

COLLEGIAN

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Say hello to Willamette University's 93 new students



COURTESY OF FRANK MILLER



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Students congregated at the 'Chicken Fountain' to welcome the new American Studies Program (ASP) students with signs and cheers.



JACOB BLOOM
STAFF WRITER

The Willamette community has 93 new students. After arriving on Monday, Feb. 3, students from Tokyo International University (TIU) in Japan will become integrated into all aspects of the Willamette College of Liberal Arts (CLA). From now until the end of the summer semester, there are many opportunities for Willamette students to get involved in the American Studies Program (ASP).

ASP is a foreign exchange program established at Willamette University in 1989, almost 25 years after Willamette and TIU became sister schools in 1965. The establishment of the program was significant for the creation of Tokyo International University of America (TIUA), a unique educational entity aimed to help facilitate cultural exchange between members of the program and students at Willamette. TIUA's main goal is to create opportunities for students to improve their ability to communicate across different cultures and languages.

TIUA has prepared many activities to help the ASP students integrate into the Willamette community. However, much of the programs' success relies on participation of students already attending the CLA.

"I don't think Willamette University students realize how great of an impact they can have on ASP students' experiences at Willamette," said Sarah Shinn, the associate director of ASP student life. "ASP students are coming from a different cultural background, a different language background, so to try to jump in mid-semester and speak in a lan-

guage that's their second language while meeting new people is very difficult. Take any little extra time that you can take. Maybe you're making an intramural team and you know that there's an ASP student living in your residence hall. Say 'Hey, do you want to join our intramural team?' Little things like that can make a connection. That not only makes a huge difference in a student's experience at Willamette, but also for Willamette students who have made lifelong friends."

WILLAMETTE, 3

Slam poet Ebo Barton shares poems about queerness and race



DAWN-HUNTER STROBEL
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

"Welcome to the room, we're saying 'fuck' and being very gay," said Ebo Barton as people entered Cat Cavern last Friday. The slam poet's invitation to Willamette was organized by the Willamette Events Board and coordinated by Cynthia Ramirez ('20), Gillian Pringle ('20) and Adriana Escorcia ('22).

Barton is a Black and Filipino trans and non-binary slam poet. Their poetry centers around issues of gender identity, poverty, racism, gentrification and queerness.

Barton uses they/them pronouns, which they explained to the audience as, "You say, 'Ebo just did the most amazing slam, they are so cool, I wanna give them \$20.'"

When on stage, Barton joked with the crowd between poems and asked about upcoming events on campus. They explained that audiences can respond to slam poetry by snapping or making noise, which shows them that they're doing a good job.

Throughout their performance, they checked in with the audience, at one point leading them in a communal deep breath. Before beginning one poem about their absent father they asked, "Who here has a biological

father who is maybe not the best person?" to which many people in the crowd cheered.

Barton wrote their first poem at age six personifying a street sign near where they grew up. After that, they continued to write poetry but did not understand that's what they were doing until they were an adult.

"For a very long time I thought I invented a type of writing. I was like, 'Yeah, this is jazz words,'" Barton said in an after-show interview, laughing.

Though Barton primarily works in slam poetry, it isn't their only writing practice. They also have experience writing plays and describes themselves as "a distant theatre nerd." They believe theatre reaches a broader audience and allows for a story to be told in a different way to a different set of people.

Barton grew up in Los Angeles but currently lives in Seattle, where they have had the opportunity to be in community with many other slam poets they admire, like Buddy Wakefield and Karen Finneyfrock. "I get to be in community with these people, and they don't know that I'm melting on the inside when I talk to them. I think that that's why you want to get into the work that you're doing. You get to be friends with people who are your heroes," said Barton.

They believe that artists are the real historians and that co-



GRACE SHIFFRIN

Ebo Barton addresses the crowd at the WEB event last Friday night.

lonialism and white supremacy are responsible for divorcing the artist from the historian. "I feel like [artists] are the alternative historian. A way of giving people a different view into the mess," said Barton.

In one poem, they dream of using travel as an escape from the

racism they experience in their day-to-day life, while weaving in stories of racism against Meghan Markle, Duchess of Sussex. The poem ended with the revelation that no one anywhere is free.

EBO BARTON, 5

Baseball team excited to start season



JAKE PROCINO
STAFF WRITER

The baseball team finished with a 19-16 overall record and a 14-10 conference record to finish sixth (out of nine teams) last year. Though it was not enough to earn a tournament bid, they did end the season with a few remarkable statistics. Willamette pitchers gave up 2.43 walks per game, which was the seventh fewest walks allowed per game in the entire NCAA Division III.

Despite these high marks, Head Coach Aaron Wick said, "We did not meet our expectations last year. There were a number of factors, but ultimately we didn't play well enough to defend our NWC tournament championship." Junior outfielder Tyler Vandemark reflected on the past season: "Although statistically we had a good year and an opportunity to compete for the conference tournament, how we finished the season fell short of our expectations. We had high hopes last season after winning our conference and making a playoff run two years ago."

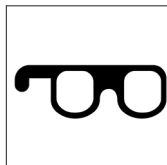
Though disappointing, there are still lessons that can still be gleaned from the past season. Vandemark said, "I think a big lesson would be to not put more pressure on ourselves than we need. We put this pressure on ourselves at times when we weren't successful and that made us play tense."

The team is coming into this season without 11 seniors from the previous season, three of whom earned All-West honors. Along with their on-the-field skills, the team will be missing their experience and leadership. Vandemark said, "We are young and I think it is going to be more of a team leadership year. Some guys have experience and upperclassmen technically have a bigger voice, but I believe everyone on the team will be a leader by how much they contribute to the team and keep each other accountable."

Wick remarked, "We have always had a next man up philosophy. We have talented players in our program that are ready to step up."

The team has taken the disappointment from the last season, the lessons learned and the new leadership and translated it into hard work in the off-season during the fall semester. In the off-season, the team lifted weights and practiced in the 16 days they were allowed to by the NCAA. Vandemark also noted how new faces assisted the team: "We had some additions to our staff that added new and positive dynamics. [New Assistant Coach Connor Bailey] has brought great knowledge with our team lifts and his outfield knowledge is phenomenal."

BASEBALL, 4



LIFESTYLES

Students adorn laptops with stickers to showcase their personalities.

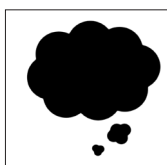
pg. 5



SPORTS

SAAC leaders attend NCAA convention.

pg. 6



OPINIONS

Bring your lunch and your friends to Convocation.

pg. 7



New job connects LGBTQ+ students to resources

JASPER JONES
NEWS EDITOR

The Gender Resource and Advocacy Center (GRAC) has recently received new avenues of funding that have allowed the creation of multiple new programs and positions. One of these additions is a new student position: the LGBTQ+ Resource Coordinator. Oakley Fielder ('22), who uses both they/them and he/him pronouns, is the first student to fulfill this position.

In 2018, the GRAC received a Campus Victim Services Outreach and Advocacy Project grant from the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ), Crime Victims and Survivors Services Division (CVSSD) and Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). This \$174,413 grant created new programs, enhanced existing ones and notably allowed for the GRAC to become the physical space in Montag that it is today. However, as Director of the GRAC and Confidential Advocate Andrea Hugmeyer reported, there are restrictions on how the GRAC can utilize the grant money, and it largely had to be allocated to resources surrounding "victim response work."

"Of course we could have resources and emphasis on LGBTQ+ students as survivors of violence, but it wasn't enough," said Hugmeyer.

At the beginning of the fall 2019 semester, Hugmeyer and

Director of Multicultural Affairs Gordy Toyama moved from the Student Affairs department to the office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), therefore reporting to Jade Aguilar, vice president of EDI.

"This move will allow a more focused and strategic emphasis on our diversity and equity efforts, campus-wide," wrote Vice President for Student Affairs Ed Whipple in an email announcing the change.

Hugmeyer reported that Aguilar advocated for University funds in order to enhance aspects of the GRAC that are outside of victim response resources. Once the GRAC secured this funding, its first priority was to create a student position that is devoted to supporting LGBTQ+ students, thus spurring the creation of the LGBTQ+ resource coordinator.

Since this role has only been active since the beginning of the semester, Fielder and Hugmeyer are in the process of fully realizing the projects and responsibilities of the position.

When asked about their goals for the job, Fielder said, "I really want to make LGBT students aware of the amount of resources that are available through the school."

Fielder shared his own experience with using resources on campus to get connected to healthcare options: "I actually was able to start testosterone

about four months ago through an organization that I found through the help of Bishop and through connections with the GRAC... That organization has helped me transition, which is something that has helped me with my life in a lot of ways."

Fielder expressed wanting to help other trans students with healthcare options and support through the school that not everyone knows exists.

The GRAC has received a grant through the Community Action Fund for Equity and Sustainability Committee (CAFES) that will fund the purchase of chest binders for transmasculine and gender nonconforming students. Fielder is currently working on an application that will be available for students to fill out and apply to receive a binder.

Fielder will also be working on Willamette's second Lavender Graduation, an event that celebrates graduating LGBTQ+ students. They will also help other student organizations, like Rainbow Alliance and QTPOC, with event planning and programming.

"If [students] need help finding any information on trans resources in the Willamette area, the Salem area or just help navigating spaces, I think my position and the focus of my position is to help connect students with people who can help them make progress in ways that uplift who they are," said Fielder.



EXENE VANDENBERG

Oakley Fielder ('22)

Speaking to the history of the GRAC and its multiple new resources, Hugmeyer said: "We created the [GRAC] as a way to bring a lot of common interests and activism together, but since we only had the grant money, I think we had to do heavy em-

phasis on advocacy center side of things, but now we are able to level up on the gender resource piece of it," said Hugmeyer.

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Information about upcoming free binder program

The Gender Resource and Advocacy Center (GRAC) recently received a grant from the Community Action Fund for Equity and Sustainability Committee (CAFES) to provide binders for transmasculine and gender nonconforming students.

An application is in the works and the *Collegian* will publish how to access the application when it is available.

Oakley Fielder ('22), LGBTQ+ resource coordinator, shared information on safe binding:

- Don't bind for longer than eight hours.

- If you're binding daily, try to take a day or two off per week.

- Don't sleep in your binder.

- If you have trouble breathing or pain, take off your binder.

- Never use ace bandages or duct tape.

- Stretch out your shoulders and chest after binding.

Follow the GRAC on Instagram (@theloft_wu) for updates on the application.

WEEKLY REPORT BY CAMPUS SAFETY

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY
Jan. 26, 7:45 a.m. (Matthews parking lot): While on patrol, an officer encountered an individual going through the dumpster. The officer contacted the individual who then left campus.

Jan. 28, 10:39 a.m. (Law School): Campus Safety received a call reporting a suspicious individual soliciting in the area. An officer responded and met with the individual who then left campus.

Jan. 29, 12:10 a.m. (University Apartments): Campus Safety received a call from a student reporting an individual screaming outside. An officer responded, searched the area and located the individual, who was then heading downtown.

Jan. 29, 2:44 p.m. (State Street): While on patrol, an officer encountered a suspicious individual who was on campus earlier in the week. The officer observed the individual until they were off campus.

THEFT
Jan. 28, 12:30 p.m. (University Center): A student stopped by the Campus Safety office to report their bicycle had various parts stolen from it. A report was filed.

Jan. 28, 2:33 p.m. (Visitor parking lot): Campus Safety received a report from an employee reporting that parts had been stolen off of their vehicle.

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

Willamette Academy receives financial support from grants



ANNA SEAHILL
STAFF WRITER

Willamette Academy, led by Executive Director Emilio Solano since October 2016, recently received two grants that will help the Academy financially support its students and staff.

Willamette Academy is a college access program housed in the Fine Arts West building that aims to engage local eighth-through twelfth-grade students from historically underrepresented communities in higher education, according to the Willamette website.

People of color, recent immigrants, low-income and

first-generation college students benefit from the tutoring and mentoring resources available during the academic year, as well as from the Academy’s annual summer camp.

The second grant was announced in early January: the William G. Gilmore Foundation gave \$15,000 to assist with summer camp expenses, like housing and food for participants.

how else we can help the students we already serve through one-on-one engagement; we definitely don’t want more than 30 or 32 students in a classroom and hope to expand experiential

be institutional support, which we have. It is an exciting time for us as we become financially sustainable.”

Part of that mission entails expanding the annual donor base of recent graduates and Willamette students to “make a dent in costs and build momentum.” Another goal is growing the funds from Willamette’s endowment, which account for approximately 20 percent of the Academy’s budget.

Looking to the future, Solano is confident that more can be done to enrich student experience. His dream is to take the tenth-grade participants to the Bay Area, visiting many Oregon and California colleges along the way.

This hope encapsulates what Willamette Academy strives to do: demystify college and prepare students for success while showing what Willamette can offer as an institution. As Solano simply concluded, “When it comes to attending college, our students are going to be ready.”

"This hope encapsulates what Willamette Academy strives to do: demystify college and prepare students for success while showing what Willamette can offer as an institution."

In order to fund these opportunities, the Academy relies heavily on grants. This past fall, the program received the Meyer Memorial Trust, which allocated \$70,000 over a two-year period for general operating support and helped pay the salaries of Solano and the Academy’s student staff.

Finally, the Academy is expecting to receive a third grant for over \$100,000 from the Oregon Youth Development Council later in the semester.

As Solano explained, combining the money from these grants will expand resources for the 150 students involved in the Academy: “We want to consider

learning opportunities like visiting museums or going hiking.”

Solano emphasized that even small grants are quite competitive to secure, which is why the hard work of Willamette’s grant writers is so crucial and appreciated. He said: “Foundations don’t award grants unless they believe in programs. There must

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Willamette welcomes the new American Studies Program class

CONTINUED from Page 1

One program created by TIUA to help facilitate interaction between ASP students and other students at the CLA is a dinner program held every Tuesday and Wednesday. The dinners begin on Tuesday, Feb. 18 and go on for four weeks. The program reserves a special space in Goudy with the aim for the new ASP students to get to know students already attending the CLA.

“We want as many CLA volunteers as possible to kinda just sit with them. There will be some conversation topics on the dinner table if you want to adhere to that, but a lot of times people just end up talking and it’s super fun. It’s a chance to help them acclimate to Willamette the first few weeks they’re here,” said Colin Mathews (’21), a member of the International Peer Coach Leadership Team.

In addition to the dinner program, there are other opportunities for students of the CLA to meet ASP students throughout the semester.

“We have outings to Salem for the ASP students to learn about tipping, Jeopardy for them to learn about slang, karaoke and mini golf. As much as [CLA] students want to get involved is super encouraged,” said Mathews.

While the ASP program is more than 30 years old, there are still a few misconceptions many currently enrolled Willamette students may have about the program. One of them is that ASP students are not members of the CLA.

“Because we have a building different from the main campus, people assume that students coming from the TIU are not Willa-

mette students,” said Masaki Shimada, director of student affairs and the TIUA leadership team. “The fact of the matter is that, for one year, they’re Willamette students.”

Another misconception about ASP is that the program is intended only to help students from TIU. In fact, a crucial part of its goal is to educate Willamette students about Japan and Japanese culture.

“In general, not only at Willamette University, but also other students in other universities in the United States, I wish as many Americans as possible gain knowledge with things about Japan...You may just say hello to an ASP student when you meet them, or you can be IPC, International Peer Coach, or IPA, International Peer Assistant, for the summer semester,” said the president of TIUA, Hiroshi Takahashi.

When speaking of his experience with the program, Mathews said: “I think it’s rewarding for Willamette students. It’s such a cool educational opportunity to experience other cultures. I don’t know many other schools that’s as hands-on as the American Studies Program.”

TIUA hopes all members of Willamette University get involved with ASP students in one way or another.

“I hope that the domestic students have a chance to engage with students from a different background... it’s a different country, different way to grow up,” said Shimada. “There are many differences, but it’s a great opportunity for learning. Don’t be afraid. Ask them questions, engage, discuss, argue. I think that’s the most important thing.”

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Jaelin Sonoda (’20) leads a group of newly arrived ASP students to their residence hall.



Students made signs to greet the new ASP class during their first steps on campus.



Professor Profile: David Craig, lover of birds

NOAH DANTES
MANAGING EDITOR

If you don't know of Biology Professor David Craig's passion for birds, his office leaves no room for doubt. Behind rows of books about birds and next to a framed portrait of another is a taxidermied golden eagle, impossible to ignore.

"It probably showed up six or seven years ago, came in a big box," Craig said. "It came with no return address and a note that said that 'This was originally Willamette's property. I've had it for a long time and I really shouldn't have and I'm returning it.' Somebody, at some point, hijacked that eagle and then mailed it back." Now, it roosts on a high shelf above his desk.

"Something about birds and their movement definitely captured my imagination more than anything else," Craig said. Now both a professor and a behavioral ecologist, he spent his childhood in the small town of Scappoose, OR, reading books on birds and using his family's binoculars to explore on his own.

Because he was the first in his family to attend college, at the time he did not know all of the opportunities available to him. He originally thought he would become a medical doctor or a veterinarian because that was all he saw on television.

"[Say you are] a behavioral ecologist. You could go and do work with artists, scientists and gender studies," Craig said. "Now that I'm on the other side of a whole bunch of class barriers, I know all kinds of things you can do. But you have to be kind of an insider and have that profes-

sional or social network connection [to know] those things can be done."

When Craig went to Lewis & Clark College to pursue his undergraduate degree, he met a group of professors who asked him about his bird watching. "They told me I was super talented and I was really good, that I was a scientist and I should go do research," he said. "And so I did that in the summer of 1987."

He credited the professors who intervened in his life and told him he could turn bird watching into a career, and now looks to open doors for others. "That summer, I decided I want to be a professor in a small college in the Pacific Northwest, so I can study birds and then I can help people," Craig said, referring to his students.

Craig started working at Willamette in 2000. While his research focuses on birds, he is interested in knowing what every "critter or plant or weird slimy thing on the ground" is. He uses an app called iNaturalist to take photos of and log plants and animals he finds outside. Last year, he and members of one of his classes documented over 10,000 organisms on campus.

While Craig said that books and lectures are valuable ways to introduce a topic to students, he emphasized that it is important to get students outside in order to get them exploring and learning.

Any of his office hours can be turned into a nature walk and sometimes he makes his assignments simply to go outside and sit somewhere for 30 minutes and observe. On Wednesdays at 8 a.m., Craig hosts a nature walk open to



COURTESY OF FRANK MILLER

Craig (middle) shares his love of the outdoors with students by conducting nature walks around campus.

all which departs from the Olin lobby.

He also has a financial incentive to get students outside: there is a \$100 prize waiting for the student who can find a hummingbird nest with active chicks in it. Additionally, he plans to compose an "ode to the person who found the nest" as the challenge enters its 19th year without a winner.

Another reason Craig uses the outdoors as his classroom is to combat students' anxiety surrounding climate change. "Folks have a general sense of anxiety and wonder about [climate change] based on the media... so I'm like, let's go out and see

what we can do. Let's go plant some trees or let's look at what's here and get engaged," Craig said. "It's super empowering. You can think, okay, the climate is changing, and I can be resilient and persistent and I can be part of that group of people who are doing something, versus just being scared and worried."

On Feb. 1, Willamette University celebrated its 178th anniversary, but Craig said that's the wrong way to think about the day because "that's when we officially took something away from somebody else."

Craig encouraged students to go visit the large trees in the

Sparks parking lot. "Those are trees that are the direct product of the fire technology of the prairie maintenance [by Indigenous peoples]... They've been here longer than we have as an institution. So go take a look at those trees, and think about the way in which the world has changed. That is a thing that we can include in our stories today and not take for granted. And then also what we can do reconciliation and restoration. Do that. Then look around to see some cool birds there, too."

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Horoscopes: week of Feb. 7-14

BILLY ULLMANN
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WARNING: Venus in Aries: The planet of romance and love enters Aries on Feb. 7. When Venus is in this sign, expect people to be more confident and direct in their romantic endeavors. However, there might be an issue with sustaining interest beyond the initial pursuit. Venus leaves this sign and enters Taurus on March 4.



Aries: On Feb. 6, the moon enters Cancer, bringing you sentimentality and pushing you to be vulnerable. The moon then moves into Leo on Feb. 8 and goes full on Feb. 9. The full moon will ask you to make sure what you are going after serves you. The moon goes into Virgo on Feb. 10, making it a good time to try to be more methodical and thoughtful.



Taurus: The moon goes into Cancer on Feb. 6, asking you to feel your emotions rather than distracting yourself from them. On Feb. 8, the moon enters Leo, with a full moon the next day. The full moon will hopefully push you

to go for something you haven't been sure about. The moon then enters Virgo; remember that learning new things is as important as practicing what you already know.



Gemini: On Feb. 6, the moon goes into Cancer, so practice vulnerability. The moon then goes into Leo on Feb. 8, hopefully giving you a sense of sureness and directness. The moon is full on Feb. 9; ask yourself what you want. The moon then enters Virgo on Feb. 10, so work through any potential ideas and think methodically.



Cancer: The moon enters your sign on Feb. 6, allowing you to process and experience your emotions. The moon then goes into Leo on Feb. 8, with a full moon on Feb. 9. The full moon will encourage you to go after what you want and seek fulfillment. The moon then goes into Virgo on Feb. 10; it will be a good time to get your life in order and send any emails you've been putting off.



Leo: The moon goes into Cancer on Feb. 6, letting you work

through some things and feel it out. The moon enters your sign on Feb. 8, with a full moon on Feb. 9. The full moon will push you to go after your dreams but remember what it takes to go after them. On Feb. 10, the moon goes into Virgo; try to get things done and work on your schedule.



Virgo: On Feb. 6, the moon enters Cancer, helping you to recognize your emotions and how they affect your mood. The moon moves into Leo on Feb. 8 with a full moon the following day. The full moon in Leo may allow you to feel secure in a desire and the pursuit of it. The moon then enters your sign on Feb. 10, giving you strength in your ideas and learning.



Libra: The moon moves into Cancer on Feb. 6, encouraging you to feel and process what happens to you. The moon goes into Leo on Feb. 8, giving you confidence and certainty in your choices, especially as the moon is full the next day. The moon goes into Virgo; don't get too tied up in the details of everything.



Scorpio: On Feb. 6, the moon goes into Cancer, asking you to examine any emotions that you may have been ignoring. The moon moves into Leo on Feb. 8, giving you confidence and a sense of sureness in all you take on, especially as the moon is full on Feb. 9. The moon enters Virgo on Feb. 10, so try to clean your space and be productive.



Sagittarius: The moon goes into Cancer on Feb. 6; know that vulnerability is not weakness and that love does not have to hurt. The moon then enters Leo on Feb. 8. On Feb. 9, there is a full moon in Leo which will ask you to be more upfront with others and yourself. The moon enters Virgo on Feb. 10, giving you energy to figure out your thoughts and ideas.



Capricorn: The moon enters your sister sign, Cancer, on Feb. 6, making you sensitive and imaginative. On Feb. 8, the moon goes into Leo. With a full moon in Leo the next day, you are able to fully understand your wants and be able to go after them.

The moon goes into Virgo on Feb. 10, encouraging you to communicate and think.



Aquarius: The moon is in Cancer on Feb. 6, allowing you to feel your emotions. The moon enters sister sign Leo on Feb. 8. The moon is full on Feb. 9, so have confidence in what you take on but remember to keep your ego in check. The moon enters Virgo on Feb. 9; make plans and work on your responsibilities.



Pisces: The moon enters Cancer on Feb. 6; letting you take some time to heal and to cry (if need be). The moon goes into Leo on Feb. 8. On Feb. 9, there is a full moon in Leo, providing you strength and courage to go through with anything you need or want to do. The moon enters sister sign Virgo on Feb. 10, so try seeing things in a logical and detached way for once.

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

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Graphics: Blake Carlile

Students use laptop stickers for self-expression

SOPHIE SMITH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

You've surely seen them around campus: stickers, colorful and eclectic, plastered to the back of laptops, the sides of water bottles, the frames of bikes. Sometimes it's just one or two; sometimes the stickers are layered so thick you can barely tell what's underneath. Some are gorgeous. Some are vulgar. Most are specific, representing the personal, often niche, interests of their owner.

The practice of customizing one's belongings with stickers is ubiquitous on Willamette's campus. So why do so many students do this? What do we aim to signal to the world when we affix a sticker to an item like a laptop?

Some students say they want their stickers to strike up conversations; others want to signal aspects of their identity and personality to the world; others still consider the practice a creative outlet. And, of course, we mustn't forget all the folks who prefer to leave their possessions pristine.

When asked to describe her favorite sticker on her laptop, Rose Wilkinson ('22) smiled and said, "I've been waiting for someone to ask me this." She pointed to one that says, "I love P-22," referring to the name of a mountain lion living in Los Angeles and the movement advocating for the protection of the city's big cats.

"They're all environment and conservation themed," said Wilkinson, referring to her array of stickers featuring animals, conservation organizations and National Parks. "That's most of my identity."

Like Wilkinson, many Willamette students decorate their belongings with stickers that represent aspects of their personalities.

Dani Abraham ('20) chose certain stickers for her laptop because she found them to be positive and funny, and thinks convey those sides of her personality to others. Joanna Gold ('22) said of her stickers, "They're representations of the things I like and of things I find funny," and added that she hopes her stickers will allow

her to connect with people who share her interests.

When asked about their favorite sticker, Mads Malone ('20) pointed to one depicting a rugby ball with the words "Ruck Off" on it. "Not everyone knows what 'Ruck Off' is," they said. "It's a way to advertise to people who like rugby."

Allegra Starr ('22) chose the stickers on her laptop for a similar reason. She has several stickers related to skiing and said she likes that only some people know what her stickers refer to.

"It's not a picture of a skier, but if someone knows about skiing they probably know what this is," she said, pointing to a sticker of a ski apparel brand's logo. "[Stickers] build connections between people. You can find things in common with someone else without having to have a 20-minute conversation first."

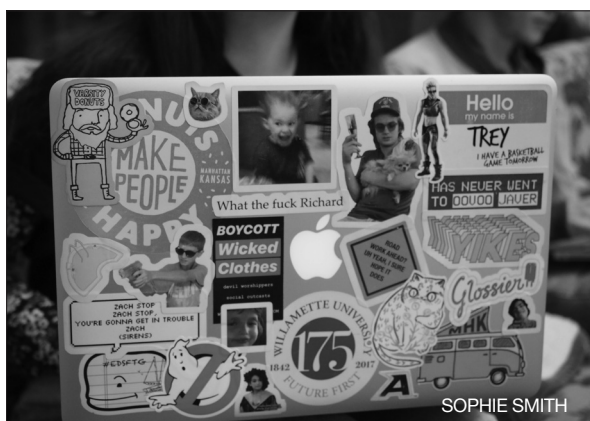
The process of decorating one's belongings with stickers can be an elaborate one, and some consider it a form of artistic expression. For Jordan DeGelia ('21), the conversation about laptop stickers raises a debate about whether or not a stickered laptop can be considered a form of art.

"Why couldn't a laptop be the same as collage work if it's still using the same principles of design? There's still a certain amount of artfulness in this," DeGelia said. "Even if it's not fine art, it's still a form of art and creation."

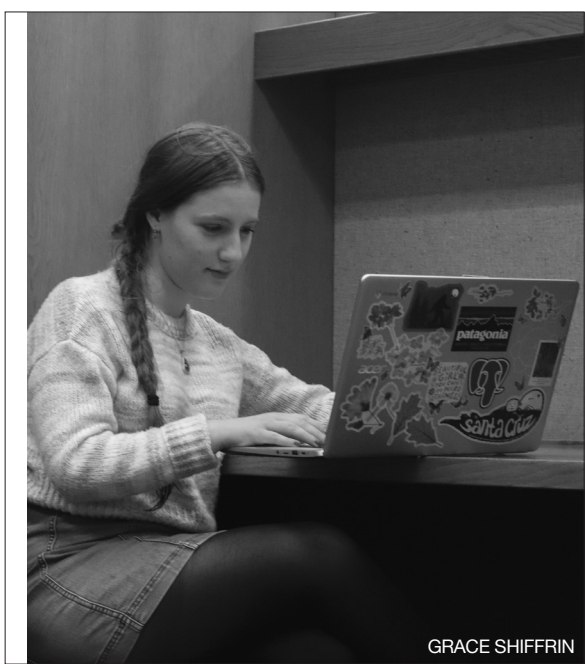
When decorating his own laptop, DeGelia keeps in mind those principles of design, including form, shape, balance and color. "It's meant for others to find aesthetic and interesting," he said.

While many students choose to decorate their belongings with stickers, by no means is it a universal practice.

Lily O'Brien ('21) keeps stickers on the bottom of her laptop, so only she and close friends are able to see them. She said she has concerns about how her stickers might be perceived in professional situations.



Alanna Kelly ('21) (top left) approached the decoration of her laptop with intentionality. "I messed around with their placement for a while," she said, explaining that she used her stickers to craft narrative and color themes.



Sophia Leonard ('22) (bottom left) and Charlotte Holmes ('23) (bottom right) pose with their laptops.

"Someone told me you shouldn't have stickers on your laptop, especially in a professional setting, and some of mine might be inappropriate," she said. "I mean," she added with a shrug, "There are boobs on some."

Sophia Leonard ('22) made a similar point. "With my job, I'm really conscious of the way I, or this laptop, is presented to the world." Because of this, Leonard has re-

moved or covered certain stickers on her laptop out of concern that they could be perceived as inappropriate or disrespectful.

Jacob Bloom ('23) has no stickers on his laptop, although not for the same reasons: "You know, I haven't thought about it... Actually, it's a trend I've been kind of perplexed about. It would never occur to me to stick a one-dollar product on an expensive machine."

Although plenty of students prefer not to decorate their belongings with stickers, the practice is still widespread, representing the varied interests and personalities of Willamette students. So, next time you see someone with an interesting sticker stuck to their water bottle, maybe say something to them. Chances are that they'll be happy to talk to you about it.

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Ebo Barton discusses the power of language in art

CONTINUED from Page 1

In another poem titled "Open for Business" Barton talked about gentrification. "It's like they are poking holes in our streets to see if we will leak from them," they said as audience members nodded their heads and snapped in approval.

In the interview after the event, Barton expanded on their poem stating, "Gentrification not only displaces people from their homes and from their locations, it also displaces art."

When asked about the power of language in the interview, Barton said: "I think language is more complex than we make it. If we're both speaking English, we don't necessarily understand each other. We can change the world if we recognize that we're not all speaking the same language and start to figure out how to do that."

Barton recounted times when they submitted poems about transness and publishers responded saying their stories are not the kind of trans stories they're looking for. "We need [trans] voices. I would love for there to be such a variety of trans stories that they can't pinpoint." They went on to

say that there is not just one trans narrative and every type needs to be seen and accepted.

To trans poets, Barton said: "Trans poets are so necessary. If you set yourself up to do it, don't not do it because we need your voice."

Before leaving the stage, Ebo advised everyone to make a mistake in 2020. To aspiring poets they advised that dreams don't happen overnight.

"You're not in your final form. Your best poem is not written yet. My best poem is not written yet."

Barton's work has been featured in "Black Imagination," a collection of works curated by Natasha Marin. Barton is also a curator of the Alchemy Poetry Series in Seattle and also offers a series of workshops ranging from the basics of spoken word to, "Deconstructing the Superhero" and "Our Revolution Anthem."

To find out more about Ebo Barton and their upcoming events, visit their website ebobarton.com or follow @ebobarton on Instagram.

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Ebo Barton poses with members of the Willamette Events Board after the event in Cat Cavern.

Remembering Kobe Bryant, 1978-2020

JAMES WILLIS
SPORTS EDITOR

On Jan. 26, a helicopter crash in southern California resulted in the tragic passing of Kobe Bryant, his daughter Gianna and seven other individuals. *TMZ* was the first news outlet to report on the accident, which led to worldwide shock over the death of a man who's legacy went beyond his accomplishments on the court. Thousands of people were initially confused, thinking that this was a publicity stunt to gain attraction to the site, along with the dozens of reports that didn't match with one another. But as this tragedy was confirmed by a medical coroner/examiner of Los Angeles County, the shock felt worldwide quickly turned to grief. As one of the greatest athletes of all time, he left behind an amazing legacy and had the highest honors in basketball to prove it.

Kobe Bryant was one of the nation's best high school basketball players during the mid-nineties. Rather than go to college to continue his education, he chose to enter the NBA draft. He was drafted by the Charlotte Hornets, but was then traded to the Los Angeles Lakers. From there, his career blossomed. To put why he is considered one of the best basketball players ever into perspective, here is a list of his major accomplishments. In 20 years in the NBA, he was a five-time champion, two-time Finals

MVP, 18- time All-Star, 15-time All-NBA, 12-time All-Defensive Team, the 2008 NBA and fourth all time on the postseason scoring list. He also received two gold medals for participating in the 2008 and 2012 Olympic games and won an Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film in 2017. Kobe was known for pushing himself and his teammates to be the best athletes they could be, and would accept nothing but the best. He could speak multiple languages and would often talk trash to opponents in their native language if English wasn't their first language. His iconic fade-away shot inspired the countless people that would tune in to watch him play. He took on the nickname "Black Mamba" and his game inspired countless others to try to imitate him on the court.

But to many people around the world, Kobe was more than just a basketball player. His drive, work ethic and mentality to attack each and every day to get better made a lasting impact. Alec Stevenson, a senior who hails from the Los Angeles area had this to say about Kobe's impact on the city: "Kobe brought the city together through the priceless memories he brought to all Laker fans. He was a personal hero to myself and countless others who grew up watching the best basketball player of all time, so when I heard of his passing I was extremely saddened."

When Kobe retired, it wasn't a big surprise to most that he chose

to keep working rather than live a life of ease with the large amount of money he earned. His iconic "Mamba Mentality" helped him in his efforts to give back to the game. Kobe also worked to raise awareness for women's sports. He sponsored and coached his daughter's Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) sponsored basketball team. Kobe was also extremely vocal about loving the fact that he got the opportunity to raise four girls.

There is a reason that millions of people would toss their trash in a trash can and yell "Kobe!" He will always be remembered as one of the best basketball players of all time. There is a reason that he is the first player to ever have two jersey numbers retired for the same team. The NBA announced that Kobe will be inducted into the basketball Hall of Fame in the 2020 class.

Dozens of murals and vigils have popped up all over L.A. and every NBA team has honored Kobe in some way. His impact on the world was seen with international organizations paying homage to his legacy. We will not forget the Black Mamba, Gianna Bryant and the seven other people who tragically passed away.

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Baseball looks to start strong

CONTINUED from Page 1

Now in the spring semester, practices have ramped up in preparation for the season during three weeks of practice they have before opening day. Vandermark notes that in-season practices are more focused on fundamentals and getting as many reps in as possible. Wick sees less of a difference: "The only difference is the scouting report and game preparation based on the team we are playing and the things that may come up in the game. For the most part we are trying to emphasize player development and game competition everyday."

The rain has been an obstacle for practice—unfortunately, baseball is one of those sports that cannot be safely played in the rain. Oregon's winter has delivered in its typically wet ways, though Vandermark said that the team is able to work around it. "Unfortunately, we can't always use our baseball field because of the rain, but with the access to Sparks field and the cages in the basketball courts, our team makes the most of practices."

Wick echoed, "Being able to use multiple facilities allows us the flexibility to train in any condition and at anytime during the day."

Vandermark mentioned several keys to a successful season, one being off-the-field time management. "Baseball is very time consuming. For example, on a normal Saturday doubleheader, we would be at the field from 9a.m., until almost 5p.m."

The long days necessitate another one of Vandermark's keys: mental toughness. "On the field it is important to stay mentally tough in a game of failure. Long days can put a lot of stress on you mentally, especially if everything isn't going the way you planned."

Wick mentioned his keys: "On the field, continue to trust in the process. Work and have a growth mindset. Have grit throughout the season. Off the field, continue to build team unity and maintain good balance with school."

The season starts this weekend and Vandermark has a few games circled on the schedule. "I am really looking forward to Whitman and Whitworth. Whitman has a lot of returners after a successful season last year, and I would love to prove a point about our team. Whitworth... swept us last year, and I would love to redeem ourselves and win that series."

Wick reflected on the coming season: "The team is excited to start playing someone in a different uniform... Each week will be a challenge. We have aspirations of playing in the NCAA tournament. The end of year trip to Chicago will help us feel what it is like to get on a plane and go play nationally-ranked competition."

The baseball season starts with a three game series at Eagle Rock, CA versus Occidental College on Feb. 7 and 8.

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SAAC representatives attend NCAA conention in California

BRITT MITCHELL
STAFF WRITER

As spring semester started and Willamette students headed to class, senior Mika Costello from the women's swim team and junior Mack van der Velde of men's soccer headed to California for the 2020 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Convention. This is an annual convention where student-athlete leaders and representatives from all three divisions of college athletics from all over the country meet together. Here, they discuss different campaigns and initiatives that the NCAA has been working on, which gives these student athletes tools to bring back to their own campuses.

Costello attended this conference as the primary member of the NCAA Division 3 national Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), but also represented Willamette as the Chair of the Inclusion subcommittee and the communications director. Costello's many titles make an impressive resume with the NCAA, but in addition to those roles they were the leading student-athlete to help put on the first LGBTQ+ and allies reception at this convention. Over the course of the four day convention, Costello says their days consist of "a lot of in-

teractions with a lot of people. Whether it is presenting our initiative or talking to (NCAA) President Emmert or if it is talking to other athletes, it is a lot of action and listening. But it's not just listening to presentations, it is actually doing something, using my voice to create a better atmosphere for student athletes."

Costello has been a leading voice in LGBTQ+ representation in the NCAA for a few years now, and a major accomplishment at this convention was having the first gender inclusive restroom for participants of the convention. A large focus of this year's convention was on mental health, and Costello explained that the next step for the representatives is to "have more discussions on mental health and breaking the stigma surrounding mental health on campus."

Van der Velde attended the convention as Willamette's SAAC co-president, which gave Willamette "an insight on how the NCAA system really works and all its intricacies, because it's really complicated and it seems like a big system we don't have insight to. This allowed me to voice our school's opinions." Van der Velde's biggest takeaway from this year's convention was "the idea that you judge yourself on your intentions

but others judge you based on your behaviors. Its really difficult because you've been in an environment that allows you to think with people with the same mindset, but when you come back not everyone is on the same page [about NCAA initiatives]... I need to narrow down what I want to take back [to Willamette]... It is hard because there are so many topics people care about." Van der Velde explained that the Athletics department plans to continue their Monday night workshops to get conversations going on the three main campaigns from the convention, which were sustainability, inclusion and mental health. A current initiative taking place is the athletics winter fundraiser for The Taylor House, which is a shelter for homeless teens in the Salem area.

Costello and Van der Velde work year round with the Athletics department and lead our SAAC representatives on initiatives year round. The ability to go to the annual NCAA convention is important to have what Willamette has been doing, as well as to learn what other athletic departments are doing and how different athletes can learn from one another all across the country.

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Opinion: The library is the best place to study on campus

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STAFF WRITER

While its formal name is the Mark O. Hatfield Library, to most students it's known by its many shorter abbreviations: Hatfield, the library and, affectionately, "The Lib." On a college campus rife with academic buildings, cozy alcoves and a popular coffee shop, the library is still the best place to buckle down and get some work done, whether it's in a group or on your own.

According to the Willamette website, the library houses 425,000 books, 6,000 musical scores, 5,000 sound recordings and 7,000 video recordings. On top of that, WU students have access to over 100 databases and 25,000 journal subscriptions. That goes without mentioning the staff of librarians and students who keep it all running.

"The research help desk is such a great tool when you need to find a lot of material and don't know where to start. The library staff are incredibly friendly and helpful. The online tools are very useful too, and I use those a lot, especially the online databases that we have access to," said junior Layce Yamauchi.

Besides digital and physical resources, the library also provides diverse spaces for students to study in, from the group-oriented section near the entrance of the building to private study rooms and the completely silent second floor.

"I work in the library pretty infrequently, but it's a perfect setting for group work and I use it for that five to 10 times each semester," said senior Gus Mayano.

While the first floor is ideal for projects, the second floor in particular is a favorite of students, due to its no-talking policy.

"The second floor of the library is my go-to if I have a lot of reading I need to get through and I don't want to get interrupted. As an R.A., my room is useful but I'm still accessible there, and sometimes you've got to step away... On the second floor I'll wave 'hi' to people, but it's calm and it's quiet," said sophomore David Flanagan.

Yamauchi prefers the second floor for similar reasons. Additionally, she enjoys the location of the library, which looks over the Mill Stream on one side.



SYDNEY GROFF

Different groups of Willamette students spend their time outside of class studying at the first-floor study tables in the Hatfield Library.

"My go-to spot is usually the second floor tables on the left overlooking the Mill Stream. It's quite idyllic. Plus, there's a really nice chair there that I always seem to fall asleep on. If it's a nice day and I want to feel the sun, I'll head towards the back of the second floor and sit by the windows overlooking the Sparks parking lot. Sometimes it gets really hot back there, but the natural lighting is fantastic," she said.

Besides the coveted quiet of the second floor, the library also offers what Yamauchi refers to as the "underrated" Fishbowl. While the rest of the library does close at night, the Fishbowl remains open 24 hours, accessible by card swipe. The little space houses desks, computers, couches, printers and a small ongoing exchange of donated books. It's perfect for that one (or maybe more) times you find yourself careening towards a deadline in the wee hours of the night and need a place to focus that doesn't have your bed beckoning to you.

At the end of the day, there are lots of places on campus to study, depending on what you're looking for, but the library is a pretty standout option.

Perhaps Yamauchi said it best: "Sometimes you just need a place to think."

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SYDNEY GROFF

Above: Another group of students do work at the study tables in the social section, found on the first floor. Below: The silent study section on the library's first floor has ample windows that face the Sparks parking lot.



SYDNEY GROFF

Opinion: Convocation should be utilized more by campus

BROOKE COX
OPINIONS EDITOR

Convocation has been part of the Willamette community since its introduction in the 1990s by the previous University Chaplain, Charles Wallace. Now, it is a weekly event held weekly in Cone Chapel on Thursdays from 11:30 to 12:30 p.m. where students, faculty and professors have a place to have facilitated discussions on topics important to the Willamette community. Convocation is a good event to attend and more people would benefit from attending or getting involved with it because of the wealth of information it provides to the Willamette community.

For the last eight years, Karen Wood, the University Chaplain has taught the class that puts on this

weekly event. The current Convocation class is made up of seven students, but is limited to about 10 students per semester.

According to Wood, Convocation should be "mind opening, challenging [and] should create community if possible."

As a student-driven event, part of the task of the class is to propose and set up different Convocations that would be interesting to the community as a whole. Often, these topics are unique to Willamette.

According to Lucia Mosca ('22), who was in the class last semester, she joined the class because she wanted to attend more Convocations. In particular, she said that two of her favorites were "Religion At Willamette" and "History of Activism at Willamette University."

"Religion at Willamette" featured a panel of students representing different faiths and religious groups on campus, while "History of Activism" featured six events of campus activism from the late 1960s to the present day through photos of protests, as well as articles printed in the *Collegian*.

Deciding whether a particular topic will incite people to attend Convocation has always been difficult, because the number of people who attend fluctuates with the topic and the semester. "If I knew the secret formula for getting lots of folks to Convo, I would apply it," Wood said.

Previously, students had to choose between lunch and attending Convocation because of the posted no food or drink sign, but Wood said, "We would like for folks to ignore that."

Students have tried many different ways of advertising to increase Convocation attendance numbers: through @wuconvocation on Instagram, social media posts, posters and announcements in the Today@Willamette calendar, as well as encouraging anyone they know to come to see it.

Through this process, students have learned event planning skills, organizing speakers and discussions that would engage the greater community.

"The class was helpful in learning about what it takes to present an event, both at Willamette specifically and general planning," said Mosca.

This Thursday, Feb. 6, there will be a panel of four Willamette professors talking about their perspectives on the impeachment

proceedings. Then, on Feb. 13, there will be a discussion about plant-based milk alternatives, including a milk taste test and conversations about sustainability, environmental impacts and nutritional value.

With a small time commitment to attend weekly Convocations and a wide variety of topics to choose to engage in throughout the semester, Convocation is a good place to have a discussion about topics that matter to the students, faculty and professors on Willamette's campus. It's a place for people to meet others outside of their classes, learn about topics they're interested in and discover resources they might not have known were available to them.

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Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed here are the author's own, and do not reflect the perspectives of the Opinions Editor nor *The Collegian* staff.

