "It was like the deal with the deity."

He was only back in the States for about three months when he started classes at Willamette — a 25-year-old father, husband and war veteran. "In the military, the bullets are real. People live or die based on your decisions. You come back here and the decisions don't seem as important. I had a hard time re-acclimating," he says.

"I wasn't as smart as most of my classmates, but I had work ethic and determination. My time in the Marines gave me new perspective — it was going to take some sweat, but I could see a path through it."

Anderson earned a bachelor's in humanities and, through the dual-degree program with Atkinson Graduate School of



Management, also completed a master of management. At the suggestion of his mentor, professor Fred Thompson, he discovered the world of consulting.

Today, Anderson is a vice president at Avanade Inc., which provides Microsoft-focused consulting services to companies. He's the service line lead for the North America Microsoft Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) practice (ERPs are software systems that provide functions such as inventory control or financial accounting). He returned to his alma mater this spring to teach a course at Atkinson on enterprise architecture management. Plus, he's a proud Bearcat parent: Ashley, the daughter he raised while he was a student, earned her bachelor's from Willamette in 2008 and her Master of Arts in Teaching in 2009.

It's not a path Anderson could have predicted when he was still a wayward teenager. But the Marine Corps and Willamette helped him find the way.

"Willamette made me credible," he says. "It taught me how to write, argue a point, do research. It gave me the ability to enter the workforce. The Corps gave me what I needed to stand up to something that looked pretty daunting and still be able to compete. I use both things, even today."

THE MILITARY AT WILLAMETTE

While a student walking across campus in uniform might draw stares today, there were times in Willamette's history when military personnel were commonplace.

Thirty-five Willamette men enlisted in the National Guard during World War I — about 25 percent of the male student body. In late 1918, the War Department selected Willamette to host a unit of the Student Army Training Corps, although it only lasted on campus for a few weeks until the war ended.

During World War II, Willamette President G. Herbert Smith led efforts to bring a V-12 naval program to the university, making campus the site of a general college training school for preparing officers. In 1943, 258 men arrived and “set up ship” in Lausanne Hall, their living quarters. They transformed everything on campus from the curriculum (enrollment surged in math and physics courses) to the lingo (Navy jargon and a 24-hour time designation were used widely).

The program ended in 1945, and many participants remember it fondly, including Stan Buch '45, who recently donated some of his photographs to the University Archives. “At age 90, I frequently muse over the most important parts of my life, and Willamette University always comes out on top as the BEST year of my life,” Buch wrote in his donation letter.

Even after the V-12 program ended, military talk was still commonplace, as many World War II veterans enrolled at Willamette. “Those of us who had classroom experience in that period know

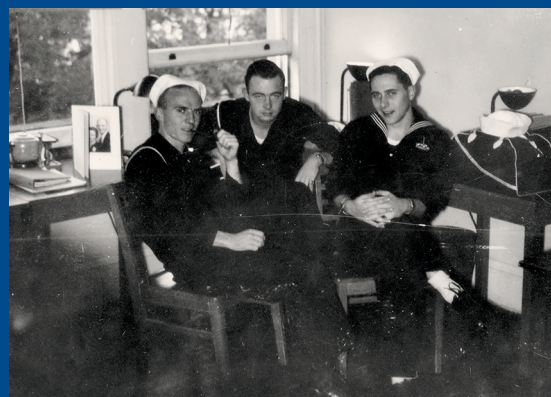


what a stimulus it was to have one or more veterans in class,” wrote Robert D. Gregg in “Chronicles of Willamette: Volume II.” “They were real leaders and brought about some lively discussions.”

In 1951, in the midst of the Korean War and a military draft, Willamette established an Air Force R.O.T.C. unit on campus. At the time, attendance was mandatory for all freshman and sophomore men. Despite some concerns that the program would “militarize” the campus, the unit’s staff members “fitted well into campus life,” Gregg wrote. Many participants went on to serve and find careers in the military.

In 1960, the faculty voted to make the program voluntary, and it continued for 15 more years before its cancellation due to declining enrollment. In March 1975, Lt. Col. Eugene Fletcher, then-commander of the program, told the Willamette Collegian: “Some of the benefits of a R.O.T.C. program may not be as appealing to students here, and there is, instead of interest, apathy. ... But we have never felt any hostility at Willamette; it has been a joy to work on the campus.”

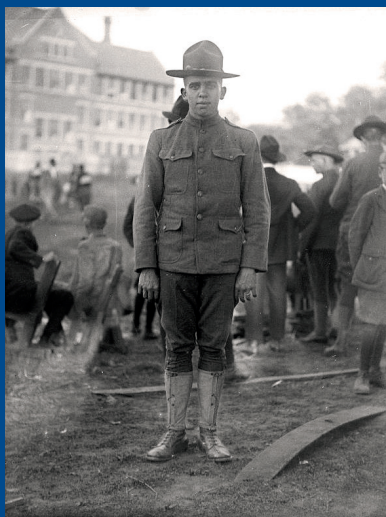
Sources: *Chronicles of Willamette: Volumes I and II*; *Willamette Collegian*



Top: Members of Willamette's Air Force R.O.T.C. Tiger Squadron, 1961. (Photo and caption information from Tom Glass '65)

Above: Whity Jacobson, Ted Comstock and Stan Buch (left to right), members of the World War II V-12 naval program, in Room 41 of Lausanne Hall, October 1944. (Photo and caption information from Stan Buch '45)

Left: An unidentified World War I recruit from Willamette, 1918. (Photo from the Paulus Glass Plate Negatives collection, Willamette University Archives)



“Going back to school after having had real-world experience was a game-changer.”

Silas Heisler JD'16



SILAS HEISLER JD'16

Silas Heisler, 33, grew up and graduated high school in Salem before heading off to college at Portland State University, where he floundered. After talking with a friend in the Army and observing him in training, Heisler decided to join the Army Reserve.

Three months after basic training, in January 2004, he deployed to Iraq for 14 months as a helicopter crew member. It was his first of three war-time deployments: after switching to the National Guard and the infantry side, he spent 16 months in Afghanistan and another 11 months in Iraq. In between, he went to New Orleans for Hurricane Katrina recovery and rescue operations.

He also got serious about his education. He went on to earn his bachelor's in communications from Western Oregon University, where several constitutional law classes inspired him to enroll at Willamette's College of Law in fall 2013. There, he has been part of a movement to create a student organization to support active military and veteran students, as well as a clinic to provide legal services for veterans.

All the while, he has continued to serve in the National Guard — the second lieutenant is now a rear detachment infantry company commander in Gresham, Oregon. He's in it for the long haul, saying: “I'd love to be able to serve either until the Army asks me to leave or until my body says I'm done.”

“**One of the things that I've learned** through all of my deployments is that people are people. A 20-year-old who has grown up in Afghanistan has a much different life experience from a 20-year-old who has grown up in Oregon. But when it comes down to it, a lot of us have the same basic needs and wants. ...

I would love to be one of those people who says, ‘When I saw the towers fall [on 9/11], I rushed down to the recruiter because it was the right thing to do,’ but in all honesty, I joined because it looked like fun, like an adventure — and that is certainly something that it has turned out to be. There were a lot of miserable times overseas, but there were a lot of exciting times, too. ...

One thing about my service that I'm really glad I did was spending three years on the National Guard's funeral honors team. I feel like there's no higher honor than being able to give a veteran this final tribute. ... A lot of the funerals were for veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam. Some were killed in action in Iraq or Afghanistan, and those hit home more. ...

Going back to school after having had real-world experience was a game-changer. I went from being on and off academic probation at Portland State to being on the dean's list at Western Oregon.

In almost every one of my classes at Western, I was one of only a few people over the age of 23. I was the only person in a lot of my classes who had served in the military, or even had a full-time job for more than a few months. Plus I had a house and a family and a dog in Salem, so I wasn't doing the same kind of activities in my spare time that so many of my classmates were doing. ...

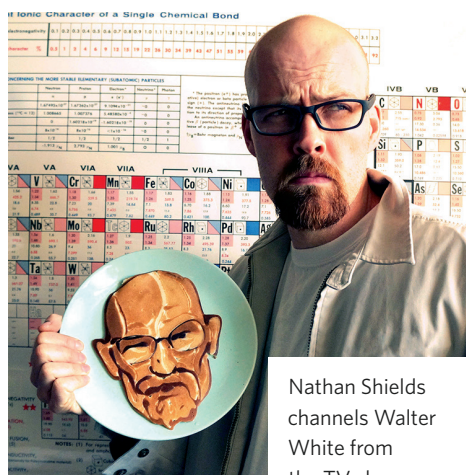
I don't shout it from the rooftops that I've served, because I generally don't like to toot my own horn. I don't have a whole lot of bumper stickers on my car, both literally and metaphorically. At the same time, I'm not ashamed of my service. It's one of the most formative things that I've done.

My short haircut does seem to give it away, though.”



BATTER UP!

Even if you don't know Nathan Shields' name or his Willamette connection, you've probably seen — and flipped over — his unusual creations.



Nathan Shields channels Walter White from the TV show "Breaking Bad."

Most portrait artists work in watercolors, acrylic or oil. But when Nathan Shields '02 wants to create a likeness of The Beatles, Albert Einstein or Michael Jackson, he reaches for a squeeze bottle of batter.

Shields serves up astonishingly detailed and realistic artwork in the form of pancakes, with his edible oeuvre ranging from fairytale princesses and "Walking Dead" zombies to insects, birds and sea creatures. What began as a fun breakfast tradition for his young son and daughter has morphed

into an Internet phenomenon, with videos of his culinary creativity attracting millions of views on YouTube and thousands of likes on Facebook.

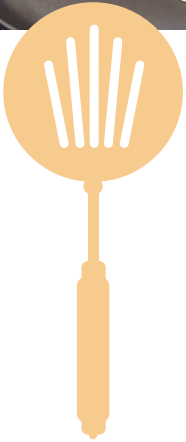
Shields, of Port Angeles, Washington, has taken his nonstick crepe pan to New York City to appear on the "Rachael Ray Show," NBC's "Weekend Today" and "Fox & Friends." He's also created art good enough to eat for Disney and IHOP social media campaigns.

"I had no idea it would turn out like this," he says. "It's been a funny road."



Nathan Shields '02, seen here with his wife, Cheri '02, and children, Gryphon and Alice, makes pancakes not only to feed his kids but to fuel their imaginations.

WATCH NATHAN SHIELDS CREATE A PANCAKE VERSION OF BLITZ THE BEARCAT! willamette.edu/go/blitz_pancake



RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

Shields minored in art at Willamette but after graduation focused more on his computer science and math major as a high school teacher. In 2012, he won a national Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. When he became an at-home parent, Shields' innate creativity found an outlet in the kitchen.

MAGIC FORMULA

While Shields occasionally experiments with making his own batter, he usually just reaches for an off-the-shelf product. To get the tonal effect in his creations, he varies the amount of time that he cooks each part of the pancake and sometimes adds cocoa powder to the mix.

NATURAL TALENT

Shields rarely does practice sketches. But, as he has to draw in reverse (the final image appears when he flips the pancake), he did teach himself to write cursive script backwards for a batter-based social media campaign for IHOP on National Pancake Day.

INTERNATIONAL APPEAL

Shields' quirky novelties have gained fans from all over the world. "People are interested because it's so unusual and the videos are fun to watch," he says. "And I guess pancakes are cross-cultural."

TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING

While Shields and his family still enjoy the pancakes he makes for breakfast, they couldn't keep up with all the ones he whips up for his website or as commissions. Most of those end up in the compost. "Half of my commission profits go to charity," Shields adds, "so the pancakes are feeding people around the world."

LIFE AFTER PANCAKES

Shields would like to return to teaching when his kids, Gryphon, 7, and Alice, 4, are older. Until then, he intends to continue his work as an illustrator, develop a device to create batter-based spirographs and even write a book about his unusual art.

"My pancake empire formed without any plans," he says. "I intend to keep making pancakes until I'm sick of them."

Want to know more? Visit saipancakes.com

6 TO WATCH



FRESH OUT OF WILLAMETTE AND READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD! THESE SIX NEW GRADUATES WILL DEDICATE TWO YEARS TO HELPING CHILDREN IN UNDERPRIVILEGED COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE **TEACH FOR AMERICA PROGRAM.**



Choy

DEANNA CHOY '15

Music education major, specializing in percussion

Placement: Elementary special education in Oahu, Hawaii

Why I joined the program: "I'm excited to give back to my community. I've had great teachers who helped me become my best, and I hope to do the same for the next generation. I'm excited to work in special education because I can use music to connect with students and help them learn."

LIZZY SMITH '15

English major, American ethnic studies minor

Placement: Eighth-grade English in New Orleans

Why I joined: "Growing up privileged in the Bay Area of California, I witnessed daily the racial and class divisions that are so highly prevalent — not only in my community, but also nationwide. I am committed to becoming an educator, and I really hope to use literature to help my students empower themselves to make change and fight injustice."



Smith



Smyth

COLLEEN SMYTH '15

History major, American ethnic studies minor

Placement: Seventh-grade math in Nashville, Tennessee

Why I joined the program: "My parents and grandparents are current/former teachers, so I've been interested in teaching since I was very young. In college, I became passionate about education equity and creating a school system that works for all students. I'm excited to continue learning about and begin implementing culturally responsive and anti-oppressive teaching methods."

SOREN UNDERDAHL '15

Politics and philosophy major, classical studies minor

Placement: Elementary and middle school chemistry or general education in Memphis, Tennessee

Why I joined the program: "As a politics major and community mentor, I've become passionate about social justice and educational inequity. I'm also very interested in teaching. I love the "aha!" moment when a student grasps a difficult concept. I'm very excited for the opportunity to make a difference in students' lives."



Underdahl



Wenger

JON WENGER '15

Psychology and economics major

Placement: High school math on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota

Why I joined the program: "In South Dakota, there are 0.8 teachers per teacher needed. Classes are crowded, and the selection is limited. It's exciting to go somewhere with a real need for teachers and to help address the systemic issues of education inequality."

SIMON ZHEN '15

Politics major, Chinese studies minor

Placement: General education or special education in New York

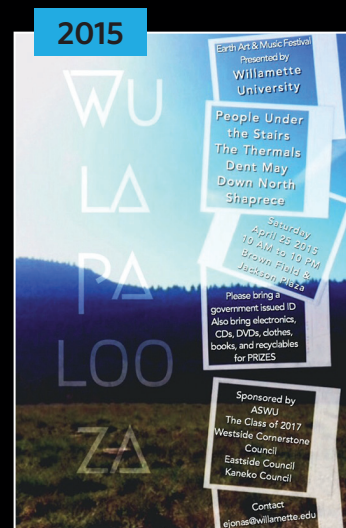
Why I joined the program: "Despite my acceptance into a few law schools, I decided to enroll in Teach for America. Teaching English and Chinese in Salem and China has given me interest and confidence in teaching. I can empathize with my potential students, as I struggled in school during my teen years."



Zhen

Since 1998, when the student-organized event started as a way to celebrate Earth Day, the posters have reflected each year's unique vibe — from the choice of colors and graphic elements to the distinctive names of the musical acts.

Wulapalooza, you rock!



Where in the course of human events, the separate and equal station to which impel them to the separation. —
rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and

The [Public] Pursuit of Happiness

By Linda Peterson

Entrepreneurial. Optimistic. Driven. Persistent. Sounds like a reference to a high-flying, laser-focused tech-mogul-in-the-making, doesn't it? Surprise! It's actually the description of six Willamette alumni who have dedicated their lives and careers to service in the public sector.

On Capitol Hill or advocating for social change in their communities, whether they knew exactly what they wanted to do or experimented with different paths until that “aha” moment occurred, these Willamette alumni find fulfillment in important work in the public sector.

Public servants in the old-fashioned sense of the title, they address the needs of citizens (or not-yet-citizens), struggling families and students hungry to learn (or poorly equipped to learn). They provide safety in an increasingly complex and sometimes-frightening world. And they fit into a wide range of categories: police officer, congressional or agency staffer, union operations director, legal aid lawyer, nonprofit leader-in-development.

Life in the public sector may not be as remunerative as life in the private, but that doesn't matter. Turns out you can't really buy happiness, anyway — you have to work for it.

man events, it becomes necessary for one people
which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God
We hold these truths to be self-evident,
and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to

The Lifelong Learners

David Okada '84

Lieutenant, Public Information Officer, Community Response Section Commander, Salem Police Department, Salem, Oregon

Trevor Jones '10

Legislative Aide/Correspondence Director, Sen. Ron Wyden's Office, Washington, D.C.

Some people just can't get enough — challenges, new things to learn, new experiences, new ways to serve others. Dave Okada and Trevor Jones are those people. And though the two men are separated by a quarter-century in age and the span of the continental United States, their journeys and dreams intersect.

Both say their families had an enormous impact on the paths they chose. Okada's work with young people — from gang members to abused children to Cub Scouts to young athletes — was inspired by his childhood. "As a kid, I was fortunate. I had a solid family, I took music lessons, did Scouting. I've tried to carry that forward in my family," he says. "But I saw a lot of kids who didn't have strong adult mentorship. If kids have just a little bit of guidance, it can make a big difference in their lives."

Jones says a passion for community service was instilled in everyone in his family. "During holidays, we'd volunteer at the homeless shelter at our church, we'd volunteer in youth soccer," he says. "Those experiences stick. You want to do some good in the world."

Making the world safer

Majoring in psychology at Willamette nurtured Okada's interest in interacting with all kinds of people. While most of his classmates completed their junior and senior year practicums at Oregon State Hospital, Okada chose the Marion County Sheriff's Office, where he studied the stress that officers face. His interest piqued, Okada became a Marion County reserve deputy during his senior year. After graduation, he worked his way through the ranks and took patrol shifts when the office was short-handed. He also worked as an intern in parole and probation and at the hospital's sex offender unit, and served two years as a juvenile counselor.

All those experiences converged in a very particular interest: preventing violence before it happens, particularly in schools. Now a member of the national board of the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (ATAP), Okada helped to refine the Willamette Valley Adult Threat Advisory Team and Mid-Valley Student Threat Assessment Team. The teams consider perspectives of mental health professionals, law enforcement professionals, educators and experts from other disciplines to identify — and intervene with — people on the pathway toward targeted violence. "The FBI refers to us as a model system, and I spend time traveling



and teaching what we do right here in Salem,” he says. “Acts of targeted violence can be prevented. It’s about recognizing the signs on the path to violence.”

Recently, Okada presented at the ATAP conference in New York, sharing what he’s learned throughout an already distinguished career. Specialized training, awards, honors, community involvement — there’s no den wall big enough to house all the commendations he’s received. Still, Okada keeps learning and expanding his service to his community. “I came to Willamette from the Bay Area, which is far more crowded with far more going on,” he says. “Here in Salem, there’s a great sense of community. I’m impressed that it’s the state capital and that people help each other. We work together to solve problems.”

Making the most of government

Portland born and bred, Jones had (mostly) one thing on his mind in high school: soccer. Once he set foot on the Willamette campus, the world grew larger. “In the beginning, I didn’t know my focus,” he recalls. “I owe a lot to my politics professor, Sammy Basu, who really opened my eyes. We’d go to these modern political theory classes and read Plato and Socrates. Professor Basu was able to make all parts of what we were learning relevant in the here and now. Once I got into his classes, I really began to put things together. He shaped my view of what a government should look like.”

Jones was off and running — on the soccer field and academically. “The transition between reading political theorists and relating their work to the world around us is what drove me to the public sector,” he says. “I wanted to spend my time helping others, and all around me I saw people influencing the process, working to get out the vote, supporting campaigns.” By his junior year, the star soccer player was campaigning for Jeff Merkley’s bid

for the U.S. Senate. By his senior year, he juggled being captain for the soccer team with pursuing a role in Oregon politics.

In August 2010, he landed a job as staff assistant with congressman Kurt Schrader’s office. He followed the usual path, fielding phone calls, opening mail and making sure it got to the correct staffer. Then, Jones scored his current job in Sen. Ron Wyden’s office. “The day I arrived, I saw all these young people working on legislation. I was blown away,” he says.

In Wyden’s Washington, D.C., office, Jones was assigned to the domestic policy team, working on issues such as labor, child services and education-to-workforce initiatives. He’s also able to pursue two of his keenest interests: K-12 education and the Internet. While some of his friends opted for graduate school as a way to keep learning, Jones relishes the abundance of opportunities available on his current path. “There are think tanks, nonprofits, congressional briefings and hearings — they’re all public. National organizations hold discussions on issues from educational reform to the future of an open Internet,” he says. “The more you know, the better you’re able to see an issue overall. You can crash-learn something new every day.”

Jones is proud to be a member of Wyden’s team. “I see how hard Senator Wyden works, and how hard all of us try to help our constituents,” he says. He revels in getting to know and often support people like principals of rural Oregon schools, YMCA representatives from Oregon and presidents of small tech companies struggling with patent issues. And he celebrates the small victories, such as advocating and acquiring funding for an after-school soccer program in Portland, a place for low-income kids to fall in love with the game, just as he did. “It wasn’t my win,” Jones explains. “It was a group win.”



“Once I got into [Sammy Basu’s] classes, I really began to put things together. He shaped my view of what a government should look like.”

Trevor Jones ’10



“‘Not unto ourselves alone’ means something to me. We all have to think about something bigger than ourselves.”

Stephenne Harding '05

The Epiphanista

Stephenne Harding '05

**Deputy Director, Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.**

The first thing you should know about Stephenne Harding is that even though she traces her origins to the wilds of Montana, her epiphanies (more on that in a bit) don't come out of nowhere. Growing up in Whitefish, Harding loved to hike, bike and ski in the mountains, to fish and raft the rivers and to participate in lively family conversations about politics. “I had to be able to defend my perspectives in a very conservative place,” she says.

When it was time for college, Harding was equally influenced by a need for new adventures and by her pocketbook. “I'd been with the same group of kids since kindergarten, so when Willamette offered me generous support, I said yes,” she recalls. Officially, Harding pursued a double major in history and politics, but her real major, she says, was studying with history professor Bill Duvall, “a phenomenal and inspiring teacher, who on the first day of class reenacted Galileo's experiment dropping balls off the leaning tower of Pisa to explain the start of the scientific revolution. I was hooked.” Outside the classroom, Harding embraced political life; she served as student body vice president, ran the College Democrats and interned twice across the street — first for Oregon state Sen. Frank Shields, then in Gov. Ted Kulongoski's office.

After graduation, Harding took off to spend her final semester studying in South Africa. She wasn't quite sure what to do next, so, supporting herself as a raft and backpacking guide and as a ski instructor in Germany for soldiers and NATO employees, she spent three years working and traveling to every inhabited continent.

She wanted to do something in environmental policy, but had never fit in with the self-identified environmentalists at Willamette. On a three-day trek in Indonesia, Harding found herself musing

about her interactions with fellow Bearcats who were often adamant in their points of view: be vegan, don't cut down a single tree or drive a car. “That wasn't my view of the world,” she says. “I was much more of a conservationist, and that's when I had my epiphany: There's a great big space in the middle, a place to do conservation and climate work without being so hardcore you drive people away.”

That realization set Harding on a course almost as rigorous as trekking through the Indonesian volcanoes of the Rinjani circuit. She earned a Master of Public Administration from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University, focusing on environmental economics and policy. She also worked as a graduate research assistant in environmental policy and economics. On a weekend trip to D.C. before finishing her master's, she stopped by the office of U.S. Sen. Jon Tester, whose campaign she'd worked on between undergrad and grad school. On a whim, she dropped off a resume — and an hour later, she was interviewed for an opportunity to manage Tester's environmental policy. Within minutes she landed a job as legislative assistant for energy, environment and natural resources.

Harding's work with Tester's office was broad, encompassing energy production, tax and markets, climate, water, agriculture, resource development, and environmental and conservation policy. She managed the Sportsmen's Act of 2012 — a piece of legislation with broad support from the White House to the NRA to the Wilderness Society — on the Senate floor, shepherding it to a 92-5 vote to advance the bill before it ultimately died on a procedural budget vote. In 2013, Harding was recruited to the Department of the Interior as deputy director of the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs. Today, she executes the Interior Secretary's legislative agenda in the Senate for conservation, energy, climate and tribal communities. She supervises a team of six lawyers and 10 legislative affairs officers to determine policy, strategically represent Interior to Congress and manage confirmations for Interior nominees in the Senate.

“Small changes can have a powerful impact,” Harding says, “especially when we all work together. We'd been dealing with a longstanding land dispute among three agencies. The tribes that wanted to restore their homelands were stuck in endless bureaucratic finger-pointing.” Harding took on the challenge no one else wanted and, after 17 years of delay, in nine months she was able to pull people together across agencies to restore the Ho-Chunk Nation's tribal homelands in Wisconsin.

She also particularly remembers collaborating with her colleagues at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. “We worked together to add one sentence to a bill,” she says. “It may not sound like much, but that one sentence meant a great deal to the bears we were protecting.”

Experience has taught Harding that, when it comes to making a difference, scale matters. “There are 70,000 people in the Interior Department. To get things done, you need the right people in the room, all pushing together,” she says. Mission also matters: “‘Not unto ourselves alone’ means something to me,” Harding says. “We all have to think about something bigger than ourselves. Trying to move things forward in a polarized D.C. makes me remember Willamette. After all, [Willamette alumnus and U.S. Senator] Mark Hatfield was an early, active and often lonely opponent of arms proliferation and the Vietnam War.”

In January 2017, Harding's assignment will end. She's not sure what's next. “I'm a Montana girl,” she says. “I miss the mountains and the West. But for my goals in environmental policy and politics, there's no greater place to be than Washington, D.C. You go where you can make the biggest difference. For me, for now, that's in the public sector.”



Ryan Cosens

“The nonprofit sector needs support and leadership so it doesn’t burn out staff, clients and the community.”

Dawn Albert ’08

The Advocates

Dawn Albert ’08

AmeriCorps Social Enterprise Fellow, Teacher Effectiveness Project Coordinator, Oakland, California

Jaime Arredondo ’05

Secretary-Treasurer, PCUN, Oregon’s farmworker union (Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste/Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United), Salem, Oregon

Dawn Albert and Jaime Arredondo come from different backgrounds, but they pursue similar goals.

Albert, who grew up home-schooled in Grants Pass, Oregon, wears her mission on her (virtual) sleeve. The opening line of her resume reads: “A values-driven professional who uses heart, community building and strategy to impact social change, particularly in youth empowerment and gender equity.”

Arredondo emigrated from Mexico. His work at PCUN, the largest Latino organization in Oregon, was inspired by his family’s experiences and his own passion for social justice. “You live by serving others,” he says. “That’s where happiness comes from.”

Following the story

For Albert — who went from director of the Willamette women’s resource center, known as SHE (Strength, Health, Equality), to Teach for America to supporting foster youth at Seneca Family of Agencies to her current service at Aspire Public Schools in Oakland, California — the work has always centered on change for the better. “My question is, ‘How can I fit my skills and interests into a role that will bring about the largest change?’” she says. Sometimes that

means working toward societal change; sometimes it means concentrating on one small victory that will be transformative for one person.

At Seneca, Albert managed a caseload of 23 foster children. One of the girls in her charge had already been damaged in the foster care system. She was in line to be adopted — ordinarily a good outcome, Albert says, except the agency learned that the soon-to-be-adoptive parents were abusing the girl. “She was 16 years old, alone in the world,” Albert recalls. “She thought both her parents were dead.” Outcomes are typically grim for such kids, so Albert and a colleague set out to improve matters.

The breakthrough came when Albert found and visited the young woman’s father in a local prison. Though he couldn’t be present or a good influence in his daughter’s life, he led Albert to other healthy parts of the family for the girl. This story has at least the outline of a happy ending: The girl is now connected to family, no longer isolated in the foster care system and has a plan for moving on with her life. “It was just about being in the right place at the right time and not giving up,” says Albert.

Albert’s stint as a Social Enterprise Fellow has been rewarding, with responsibilities that range from piloting a Common Core video project to managing data collection and developing a new teacher observation model for 38 Aspire schools that serve low-income families across the country. As measuring teacher effectiveness becomes increasingly complex and critical, Albert’s work will help pave the way for the future.

“I came into my own at Willamette,” Albert says. “When I joined Teach for America, I thought education would be my career. Education is a great equalizer, but what I found in my assignment in New Orleans was a system that was truly broken. It became clear that mental health support was a huge component of what communities in poverty need — and I learned about getting

families on board, how to set goals *with* kids rather than for kids. What I took away from those experiences is how much the nonprofit sector needs support and leadership so it doesn't burn out staff, clients and the community."

Every story starts somewhere

Willamette played a significant role in every aspect of Arredondo's story. When he and his family moved to Salem, their first home was a one-bedroom apartment near Kaneko Commons. His parents and the baby slept in the bedroom, while the other four children bunked down on the living room carpet. "That may not sound like much," he says, "but it was soft and warm and we felt safe."

Eventually, his family acquired immigration documents. Arredondo worked in the fields and, while in high school, landed a job in the cafeteria at Goudy Commons. "I was the 'beverage boy,'" he says. "I knew nothing about college and nothing about how people actually lived at Willamette. There was no one at Willamette who looked like me, but I decided I wanted to go there — even though I knew it would be challenging."

Willamette accepted the "beverage boy." When Arredondo returned as a student to the Goudy cafeteria, people were shocked to see him. "That was one reason I took on the challenge," he says. "I wanted folks to know that workers behind the scenes are real people with potential just like everyone else."

A rhetoric and media studies major, Arredondo was already learning the art of storytelling, encouraged by his advisor, Nathaniel "Nacho" Cordova. Still, he found Willamette a struggle in the first year. "Socially, I fit in. I had a good group of friends, got involved with clubs," he says. "But it was tough coming from a not-very-challenging high school and difficult to develop good work habits. As the second in my family to go to college, I had to continue being a pioneer."

As his Willamette experience unfolded, Arredondo jumped into community involvement. He served as youth representative/commissioner for the Salem Human Rights and Relations Advisory Commission and was appointed by the governor's office to Oregon's Youth Development Council.

After graduation, Arredondo plunged directly into social justice work as a community organizer with the Farmworker Housing Development Corporation and eventually as secretary-treasurer at PCUN. One day, he found himself helping a new migrant family settle into a home that seemed oddly familiar. "It was my family's apartment," Arredondo says. "And even though 20 years had passed, I remembered so much. It made me reflect that I was on the right path, and it enabled me to tell this family something I had learned: Every story starts somewhere."

Today, Arredondo advocates for policy at the state level, particularly immigration reform and minimum wage issues; provides direct services to immigrants; works with institutions to understand economic impact; and hosts politicians and elected officials. This spring, he partnered with immigration reform advocates from all over the country in a sit-in at the Hart Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

Arredondo also helps other Latino youngsters find their way in life. He mentors first-generation college students at Willamette, giving them confidence that they, too, can succeed.

"What gives me the most pleasure is seeing family successes repeat themselves," he says. "In my own life, I feel that I have been successful because I have options. The times we live in require advocates. And so, that is the work I am called to do."

To see a short video Arredondo made about his life's destiny, go to willamette.edu/magazine.

"There was no one at Willamette who looked like me, but I decided I wanted to go there — even though I knew it would be challenging."

Jaime Arredondo '05



The Lucky One

Mitzi Naucler JD'82

**Regional Director, Legal Aid Services of Oregon
Albany, Oregon**

The year Mitzi Naucler graduated from Willamette College of Law, the Oregon State Bar publication listed exactly one job posting. One. Talk about dispiriting job prospects!

But Naucler, who had already experienced an up-and-down, in-and-out educational history, was undaunted. She grew up in International Falls, Minnesota — so far north, it's on the Canadian border. There, in what she refers to as "the bush" with her Canadian father and American mother, Naucler learned quintessential

Minnesota values: community, school, church, Scouting, volunteering at the public library. She grew up a reader; at age 10, she devoured Pearl S. Buck's novels about China and was hooked. Nothing could seem further from her life in International Falls. Just wait. Life can surprise you.

Money was scarce, so Naucler had to self-finance her education. She began at Moorhead State University in Minnesota, alternately attending school and taking time off to work and save. By the time she finished her undergraduate degree in criminal justice, Pell grants existed, so she applied to the graduate school of public policy at Portland State University. Then, at the last minute, on a whim she applied to one law school — Willamette. "I liked the idea that it was in Salem (although I had never been in Salem) not Portland and, of course, that it was so near the state capitol and the Oregon Supreme Court," she says. "It seemed about the right size for me."

Willamette's Public Impact

Various university programs and centers of excellence have served as long-time incubators and resources for talent in the public sector. They include:



Thompson

Center for Governance and Public Policy Research

willamette.edu/centers/publicpolicy

Director, Fred Thompson, Grace and Elmer Goudy Professor of Public Management and Policy Analysis

Public sector impact: Founded on the principle that collaboration and communication between the academic and policy-making communities can improve policy, the center supports policymaking in the Pacific Northwest. It provides research and analysis on topics relating to public policy issues, such as revenue forecasting, government contracting, rural poverty and minimum wage levels. In addition, the center sponsors conferences, seminars and workshops.

Did you know? The center is a joint program of the Atkinson Graduate School of Management, the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Law.



Singh

Center for Dispute Resolution

willamette.edu/wucl/centers/cdr

Interim Director, Sukhsimranjit Singh, lecturer in law

Public sector impact: Serving as a trainer or impartial facilitator in projects for government, agencies and other organizations. Projects include providing training for student peer mediation for the local Salem-Keizer School District, educating partners in resolving family disputes and assisting attorneys in the Oregon Department of Justice.

Did you know? This center was the first of its kind in the western United States.



Dobbins

Oregon Law Commission (OLC)

willamette.edu/wucl/centers/olc

Executive Director, Jeffrey C. Dobbins, associate professor of law

Public sector impact: Eighteen years and counting of working with the Legislative Assembly to ensure Oregon law is clear, accurate and up to date. The OLC researches and drafts proposed legislation on suggested topics, then supports its enactment through the legislative process.

Did you know? The OLC is a state commission housed at and staffed by Willamette. It hires both undergraduates (as administrative assistants) and law students (as clerks).

Clinical Law Program

willamette.edu/wucl/centers/clp

Director, W. Warren H. Binford, associate professor of law

Public sector impact: Clinical experience is a critical part of legal education, as today's employers search for graduates who have hands-on experience. The five clinics — business law; child and family advocacy; human rights and immigration; law and government; trusts and estates — give students the chance to represent clients in a range of projects, supervised by law school faculty.

Did you know? Most students enrolled in the human rights and immigration clinic serve clients seeking asylum or those who have been victims of domestic violence or human trafficking.



Binford

“You have to be a thinking person, not a reactive person. You have to say to your clients, ‘I can’t offer you a solution, but I’ll help you sort through decisions. It’s not my life, it’s yours.’”

Mitzi Naucner JD’82



Naucner’s criminal justice studies led her to think she might be interested in planning prisons. “Pretty funny for someone who ended up in legal aid, isn’t it?” she laughs. But Naucner believes that one of the secrets to ending up in the right place is not worrying so much about where you start.

When Prisoner Legal Services of Oregon sued to get legal information and lawyers to serve inmates who needed civil legal services, Naucner, as a newly minted graduate, accepted one of the resulting jobs. Along with two colleagues, she spent 18 months representing inmates in child support and other family matters in courts all over the state.

Then, Naucner got wind of a trip Willamette law professor Jim Nafziger was organizing to take law students and alumni to Shanghai and the East China University of Politics and Law. The woman who loved Pearl S. Buck as a young reader could not turn down the opportunity to visit the land of Chairman Mao and Buck’s “The Good Earth.” She quit her job and got on the plane. The trip to that far-off land confirmed Naucner’s long-held beliefs “that how we lived, what we ate, where we worked and how much education we attained were all an accident of birth and that those things were no indication of our individual worthiness.”

When Naucner returned, seven years of private practice followed, along with a stint as judge pro tem at Keizer Municipal Court and eight years as an instructor and supervising attorney at Willamette’s Clinical Law Program. For several years, while she and her husband cared for aging parents back in Minnesota, she worked for a nonprofit dedicated to eliminating violence in the lives of women and children.

Today, Naucner is the regional director of the Albany office of Legal Aid Services of Oregon and president of the Western States Bar Conference. Her office handles cases from family law and elder law to public housing and helping clients access public benefits.

“Many people who work in the field start and end their careers in legal aid,” she says. “But even as a latecomer, I’m happy here.”

She believes she’s well-suited to the work because she’s empathetic and sympathetic — but has good personal boundaries. “That gives you longevity,” she says. “Otherwise, you can be overwhelmed by sadness.” She and her colleagues help low-income or no-income clients going through tough transitions — foreclosure, divorce, custody decisions, protecting the rights and safety of seniors.

Sometimes, Naucner hears disparaging remarks about legal aid clients and other people who experience hard times: They’re not working hard enough, they’re not smart enough. “We don’t get to judge other people,” she says. “If we’re doing well, it’s not because we’re smarter, prettier, kinder or better. Most of the time, it’s just that we were luckier.”

Patiently, Naucner works to help the next generation of legal aid lawyers understand such essential truths. “I try to teach people how not to react to crisis,” she says. “You have to be a thinking person, not a reactive person. You have to say to your clients, ‘I can’t offer you a solution, but I’ll help you sort through decisions. It’s not my life, it’s yours.’”

It’s not surprising that the optimistic Naucner believes in the possibility that things can get better. “When I started at Legal Aid 10 years ago, if you were injured on the job, proving you were disabled could turn into an endless loop of bureaucracy, and still not getting treated for a medical condition,” she says. “The expansion of Medicaid has been incredible.” She hastens to add that there’s still work ahead: “Housing resources aren’t even close to meeting low-income needs.”

The girl who was born on the U.S.-Canadian border and longed to visit China grew into a woman who knows that there’s never just one way to look at geography — or challenges. ☐

ON LOCATION

by Frank Miller

From their viewpoint in the white boat, the Willamette University alumni scan the indigo waves. Every now and then, an excited cry goes up: "There! Over there!" And everyone gasps at the glimpse of a far-off barnacled back, the majestic flick of a fluke or a sudden spout of fish-scented whale breath.

On a sunny Saturday in April, some 20 alumni gathered at Depoe Bay for a whale-watching tour organized by the Willamette University Alumni Association. After a two-hour voyage in pursuit of

several migrating whales, the group disembarked and headed to the tide pools at nearby Yaquina Head.

There, with the expert help and guidance of Willamette biology professor David Craig, they discovered tiny hermit crabs, purple sea anemones — and the sheer joy and wonder of Oregon's natural beauty.

Check out more photos at the alumni association's Facebook page: facebook.com/WillametteAlumni/photos_stream.





Cardinal



Jameka Townsend '16
is part of the women's
track and field team
ranked #4 in the NCAA
Division III West Region

**Willamette welcomes new
Director of Athletics
Valerie Cleary**

& Gold



**For the second time,
Michaela Freeby '16
earned All-America
status in the 3,000-meter
steeplechase**

**Tiras Koon '16 was
selected NWC Baseball
Player of the Year and
Myranda Ramirez '16
as NWC Softball Player
of the Year**

Tee Time: FORE Willamette Set for 40th Annual Event

In 1976, a group of Bearcat Athletics fans and friends gathered for the first FORE Willamette golf tournament — and raised \$3,700 to help improve the Willamette student-athlete experience and support sports teams.

The 40th annual tournament will take place on Monday, Sept. 14, at The Reserve Vineyards and Golf Club in Aloha, Oregon.

FORE Willamette, which now nets about \$40,000 each fall, attracts alumni, parents of current students and friends of Willamette. Jim Booth '64 says, "FORE Willamette is an important way to raise money for a great cause: Willamette athletics. But beyond that, it's a wonderful opportunity for members and friends of our Bearcat community to get together, enjoy a day of fun and camaraderie, and make new memories — not to mention, share old ones."

Bob Woodle '63, a four-year Willamette letterwinner in golf who helped start the event, plays most years with Booth, Claris Poppert '57 and Jim George '69. Like many other participants, Woodle vividly recalls the time in the mid-1970s when professional golfer Craig Stadler attended soon after competing in the Canadian Open. After greeting each foursome at the tee, Stadler hit a drive that players had the option to use.

"I thought to myself (and may have mentioned something to playing partner Jim Booth) that I could out-drive Stadler," Woodle recalls. "While I was plotting my big swing, I overheard Jim say something like



Jim Booth '64 gets some practice in ahead of the upcoming FORE Willamette golf tournament — with a little help from **Blitz**, his Bear-caddy.

"Woodle over there was an All-American golfer for Willamette and can really crank his drives."

"Stadler grinned, stepped to the tee and bombed one down the right side about 280 yards. I widened my stance a bit for extra power ... took a mighty swing ... and cold-topped the ball, catching a brief glimpse of it bouncing over the front of the tee box. I probably should have taken some comfort from Stadler's comment, 'It happens like that all the time,' but all I could think to do was vacate the tee box as quickly as possible."

Poppert remembers other errant shots, including the time on the 18th green at Illahe Hills golf course when a ball hit the club house's big bay window. The window held up that time — but did break on another occasion.

In the years since FORE Willamette started, Poppert has only missed one tournament. Other former Bearcats travel from great distances to participate. As Poppert notes, "That speaks quite highly of our affection for Willamette." ▢

Don't miss your chance to be part of this year's excitement.

Register online at willamette.edu/athletics/fore/index.php

Ahern Adds Fulbright Scholar to Full Resume



Elisa Ahern already has plenty of impressive accomplishments on her resume. She was a two-sport athlete (volleyball and track and field), co-president of the German club, a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority, a physics lab teaching assistant, a peer tutor and a Webber Scholar and mentor through the Willamette Science Outreach Program.

To all of that, the 2015 graduate from Lake Forest Park, Washington, added another impressive credential: Fulbright scholar.

Ahern, who majored in physics with minors in German and mathematics, was selected for the Fulbright program this spring. She'll travel to Germany next year to work as an English teaching assistant at a school in Hessen, a state in the middle-western part of the country.

In addition to excelling in the classroom, Ahern has been a positive contributor to the volleyball and track and field programs. "Elisa is a great competitor who's always working toward improvement in her athletic and academic endeavors," Assistant Track and Field Coach Brett Franz says. "She's been a pleasure to work with and has had a


positive impact on her teammates. This grant is a testament to her hard work and dedication."

Other Willamette track and field athletes who have received Fulbright grants are **Jaela Dinsmore** (2012), **Stevie Gildehaus** (2013), **Alison Maki** (2009) and **Lucas Nebert** (2008). Also, **Ty Sundlee** from the WU baseball team received a Fulbright grant in 2008.

Ahern says her course work and experiences at Willamette, particularly the Willamette Science Outreach Program, have prepared her to teach in Germany.

"Through the Webber program, we design lesson plans to teach fifth-graders and get them excited about science," she says. "It's been one of the most enriching experiences of my life, and the Fulbright is another opportunity to do something similar."

After completing the Fulbright, Ahern intends to earn a master's degree in bioinformatics — the science of collecting and analyzing complex biological data such as genetic codes. She wants to work in the bioinformatics industry but also has an interest in teaching one day.

"Willamette has presented me with so many valuable opportunities, both in and out of the classroom," Ahern notes. "Participating in athletics at Willamette has been such a valuable experience. It has allowed me to meet and connect with a huge variety of people, and I am so grateful for all of the opportunities Willamette has made possible for me." 

Elisa Ahern:

6' 2" tall

Won the 2011 Northwest Conference title in the triple jump

In 2013 and 2015 placed sixth in the 100-meter hurdles

Saw action in 73 volleyball matches and 170 sets

Earned 117 total blocks during her career

NEWS & NOTES

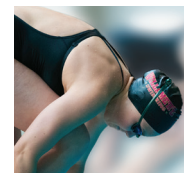


Men Qualify for NWC Basketball Tournament

For the first time since the 2007-08 season, the men's basketball team made it to the Northwest Conference (NWC) Tournament, as one of the top four teams during the regular season.

Willamette was 8-8 in the NWC during the regular season while earning a 10-15 overall record. The Bearcats clinched their tournament berth with a 70-63 victory over Pacific University on the final day of the season. In the NWC semifinals, Willamette played top-seeded Whitworth University. The Bearcats trailed 66-56 with 7:45 left before Whitworth pulled away for an 89-64 win.

Brandon "Bubba" Luedtke '16 was the Bearcats' top scorer for the season, with 14.1 points per game. Leading the conference with 9.4 rebounds per game, he was named first team All-NWC and second team All-West Region. **Kyle McNally '15**, who ranked first in the NWC with 62 blocked shots and 2.5 blocks per game, was chosen honorable mention All-NWC.



Swimmers Set School Records

Bearcat swimmers set school records in six events during the 2015 NWC Championships.

Cassie Tallman '18 established new marks in the women's 200-yard individual medley at 2:10.32 and in the women's 200-yard breaststroke at 2:27.83.

Tallman — along with teammates **Michaela Zuber '16**, **Ashlyn Witherwax '18** and **Malia Santos '16** — also set records in the women's 200-yard medley relay at 1:51.28 and in the women's 400-yard medley relay at 4:02.39.

In the butterfly, Santos broke the school record in the women's 100-yard with a time of 59.03 seconds, while **Mark Yuvienco '18** set a record in the men's 200-yard in 1:53.86.



Well Read

In keeping with this issue's theme of public service and civic engagement, here are some relevant — and riveting — reads recommended by Willamette faculty and staff.

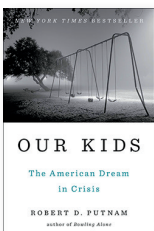
Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis

By Robert Putnam

Inequality comes in many flavors and expresses itself in surprising ways. Robert Putnam, whose landmark book, “Bowling Alone,” taught us to think about social capital, is back with a troubling set of observations about how inequality separates us from each other.

Education has long been perceived as the engine of social and economic mobility. And parents have often measured their success by whether or not their children have “outperformed” them in terms of education, jobs, income. But Putnam believes that phenomenon is endangered as he considers the lives of the wealthy and the impoverished across America.

Recommended by Richard Ellis, Mark O. Hatfield Professor of Politics



Capital in the Twenty-First Century

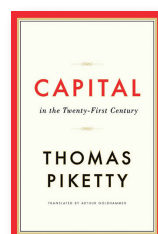
By Thomas Piketty

It's unusual for a book on economics to hit No. 1 on the New York Times Best Sellers list, even more unusual when it was originally written in French.

But economist Thomas Piketty has a provocative argument: that, unlike the “up by your bootstraps,” work hard, flourish point of view, Europe and America are returning to what he calls “patrimonial capitalism” — an upmarket term for inherited, rather than earned, fortunes. Piketty doesn't see advances in technology and innovation as remedies. Instead, he argues that government intervention must reform capitalism.

Fans and critics are weighing in — each camp with strong points of view. The book was a finalist for the 2014 National Book Critics Circle Award in nonfiction.

Recommended by Fred Thompson, Grace and Elmer Goudy Professor of Public Management and Policy



Without You, There Is No Us: My Time With the Sons of North Korea's Elite

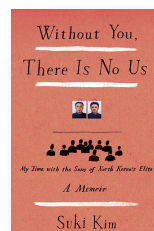
By Suki Kim

Interested in travel and teaching? Land a job at North Korea's all-male Pyongyang University of Science and Technology. Discuss different cultures. Encourage your students to learn about the wider world. Just kidding.

Korean-American Suki Kim spent six months in 2011 as an English instructor at North Korea's most selective tech institution, ironically without access to even the Internet. In an NPR interview, Kim explained, “You never, ever bring up anything about the outside world. But then, you live together for months and share three meals a day together. Then, suddenly, things start happening....”

Insight into a closed world and Kim's attachment to her students make for a fascinating read.

Recommended by Mary Rumsey, reference and instructional services librarian at the College of Law



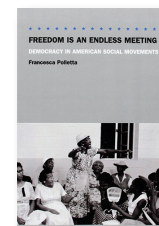
Freedom Is an Endless Meeting: Democracy in American Social Movements

By Francesca Polletta

How does change take place? Francesca Polletta's book defends the power and the workability of participatory democracy. Based on more than 100 interviews with activists, Polletta identified what works and what interferes with meaningful social change. In compelling examples — labor struggles, pre-World War II pacifism, voter registration in Mississippi — the book lays out a game plan for successful democracy.

What to do: balance trust with accountability, respect with openness to disagreement and caring with inclusiveness. The book won Choice magazine's Outstanding Academic Title award.

Recommended by David Gutterman, associate professor of politics



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



Honoring Bearcats

The 2014-15 Alumni Awards recognize distinguished alumni who make Willamette proud.

Every day, through their actions and contributions to their communities, professions and causes, Bearcats around the world present shining examples of Willamette University's motto — Not unto ourselves alone are we born. And every year, the WU Alumni Association honors some of those outstanding graduates through the Alumni Awards.

At commencement this past May, the association announced seven alumni in three award categories.

A celebration of this year's notable alumni will take place during Alumni Weekend, Sept. 17-20. Award recipients will be recognized on Friday, Sept. 18, at the all-alumni Bearcat Bash and then at a special awards ceremony and dinner. Nominations are being accepted for next year's awards. To learn more about the nomination process and criteria, visit willamette.edu/alumni/recognition.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

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



Harold Bugado '66

A well-respected and recognized public servant in his beloved home of Hawaii, and a retired Air Force veteran, Bugado is an excellent example of a Willamette alumnus living the university's noble motto. In a remarkable 36-year career with the County of Hawai'i Parks

and Recreation department, Bugado transformed the island's services for seniors and people with disabilities. As director of elderly services and activities, he oversaw six major programs that provided critical information, assistance, transportation and in-home services. In recognition of his selfless commitment to others, the Hawaii House of Representatives and state Senate honored Bugado as an outstanding civic servant.



Mary Sue Gellatly Short '64

As a Willamette student during a tumultuous period in American history, Short turned her commitment to diversity into action. Inspired by national efforts in the 1960s to end segregation and discrimination in the South, she started a student civil rights organization on campus and also worked in Tennessee and Mississippi on literacy, voter registration and Freedom Summer programs. Persevering in often-dangerous circumstances, she endured harassment and abuse and was jailed five times. Later, through her 23-year career as an executive recruiter and her volunteer efforts for nonprofits, Short continued

to work and advocate on behalf of diversity, minority communities and social justice issues.



Cindy Bunker '80, JD'83

In both her personal and professional life, Bunker has consistently embodied Willamette University's motto. Since graduating from the College of Law, she has worked for the past 31 years as a public defender for Multnomah Defenders, Inc., a nonprofit corporation that only accepts court-appointed cases. Bunker currently specializes in juvenile law. In addition to her full-time employment, Bunker makes time for volunteer work for organizations including Meals on Wheels, her church and her children's school. She also provides generous support to Willamette University, her local food bank, Basic Rights Oregon and other political and social causes.



G. Elton Graves '69

Graves has made significant contributions in the field of mathematics, specifically in the teaching of undergraduate mathematics. As well as possessing a sophisticated mathematical ability, he is passionate about helping students who struggle to understand the discipline's abstract concepts. As a result, Graves has been honored as a Dean's Outstanding Teacher at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, where he is a professor of mathematics. In addition, Princeton Review recognized him as one of the "Best 300 Professors," the mathematics division of the American Society of Engineering Education presented him with a Distinguished Educator and Service Award and the Indiana section of the Mathematical Association of America honored him with a Distinguished Service Award.

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.



Elizabeth Phillips '05

Since graduation, Phillips has dedicated herself to improving public health and safety, especially by combating deadly and devastating diseases around the world. After completing Peace Corps tours in Namibia and Uganda, focused on HIV prevention and youth development, she returned to the U.S. to get her Master's in Public Health. The young advocate and researcher then took a leadership position at The Carter Center, working in South Sudan on the worldwide campaign to make guinea worm disease only the second human disease in history to be eradicated. Most recently, Phillips traveled as a Fulbright scholar to Nigeria, where she conducted a multi-site research study on treatment for obstetric fistula, a preventable maternal morbidity.



Yesenia Gallardo '09

Gallardo's work embodies the critical interdisciplinary thinking so highly valued at Willamette. Since graduation, Gallardo has supported social justice causes, first by advocating for and defending immigrant rights and now by helping build resilient, local and just food systems. As a Switzer Environmental Fellow at Yale, she is involved in sustainability efforts, including working with the New Haven Food Policy Council to advance food access and justice. She is also an entrepreneur working on a start-up company to raise and process crickets for human consumption in Portland. When she helped organize the Yale Food Systems Symposium, Gallardo invited current and recent Willamette students to present at the conference, providing them with a valuable opportunity to grow and prepare for graduate studies.

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.



Paul Boaden '77

Since graduating from Willamette, Boaden has found numerous ways to support his alma mater and his Kappa Sigma fraternity. Despite the demands of his career with United Airlines and Air Serv, Boaden served on the Willamette University Alumni Association's board of directors from 2003 to 2010, contributing consistently of his time, resources and ever-optimistic attitude. He also acted as an Admission Office Alumni Ambassador, helping to recruit and select qualified students. In addition, through his national and local work with Kappa Sigma, Boaden helped rebuild a dwindling chapter presence and make it a positive force both on campus and in the local community.

Class Notes

COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS

1932

Doris (Clarke) Hamilton celebrated her 105th birthday in May, including a special mention at services at her church, Westminster Presbyterian, in northeast Portland.

1947

Alice (Rose) Jones writes: "During my music teaching career, I helped open Keizer's new McNary High School, where I taught for 20 years. This year, the school is celebrating its 50th birthday with a concert of some 350 singers — half from my alumni singers in the Alice Rose Jones Heritage Choir. The concert is dedicated to me, as I was the first and longest-serving chorale director. I will be directing several of the numbers, including the alma mater, which was co-written by the late **Robert Voigt '42, MEd'48** (lyrics) and me (music)."

1951

Raymond Gotchall retired in 2014 as the owner of Commercial Business Furniture in Salem. **Alice (Adams) Schmidt** writes: "I feel very blessed to still be doing really well at age 87. I have so many wonderful memories. I still live in Corvallis, Oregon, and am fortunate to still drive to visit my family in Bend and Hood River. My wonderful Karl has been gone since October 2002."

1954

Sallie (Cheavens) Verrette is priestess associate at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Grinnell, Iowa, where she lives with her husband. They have three grandsons, one who lives in Texas and two in Minnesota. Sallie and her husband are avid gardeners, and their latest project is creating several monarch butterfly way stations.

1955

Dale Harris spent 10 days in Israel and Palestine in early 2015. He writes: "While many holy places were visited, the focus of the tour was on the plight of the Palestinians under Israeli occupation. I came

home recommitted to working for peace with justice for both Israelis and Palestinians."

1957

Patricia (Gordon) Ells recently retired after eight-and-a-half years as president of the Minnesota Jung Association. **Doug Houser** writes: "My wife and I had the pleasure of sharing several days with **Paul Shaffer** and **Marge (Wilson) Shaffer** last summer at the Beta Theta Pi General Fraternity 175th General Convention at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. I was finishing a three-year term as general fraternity president. Paul led the singing in the national song competition. We then drove to Bloomington, Illinois, to Paul and Marge's home for a fun weekend. Everyone is in good health and enjoying all that life offers."

1960 55TH REUNION

Jan (Robinson) Moore, Diane (Miller) McLin and Terry Kent write, "We're rarin' to go and working on plans for the 55th reunion at Alumni Weekend. Hope to see lots of folks from the Class of '60 in September!"

1961

Class Liaisons: Alice (Stewart) Pailthorp and Bill Richter

Gary McBride JD'64 writes: "I have spent the last two summers hiking the Pacific Crest Trail and hope to complete it with hikes this year and next. Fellow hikers conferred upon me the trail name 'Monkey Wrench.' My off-trail experiences include hosting members of the Austrian press corps at my family's home in Beaver Creek, Colorado, during the recent International Ski Federation's Alpine World Ski Championship." **Alice (Stewart) Pailthorp** and **Keith Pailthorp** write: "We live in Davis, California, where folks are beginning to feel the pain of a four-year drought. In response, we're converting our lawn to landscaping and are serving on a committee exploring how to prevent summer algal blooms in a manmade community lake. We hope to attend Alumni Weekend in September and are looking forward to touching base with friends from our Willamette years."

Weddings a Bright Spot for Retired Criminal Judge

As a judge for more than 40 years, **Richard Barber Sr. JD'55** has worked almost every kind of criminal case. He's wrestled with life-or-death choices in capital cases and presided over the landmark 1978 Oregon v. Rideout trial that sparked a national discussion about marital rape. While proud to be someone who makes the tough decisions, Barber has found true joy in a brighter part of the job — as a wedding officiant.

Earlier this year, Barber oversaw his 5,000th wedding since 1973. "Many judges on the bench don't have time for weddings, but I just made myself available," he says. "I still enjoy doing them."

Barber has officiated at weddings for prison inmates and traveled out of state for gigs — and he even did the honors for two of his children. After retiring in 2003 from a 30-year career as a Marion County (Oregon) Circuit Court judge, he continued to conduct weddings as a senior judge. While he enjoys staying busy, he says that the events also keep him sharp at age 86.

"Every wedding is different," he says. "You have to be ready for anything."

In fact, one ceremony involved a confrontation by the groom, who happened to be an ex-convict the judge had sentenced years ago. Initially, Barber expected the exchange to be hostile, but he was surprised to find the man appreciated how the judge's decision helped change his life for the better.

"He said, 'You put seven



Statesman Journal

more years on top of my sentence, and it was the best thing that could have happened to me," Barber says.

Retirement allows Barber time to reflect on such moments. While he misses being on the bench, he enjoys the opportunity to pursue passions like playing jazz saxophone and mentoring younger law professionals and students.

His fellow Bearcats value the career experience and wisdom he shares. Several of his former mentees continue to stay in touch, and in 2000, Barber received a Willamette University College of Law Mentor of the Year award.

What's next for this dedicated public servant? This past May, Barber played saxophone as part of the Salem Pops Orchestra concert at the Grand Theater in Salem. And, naturally, he has several weddings lined up.

"I'll keep doing them as long as I can get to where they are," he says.

1962

Marcia Ruby Douglas was one of a group of 10 Bearcats who traveled to India with the WU Alumni Travel Program in January 2015. The group visited the Taj Mahal, along with some of the country's other major landmarks.

1964

Roshani Cari (O'Donnell) Shay retired from the Western Oregon University political science department in 2003 and as executive director of the Hawaii Wellness Institute in 2012. She serves on the board of directors of the nonprofit Friends of Oregon School for the Deaf and had a chapter published last fall in a new book, "Sexuality and New Religious Movements." She has also just become a great-grandparent.

1965 50TH REUNION

Plans for the 50th reunion are underway, with **Ed Cole, Nancy (Price) Cole, Sharon Ellison, Tom Glass, Jeff Heatherington, Roger Kirchner** and **Bill Sefton** on the planning committee. The committee writes: "Thanks to **Toni (Leisure) Unfred** for unearthing a recording of our senior Glee song. Mark your calendar and plan to be on campus the weekend of Sept. 17-20, 2015."

Ed Cole received the Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) first Spirit of Transportation Leadership Award. At its annual meeting in November, the Nashville MPO — which includes multiple counties in Middle Tennessee — made the award to Cole following his retirement as the first executive director of the Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee. He previously served for many years in Tennessee state and local government leadership roles, including in the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

1969

Class Liaison: Teresa (Krug) Hudkins

Ron Sticka has retired from the standing panel of Chapter 7 trustees for the United States Bankruptcy Court in Eugene, Oregon, after 33 years of service. This follows his

retirement from U.S. Air Force duties as a military judge in 2002. Ron remains active in Rotary Club and is now an instructor for the District 5110 Leadership Institute. He was elected this year to serve as vice president of the Emerald Empire Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. He writes: "I now play more golf and tennis and will be officiating track meets at the University of Oregon."

1970 45TH REUNION

The class reunion committee comprises **Mary (Hadlock) Bunn, Sam (Robertson) Hopper, Courtney (Weisberg) Johnson, Joe Much, Clarke Omdahl** and **Becky Purvine Sterup**.

David Grigonis writes: "My wife and I have been retired for a few years and have traveled a lot. We enjoyed being involved in the Mexican community outside of Mazatlan, where we were able to use our Spanish language skills volunteering at an orphanage and teaching English. We used games and competitions to motivate children, with the prize being participation in magic or card tricks that were designed to instruct." **Courtney (Weisberg) Johnson** retired from Verizon Wireless in 2012, after almost 25 years. She writes: "I've traveled to Norway several times to visit my daughter and son-in-law, most recently to help after the birth of their twins in May 2014. I started rowing two years ago, and I'm now in my second season of competitive rowing. I also assist in cooking classes at Portland Community College, garden, read, travel and enjoy spending time with friends. I'm looking forward to reconnecting with classmates in September. Please try to make time to attend our 45th class reunion!"

1971

Jim Kubitz writes: "I'm excited to see my daughter, **Elizabeth Kubitz '15**, graduate from WU this spring. Along with my son, **Alex Kubitz '13**, half of my family will be WU graduates once Elizabeth finishes school."



Ed Cole '65



David Price '74

1974

David Price is a retired Air Force brigadier general. He was recently elected to the national board of directors for the Military Officers Association of America, a veterans' organization with more than 390,000 members. **Ted Shuck** is a chief geophysicist and partner at NanoSeis, a microseismic monitoring business.



Ron Sticka '69

1975 40TH REUNION

Class Liaison: Patti (Lalack) Hutterli

Class reunion committee members **Karla (Birchfield) Spesert** and **Barbara Brunkow** are making plans for the 40th reunion in September.

Patrick Pine MBA'76, who is the chief administrative officer of the Robert F. Kennedy Medical Plan and the Juan de la Cruz Pension Plan, will serve a three-year term through 2017 as a member of the board of directors of the California Purchasers Health Care Coalition. The coalition includes numerous representatives of various Taft Hartley health and welfare plans, including Northern California Carpenters, San Diego Electrical Workers, California/Nevada Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Industry and California Pipeline Industry, and several public sector and cooperative plans.

1976

Susan Phillips and **Steve Phillips** still live and work near Berkeley, California. Susan recently published a book, "The Cultivated Life." They write: "We cherish our memories of Willamette and the years in beautiful

Oregon with beloved friends, many of whom we still stay in touch with."

1979

Jeff Swanson was recently named national sales manager for Eugene Wine Cellars. Jeff and his wife live in Bend, Oregon. **Donna (King) Tyner**, a corporate risk manager for The Greenbrier Companies, was featured in a Risk & Insurance magazine article last fall, discussing changes in the industry as well as her own 31-year career.

1980 35TH REUNION

Members of the 35th reunion committee, **Liz (Geiger) Hartman, John Gallagher, Mike Moore, Stacy Heyworth, Mary Jaeger, Diane (Doolen) Evans** and **Robin (Reed) Garvin**, write: "It may be hard to believe, but you've been a Willamette graduate for 35 years! We've pulled together a reunion team to plan a celebration for September."

Julie Edwards writes: "I'm excited to see my daughter, **Hannah Levy '15**, graduate from Willamette this

From the News Desk to Community Service



Jeff Blackburn, KPXX-TV

Lin Sue (Glass) Cooney '80 has led the kind of career that most television journalists would envy. During 31 years in front of the camera on "12 News" for NBC affiliate KPXX in Phoenix, she amassed nine regional Emmy awards, was named the Valley's "Best Anchor" by the Phoenix chapter of American Women in Radio and Television and became one of the most recognized faces in Arizona television journalism.

Now, the same drive that helped her accomplish so much in television news has propelled Cooney to serve the community in an entirely new way.

Recently, Cooney left the anchor desk to work with the dedicated volunteer staff at nonprofit Hospice of the Valley, one of the largest providers of palliative care, grief services and in-home hospice care to the Phoenix metropolitan area. While sad to bid farewell to her colleagues and longtime viewers, Cooney is embracing her new role as director of community outreach and development. She appreciates the new challenges and the opportunity it gives her to show others compassion in a more direct and personal way.

"It's a gift to be able to help people end their lives with

comfort and dignity — and to help their families through this difficult time," Cooney says. "We are all called to serve others, but it's not always easy to figure out how. Every day that I go to work, I feel like I truly am serving — and this is a blessing in my life."

Cooney's personal experience with Hospice of the Valley made it easy to take this particular path. She encountered the hospice in 2003, when her father-in-law was dying. "He heard his grandchildren run around his bed and felt his wife and children hold his hand as they shared memories and said their goodbyes," she says. "I never forgot the kindness and tenderness of the hospice staff, and all these years later I am so grateful and excited to be part of such an amazing group of people."

Away from the glare of the spotlight, Cooney is proud to contribute to stories of hope every day.

"The awards and recognition are nice, but Emmys are just statues. What matters more is your integrity, your character and whether people trust you," she says. "I try to remind myself that the world is not about me. It's about how I can make it better."

year. Hannah has been active in the Take a Break program, has worked in the law school and has been a member of the Alpha Chi Omega sorority. I couldn't be more proud of her accomplishments and, more importantly, of the remarkable person she has become."

1982

Jon Howell accepted an adjunct faculty position at Portland State University's School of Business Administration to teach advanced taxation. He continues his full-time employment as a partner at the certified public accounting firm of Houck Everts & Company LLC, as partner-in-charge of the Lake Oswego, Oregon, office and of the firm's accounting and auditing practice.

1984

Class Liaison: Diane Babbitt

Dawn Hoff writes: "Our 30th reunion last fall was a blast! I was so glad to see classmates and others who were able to attend the event! Thanks so much for making the effort — especially those who came from a distance. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you and even more of the class of '84 in four years. In the meantime, look me up in Seattle!"

1985 30TH REUNION

Members of the reunion committee, **Sally (Coffman) Coen**, **Brooks Houser** and **Kathy (Cook) Wraith**, write: "In 1985, the first dot-com

was registered, the U.S. pop music industry came together to fight hunger in Africa with 'We Are the World,' CDs were gaining popularity, Windows released version 1.0 — and we graduated from WU! Don't miss our reunion in September!"

Martin Letourneau retired from the U.S. Department of Energy in August 2014 and has started a new career as a writer in Portland. Twenty-nine WU Alpha Chi Omega alumnae from the 1970s and 1980s gathered in West Linn, Oregon, on March 1, 2015, to celebrate Hera Day along with more than 30 years of love, loyalty and friendship. **Kathy (Stinson) Richardson**, **Danna Jennings**, **Kathy (Cook) Wraith MBA'86**, **Susan (Oberg) Kruger** and **Debi (Carlson) Martin** hadn't been together since graduation day 30 years ago. In April, **Danny Santos JD'86** received the inaugural Literacy Trailblazer Award from Oregon's Mid-Valley Literacy Center at a special benefit dinner. The event also featured Oregon Supreme Court Chief Justice **Paul J. De Muniz JD'75** as a keynote speaker and former Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski as the awards presenter.

1987

Anna (Brief) Mueller has been working as a deputy public defender for the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office since 2001. She writes: "I was recently promoted to a Grade IV and given my first special circumstance murder case, which I consider the pinnacle of my career as a criminal defense attorney. I also recently celebrated



Kathy (Stinson) Richardson '85, Danna Jennings '85, Kathy (Cook) Wraith '85, MBA'86, Susan (Oberg) Kruger '85 and Debi (Carlson) Martin '85.

my 50th birthday with a murder mystery dinner party." **Kristine Peterson** writes: "Thirty years ago, with a major in English and a minor in German, I never would have guessed I would end up in neurosurgery. In 2013, after teaching physicians to use medical software for 12 years, I became a research coordinator at the Oregon Clinic's neurosurgery division. My team and I have garnered more than \$100,000 in research grants and we have co-written four original science abstracts that have been presented at neurosurgical conferences around the globe. For my contribution to the profession, I was accepted as an affiliate member of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons. I pinch myself every day, as I am grateful to work with brilliant and caring people who live the Willamette motto: 'Not unto ourselves alone are we born.'"

1988

Troy O'Donnell retired from the U.S. Army as a lieutenant colonel after 26 years of service. His assignments included visits to Virginia, North Carolina, Korea and Saudi Arabia. He currently lives in Virginia with his wife and three sons.

1990 25TH REUNION

It's been 25 years! Mark your calendar for Alumni Weekend, Sept. 17-20, 2015. Class of '90 Reunion Chair: **Kurt Rehffuss**.

1991

Krisanna (Gregory) Clark was elected mayor of Sherwood, Oregon, in November 2014 and sworn into her mayoral seat in January 2015. Krisanna is a former Sherwood city councilor, a position she filled following the death in 2010 of her husband, **Del Clark JD'93**.

1994

Adam Messinger and **Mary Powell '93** continue to live in San Francisco, where Adam is the CTO at Twitter and Mary is a shareholder at Trucker Huss. They have two daughters, age 10 and 8, who attend the Chinese American International School, where Mary also serves on the board. **Ellen M. Lewis** is a

playwright/librettist working on a family-friendly opera with composer Evan Meier.

1995 20TH REUNION

Come back to campus Sept. 17-20, 2015. **Darcie Spar** and **Brian Hess** are making plans for the return of '95.

1996

Nancy (Doerfler) Beaty and Duane Beaty were married Nov. 15, 2014. The wedding party included **Brooke (Partridge) Anderson** as matron of honor.

1997

Paul DeStefano and Mandie Ludlam were married Dec. 16, 2014. Paul has passed the final exam for his master's degree in physics and science from the University of Washington, and he's been working on GPS-based precision timing at the Tokai-to-Kamioka neutrino experiment in Japan.

1998

Zach Fischer can be seen in upcoming television shows including FX's "The Americans," NBC's "American Odyssey" and "The Jim Gaffigan Show" on TV Land and Comedy Central. He'll also be on this season's finale of Starz's "Power." Zach will be a visiting assistant professor of acting and voice at Willamette for the fall 2015 semester. **Greg Nolan MAT'11** is dean of students at Sunrise Elementary, a K-5 school in the Greater Albany (Oregon) Public School District. He received his administration license in June 2015. Nolan lives in Stayton, Oregon, with his wife and three children. **Angelic Young** received the Honorable Abraham Lincoln Marovitz Public Interest Law Award from Chicago-Kent College of Law in spring 2014 for her outstanding public interest leadership. In late 2014, Angelic co-authored "What Matters Most: Measuring Plans for Inclusive Security," a guide to the monitoring and evaluation of women, peace and security initiatives. In March 2015, she published a book review in the Georgetown Journal of International Affairs.



Danny Santos '85, JD'86



Krisanna (Gregory) Clark '91



Nancy (Doerfler) Beaty '96 and Duane Beaty



Greg Nolan '98, MAT'11

Class Notes



Sarah (Sutton) O'Rourke '03 and family



Preston Grace, daughter of Ben Ford '04, MBA'14



Rick Speicher '78, Terri (Talbot) Speicher '80, Abby Kahl '04 and Jana Fox '05



Allison de la Torre Muhlendorf '05 and Adam Muhlendorf

1999

Michael Brusasco acted in "The Three Musketeers" at Quintessence Theatre Group in Philadelphia in April and May 2015. **Shana Cooper** is the director-in-residence at the Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company in Washington, D.C., where she is currently directing "The Nether," a sci-fi play by Jennifer Haley. To **Jessica (Williams) Sferro** and Tucker Sferro, a son, Boone Findley Paul, born July 21, 2014. Boone joins big sister Daphne June. Jessica designs bridal gowns for the Alvina Valenta and Ti Adora bridal collections in New York City. **Joanna (Piatek) Sooper MAT'03** launched Turnip the Heat Cooking School in Portland, Oregon.

2000 15TH REUNION

The 15th reunion committee is led by **Erik Van Hagen**, **Ellu (Green) Nasser** and **Timelle (Barrans) Rosen**.

Amanda (Meade) Countryman was promoted to human resource director at Bonaventure Senior Living after being with the company for three-and-a-half years. Proud to be part of the Salem business community, she also volunteers her time to the Alzheimer's Network of Oregon. At home, Amanda and her husband, **John Countryman '99**, enjoy spending time with their children and working on DIY projects. **Jason Downey** was recently promoted to senior vice president at Morgan Stanley.

2001

Christine (Hanson) Clapp and **Björn Stillion Southard '02** co-authored a book, "Presenting at Work: A Guide to Public Speaking in Professional Contexts." Christine owns a presentation skills consultancy called Spoken with Authority. Björn is an assistant professor in communication studies at the University of Georgia.

2003

To **Christa (Abbott) Hutchison** and husband Kevin, a son, William Michael, born March 4, 2015. He joins big brother James. To **Sarah (Sutton) O'Rourke** and Larry

O'Rourke, a son, Hamilton Terrance, born Aug. 3, 2014. He joins big brother George.

2004

To **Ben Ford MBA'14** and wife Lindsay Ford, a daughter, Preston Grace, born March 6, 2015. **Abby Kahl and Jana Fox '05** traveled to Montego Bay, Jamaica, in November for a friend's wedding, where they met and connected with **Rick Speicher '78** and **Terri (Talbot) Speicher '80**. Abby writes: "Just goes to show that you never know when or where you'll run into another Bearcat! Go WU!"

2005 10TH REUNION

The class of '05 reunion committee, **Paul Crisalli**, **Nathan Love**, **Lopaka Purdy**, **Lauren Thompson** and **Marie (Metke) Westom**, says: "See us live, 2005. It's been 10 years since May 15, 2005 — the last time that the Willamette class of 2005 was together. It's time to reunite!"

Rose Barker is the director of development at social justice nonprofit CAPACES Leadership Institute, which equips leaders serving the Latino migrant farmworker community. She started in 2013 and works alongside **Jaime Arredondo**. She continues to produce the Passport Pocket, her invention to make international travel with a passport and travel documents easier and more comfortable, and coaches new travelers to travel safer and pack lighter. In 2014, Rose began working with Harvard Risk Management as a broker for employee benefits.

Nathan Love MBA'06 currently serves as the head of ad sales and business development for the Rovi Corporation. He writes: "I've spent a lot of time traveling, both domestically and internationally, but I'm looking forward to returning to campus for my 10th reunion and seeing my WU friends." To **Jennifer (Bunch) Mitchell** and **Jeremy Mitchell '04**, a son, Carson, born July 7, 2014. Jennifer accepted an accountant position at The Ford Family Foundation in Roseburg, Oregon, in April 2014. **Allison (de la Torre) Muhlendorf** and Adam Muhlendorf were married June 29, 2014, at the La Valencia Hotel in La Jolla, California. **Ashlen (Anderson)**

Strong and **KaiLea Wallin** were bridesmaids. Allison and Adam met while living in Washington, D.C. They now live in Montgomery, Alabama, where Allison serves as executive director of the Alabama School Readiness Alliance.

2007

Sam Brown writes: "After working in the music business for a couple years, I took a break and applied for AmeriCorps to teach preschool at Head Start in Winona, Minnesota. As part of my service to AmeriCorps, I chose to organize a music festival to benefit Head Start — and the Mid West Music Fest (MWMF) was born. In the past six years, the festival has hosted more than 500 music groups (averaging around 100 per year). The festival was recently nominated as one of five contenders for 'Best Music Festival in Minnesota' by the City Pages, a periodical in the Minneapolis metro area."

2008

To **Melinda Fahey Sather MAT'11** and **Craig Sather '10**, a daughter, Addison Jo, born Feb. 4, 2015.

Collin Siu recently relocated from Pittsburgh to Washington, D.C. to start a job in Deloitte Consulting's federal strategy and operations practice. **Amanda Watson** started as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for foster/dependency in Stanislaus County, California, in January 2015.

2009

Molly Fillion is a licensed professional school counselor at New Urban High School and assistant women's basketball coach at Milwaukie High School in Milwaukie, Oregon. She writes: "I'm so grateful for the amazing friendships I made while at Willamette. I'm lucky to have had the opportunity to be surrounded by such strong women and lifelong friends." **Reyna Lopez** is the outreach director for Portland-based nonprofit Our Oregon.

2010 5TH REUNION

The class of '10 reunion committee, **Alyssa Anderson, Paul Eldred, Chelsea McLennan, Rachel**

Peterson and **Maggie Williams**, hopes to see you on campus in September!

Gabriele Blahnik-Fagan and Charles Fagan were married Aug. 30, 2014, in a small ceremony in the mountains outside of Seattle. **Tess Falcone** is living in Denver, where she is a freelance entertainment lighting designer.

2011

Class liaison: Shaffer Spaeth '11

Emily Knell, founder of the WU Yoga Club (2009), writes: "After graduation, I attended yoga teacher training at Prajna Yoga in Sante Fe, New Mexico. In the fall of 2012, I started my own yoga and massage therapy business called Be Well Bodywork and Movement Therapy in Oakland, California. I recently visited Thailand, where I continued my education with the yoga teacher who inspired me to start the WU club back when I was 20 years old."

2012

Class Liaison: Rafael Baptista

Dan Daly published a novel about music titled "When Waters Whisper: The Secret Tragedy of Harper Quin." He writes: "Willamette gave me unique preparation for a practical artistic career. Despite the immersive, conservatory-style process of earning a Bachelor of Music degree, I was able (and encouraged by the structure of WU's program) to take several writing classes with professors Nadelson, Chasar and Stoloritz. Their guidance, as well as that of my music professors, resulted in a fusion of musical and literary sensibilities that has resulted in many professional opportunities. Before taking my current position as a graduate teaching fellow at the University of Oregon, I taught, arranged and recorded music, won an assistantship at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and completed my novel. I believe this novel reflects positively on WU's culture of liberal arts and interdisciplinary collaboration, because Willamette professors encouraged me through the early stages." **Sam Kuhn** presented his short film "In Search of the Miraculous" on Willamette's



Addison Jo, daughter of Melinda Fahey Sather '08, MAT'11 and Craig Sather '10



Amanda Watson '08 (right)



Molly Fillion '09, Jenny Fillion '09, Gwen Schulze '10, Lauren Guarde '10, Lauren Antinasi '10 and a friend



Gabriele Blahnik-Fagan '10 and Charles Fagan



Emily Knell '11

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.

campus in April 2015. The film premiered at the Slamdance Film Festival in January 2015.

2013

Class Liaison: Molly Ward

2014

Class Liaison: Alex Schrimp

Kathryn Friason is a research assistant at the Oregon National Primate Research Center. **Joellen Sweeney** is working in Portland as an actor and teaching artist at Young Musicians & Artists, Northwest Children's Theater and School and Third Rail Repertory Theatre, where she's completing a yearlong apprenticeship program.

ATKINSON GRADUATE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

Don Seufert MBA'79 is in South Sudan as the chief of party for the European Union's project providing technical assistance for sub-national capacity in public financial management and payroll (EU TAPP). This is Don's second long-term assignment in Juba, South Sudan. He previously served as chief of party for USAID's core institutional strengthening project from 2007-2010.

Robert Murray MM'96 has been with Pegasystems since 1997 and

has recently taken on the role of CRM product manager for financial services. Gartner rates Pega's CRM application as a market leader in the CRM Customer Engagement Center space providing applications to the largest servicing organizations in the world.

Chris Magana JD/MBA'04

recently left the safety and comfort of working for a large community bank (Columbia State Bank and pre-merger West Coast Bank) for a much smaller investment company called IMS Capital, which has been around for 25 years. Chris will primarily be responsible for running one of the three mutual funds and performing equity research.

Scott Mason MBA'06

is manufacturing manager for small structures and space at Senior Aerospace, Ketema Division in San Diego. Senior Aerospace Ketema, a division of Senior PLC, is a leading provider of components for aircraft and turbine engine builders, as well as precision integrated manufacturing for space, marine and ground-based applications. Scott writes: "We are happy to be back home in San Diego and are very much enjoying the sunshine."

Ichiro Nakajima MBA'06 and his wife, Etsuko, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Dec. 2, 2014, with their grandchildren and other family and friends. They write: "We then went on a trip to trace our honeymoon in Japan on exactly the same month, dates, route, places, hotels and even rooms, from 50 years ago."

Eric Rimkeit MBA'10 is now president and COO of In The Flicker, a video content agency that creates long-format video stories and web series.

Becca (Krzmarzick) Fairchild MBA'12 and Tyler Fairchild were married Aug. 9, 2014, in Tacoma, Washington. **Jamie Parker MBA'12** was in the wedding party. Several other Atkinson alumni were in attendance. Becca is a senior research analyst at Deloitte Digital in Seattle.

Jeffrey Goodwin JD/MBA'12

is a general practice attorney representing individuals and business clients in Sweet Home, Oregon. He was recently elected to the Sweet Home City Council and has joined the volunteer fire department, Rotary Club and the local American Youth Soccer Organization board of directors, all as ways of giving back to the community. Jeff writes: "Non nobis solum nati sumus — Not unto ourselves alone are we born."

To **Suroor Aldhalemi MBA'13** and her husband, a son, Sulaiman, born Jan. 3, 2015. Suroor writes: "My husband, Salam Zainel, and I are very happy and blessed to have our first born here in the United States."

Logan McCune MBA'13 is a global HR manager with a tech company in Bellevue, Washington. The company is sending Logan and his family to Costa Rica for 18 months to manage HR at its support office there. Logan writes: "Transitioning to a global HR career is why I got an MBA from Willamette. Thank you, Willamette!"

Robin (Wade) Hansen JD/MBA'14

and Justin Hansen were married Aug. 9, 2014, in Lake Chelan, Washington. The bridal party included **Jennie Wade '13** and **Tiffani (Smith) Parker MBA'12**, with many other Bearcats in attendance. Robin is an associate attorney at Jeffers, Danielson, Sonn & Aylward, P.S. in Wenatchee, Washington.



Ichiro Nakajima MBA '06 and Etsuko Nakajima



Becca (Krzmarzick) Fairchild MBA'12 and Tyler Fairchild



Sulaiman, son of Suroor Aldhalemi MBA'13

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 WEEKEND UPDATE

The World in a Weekend

This year's Alumni Weekend, Sept. 17–20, connects Bearcats from all class years, all schools and all over the globe.

Alumni Weekend 2015 offers a passport to adventure, intrigue, learning and fun as you explore Willamette's global connections and celebrate old and new friendships.

ITINERARY

Reunion celebrations for CLA classes ending in 5 and 0; Half-Century Plus alumni; law classes of '05, '90 and '65; women's basketball; rowing; Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Sigma Chi '62–'68, Beta Theta Pi, and alumni who have studied abroad.

Homecoming football game against Cal Lutheran



Engaging sessions

- Breakfast with **President Steve Thorsett**
- **Professor Scott Pike** and his archaeological work with students in Scotland
- Google Hangout with alumni working and living abroad
- **Professor Emeritus Roger Hull** sharing his insights from the great art museums of the world
- Share your travel experiences with **Jim Booth '64**
- Celebration of our remarkable 50-year sister relationship with TIU
- Spotlight on 96 years of Greek life at Willamette
- Faculty Fulbright scholars share their experiences
- Unique perspectives from international students
- Site directors and alumni from Granada and Ecuador programs discuss their programs' impacts

Tours and outings

- Eola-Amity Hills wine tour
- The Oregon Garden
- Zena Forest
- Sparks Athletic Center
- Martha Springer Botanical Garden
- Hallie Ford Museum of Art

Food and entertainment

- Bearcat Bash — party on the Quad with alumni, students and faculty, featuring music, appetizers and libations
- Asian-themed lunch and music at TIU celebration
- Jazzy happy hour
- Alumni awards dinner and ceremony
- Lunch festival with global eats and treats
- Afterhours party on the patio
- Dinner parties for law, business and education alumni



To learn more visit willamette.edu/alumni/alumni_weekend

Email alumni@willamette.edu • Call 503-375-5304

A Man of the Stage

Donald Carl Ritchie '49

June 30, 1923 – Feb. 4, 2015



Donald Carl Ritchie was born in Salem to John W. and Mary (Evans) Ritchie. He was the last of eight children, who all preceded him in death. While at Salem High School, Carl laid the groundwork for a lifelong dedication to the theater. As a member of the Stage Craft Guild, he worked on many school productions and acted as stage manager when traveling artists used the school's auditorium.

After graduating from high school as valedictorian of his class, Carl joined the U.S. Army Signal Corps. He saw service in the South Pacific during World War II and later spent six years in the Army Reserves. After service, he returned to Salem and enrolled at Willamette University, where he later taught speech, drama and English literature from 1956 to 1962.

While studying at Willamette, Carl founded the Warwick Players, a student theater group that put on live stage and radio plays. He was also one of the founding members of Salem's Pentacle Theatre and directed many of its early productions. In 1950, he began a 60-year association with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, serving in roles including actor, writer, director, producer, set designer and director of public relations. Most recently, he reviewed and archived all the recordings made of every play presented at the festival.

A fellow of the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C., Carl won a Peabody Award in 1973 for an Oregon Public Broadcasting production titled "Conversations With Will Shakespeare and Certain of His Friends."

From 1968 to 1972, Carl was head of the creative arts department at Mount Angel College in Mt. Angel, Oregon. He later served as speechwriter for Gov. Tom McCall, crafting over 300 speeches, and then became an account manager and copy writer for public relations and advertising firms.

One of Carl's greatest joys was his yearly trip to the British Isles to study and learn more about Shakespeare and his time.

Carl is survived by 15 nieces and nephews. His family donated Carl's papers, including radio broadcast transcripts, photographs and other material, to Willamette University Archives (library.willamette.edu/archives).

Susanne (Wilson) Newell '44

March 28, 1922 – Feb. 8, 2015

Susanne Newell was raised in Portland and Salem. She worked in the Oregon state legislature while attending Willamette, after which her career involved newspaper publishing, show business and community service. While living in Washington, she organized one of the first preschools in the state. She also served as chair of the Safford (Arizona) City Planning and Zoning Commission and was a member of PEO. Survivors include her husband, **Frank Newell '49**; two children; and a grandchild.

Mary (McKay) Harrold '45

Died Jan. 3, 2015

Mary Jean Harrold was born in St. Paul, Oregon, and, while attending Willamette, met her future husband, **Elmer Harrold '46**. She was active with the Sacramento Junior League and enjoyed her time on the golf course. Elmer preceded her in death in 1997. Survivors include three children, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Rosella (Bell) Jones '45

Dec. 16, 1921 – Jan. 30, 2015

Rosella Jones was born in Stayton, Oregon. While at Willamette, she was a member of the Pi Beta Phi sorority, and met her future husband, **Theodore Jones '45**. She completed her post-graduate studies at the University of Oregon Medical School in Portland. Upon her husband's retirement from the military in 1964, Rosella enjoyed a career as a medical technologist. She was also active in her church community as a member of the choir. Theodore preceded her in death. Survivors include four children, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Melva (Williamson) Cookingham '47

June 8, 1926 – Jan. 13, 2015

Melva June Cookingham was born in Columbia Falls, Montana. After graduating from Willamette, she earned a master's degree in music from Columbia University. She was one of the founding teachers at Fresno Christian Schools, where she taught kindergarten students for more than 20 years. At age 72, she was the one of the first K-2 teachers at Hume Lake Charter School. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Paul Cookingham '47**, and her son, **Craig Cookingham**

'76. Survivors include three sons, 11 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Robert C. Warren '51

April 26, 1925 – Jan. 28, 2015

Robert Clair Warren was born in Salem, Oregon, and was a teacher and coach in the Albany Public School District for 30 years. He served in the U.S. Navy and graduated from Willamette with a teaching certificate. He went on to attend the University of Oregon and earn a master's degree from Oregon State University. Survivors include two children, three grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Dona (Mears) Platenberg '53

April 17, 1931 – Feb. 26, 2015

Dona Platenberg grew up in Merrill, Wisconsin, and Roseburg, Oregon, and graduated from Willamette as an economics major and president of the Pi Beta Phi sorority. While travelling the world as a military wife and mother, she worked as a real estate agent and associate broker. Survivors include five sons, 15 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Verne G. Shangle '53

June 26, 1929 – Jan. 24, 2015

Verne Shangle was born and raised in Medford, Oregon. After attending Southern Oregon College, Oregon State University and Willamette, he was a cadet commander of the Air Force ROTC. He served two years of active duty during the Korean War as an adjutant for fighter squadrons and was honorably discharged as a first lieutenant. He also worked as a business manager and consultant for various medical groups in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Survivors include his brother, **Robert Shangle '53**; sister; two daughters; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Robert 'Bob' Edward Tayler '55

March 17, 1933 – Jan. 29, 2015

Bob Tayler was born in Boise, Idaho. After graduating from Willamette as a history major, he earned a master's degree in American history from American University in Washington, D.C. Following service in the Army, Bob began a lifelong career in higher education. During a 40-plus-year career as an administrator at Portland State University, he became known to many as the "public face" of the

institution. Survivors include his wife; daughter, **Anne (Tayler) Kayser '84**; son-in-law, **Jeffrey Kayser '81**; two step-daughters; two grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; and a sister.

Almer 'Lou' Kitchin '56

July 13, 1928 – Jan. 12, 2015
Almer Lewis "Lou" Kitchin attended Willamette and majored in political science, before becoming a proud U.S. Navy veteran. Later in life, he earned a theology degree and became an ordained minister. Survivors include his wife, sister, three children, seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Karl W. Freerksen '57

Jan. 21, 1936 – Jan. 13, 2015
Karl Walter Freerksen was born in Freeport, Illinois, and raised in Oregon. After graduating from Willamette, he earned a law degree at Northwestern College of Law and then served six years in the National Guard. He retired as a circuit judge after 25 years of service, but continued to serve as a pro tem judge. He also enjoyed dancing and traveling with his family. Survivors include his wife and several nieces and nephews.

Dr. James P. Hornberger '57

Died Jan. 16, 2015
James Peter Hornberger was raised in California and attended Willamette and the University of California, Berkeley, where he received his optometry degree. He went on to be a successful Kaiser Permanente optometrist, and remained active in his community after retirement. He and his golden retriever worked as a therapy dog team with Paws for Healing. Survivors include his wife; two children; three nieces and nephews and their families.

Darlene (Snodgrass) Cain '58

Sept. 21, 1936 – March 7, 2015
Darlene La Rose Cain was born and raised in Portland, Oregon. After attending Willamette and Lewis & Clark College, she administered her husband's dental practice for 36 years. She also served 12 years on the board of the Sherwood School District, ultimately becoming the district's first woman chair. Darlene gave 25 years of commitment to the American Diabetes Association, and she founded and then directed the ADA Gala Auction in Portland for more than 20 years. Survivors include her husband, **Dr. James Cain**

A Great Friend of Willamette

Elizabeth A. 'Libby' Yocom Jan. 29, 1928 – March 29, 2015

Elizabeth Yocom was born in Philadelphia, the middle child of Russell William and Florence Martin Armstrong. She attended Friends Select Quaker school in Philadelphia and then graduated with a B.A. from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. She completed a master's degree at the University of New Mexico, focusing on research into high-altitude experiments.

At graduate school, Libby met her future husband, Richard A. "Buzz" Yocom '49, and they were married April 11, 1953, in Philadelphia.

When Buzz accepted a position in the Admission Department at Willamette University in 1955, the couple moved to Salem. In 1961 Libby also joined the faculty at Willamette, working in the biology department. She served as lab coordinator and assistant professor for 32 years. In addition to teaching courses on biology nutrition, she worked closely with professor Don Breakey, supporting his research on *Drosophila* flies.

Libby and Buzz also promoted international friendship, leading student trips to Asia and alumni trips to Europe. They retired from Willamette together in 1993. Buzz and Libby's



dedication and service to the university were so profound that they were referred to as "Willamette's first couple."

Charlie Wallace, former chaplain at Willamette University, says: "I experienced Libby as a woman who 'did it all.' She raised a family and flourished both as a traditional old-fashioned faculty/administration spouse and also a professional in her own right. She brought a sturdy feminism along with other important values from her Quaker heritage.

Friendly (both in the conventional sense and the Quaker sense), smart and talented, she played key roles in the Willamette community."

After retirement, Libby found great satisfaction with her volunteer work with the Assistance League of Salem-Keizer.

Libby is survived by three daughters, Kathryn Matson '77, Dorothy (DJ) Yocom and Carolyn Yocom MBA'88; six grandchildren; her brother; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, her sister, and her husband of 50 years, Richard A. "Buzz" Yocom. On May 24, a memorial service for Libby was held at Cone Chapel.

'58; brother; children, **Jeffrey Cain '81**, **Jennifer Cain '96**, and **Mark Cain '83**; and several grandchildren.

Gottfried 'Freddie' W. Fossbind '59

Dec. 2, 1936 – Feb. 15, 2015
Gottfried "Freddie" Werner Fossbind pursued a degree in law at Willamette while also being a member of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity. He joined the National Guard in 1958 and rose to the rank of sergeant before leaving the military in 1963. He worked at the Louisiana-Pacific mill and family farm for nearly 20 years. Survivors include his wife; sister; four children; 11 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Elizabeth (Harri) Thorn '70

July 24, 1948 – Feb. 6, 2015
Elizabeth Kay Thorn was born and

raised in Dayton, Oregon. After attending Willamette, she earned a degree in political science from Washington State University. She kept busy with a variety of community projects, including the Columbia County Courthouse Restoration Project and the Blue Mountain Heritage Society, of which she was a founding member. She also served as a co-editor of a three-volume history of Columbia County. Survivors include her husband; two brothers, including **Edward Harri '73**; a daughter; a grandson; and numerous nieces, including **Elizabeth (Harri) Erler '97**, as well as nephews.

Mary 'Dee' (Martin) Deems '78

May 31, 1929 – Feb. 16, 2015
Mary "Dee" Delores Deems was born in Corvallis, Oregon. She earned

her master's degree from Oregon State University and frequently participated in community activism and volunteer work for hospitals, housing programs and education. Survivors include five children, as well as many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

David D. Bilibei Hana'ike '80

Sept. 11, 1958 – Sept. 21, 2014
David Donn Maika'i Bilibei Hana'ike was born in Honolulu, Hawaii. In a career in education, David worked for the Hawaii State Department of Education and taught science before retiring in 2014. Survivors include his husband; two brothers; three sisters; and nephew **Jesse Sandobal '03**.

Having the Vaccination Conversation

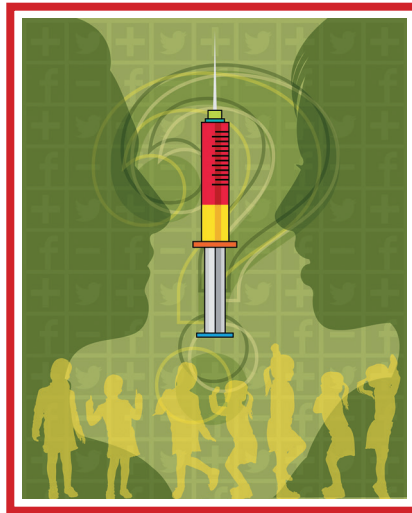
Bob H. Reinhardt '00

Parents sometimes hear about “routine childhood vaccinations,” but the current discussion about vaccines is anything but routine. In addition to pediatrician offices, the vaccination conversation is happening in unexpected places: the legislative halls of Oregon, California and other states trying to stiffen childhood vaccination requirements; Twitter, where author Sherman Alexie invoked Native Americans’ historic experiences with deadly contagious diseases and railed against “superstitious, selfish anti-vaccination ***holes”; and late-night TV, where Jimmy Kimmel joked that parents in Los Angeles are “more scared of gluten than they are of smallpox.” Alexie’s vitriol and Kimmel’s barb invoke the history of smallpox and its eradication, a remarkable story that holds unexpected insights for today.

We are fortunate to live in a world without smallpox, a disease that once wrought terrible horror and death. Although some victims experienced only slight rashes, many more suffered greatly from fever, pustules and hemorrhagic bleeding. Most people survived the experience with scars and sometimes blindness, but smallpox killed around 25 percent of its victims — an estimated 300 million deaths in the 20th century. There was and is no cure for smallpox — only a preventative vaccine, which the U.S. Communicable Disease Center (now the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)) and the World Health Organization (WHO) used to wipe out the disease in the 1960s and ’70s. In 1980 the World Health Organization officially declared smallpox eradicated — the only human disease (so far) deliberately wiped off the face of the Earth.

Today’s vaccination defenders like to point to smallpox eradication as an example of the importance of vaccination. But they misunderstand how the way we talk about vaccination has changed. Consider the venues for vaccination conversation. During the smallpox eradication program, most of the discussion happened between physicians, public health officials and scientists — experts talking to experts about the relative benefits and costs of smallpox vaccination. Today, people of varying degrees of expertise and influence exchange ideas about vaccination on Twitter, Facebook and other forms of social media that provide a soapbox for anyone with Internet access. In addition to presenting scientific papers to their colleagues, experts must now be as adept at Tweeting with laypeople, a challenge that smallpox eradicators did not face.

Today’s vaccination experts face another problem their




smallpox eradicator forebears largely avoided: science is no longer widely regarded as infallible. Vaccination skeptics can and do point to a variety of broken promises about the safety of science: DDT pesticide, toxic polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) once widely used in manufacturing, and ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbon compounds (CFCs). Such examples serve as “proof” that experts have been wrong before and might be wrong again, either because the science is incomplete or, more insidiously, because the experts answer to vested interests, like Big Pharma.

This process of questioning scientific authority had already begun during the smallpox eradication effort — Rachel Carson’s “Silent Spring,” an exposé of DDT’s hazards, came out in 1962 — but public health

authorities rarely had to defend themselves against charges of ignorance or malfeasance. Today’s vaccination experts should not only understand this new environment of doubt, but also acknowledge that science has, in fact, been wrong. Such humility and honesty could help create a vaccination conversation in which skeptics are willing to listen to well-meaning and well-educated experts.

Vaccination proponents might more directly learn from smallpox eradicators when justifying the importance of vaccination for the wider community. Many skeptics, from vehement “anti-vaxxers” to ambivalent parents, express concern about what vaccines might do to their children. This is completely understandable, which is why pediatricians explain to parents how vaccines protect their children. But protecting one’s own children is not the sole, or even the most important, justification for vaccination.

By vaccinating my child, I prevent her from catching a harmful and potentially deadly disease, such as measles, that could spread to another child, and another, and another and so on. Participants in the smallpox eradication effort understood this fact: we vaccinate for everyone’s children. When officials at the CDC and WHO explained the value of smallpox eradication, they noted that it would save lives and money in the developed world. But smallpox eradication most directly improved lives in less-developed countries — while also benefitting all of humanity, then and into the future.

By thinking not just about *my* children, but *our* children, we might evoke that vision of cooperation and sense of responsibility, and move toward a meaningful conversation about vaccination. 

Bob H. Reinhardt '00 is executive director of the Willamette Heritage Center in Salem and author of “The End of a Global Pox: America and the Eradication of Smallpox in the Cold War Era.”



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Experience the world near and far with Willamette alumni, parents and friends. Our Bearcat Explorers travel program offers you even more opportunities than ever before to explore the world with a variety of trip types and price points. Be a Bearcat Explorer!

Visit willamette.edu/alumni/travel for details or call the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations at 503-375-5304 for general questions.



Kayak the San Juans — Washington

July 31-Aug. 2, 2015

Join Professor Luke Ettinger for a three-day, two-night expedition in the beautiful San Juan Islands in Washington. The outing will begin and end at Friday Harbor on San Juan Island, and will include gorgeous views of island scenery and wildlife, including killer whale habitat. Hopping from island to island, the group will set up camp in a new area each night. No experience is required, and gear and meals are included.

Shakespeare on a Budget — Ashland, Oregon

Oct. 17, 2015

We will return to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland following last year's popular outing connecting alumni with theatre faculty and current students. Our group will enjoy two shows together — a matinee of "Guys and Dolls" followed by an evening performance of "Much Ado About Nothing" — as well as group meals and pre- and post-show talks with the professors. Attendees arrange their own transportation and lodging.

Sand, Sea and Stars — Cruise from L.A. to Miami via the Panama Canal

Jan. 4-20, 2016

Enjoy a warm and wonderful luxury Oceania cruise from Los Angeles to Miami through the world-famous Panama Canal. Along with a first-class cruising experience, you will enjoy stops in San Diego, Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Colombia and the Cayman Islands.

Italy's Magnificent Lake District

May 31-June 8, 2016

Enjoy the spectacular Italian Lakes area of Northern Italy! Our base for this enchanting exploration of villages, villas and vistas will be the Hotel La Palma on the banks of Lake Maggiore in Stresa, a beautiful town that offers the best of the Lake District's legendary culture, cuisine and beauty. We'll also visit parts of southern Switzerland.



Kilimanjaro Climb & Red Sweater Project — Tanzania

July 9-21, 2016

We are working on plans for a special 12-day trip to Tanzania to explore some unique Willamette connections. Join Embark Adventures operator Carrie O'Callaghan '00 and Red Sweater Project founder Ashley Holmer '02 in Tanzania. The trip will feature a climb up Mount Kilimanjaro, as well as more of an insider glimpse into life and culture than the average traveler to Tanzania encounters. Travelers will have the option of adding days for a Serengeti safari and visit to Ngorongoro Crater.

Grand Norwegian Coastal Voyage

Oct. 6-20, 2016

Discover the allure of Norway's coastline as the scenery comes alive with rich color in the fall. Travel to unspoiled fishing villages and historic towns, including Ålesund, Trondheim and Tromsø, and the spectacular Lofoten Islands, experiencing a true milestone as your ship sails across the Arctic Circle to the very top of Europe.

willamette.edu/alumni/travel

COMMENCEMENT: A CLASSY AFFAIR

MAY 17, 2015

GRADUATING CLASS

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS: Teary-eyed, proud parents looked on as **507** students collected their diplomas. The new graduates hailed from **26** states and **2** countries (the U.S. and Japan); **60** percent were female; and **4** percent had found the time and mental fortitude to complete more than one major.

ATKINSON: Atkinson Graduate School of Management added **81** new Masters in Business Administration to its community — including **43** international students, who found their way to AGSM from **13** countries; **33** graduates of the evening MBA for Professionals program received their diplomas in a ceremony in January.

LAW: The College of Law awarded **103** Juris Doctor (JD), **14** Master of Laws (LLM) and **2** Master of Legal Studies (MLS) degrees.

Jane Lubchenco, a MacArthur “genius” award-winning marine ecologist, delivered this year’s CLA commencement address, saying: **“Now is your time. You are our hope. Be bold, take risks, think in unconventional ways and give back and serve others.”**

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The **top seven majors** this year were economics, politics, exercise science, psychology, history, biology and English.

LESSONS LEARNED (NOT ONLY IN THE CLASSROOM)

In 1993, the university moved the commencement ceremony from McCulloch Stadium to the Quad. There was no budget for a tent, but with the hot weather, one wasn’t needed anyway. The same could not be said the following year. At 2:53 p.m., the rain came — and it didn’t stop until 4:30 p.m. Since then, rain or shine, Willamette’s commencement ceremony has taken place under a tent.

UNDER THE BIG TOP

The 138 x 248-foot tent that shelters commencement attendees takes eight people, one crane and one forklift about 24 hours to install. Sixteen aluminum arches each weighing over 1,500 pounds support vinyl roof panels that cover the commencement stage and some 4,500 chairs.

BY THE NUMBERS

In 1859, Miss Emily J. York earned the first degree — Mistress of English Literature — from Willamette University. By 1940 the number of graduates reached triple digits. During World War II, numbers dipped to a low of 38 in 1944. The class of 2013 set a record high with 513 students (that’s a lot of Bearcats!).



SHARE YOUR MEMORIES! What do you remember from commencement?

Send your stories to magazine@willamette.edu.