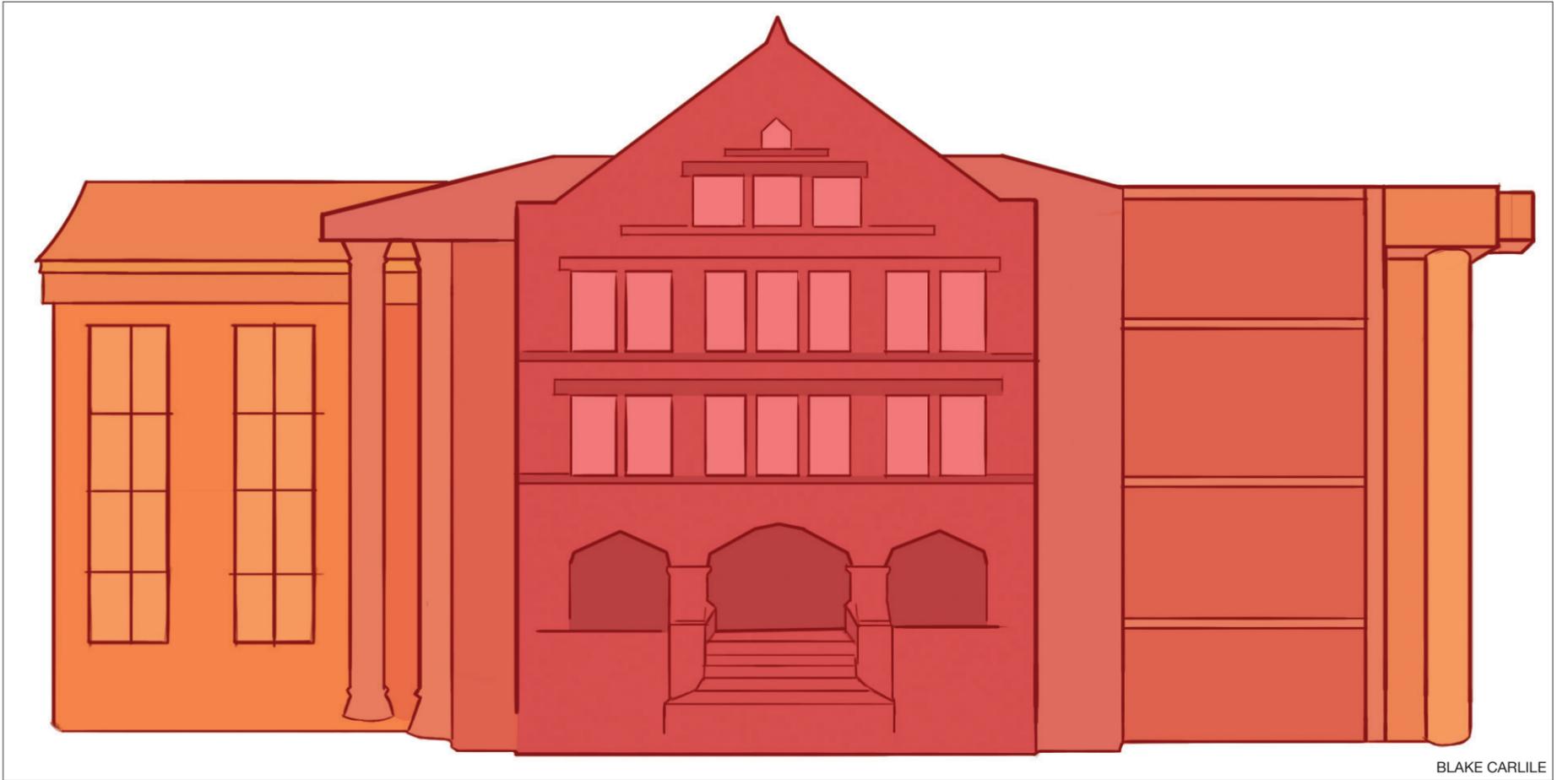


# COLLEGIAN

October 23, 2019

Issue 8 • Vol CXXXII

## Willamette schools collaborate on newly offered degrees



BLAKE CARLILE

This is an artistic depiction of the rising number of collaborations between Willamette's College of Law, College of Liberal Arts and Atkinson Graduate School of Management.



REED BERTRAN  
STAFF WRITER

The College of Liberal Arts (CLA) has recently created three new academic programs that gives students

the opportunity to pursue graduate level coursework at the Willamette College of Law or the Atkinson Graduate School of Management (AGSM). The public health - health ethics, advocacy and leadership (PHEAL)

major launched this fall, along with the new sustainability minor. Additionally, changes have been made to the data science major, creating a dual-degree option within the program. PHEAL also offers two oppor-

tunities for accelerated dual-degree programs.

Sammy Basu, professor of history, humanities and American ethnic studies, is one of the two co-developers of the PHEAL program, along with Pro-

fessor Joyce Millen of the anthropology department. Basu believes that the inclusion of graduate level coursework into the new programs is an exciting change that will change the experience of CLA students. **NEWEST, 3**

## WU should divest from fossil fuels



GRAY GAUTEREAUX  
CONTRIBUTOR

According to 350, an international organization dedicated to replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy, "Human beings are causing climate change, largely by burning fossil fuels. Rising temperatures correlate almost exactly with the release of greenhouse gases." 350 is a champion of divestment, a movement which urges businesses and shareholders to divest or keep their investments at under 5% for fossil fuel companies. Divestment is the process of selling off shares in companies. Divestment movements were popularized through a campaign for divestment from South Africa during apartheid, a movement Willamette University participated in according to a *New York Times* article from 1986. In 2015, student Jake Kornach ('18) began to wonder if Willamette was dedicated to divesting from fossil fuels. He initiated a Students for Divestment movement in 2015 which has had lasting effects on University policy.

On Nov. 9, 2015, the former VP of Finance Monica Rimai spoke on the issue to ASWU senate. In the minutes

from the meeting, Rimai is quoted saying, "Today the big push is for endowments to invest in companies that... are involved in fossil fuels. The challenge is that... we must weigh the value of our investment and maximizing our return."

Kornach took the Board of Trustees to task and started asking how much Willamette was investing in the fossil fuel or other unsustainable industries. He learned that Willamette invests funds from the endowment, a pool of non-tuition funds earned from investments in stocks (though a small amount supports the University's annual operations). Most endowment exchanges are not transparent to the general community, so Kornach took it upon himself to investigate and act.

Kornach said he was inspired to push for a divestment movement for two reasons: because he could "feel the clock" ticking on the planet, and because he was approached during the 2015 Paris Climate Conference by Bill McKibben, leader of 350, who asked Kornach why Willamette hadn't divested yet.

The Board listened, encouraged by trustee Friedenwald-Fishman ('88)

who was involved with the South African divestment movement at WU. A committee was formed to investigate the matter and found that four percent of WU's investments were in fossil fuels, which is technically already below the divestment threshold. But, through the committee, it was agreed that the endowment should operate within some form of environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) standards.

When Kornach graduated, the movement left with him. However, in 2018, GEM released its first ESG investigation report for the WU Endowment. The report revealed that GEM has approximately five percent invested in companies that "own or extract fossil fuels" while carbon positive investments "account for approximately 1%" of GEM's portfolio. Through his urging of the Board of Trustees to form a divestment committee, Kornach helped orient the University toward a policy of taking accountability for the impact of their investments. The yearly report also revealed that Willamette meets the divestment threshold of 5% exposure.

**DIVESTMENT, 8**

## Student group shifts focus of Indigenous Peoples' Week



MADELYN JONES  
NEWS EDITOR

Willamette's Native and Indigenous Student Union (NISU) expanded the celebration of Indigenous Peoples' Day on Oct. 14 into a week of events. While in past years NISU held educational events that invited people to learn more about Indigenous cultures and voices, they took a different approach this year: "Instead of doing more outreach and education and having a focus on bringing people in, we turned it in on ourselves. It is more of a celebration of who we are, our own cultures, our own language," explained NISU President Miranda Livers ('20).

"All of our events are open, we are not trying to exclude any one in any way. We would love if people would come, but we are not in the mindset of actively trying to educate anymore. If you come and have questions, we would be over the moon to answer them, but we

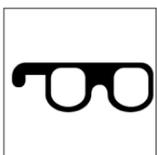
are not going to actively educate you anymore," continued Livers.

The trivia night on Oct. 14 remained an educational event, but the rest, including the chalk writing on Jackson Plaza, the screening of "Wind River" and the potluck and social gathering, were designed to focus on the celebration of Indigenous students.

Cake served by the lacrosse team in the University Center on Oct. 14 kicked off the week of events. Then, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., students met in Jackson Plaza to write statements in chalk, publicly leaving their thoughts, feelings and ideas for passersby to read. A similar chalk writing event took place on Oct. 16.

"We had a lot of people come and participate in the chalk [event]. It was a lot of fun to come and see people rant, just express themselves in any way they wanted to and reclaim their voice," said Livers.

**INDIGENOUS, 3**



### LIFESTYLES

Elsinore Theater presents a science fiction double feature.

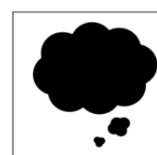
pg. 5



### SPORTS

The lacrosse team volunteers during its off-season.

pg. 7



### OPINIONS

Read about the positive and negative results of gen-ed changes.

pg. 8



# Study abroad process underway



BLAKE CARLILE

ANNA SEAHILL  
STAFF WRITER

The opportunity to study abroad is one that can be found on numerous college campuses, including Willamette's, which offers sponsored programs, course credit and financial aid in order to make the unique educational experience as accessible to students as possible.

With the fall semester halfway complete, there are now many events taking place regarding study abroad. Starting on Sept. 17 of this year, the First Step Session has been held once every week or two; the next meeting is set for Oct. 31 at 11:30 a.m. in Eaton 211. This informational session focuses on the available study abroad programs and the upcoming application process. The Study Abroad Events page of the University website states, "Learn about the application process, how to use the program search and what to do NOW so you can put forth a great application!"

After attending one of the required First Step Sessions, interested students must make an appointment with an advisor in the Office of International Educa-

tion, located in the Global Learning Center on the corner of Baxter and Westwood resident halls.

The application for WU Sponsored Study Abroad Programs, which includes Summer 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021 and full year programs, is scheduled to be released by the end of the month. The application deadline is Dec. 4.

On top of taking the First Step Session path to learning about study abroad, students can also attend more specific meetings about individual programs. This can be a helpful resource for those who are interested in studying in a certain country or in a particular field.

On Oct. 15, for example, there was an interest session about studying in Granada, Spain. This semester-based program (available in the fall or spring) is centered around Spanish language learning and practice, and includes living with a host family as well as internship or service-learning options. Courses take place at the University of Granada's modern language center, El Centro de Lenguas Modernas (CLM).

Another recent program-specific event occurred this past

Tuesday. It was on the program "Dig the Neolithic: Archaeology Field School 2020," located on the Orkney Islands of Scotland. Professor of Environmental Science and Archaeology Scott Pike will oversee this month-long opportunity, which centers around the unearthing of a Neolithic cathedral and is open to all majors.

The latest information session is happening today, Oct. 23, from 5 to 6 p.m. in Ford 102. It is for anyone interested in studying in Ecuador during the summer or fall. Some aspects of the program that could attract students to it, according to the Willamette Study Abroad Events webpage, are "language and cultural immersion, excursions and great support from local staff at Andean Center for Latin American Studies (ACLAS)."

The future First Step Session dates are: Oct. 31 at 11:30 a.m., Nov. 6 at 8 a.m. and Nov. 12 at 4:15 p.m. All take place in Eaton 211.

For more information about study abroad, email [oiadvising@willamette.edu](mailto:oiadvising@willamette.edu).

[amseahill@willamette.edu](mailto:amseahill@willamette.edu)

## Upcoming Study Abroad Events

**Wednesday, Oct. 23:**  
*Ecuador Interest Meeting*  
Ford 102  
5-6 p.m.

**Wednesday, Nov. 6:**  
*First Step Session*  
Eaton 211  
8-9 a.m.

**Thursday, Oct. 24:**  
*Japan Studies Program Meeting, Language Learning Center*  
Ford Hall  
4:15-5:15 p.m.

**Tuesday, Nov. 12:**  
*First Step Session*  
Eaton 211  
4:15-5:15 p.m.

**Thursday, Oct. 31:**  
*First Step Session*  
Eaton 211  
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, Dec. 4:**  
*Application deadline*

## WEEKLY REPORT BY CAMPUS SAFETY

### CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

**Oct. 16, 10:00 a.m. (Softball parking lot):** Campus Safety received a call from the Grounds department after they noticed part of the fence had been cut. An officer responded, checked the fence and a work order was made to have it repaired.

**Oct. 17, 3:38 a.m. (Silver parking lot):** An employee came to the Campus Safety office to report that their vehicle had been broken into. An officer and facilities responded in assisting the employee with taping up their window. A report was filed regarding the missing belongings. The employee was also encouraged to call Salem Police and report the incident as well.

### EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID

**Oct. 12, 9:28 p.m. (Smith Fine Arts):** Campus Safety received a call reporting a student had fallen and suffered some scrapes. WEMS responded and treated the student's wounds.

**Oct. 13, 2:13 a.m. (in a campus residence):** Campus Safety received a call from a student who was concerned for their friend who was vomiting. An officer and WEMS responded, and the student was evaluated. It was determined that the student could be left in the care of their friends.

**Oct. 14, 3:50 p.m. (Olin Science):** Campus Safety received a call reporting a student who had fainted and was in need of medical attention. An officer and paramedics responded and evaluated the student. The student was then transported to the hospital by Campus Safety.

**Oct. 14, 4:00 p.m. (in a campus residence):** Campus Safety received a call from a student requesting to be transported to the hospital. An officer responded and transported the student.

### SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

**Oct. 11, 8:26 a.m. (Cascadia Hall):** Campus Safety

received a call reporting a suspicious individual loitering around the garbage cans. An officer responded and checked on the individual who then left University property.

**Oct. 11, 11:46 a.m. (Skybridge):** Campus Safety received multiple calls regarding a suspicious individual near the Kaneko side of the Skybridge. An officer responded and made contact with the individual who then became aggressive and then threatened to arrest the officer. The individual was escorted off campus.

**Oct. 11, 11:56 a.m. (12th Street):** Campus Safety received a call reporting a suspicious individual riding on a stolen bike. An officer responded, but was unable to locate the individual on University property.

**Oct. 11, 3:50 p.m. (12th Street):** Campus Safety received a call reporting a

suspicious individual picking up a bike and exiting the campus with another bike. An officer responded and located the individual off University property.

**Oct. 12, 2:56 p.m. (Hallie Ford Museum of Art):** Campus Safety received a call reporting a suspicious individual in a "Jason" mask heading for campus. An officer responded and followed the individual until they were off campus.

**Oct. 14, 5:31 p.m. (Kaneko Commons):** While on patrol, an officer noticed a suspicious individual trying to hop the fence to TIUA. The officer responded and made contact with the individual. They were redirected off campus.

**Oct. 16, 12:30 p.m. (Goudy Commons):** Campus Safety received a call from Bon Appetit reporting a suspicious individual in the cafeteria. An officer responded, but the

individual had left prior to their arrival.

**Oct. 16, 7:54 p.m. (Kaneko Commons):** While on patrol, an officer noticed a tent set up underneath the Skybridge. An officer met with the individuals and they left University property.

**Oct. 17, 3:20 p.m. (Sparks Parking Lot):** Campus Safety received a call reporting some suspicious individuals on bikes making comments to students. An officer responded and followed the individuals until they were off campus.

PLEASE CONTACT  
CAMPUS SAFETY IF  
YOU HAVE ANY  
INFORMATION  
REGARDING THESE  
INCIDENTS.  
(503) 370-6911

# Admin creates new point of communication

MADELYN JONES  
NEWS EDITOR

In order to create a new point of communication between students and administrators, Chaplain Karen Wood has created an event where, for an hour each week, two administrators sit in Goudy during a popular lunch time and make themselves available to students. Multi-colored posters announcing weekly Campus Conversations have been recently placed in high-traffic areas on campus, including the Bistro, to make students aware of the listening sessions. This week, Associate Dean of Students Lisa Holliday and Student Activities and Food Services director Lindsey Leisinger will be in Goudy from 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. today, Oct. 23.

"The goal of each listening session is for staff members to make themselves available for students who have questions, concerns or ideas to share about how we might make the student experience at Willamette more positive," said Wood.

After students share their thoughts and concerns to administrators, their ideas are entered anonymously into a document that is shared with all of the administrators who are involved with these weekly sessions, reported Wood. "That way we have a record and can formulate a thoughtful response to the issue. In other words, we don't just listen, but we will also be working on addressing the concerns and questions raised in these conversations," she explained. "At the end of the semester, I'll convene a meeting of listeners and evaluate, as well as do follow-up about the questions, concerns and ideas, to make sure that we are being responsive."

Goudy is a highly frequented area for many students. The informal and familiar setting is hoped to make students who are less likely to plan a meeting with an administrator in their office feel more comfortable having these conversations.

Last week, Career Development Director Mandy Devereux and Director of Housing and Conferences Scott Etherton were in Goudy on Tuesday Oct. 15 from 11:30- 12:30 p.m. However, the time and day changes from week to week in hopes that some meetings will align with students' packed schedules.

Speaking to the Oct. 15 session, Etherton said that they discussed many topics, including parking, food and fourth hour.

## Listening Sessions in Goudy

*Each week administrators will be holding listening sessions at a table near the fireplace in Goudy over the lunch hour. Come tell them what is on your mind!*

THIS WEEK:

**Lisa Holliday & Lindsey Leisinger**

Associate Dean of Students/Director of Student Activities & Food Service Director

GIVE FEEDBACK. ENGAGE IN CONVERSATION. ASK QUESTIONS

OCT 23, 2019 • 12 TO 1 PM

*This is a poster announcing details about the next listening sessions made by Zoë-Jordan Oketch-Oduwo.*

If a student did not come with an exact agenda, Devereux said they prompted students with questions like, "What are some things you really like about Willamette? What are some things maybe you'd like to see change?"

They both noticed that students did not always feel comfortable initiating conversation and acknowledged that giving direct feedback to someone can be intimidating.

Devereux noted that there are different administrators facilitating the sessions every week and that students can plan to come on weeks where a trusted administrator is present.

Etherton also had a suggestion. "If they want to say something about housing but don't want to tell the director of housing, they can tell [an-

other administrator] in another session, and I will still get the content."

Vice President for Student Affairs Ed Whipple reported that so far in the listening sessions he has been a part of, students mostly came to his table to visit rather than to share concerns. While he said he enjoys visiting with students, he hopes that in the future more students will feel comfortable bringing up other topics of discussion: "I can see where it could be a little intimidating to just walk up to two administrators and start talking. That's why the student feedback is really critical. We'll do whatever it takes, but it is just finding out what works."

Whipple recognized that different things work for different students and has met with Associated Students of Willamette University

(ASWU) President Amarit Ubhi ('20) to discuss the event and how it can be more successful with a student representative, including what times and locations are most accessible to students.

Wood, and all of the other administrators interviewed, also encourages students with feedback to reach out to her: "If there is another time and place that would be more conducive to conversations, please contact me at <kwood>. We are experimenting with this and would love to improve it."

"We really hope students will see this as an opportunity to talk about what matters to them at Willamette," said Wood.

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## Indigenous Peoples' Day starts week of celebration

CONTINUED from Page 1

On Oct. 16, NISU facilitated a screening of "Wind River," a 2017 film based off of a true story about an Indigenous woman's murder. Last year, NISU chose to screen "Highway of Tears," a documentary about cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women. Livers said that NISU received positive feedback for the event and wanted to keep the conversation going into this year.

"Movie night went fantastic... We had a lot of people show up, and almost everyone stayed after an hour the movie ended to talk about the movie and just discuss, debrief and bond," reflected Livers.

"Indigenous Peoples' Week is really important because it's one of the few times we are in the spotlight. A vast majority of the time, our voices are quieted or hushed or we are told to shut up. When we finally have that platform to speak, when we finally have that spotlight, it's really really nice to feel supported. So, when we do put on an event, it would be really nice for people to come," said Livers.

When asked what she wished people knew about this week of events, she asked that people be careful with their words. She said that phrases like "Fuck Columbus" and "water is life" are derived from Indigenous peoples' history and movements and hold a lot of weight: "Just be conscious that not all Native people want to hear those words, because a lot of those words are founded in trauma, coming through trauma, getting over trauma. Even though that phrase in itself isn't a microaggression, being reminded of certain things can be."

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# Newest academic programs connect CLA with graduate schools

CONTINUED from Page 1

"When we were designing the program, we saw an opportunity to work with the School of Management and the College of Law to identify a select few germane graduate courses that might be suitable elective options for junior or senior majors in public health. The inclusion of these grad courses is an innovation and an experiment, but we are optimistic that it will be beneficial to students," said Basu.

According to the Willamette University website, students within the PHEAL program will also be able to combine a BA in public health with an MBA as part of an accelerated dual-degree program, and finish both degrees in five years instead of six.

Additionally, PHEAL students will also be able to combine a BA in public health with a law degree at Willamette's College of Law, and finish both degrees in six years instead of seven. Two of the PHEAL core courses, Introduction to Public Health and Public Health Ethics, will become available in spring 2020.

The University now offers students an opportunity to complete a sustainability minor by taking classes in biology, earth system science and environmental policymaking, among other subjects. Three courses at the College of Law and two courses at AGSM are also available to be taken within the minor.

The Data Science program's accelerated dual-degree program will become available in the fall of 2020,

offering data science majors the ability to complete a BS/MS in four years, and earn a BS in Data Science with an MBA in five years.

Kelley Strawn, one of the organizers of the data science program and a sociology professor at the CLA, described the new possibilities made available to WU students by the recent changes to the major: "Data science is a 21st century major, and I, personally, love that Willamette is embracing the opportunity to be on the leading edge of renovating what a liberal arts education is. Job opportunities for graduates with skills that cut across computer science, math/statistics and traditional liberal arts disciplinary training will expand exponentially in the decades to come. Students who do either the DS un-

dergraduate major of the joint BS/MS program will embark on their post-Willamette careers with a highly applicable, highly portable combination of liberal arts and technical skills and experience."

Basu also spoke to the role of accelerated dual-degree programs in adapting to the academic world of rising tuitions and the trend of declining enrollment among small liberal arts institutions: "Given Willamette's ambitious long term goals of increasing access and affordability, it turns out that getting creative in what we offer educationally and how we deliver it is a moral obligation. New innovative efforts to locate graduate courses within undergraduate degrees, new programs, new undergraduate programs that might be taught or co-

taught by both CLA and grad faculty and new dual-degree programs are all examples of that creativity."

According to Basu, such innovations made to dual-degree programs and CLA programs that offer graduate level courses at Willamette have been pushed by students and faculty as well as the administration.

"There have been ongoing efforts to better coordinate our respective programs, and one of the results are the efforts to identify graduate coursework of benefit to advanced undergraduates. Innovations like these are the result of student interest, faculty commitment and administrative willingness. All three have to align," said Basu.

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# PSU professor to discuss queer motifs in Wood's art



COURTESY OF THE SPOKESMAN REVIEW

**Dr. Sue Taylor**  
Professor of Art History at Portland State University

**SANJA ZELEN**  
STAFF WRITER

Willamette's arthHistory department is looking forward to welcoming Dr. Sue Taylor, Professor Emerita of Art History at Portland State University, to the Hallie Ford Museum of Art on Oct. 23 to present her findings on Grant

Wood's artwork. Dr. Taylor will be revealing hidden messages and motifs in Wood's prints, drawings and paintings that hint that he may have been homosexual.

Dr. Taylor has been interested in Grant Wood's art ever since she first saw *American Gothic*, one of his most famous paintings, displayed in the Art Institute of Chi-

cago. She started interpreting his work when she was in graduate school.

"I saw a large survey of his work that traveled to the Art Institute in 1983," she recalled. "Later, I wrote an article on *American Gothic*. But I still found many more curious aspects of his work to explore. I began research on my book in 2005, finished it in 2015 and found a publisher two years later."

Ever since Wood's death in 1942, scholars have been working to understand his history and identity. Wood grew up in Cedar Rapids, IA, where his artwork was praised. Perceived to have been a closeted gay man, Wood is thought to have used his artwork to cope with the challenges of living in a homophobic community. Dr. Taylor explains that the topic of Grant Wood's sexuality was largely avoided in Iowa and remains ambiguous today.

"People in Iowa who admired him greatly thought that if such an issue was raised, his reputation would be 'tarnished.' So no one addressed that issue at all, into the 1980s and the 1990s," Dr. Taylor said. "Finally, after the turn of the century, certain scholars began to discuss it in print. Subsequently, a biography has come out on Grant Wood by a scholar named R. Tripp Evans. He was really the first person to treat Grant Wood's homosexuality in a straightforward way."

In her lecture, Dr. Taylor will show some of the Grant Wood pieces

that support this theory. She will also highlight other pieces of his, including a stained-glass window currently displayed at the Veteran's Memorial Coliseum in Cedar Rapids.

"He was really a very talented person," Dr. Taylor stated. "He was a metalsmith, an interior decorator, a painter and printmaker. I want to celebrate that and introduce people to other aspects of his creativity, beyond what you see in his painting *American Gothic*."

Dr. Taylor had a specific goal when looking at and studying Grant Wood's art. She offered insight to Willamette students who are interested in interpreting art for themselves: "Different approaches are appropriate for different kinds of work. In my own work, I'm very interested in the psychoanalytic method, although in the lecture I'm presenting at Willamette, that doesn't come too much into play. Social history and the challenges to gay men living in middle-America in the first half of the 20th century are my biggest concern."

One of Wood's pieces, *Appraisal*, was previewed on Willamette's event posters around campus this past week. The painting was completed in the 1930s and hints at several of the homosexual motifs Dr. Taylor will cover.

"It's a confrontation between two types, the city type and the country type," Dr. Taylor explained. "It's a send-up of one of Grant Woods' colleagues who ran a gallery in Cedar Rapids. One of

the models for the painting was the lesbian partner of a future biographer of Grant Wood's. Her name was Mary Lackersteen; she's the lady in the closed hat and fur coat. Her partner was Hazel Brown, who also lived in Cedar Rapids."

In addition to Grant Wood's art, Dr. Taylor will also be displaying some of Charles Demuth's work to support her presentation.

Today, Wood's identity is being talked about more openly in Iowa, a benefit to historians and scholars wishing to analyze his work. "Now that scholars are discussing Wood's own marginalization as a gay man more frequently in Iowa, the work opens itself up to more complex and sophisticated readings. But at first glance, a lot of the work can appear very bland and very benign. One of his works, titled *Arbor Day*, was selected for reproduction on the Quarter. Now people are rethinking whether or not that work was as bland as people once thought it might be," Dr. Taylor said.

Dr. Taylor's lecture will start at 7:30 p.m. and conclude at 9:00 p.m. It is free and open to the public. Students of all majors are encouraged to come out and acquire a fresh perspective on one of America's most famous artists.

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# Horoscopes for the week of Oct. 23-30

**BILLY ULLMANN**  
LIFESTYLES EDITOR



**Aries:** Libra season comes to an end as Scorpio season begins on Oct. 23, putting yourself and others in a rather intense mood and bringing everything into focus. On the same day the moon enters responsible Virgo before moving into sister sign Libra on Oct. 25, bringing you energy to socialize and think. The moon enters Scorpio on Oct. 27, with a new moon the following day; it will be a good time to consider your motivations.



**Taurus:** The Sun enters sister sign Scorpio on Oct. 23 which will sharpen your focus and bring a stillness or pause. Also, the moon enters fellow earth sign Virgo so take care of what needs attention before a moon in Libra, starting Oct. 25. On Oct. 27, the moon enters Scorpio and is new on Oct. 28; consider how your actions affect others and how you are seen. The moon moves into mutable Sagittarius, bringing a sense of change.



**Gemini:** Libra season concludes on Oct. 23, ushering in Scorpio season and a moon in Virgo. This is a good time to channel your creative energy into projects that require deep attention. The moon en-

ters Libra on Oct. 25 so go out and socialize before the moon moves into Scorpio on Oct. 27. The moon becomes new on Oct. 28; look inward and think about the role you play. The moon is in sister sign Sagittarius starting on Oct. 29, giving you energy to question everything or everyone.



**Cancer:** Scorpio season begins on Oct. 23, making emotions feel more intense and actions feel more personal. The moon enters Virgo on the same day so attending to your responsibilities might feel like a higher priority. From Oct. 25 to 27, the moon is in air sign Libra, bringing a sense of balance before a moon in Scorpio. There is a new moon on Oct. 28; it is a good time to consider how and why you change the environment around you.



**Leo:** On Oct. 23, Scorpio season begins, which means your focus and your desires might feel more intense than usual. The moon moves into air sign Libra on Oct. 25, so relax before the moon enters Scorpio on Oct. 27. The moon is new on Oct. 28, putting you in a spot to reflect and think about yourself and actions more deeply. The moon then moves into fellow fire sign Sagittarius on Oct. 29, making action a higher priority.



**Virgo:** Libra season ends on Oct. 23, meaning Scorpio season will begin. Scorpio season will provide a feeling of introspection and privacy. The moon enters your sign on the same day, bringing you some stability as the sun changes signs. The moon then moves into social Libra on Oct. 25 before entering Scorpio two days later. A new moon in Scorpio on Oct. 28 will bring your focus inward and call you to evaluate your motivations.



**Libra:** Sadly, Libra season comes to an end on Oct. 23, meaning that the Sun enters intense and mysterious Scorpio. The moon enters Virgo the same day, calling you to attend to your responsibilities. The moon moves into your sign on Oct. 25, putting you at ease. The moon enters Scorpio on Oct. 27 and becomes new the following day. The new moon is a good time to reflect about your goals and how others perceive you.



**Scorpio:** Scorpio season begins on Oct. 23, putting you into your element and bringing acceptance to all the dark parts of your mind. The moon enters Libra on Oct. 25 and provides energy to socialize. The moon

enters your sign on Oct. 27 and is new on Oct. 28, so look deeper into your motives and the way you present yourself to others; are you sure what you are doing is right? Keep this questioning energy as the moon moves into Sagittarius on Oct. 29.



**Sagittarius:** On Oct. 23, the sun moves out of Libra and into Scorpio. Scorpio season will likely bring you a feeling of intensity and privacy. The moon is in earth sign Virgo until Oct. 25, when it enters Libra; attend to tasks before taking some time to socialize and reach out. The moon moves into Scorpio on Oct. 27, followed by a new moon the next day. Consider your goals and how you achieve them. The moon enters your sign on Oct. 29, bringing you a lot of energy.



**Capricorn:** Scorpio season starts on Oct. 23, putting you into a deeply personal and potentially closed off state of mind. The moon moves into fellow earth sign Virgo the same day, energizing you to work hard before a social moon in Libra begins on Oct. 25. On Oct. 27, the moon enters Scorpio and is new on Oct. 28; it will be a good time to reflect and check in with yourself. The moon moves into Sagittarius on Oct. 29, bringing your attention to the future.



**Aquarius:** Libra season concludes on Oct. 23, meaning Scorpio season begins and offers deep focus and intensity. The moon enters fellow air sign Libra on Oct. 25 after two days in earth sign Virgo; enjoy yourself after making sure you give attention to what needs it. The moon is in Scorpio starting Oct. 27 and there is a new moon on Oct. 28, so look deeper. Is what you're doing for a good reason?



**Pisces:** The sun moves into fellow water sign Scorpio on Oct. 23. Do not be afraid to feel things as deeply as they come. The moon enters sister sign Virgo the same day so tidy up and get your life into order. The moon is in Libra from Oct. 25-27 before entering Scorpio and going new on Oct. 28. Consider what you want and while the moon is new, consider why you want it. The moon enters Sagittarius on Oct. 29, making you ready to take on anything.

*DISCLAIMER: I am not a professional or trained astrologist. Any guesses made are simply that: guesses.*

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Graphics: Blake Carlile

# Board of Trustees: the governing body of Willamette

AUDREY PIACSEK  
CONTRIBUTOR

The Willamette Board of Trustees will meet on campus this coming Friday, Oct. 25, to discuss and vote on University affairs. The Board plays an important role in governing Willamette and is responsible for making decisions such as how money will be spent and what policies students and staff must follow, according to official Willamette bylaws.

They meet at least three times during each school year, including an annual meeting in May and additional meetings in the fall and winter.

The Board is an essential part of Willamette's government, but they aren't often talked about on campus. President Stephen Thorsett, with his weekly Words from Waller emails and monthly office hours and CLA Dean Ruth Feingold, who often sends out emails to the student body, are much more familiar to many students. While these people are important, their recognizability leads some students to have a skewed view on how Willamette is actually run behind the scenes.

Most universities have a board of trustees, but they have a particularly vital role at private schools like Willamette that can't rely on state funding. They oversee fundraising and "serv[e]

as liaison between the university and the public" in order to maintain the University's reputation and attract students, according to the bylaws.

So, who are these trustees who hold so much power at Willamette? Officially there are 34 Trustees, although that number can vary from year to year. The Chair of the Board, Lynne Saxton, and President Thorsett are two central figures on the Board. They also head a smaller committee that makes decisions throughout the year when the entire Board isn't meeting.

The Board is about two-thirds male and one-third female, and a large majority being over the age of 60. Most trustees are Willamette alumni. They are chosen by a committee and approved by the full Board.

"Trusteeship committee members review the board's composition annually by looking at members' demographic information, work experience and skill sets, among other factors and determine if there are gaps that need to be filled on the board," said Colleen Kawahara, the President's Chief of Staff and Administrative Secretary of the Board.

Not all trustees are chosen this way, however. The United Methodist Church reserves the right to appoint two representatives, a clergyperson and a "layperson," who have all the

rights of a normal trustee. The Oregon-Idaho Methodist Bishop is also allowed to participate in meetings but can't vote on issues.

The Alumni Association can also appoint a trustee, who has the same rights as any other member. There is also one student and one faculty representative from each college at Willamette (College of Liberal Arts, Law School and School of Management), who have the same limitations as the Bishop.

"Student and faculty representatives to the Board ensure that the interests and perspectives of the groups they represent are conveyed to the board but they do not vote on any action items," said Kawahara.

Trustees can't be reelected after age 70, but they can become Life Trustees Emeritus—retired members of the Board who can participate but not vote. They are not paid for their involvement with the Board and most have separate careers.

A full list of the trustees, including Life Emeritus members, is available on the Willamette website. Specially appointed trustees (like the Methodist or Alumni appointed members) are noted, as well as each person's career and year of graduation.

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COURTESY OF WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY

Lynne Saxton  
Chair of the Willamette University Board of Trustees

## Salem's Elsinore Theater to show Rocky Horror



DANI GARCIA-KING

A local production of Rocky Horror Picture Show will play at the Elsinore Theater on October 26th at 9:00 p.m. Doors open at 8:00 p.m. Tickets available online and at box.

OLIVIA FRENKEL  
CONTRIBUTOR

With Halloween creeping closer and closer, Willamette University students have begun to prepare their beloved traditions for this coming spooky season. Creative costumes and dorm room decorations are frequently found on students' to-do lists, but another tradition is common amongst Willamette students: The Rocky Horror Picture Show at the Elsinore Theater.

Released in 1975, this musical horror comedy show has become known as a brilliantly raunchy facet of pop culture. The show follows the boringly classic, sweetheart couple Brad and Janet, who venture into an ominous mansion looking for help with their car troubles. They are met by Dr. Frank-N-Furter, the transvestite scientist, along with other intriguingly wild characters such as the rock-n-roll biker, MeatLoaf and siblings, Riff Raff and Magenta. Through elaborate dances and catchy

songs, Brad and Janet lose their innocence and have their morals twisted at the hands of the residents in the mansion. All events lead to Dr. Frank-N-Furter's reveal of his latest creation: the gorgeous, muscular man named "Rocky Horror."

If you are confused by the array of characters and are unable to picture how the story unfolds, that is understandable. The larger-than-life qualities of the show are unique and for that reason it has maintained its relevance for years and years. The easily seduced characters of Brad and Janet provide a commentary on how drab and lifeless traditional domesticated values may be and how prevalent the fluidity of sexuality can be within the people you least expect. In contrast, the sex-crazed, raunchy alien from the planet Transsexual in the galaxy of Transylvania, Dr. Frank-N-Furter, is revered by audiences because of their undeniable sense of self.

The unapologetic self is what makes the show so important. Upon

entry to the venue, guests are marked with either a "V" for "Rocky Virgin" or a "W" for "Rocky Whore" on their foreheads in red lipstick. Regardless of which letter you have, the roaming ensemble cast will approach and give you beaded necklaces or may even ask you to dance. Throughout the show itself, the cast wanders through the aisles and even between the tight rows of seats. Seasoned audience members yell out jokes and are known to adlib during the show, which adds spontaneity to its humor. The caricaturization of the characters in such close proximity to the audience makes for an inclusive and entertaining show.

The show's focus on inclusivity and its unapologetic nature are due in part to the context of the live show's creation. Two years prior to the show's release, the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from its list of psychiatric disorders. Throughout the decade, laws were passed that decriminalized homosexual acts in

several cities and states and the commonality of bisexuality increased significantly. More and more politicians came out as LGBTQ+, sparking violence and opposition from American homophobics.

Through all this conflict and polarization, the interactive Rocky Horror Picture Show was released. Though the show celebrated sexuality, its initial debut was unsuccessful. It was seemingly catered to the misfits and the theater kids of the 70's and 80's, and in the eyes of many, it was filthy and disgusting. The lipstick and fishnet tights were deemed as too much, but to those who are able to look past its extravagance, saw that its existence begged for one thing: acceptance.

Despite the slow start, support for the show began to flourish years after its initial release. Showings began popping up in local theaters across the country and it quickly accumulated a cult-like following of thousands of people. The explicit sexuality, the catchy music, the

colorful costumes and the brazen freedom of expression reminds viewers of the vastness of the human condition. Passion, fear, selfishness, love, pity and anger are displayed with such magnitude that it draws audiences to the theaters every Halloween and remains as a symbol for freedom and acceptance.

Salem remains a part of this cult-classic tradition. The Elsinore Theater on High St. will begin showing Rocky Horror Picture Show on Oct. 26. Doors open at 8:00 p.m. and the show is scheduled to begin at 9:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 if bought on the Elsinore Theater website, or \$20 at the door. If you're looking for a trip to Portland, the Clinton Street Theater is famous for its weekly showing of Rocky Horror Picture Show since 1978. Tickets are \$12 and show times can be found on their website.

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# Cross country teams sprint to success

JACOB BLOOM  
STAFF WRITER

Willamette University's cross country teams competed in two separate meets this past weekend. The women's team, along with senior Michael Montague of the men's team, flew out to Winnebago, WI to compete in the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Kollege Town Sports Invitational on Saturday, Oct. 19. The men's cross country team stayed in the northwest to compete in the Warner Pacific Classic in Portland, OR, which also took place on Saturday, Oct. 19.

Montague and the women's team had the opportunity to compete against elite competition in Wisconsin. Participating in the meet were 10 nationally ranked men's teams and seven nationally ranked women's teams.

Both the women's team and Montague had a good showing, but Montague in particular stood out in the men's 8K race. He placed 68th out of 452 runners and was only 14.3 seconds from placing in the top 50.

The women's team also performed well, placing 17th out of 34 teams in the 6K race with a combined score of 526. They were led by senior Kyla Shade, who placed 114th out of 419 runners and was just 11.4 seconds out of the top 100. The four other runners competing for the women's team were the following: sophomore Molly Murphy-Brown, who placed 166th; first-year April Holland, who placed 172nd; junior Risa Shutz, who placed 181st and

sophomore Dana Hamilton, who placed 233rd.

Back in the northwest, the men's team also had a good showing. Led by sophomore Carson Herrick, who placed 58th overall, Willamette managed to place fifth out of the eleven teams competing in the Warner Pacific Classic men's 8K with a combined score of 46 and an average time of 28:18. For comparison, the top team, Portland University, had a score of 10 and an average time of 25:13. While there was no stand-out runner, the whole Willamette team finished well. First-year Gabriel Regimball, first-year Ronan Davis, senior Kellen Bulger, first-year Ian Curtis, sophomore Alex Matteson and sophomore Matt Ihling all placed inside the top 100.

Both the women's and men's team have helped Willamette cross country excel in the 2019 season. As of this week, the women's team is ranked 8th on the Northwest NCAA Division III leaderboard, while the men's team is ranked 10th. This ranking is released by the United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCA) for NCAA Division III cross country on a weekly basis.

Willamette's cross country teams are set to compete in the Northwest Conference Championships at Fort Steilacoom Park in Lakewood, Washington on Saturday, Nov. 2.



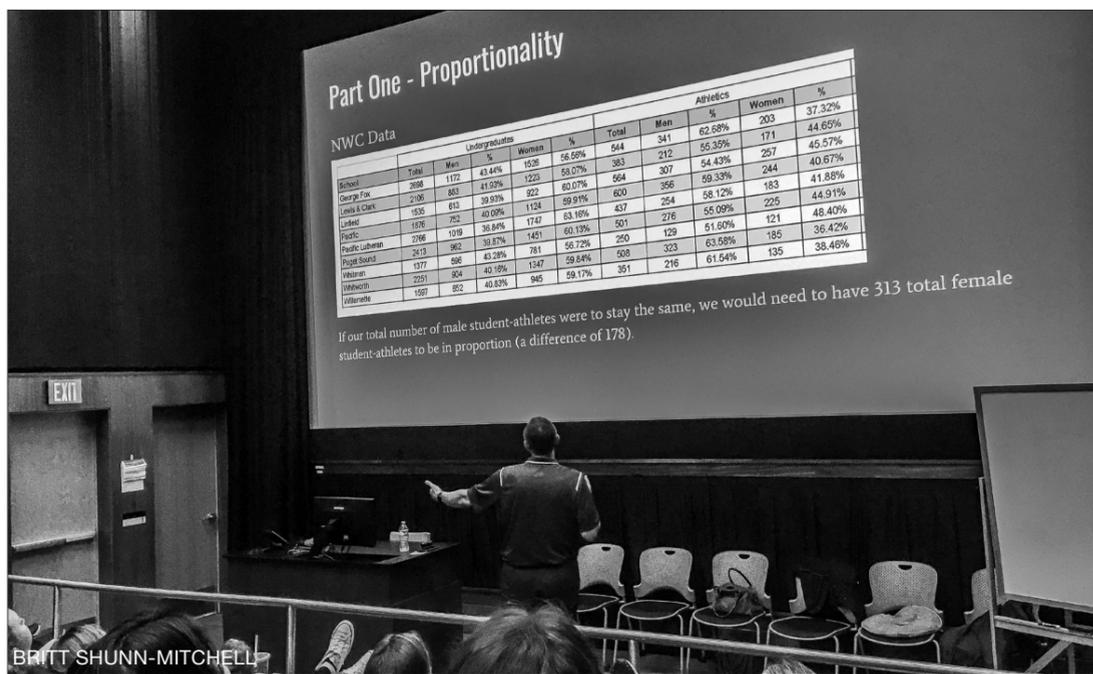
COURTESY OF WU ATHLETICS



COURTESY OF WU ATHLETICS

jhbloom@willamette.edu The men's cross country team huddles in the rain (top). The women's team begins to race (bottom).

## Title IX requirements addressed by Athletics Department



BRITT SHUNN-MITCHELL

Athletic Director Rob Passage explains the disproportion of gender in the Northwest Conference.

BRITT SHUNN-MITCHELL  
CONTRIBUTOR

On Monday, Oct. 21, athletes gathered in Smullin Theater for the Athletics and Title IX presentation. Athletic Director Rob Passage led the event. The Title IX presentation was meant to encourage an open and honest discussion. The event started with Passage asking students to pull out their phones and anonymously ask questions throughout his presentation through slido.com.

Passage began the evening with some general information about

Title IX and what Willamette's athletic department is doing to follow Title IX. Title IX refers to Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972, that states; "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

There is a three part test of compliance. All schools must pass one of the three tests to be in compliance with Title IX. There is participation equity, which means

for a school like Willamette with 60 percent female enrollment, the student athlete population must be at least 60 percent female as well. Passage says that this is a challenge for any school with a football team because it's hard to find other sports that have a roster that are even close to as large as a football team's. Willamette, along with every other school in the northwest region, does not pass this compliance test. The second compliance test is continued program expansion, which Passage explained Willamette could try to claim. Willamette does pass this

test, but it would not be a very strong claim. Willamette added a women's lacrosse team recently, but before that it had been a few decades since a new sport was added. The compliance test Willamette does pass with flying colors is the third, which is full accommodation of the underrepresented sex. This means the underrepresented sex must have equivalent access to equipment, locker rooms and coaches. In addition to passing one of these compliance tests, there are 11 other mandatory areas of compliance that all athletic departments must follow.

In the recent history of sports at Willamette, a hot topic regarding Title IX was the cut of the women's rowing team three years ago. Passage informed the theater that because the team was cut, the women sued the school and ended up with a consent decree. This decree will last five years and is currently in its third. During this time, Willamette can only add new women's sports teams, including the new women's lacrosse team and the upcoming women's triathlon team. After going into detail about the consent decree, Passage also went over how the department assesses itself and, in an attempt to be transparent, showed a list of the areas in the previous year that Willamette had fallen short. This includes the order that teams play their double header games, giving mens sports teams more time in the senior farewell video and unequal social media coverage.

Throughout the evening, Passage checked in with Associate Athletic Director Leslie Shevlin to see if there were any anonymous questions on slido.com. The most notable question was, "Why do some teams have six assistant coaches and some teams only have one?" Upon reading this question, Passage clarified that while there are in fact more than six coaches on the football team's payroll, this has to do with the size of the roster and the needs of the team. It was mentioned in passing that the men and women's swim, cross country and track teams share coaches because they are able to practice and compete together.

Towards the end of the event, Passage said the following: "I'm glad that folks came to participate. I hope they walked away knowing a little more about our department and our commitment to our student athletes and I hope this will lead to people feeling more comfortable having future conversations."

Senior softball player Kea Ika Dier said the following after the Title IX event: "I thought it was really informative for student athletes to get a better perspective of what goes into our funding and how coaches set up their recruiting or their budget. It made a lot of sense to see why things happen the way they do, it gives a better, broader overview of why." Athletics will be hosting a suicide prevention training on Nov. 19; all are encouraged to participate.

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## Bearcat Spotlight: interview with Lexi Towner



GRACE SHRIFFIN

Lexi Towner

IVY YEOH  
STAFF WRITER

Lexi Towner is a senior at Willamette University and a leader on the women's golf team. She was the captain of her varsity golf team in high school and has competed in numerous tournaments for Willamette, consistently ranking high in the individual rankings in the Northwest Conference (NWC). At the team's recent championship tournament, the NWC Fall Classic, Towner placed 11th out of 41 competitors.

Commenting on her achievements in the tournament, Towner said: "It felt incredible to land

the spot I did at the end of the tournament. I shot a fairly solid first round considering all of the things that were going on in my swing and then to come back and shoot an even better second round was so gratifying. Shooting in the 70s has been a goal of mine since before college."

Towner's love for golf began at age 11, when she first started to learn the game. Her swing coach in high school was also the head coach for the state school in Towner's hometown of Chico, CA, and was a huge influence on her decision to play at the collegiate level. Towner now receives a huge amount of support and encouragement from the

Willamette women's and men's golf coach, Patrick Daugherty. "Coach D does a good job of making sure that both teams have the support that they need and that all players are striving towards their personal goals. He's taught me many things about being an adult and being on my own, but also how to handle difficult life situations and to understand that some things are the way they are and that's okay."

Support from the Willamette community would help bolster morale and aid in the team's success, according to Towner. "Golf as a complete program, so men's side included, tends to be forgotten as a sport on campus... Playing 18 holes is grueling on your body if you are not accustomed to it and I would argue that it does more physiological damage than people tend to think. If people understood that, and treated us as a legit athletic team, we would feel more connected with the athletic community and the WU community as a whole."

Towner is one of only five members on the Willamette women's golf team. Even though golf is an individual sport, Towner said that she and her teammates have gotten very close. In fact, Towner says her teammates refer to her as the "team mom." As the only senior on the team, she uses her experience and skills to help her teammates both on and off the course.

Towner gains as much as she gives in her team's nurturing environment. The team's close bond has proved to have had a positive effect on Towner's mental game: "I am a very individually oriented person and

tend to focus more on my own game rather than what my other teammates are doing. But I will say that having more teammates has really boosted my self confidence and self esteem because there are more voices to tell you you're doing good or that they are proud of what you're doing."

It's not hard to see why Towner is so successful in her golf endeavors. Her mental game preparation is thorough and well organized and her tournament preparation consists of researching the course and creating her own yardage books. "Every season I have about four or five goals in three different categories: tournaments, practice and mental. Tournament goals usually look like, 'two rounds in the 70s' which I did and that's exciting because that is the first time ever... Practice goals usually center around improving aspects of my game like 'more play and short game work than range work.'"

Her objectives all fall under the umbrella of her life mantra: "Grind it out, positive focus, enjoy the process."

The senior left some parting words for beginner golfers and athletes everywhere: "For future golfers, my advice is understand that [in golf] this sport in particular you are not going to see immediate results and it is going to take time. Be patient and put in the work and you will see the results you want... If you don't enjoy the sport you are doing, why are you still doing it? If you do enjoy... at least 90 percent of it, keep going and don't stop."

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## Lacrosse volunteers, builds team chemistry

JAKE PROCINO  
STAFF WRITER

Last year was Willamette University's women's lacrosse team finished its inaugural season with a 6-10 overall record. In the Northwest Conference (NWC), they finished 5th with a 5-7 conference record. Senior Emmett Blaney said, "All around we were pretty positive about it... that was pretty nice for a first year, first season team. There were several close games that could have gone our way... but overall, we were pleased with our results and our effort."

It has taken time to get the team on the field and into the right headspace. The team was a mix of players, some having previous lacrosse experience, and some, including Blaney, who had never played lacrosse before.

Blaney mentioned that they had to build the team culture from scratch. "We start our own traditions... we're the ones deciding how hard we go at practice, how committed we are and how much extra effort we put in. So we're trying to build... a team dynamic but also personal responsibility." This sentiment is reflected on the back of the team's red lacrosse shirts: "Build it, create it, be it."

The team is working on its on-field skills through the 16 off-season practices that the NCAA allows. In addition to the practices, much of the team takes a semester-long weight-lifting class and a half-se-



COURTESY OF WU ATHLETICS

The women's lacrosse team huddles closely during a game in Spring 2019, the team's first season.

mester stick-skill class, which are open to all students. "Something that our coach [Sarah Lautenbach] says a lot is 'embrace the struggle,'" Blaney said. "That, I think, is a key part of the culture we're building."

Not only is the team trying to build culture for on-the-field success, it is also focusing on how it can impact the Willamette community. Willamette celebrated Indigenous Peoples' Week last week with the help of various other groups on campus. Lacrosse continued their volunteer work from last year by helping out the Native and Indigenous Student Union (NISU). Blaney commented on the process: "We asked NISU if

there was anything we could do to help... we tabled at the UC and Goudy handing out cake and flyers that had events for the week and a Land Acknowledgment on the back."

Blaney also mentioned that celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Week was especially important to the lacrosse team. "Lacrosse is originally a native and indigenous sport... It was co-opted by white people, and native people were even banned from playing the sport... We have a responsibility to understand that history and the weight that comes with it." They added that in the future, the team would be working with NISU to draft a "Sport Acknowledgment," which

thanks the Iroquois Nation for creating lacrosse, in addition to the Land Acknowledgment that lacrosse plans on doing before games.

This upcoming season is special for Blaney because this will likely be their final season playing collegiate sports. "I'm so excited. It's gonna be a good season... We have six first-years and all of them have played before... It's definitely going to change the game... I'm excited to improve our record and up the ante."

The Willamette women's lacrosse team returns for a fresh season in February of 2020.

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## This week at Willamette

JACK KUYPER  
SPORTS EDITOR

### WOMEN'S SOCCER

Sat. 10/19

Willamette @ Linfield

0-1

Senior Kristen Barclay made five saves for Willamette

Sun. 10/13

George Fox @ Willamette

1-0

Next week's matches:

10/30: Willamette at Lewis & Clark

11/3: Willamette at Pacific Lutheran

### MEN'S SOCCER

Sat. 10/19

Pacific Lutheran @ Willamette

2-1

Pudget Sound @ Willamette

1-2

Junior Mack van der Velde scored the game-winning goal with six seconds left

Next week's matches:

11/2: Willamette at Whitworth

11/3: Willamette at Whitman

### FOOTBALL

Sat. 10/19

Willamette @ Linfield

0-77

Next week's matches:

11/2: George Fox at Willamette

### VOLLEYBALL

Wed. 10/16

Willamette @ Linfield

3-0

First-year Emma Porter accrued 17 digs and 38 assists

Fri. 10/18

Lewis & Clark @ Willamette

0-3

Sophomore Natalie Klotz registered 13 kills

Next week's matches:

11/1: Willamette at Whitworth

11/2: Willamette at Whitman

### CROSS COUNTRY

UW Invitational

Senior Michael Montague placed 68th in the 8K race. The women's team achieved 17th place in the 6K race.

Warner Pacific Classic  
WU's men's team placed fifth.

### SWIMMING

Next week's matches:

11/1: Pacific Lutheran at Willamette

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Next week's matches:

11/1: Corban at Willamette

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

Next week's matches:

11/5: Willamette at Portland

All images in the score boxes are used courtesy of the respective institutions and do not belong to the *Collegian*.

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# Gen-ed changes spark mixed reactions

CLAIRE ALONGI  
STAFF WRITER

In February of 2018, former ASWU President Jack Wellman sent out an email that included a snippet about a potential change in general education requirements. This announcement was at the beginning of the second section of an ASWU update email that was sandwiched between information about the Board of Trustees and budget information. There was a link to a student feedback survey which asked for opinions on the current general education requirements, but most students probably glanced over it, if they even read the email at all.

But now, the new general education and even major requirements are no longer theoretical. For first year students and some sophomores and juniors, it's a reality. While there is a solid rationale behind these changes, the shift still caused some unpleasant upheaval for those caught in the middle of the switch.

The more general changes came in the form of reducing and restructuring what used to be known as Modes of Inquiry (MOIs), and redesigning the first year colloquium experience. Instead of six MOIs, there are now four learning categories all incoming Willamette University students must fulfill: arts and humanities, mathematical sciences, natural sciences and social sciences. Colloqui-

ums will be less focused on college writing and more about emphasizing critical thinking and discussion, according to a Collegian article published in April earlier this year.

Associate Dean of Student Success Gretchen Moon noted that the revisions have been in the works for a few years and are likely long overdue. "[Willamette has had] the same gen-ed program for over twenty years, which is very long. Almost 25 years. And so it degenerates in a certain way," she said.

In a recent article published in the *New York Times*, WU president Stephen Thorsett discussed the need to overhaul WU in order to save it. Like many small liberal arts colleges, WU has felt the pressure of diminishing enrollment. While the article mainly points to WU's acquisition of the Claremont School of Theology as a diversification and expansion mechanism, it's hard not to see the academic revision to both gen-ed and major requirements as linked.

English professor Scott Nadelson discussed the reasoning behind the reconstruction of the English major. "The primary rationale is to offer English majors more flexibility and more choices in their path through the major, particularly at the 300- and 400-levels, while also continuing to provide a range of options for students looking for general education credit," he said.

While the long term intention

is good for some departments, some students have found themselves caught trying to navigate the transition between the new and old program.

Junior Claire Johnson was especially thrown by the changes since she's had her entire college schedule more or less planned out since her first year. She explained that since she's double majoring and a student athlete, managing time and looking ahead are critical.

"Before the beginning of last year I received an email less than a month before classes started that ruined my entire four-year plan. I was told that a class required for the biology major, one that was strongly recommended to be taken in one's sophomore year, was only going to be offered in the fall. As a result, I had to scramble to rearrange my entire schedule so that I could be in that class," Johnson said.

After another hiccup in the spring she's managed to get her schedule back on track, but is still frustrated at the way the transition got handled.

"Technically, I was given the option of either the new or the old requirements, but I would not have been able to graduate on time, so I forced into sticking onto the old track. This was especially upsetting, because the classes needed for the old biology major began to be phased out before we as students were even informed

that the curriculum was changing," she said.

According to Moon, the changes to the biology major have been in the works for a few years independent of the gen-ed changes but hit at the same time.

But the changes haven't been bad for all students. Sophomore PPLE major Maddie Khoury was actually thankful for the gen-ed switch. "I feel that the new system worked better for myself as it [gave] me more room to find my way around what I wanted to study, and take more classes that interested me," she said.

So at the end of the day, there's some good and bad that come with major and gen-ed changes. Some students have really benefited by the shift, while others have found it a struggle to adjust. But in the long run, the curriculum overhaul makes sense.

"[We are] constantly trying to mediate between our faculty wide and administration wided devotion to a liberal arts education and seeing that as a living moving, breathing thing that changes. So we want to be responsive to what works for students now and keeps them coming," Moon said. Only time will tell if this holds true, but even if it's rocky for some now, there will likely be clearer skies ahead.

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## Divestment pushed by students

CONTINUED from Page 1

As for fossil fuel divestments, the movement is going out of style for a number of reasons. Dan Valles, current VP of Finance, reports that markets have been responsive to ESG business models. He said, "the markets are moving in such a way that to not have environmental social or governance issues in mind while investing" prevents industries from outperforming the market.

Despite being at the divestment threshold and introducing ESG standards, WU has room to grow. Fossil fuel investments still outpace their exposure to renewable energy by four percent. In addition, despite the progress, it seems to be against the self-interests of an institution of higher learning to invest in any industry that contributes to the environmental degradation that will directly impact and prevent young generations of students from accessing higher education.

In all, however, Willamette is on track to improve investment standards. It is a credit to the activism of past students like Kornach and others who created institutional and environmental change at the highest and least transparent levels of the University that still impact the WU community today.

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