



The magazine of
Willamette University
Spring 2018

Willamette

Inside: The quest for truth; gender goes beyond binary; and a bioscientist puts the Willamette motto into action.



During the second annual Global Day of Service, Willamette students volunteer at a Salem nonprofit's food garden.



Bioscientist Travis Stiles '05 explains how three professors and a fraternity brother inspired his potentially life-saving research.

Willamette's motto, "Not unto ourselves alone are we born," represents what I learned during my time at the university — not only in the classroom but also from three inspirational mentors and a friend who died far too young.

A year after I graduated, my Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity brother Kalan Morinaka was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). There was never hope or anything to be done — just a slow, painful march to an inevitable death.

Kalan's suffering and my own feelings of powerlessness eventually led me to a career in medical research. While a PhD student, I discovered a receptor in the central nervous system that seemed to be involved with the regeneration of failed nerves. In 2013, I established a biotech company, Novoron Bioscience, to develop drugs that target the receptor and could potentially reverse nerve damage in the brain and spinal cord.

Now, as part of JLABS, an incubator division of Johnson & Johnson Innovation, Novoron is developing regenerative drugs for damage and/or disease of the brain and spinal cord. Our main programs, funded by nearly \$2 million in grants from the National Institutes of Health, are in spinal cord injury and multiple sclerosis.

Current approved therapies for MS aim to reduce the immune system's attacks on myelin — the protective coating around nerves. But our approach instead aims to restore myelin, effectively reversing the damage from MS. Our technology isn't disease-specific. As a nerve repair drug, it could help people who have had a stroke or sustained a traumatic brain injury.

It's both humbling and exciting to have the chance to potentially relieve suffering and add to human knowledge. But if not for three Willamette exercise science professors — Peter Harmer, Stasinos "Stas" Stavrianeas and Julianne "Jules" Abendroth-Smith — I probably never would have made it to graduate school.

All three were incredible mentors who believed in me enough that I learned to believe in myself. Close to graduation, I didn't have a plan for the future — something that Jules found unacceptable. She insisted I go to grad school, even though I'd missed most application deadlines. Nonetheless, Jules not only found a program that would take me, but one that would do so with tuition remission and a full stipend.

I still keep in touch with Stas and Peter, but Jules passed away unexpectedly a while back. She never got to see where I ended up, and I never really got to tell her what she did for me. When I speak publicly about my work, I still tell stories of Jules, Stas and Peter. Willamette didn't just teach me a motto — it gave me an ethos and the best role models.

The flip side of both my career and the Willamette motto is a sense of responsibility to do right. I wasn't prepared for the pressure of turning my original discovery into a fundamentally new way to address damage or disease of the brain and spinal cord. Add the realities of running a company and feeling responsible for my employees, and it can be a very heavy weight.

As a result of federal budget cuts, 2017 was a rough year for research scientists, and Novoron felt the pinch. But I knew we couldn't lose our momentum, so we managed to keep going. When the goal is the greater good, giving up isn't an option.

What does the Willamette motto mean to you? How does it show up in your life? Email wu-stories@willamette.edu.



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Features

10 Questions of Truth

"Fake news" and "alt facts" aren't all we have to contend with in determining what information to accept — powerful internal and external influences also affect our beliefs.

20 Beyond Binary

For people across the country and on the Willamette campus, the diversity of human identity extends beyond traditional notions of only male and female genders.

Departments

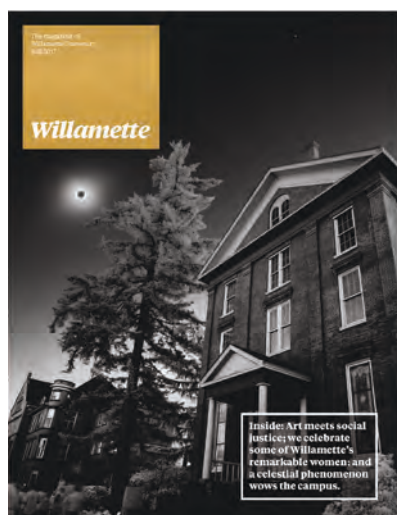
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On a sunny spring day, students enjoy an impromptu baseball game on the Quad.

Cover

A student photographs the iconic magnolia tree on campus.

>In Box



I enjoyed reading the fall 2017 issue of Willamette magazine. I did, however, find an error in your article about the women of the university (“Herstory,” p. 14).

You identify Suresht Bald as the first female faculty member of color in the university. However, Marta Velez was an outstanding Spanish professor many years before Dr. Bald was hired. I had the distinct pleasure of studying Spanish under Marta and serving as her senior assistant. She brought the flavors of her native Cuba alive in the classroom.

As a powerful Latina, she deserves recognition for helping diversify the faculty of Willamette University.

— Cammy Shay '80

In response to your “Herstory” article, I would advocate for adding/recognizing Mary Eyre, class of 1918. She was an inspiration to me (I was one of her Willamette scholarship recipients) and many generations of students.

Mary helped save historic houses, such as Deepwood, taught schoolchildren for decades and advocated for world peace. Mary was also one of Willamette’s commencement speakers (I think the first woman). I have a souvenir copy of her address — it was very important to her.

— Brandy O’Bannon '98, MBA'00

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Published correspondence may be edited for length and clarity.

Editor’s Note: In 1975 Mary Eyre was indeed Willamette’s first female commencement speaker — at the age of 78. After graduating from Willamette with a history degree, Mary embarked on a 40-year teaching career in Salem high schools that was recognized by the naming of an elementary school in her honor. In 1962 Mary received an Alumni Citation from Willamette, and in 1973 she was named Salem’s Outstanding Citizen. She passed away in 1999 at the age of 102.

Correction: The “Herstory” article in the fall 2017 magazine stated that Willamette University introduced coed dining facilities in 1967. In fact, this change happened in fall 1970. We apologize for the error.

Where’s Tufton?

“Wow! I had no idea that after graduating from Willamette, Tufton went on to found Beamish Optics,” joked Suzanne Snell '09, who was the first reader to spot the Tufton Beamish reference in the eclipse watchers photograph on p.31 of the fall issue.



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

Sara Goetze MBA'19 shares the timeless lessons about life she learned from legendary investor and Berkshire Hathaway CEO Warren Buffett.

> How did you end up meeting Warren Buffett?

Several times a year, Warren Buffett invites students from business schools to visit him in Omaha, Nebraska. This February, the Atkinson Graduate School of Management (AGSM) was invited for the first time, joining teams from Stanford, UCLA, Iowa, Kansas State, Missouri, Texas, Northern Arizona, University of Toronto and Peking University.

I was one of 17 students selected for the trip by AGSM faculty, based on an essay we each wrote, along with a question we would ask Mr. Buffett.

> What did you write?

I wrote about how I've always wanted to meet people like him, who've changed the world. My question was about how he viewed the stock market's reactions to the Trump administration's rhetoric. It didn't end up being chosen as one that we'd ask during the visit — but I was selected as the person to ask our team question.

> What was the team question?

We wanted to know what he thought was the biggest challenge facing the next generation. He replied that the chance of nuclear, biological or chemical warfare was the greatest threat, but there was nothing we could do about it. So, he advised us to concentrate on where we are and how lucky we are to be here.

> Were you nervous?

The teams from all the schools spent two hours asking questions and listening to Mr. Buffett answer. He spoke off the cuff, and I was

impressed by his openness. We were the last school to go, so it was nerve-racking to wait. Overall, I was taken aback by Mr. Buffett's down-to-earth nature and his self-deprecating humor — we even received a Warren Buffett rubber ducky as a memento of our visit!

> What advice did he offer?

He said that we shouldn't just strive for money — that it makes life easier but it doesn't make life. And he advised us to be around the people who inspire us. Especially in terms of social media, he told us to think carefully about our connections — and whether we really wanted our personal “brand” to be associated with certain people.

My favorite part was when he challenged us to think about another person we would “invest” in. If we could buy 10 percent of a person's “stock,” whom would we choose? And what were their important qualities? More importantly, were we the kind of person that someone else would see as a worthwhile investment?

> What else did you do on the trip?

We visited companies that Berkshire Hathaway has invested in — Nebraska Furniture Mart, Borsheims Fine Jewelry and Oriental Trading Company. We met the CEO of Oriental Trading Company and toured the massive fulfillment center. It was incredible to get an inside look at how these big companies do business. 







How does the dean of a management school relax in her spare time? By entering with a trusted partner into a new venture that demands intense concentration, the willingness to learn — and occasional broken ribs.

About ten years ago, Debra Ringold, dean of Atkinson Graduate School of Management, took up dressage — a sport full of grace, poise and precision in which a rider guides a horse through set moves around an arena.

Despite one serious fall that resulted in seven broken ribs, Ringold loves the physical, mental and emotional challenge of dressage. “When I ride, I completely forget about my responsibilities. I feel like a 10-year-old — relaxed and joyous,” she says. “Although, concentration is critical. Not paying attention to the horse’s mood or behavior can be dangerous.”

Ringold likens dressage to a cross between ballet and gymnastics floor exercises. Moving at a walk, trot or canter, horses glide elegantly through difficult maneuvers. In

performances often set to music, horses might walk backwards, skip in time to the beat or cross legs while moving forward and sideways simultaneously.

Ringold first learned to ride as a child growing up in the Texas Panhandle, competing in pole-bending and barrel racing until she went to college. Although stylistically different, dressage requires the same depth of trust and communication between horse and rider.

Since taking up dressage, Ringold has ridden three horses and competed in 30 shows throughout Oregon, Washington and Idaho. She placed 20th in the nation in 2015 and 2017 for competitors aged 50 and over at the training level.

Ringold loves the challenge of competition and learning new skills. But she’s noticed one similarity between management and dressage: “It’s like being a supervisor and managing a team. When we do well in a competition, Larry, my horse, gets the praise; if we don’t do well, it’s my responsibility.”

Here are some of the tools Ringold uses in dressage:

1. Her horse

Larry (short for his registered name, Valary), whom Ringold calls her partner, is a 16-year-old Dutch Warmblood. Standing 16 hands and one inch tall, Larry weighs 1,200 lbs. Nonetheless, Ringold describes him as a “nervous” horse who can lose focus and get distracted.

2. Her body

Physical communication between horse and rider is critical in dressage. Ringold uses her hands, arms, legs, seat, ankles and heels to guide Larry through changes of gait or movements, as well as to read his body language and reactions. In addition, dressage riders are judged on their upright, composed posture.

3. Horse equipment

Larry wears a special, thin saddle, a pad, protective boots and shin guards.

4. Riding clothes

Like Larry’s equipment, Ringold’s clothing — including helmet, boots and breeches — is designed both for safety and for close contact that maximizes communication between horse and rider.



AGSM hires new dean

Seung Ho "Sam" Park — an author, management strategist and leading scholar — will take over as the new dean of Atkinson Graduate School of Management in August.

Debra Ringold, who has served as dean since 2007, will return to the faculty after a sabbatical year.

An expert on emerging markets, Park has led, advised and consulted for organizations around the world during his 30-year career. He has also taught at Rutgers University, the University of Texas at Dallas, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and the Moscow School of Management Skolkovo.



Attending Willamette pays you back

Willamette is featured in two Princeton Review guide books this year — "The Best 382 Colleges" and "Colleges That Pay You Back: The 200 Schools That Give You the Best Bang for Your Tuition Buck." Only 7 percent of four-year colleges nationwide appear in "Colleges That Pay You Back."

117

The number of Tokyo International University students who arrived at Willamette in February to join the American Studies Program. The students hail from Japan, China, Thailand, Peru, South Korea and Taiwan.

AGSM launches podcast

The Atkinson Graduate School of Management is sharing its faculty members' expertise via a new podcast.

Atkinson Archive, which launched this spring, will also showcase the perspectives of alumni, faculty, staff and students on life at the school. First up was Mike Hand, professor of applied statistics and information systems, talking about the evolution of the tools available to work with data, as well as memories of his nearly 40 years at AGSM.



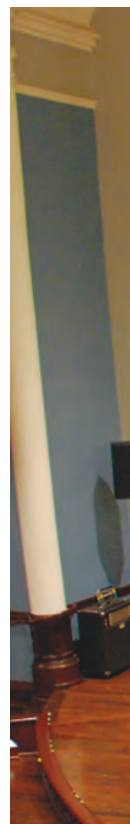
Check it out at willamette.edu/go/ag-sm-podcast.

Chamber Choir makes special performance

For the 18th time in the 35-year tenure of Wallace Long, director of choral activities, a Willamette choral ensemble was selected to give an honorific performance for the American Choral Directors Association Northwest Regional Convention.

In March, the chamber choir performed four selections at the historic First Congregational Church in downtown Portland. For the opening piece, "Les Chants des Oyeaux" by Renaissance composer Clément Janequin, the choir was divided into four groups. Placed in separate locations in the church balcony, the singers sang in French and imitated the sound of various types of birds.

The other selections were the "Magnificat" by Herbert Howells, "Evening Prayer" by Ola Gjeilo, "O Lux Beata Trinitas" by Ko Matsushita and "Hentakani Jiwa" by Ken Steven. Sung in Malaysian, this last piece included dancing, clapping, stomping and complicated footwork — a stunning performance that brought the audience to its feet.





Civic Communication and Media in national spotlight



Willamette is setting an example for civic learning for universities nationwide.

The Association of American Colleges and Universities chose the Civic Communication and Media department as a model of civic learning. AACU featured the department in an issue of "Peer Review," its quarterly publication on emerging trends and key debates in

undergraduate education.

The association also selected CCM as one of 22 departments nationally that exemplify how to make civic learning an expectation for students of any given discipline.

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National Science Foundation grant money awarded to fund scholarships for underrepresented Willamette students who pursue STEM-related degrees like biology or pre-engineering, as well as student research, internship and career planning opportunities.

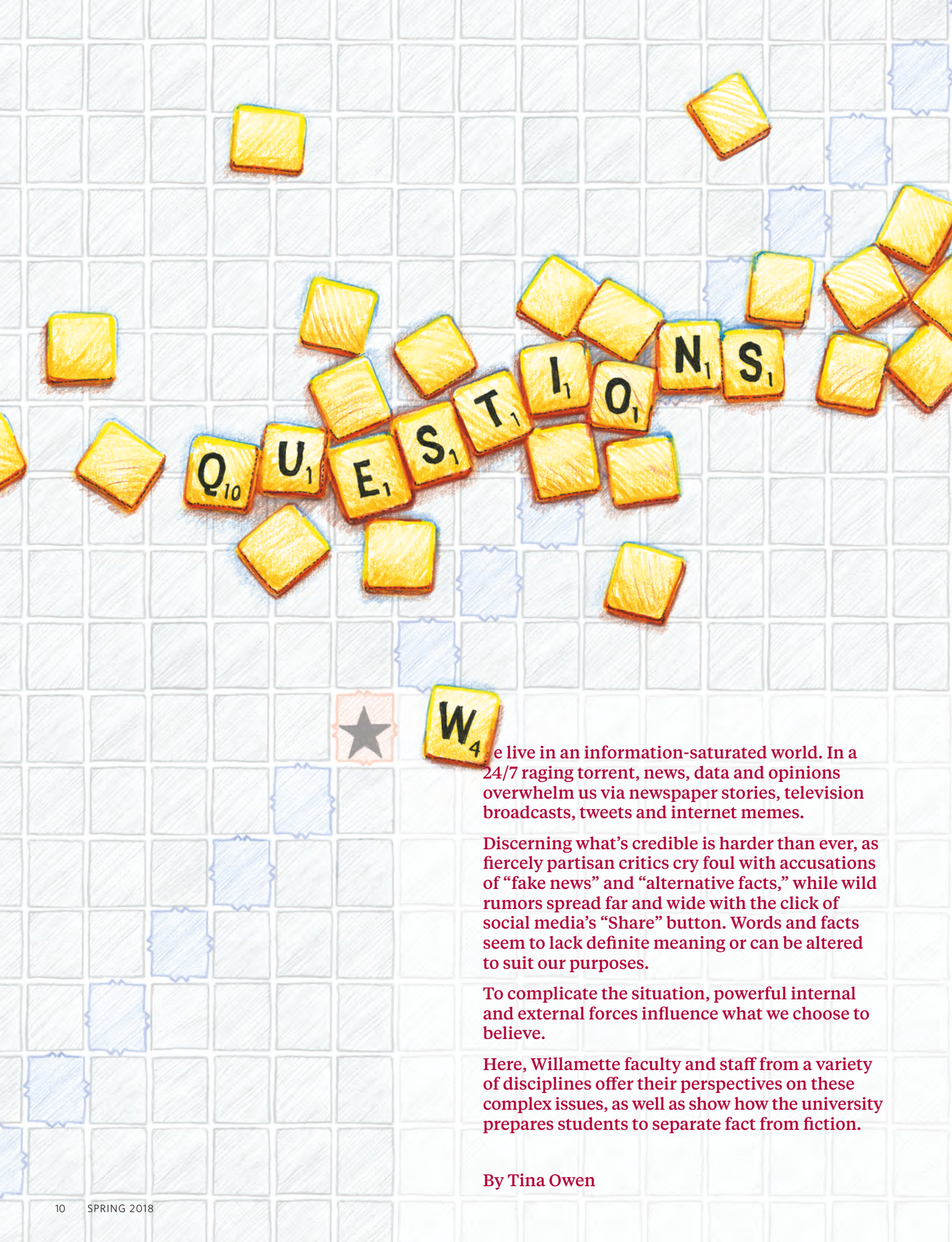


WU ranks in top 10 Peace Corps colleges

One popular way Willamette students live the university motto, "Not unto ourselves alone are we born," is by joining the Peace Corps.

This year, the university ranked No. 10 on the agency's Top Volunteer-Producing Colleges and Universities list. Willamette has ranked among the Peace Corps' top small colleges each year for more than a decade. Since the corps' founding in 1961, 345 Bearcats have served.





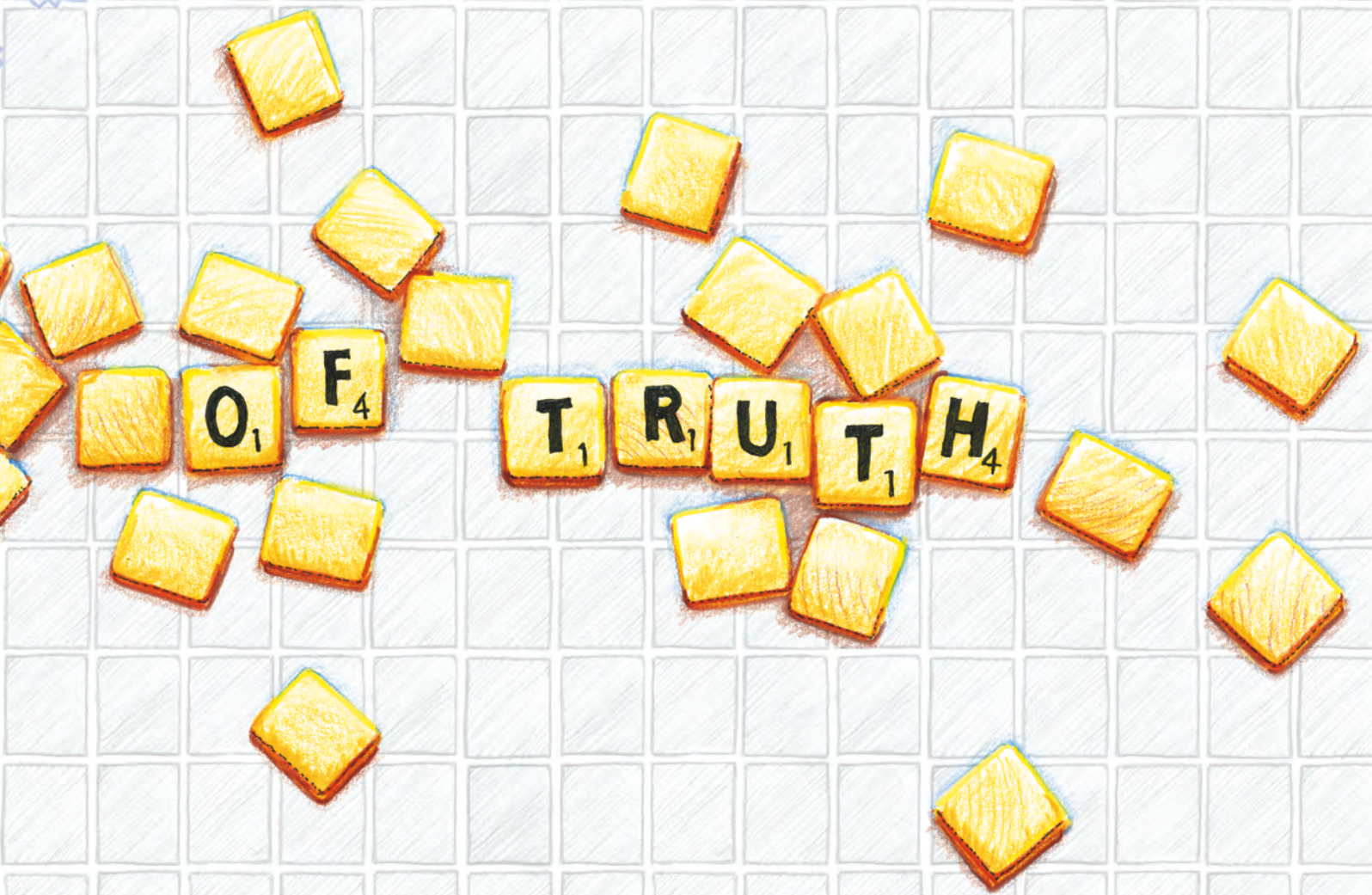
We live in an information-saturated world. In a 24/7 raging torrent, news, data and opinions overwhelm us via newspaper stories, television broadcasts, tweets and internet memes.

Discerning what's credible is harder than ever, as fiercely partisan critics cry foul with accusations of "fake news" and "alternative facts," while wild rumors spread far and wide with the click of social media's "Share" button. Words and facts seem to lack definite meaning or can be altered to suit our purposes.

To complicate the situation, powerful internal and external forces influence what we choose to believe.

Here, Willamette faculty and staff from a variety of disciplines offer their perspectives on these complex issues, as well as show how the university prepares students to separate fact from fiction.

By Tina Owen



When Worldviews Collide

Much of what we accept as true depends on how we see and interpret the world — and that’s influenced by factors such as education, religion, politics, experience, family and friends, and the media. Critics say that too many people now live in “echo chambers,” associating only with others who share their beliefs and accepting only information that reinforces their perspective.

James Friedrich, professor of psychology: Any different beliefs — on economic, cultural, religious and other matters — that people hold can work together to form a “worldview.” The aspect of one’s worldview that might shape a person’s perceptions can be determined by context. If my professional identity as a psychologist is salient, I might process and interpret information one way, but if my identity as a religious person is made salient, I might process the same information differently.

Social psychologists also talk about worldviews to refer to beliefs that give rise to people’s sense of meaning and existential purpose. In “terror management theory,” evidence suggests that when we are reminded of our own mortality, we tend to bolster and defend those beliefs that give us a sense of meaning — a sense of literal or symbolic immortality. Terror incidents can lead people to cling even more tightly to their political beliefs and values — to be more approving of others who share their beliefs and critical of those

who seem to challenge their beliefs. Thus, a school shooting might be expected to bolster opposing worldviews.

Sammy Basu, professor of politics: In the U.S. today, people on both the political left and right are trapped in respective worldviews that feel viscerally real to them. Reliance on worldview explains why two people can see the same event, like a political speech, and have two completely different perspectives on it.

A given worldview is partly a function of our exposure to a culture. In Disney movies, for example, beautiful characters are typically also good ones, while villains are depicted with hook noses that conform to Semitic stereotypes of Arabs or Jews. And a lot of popular culture depicts African-American men as thugs, so it’s not surprising that many white Americans see them as threatening. It’s very hard to undo such widely reinforced cultural associations. That’s why we’re always surprised when a serial killer is conventionally good-looking — we expect them to look evil in ways that have already been created for us culturally.

This isn’t a new phenomenon. My research traces the powerful influence of the Nazi worldview on Germans during the demise of the democratic Weimar Republic and through the period leading up to World War II and the Holocaust. The German term for worldview, *Weltanschauung*, refers to your philosophy of life, or the mental spectacles that color everything you see. The Nazi *Weltanschauung* tapped into people’s biases and assumptions,



validating the views of nationalists, racists and anti-Semites. Part of the puzzle about why Nazi Germany came about is that German society was very well-educated and religious. Germany had renowned universities, Nobel Prize winners and technical, artistic and scientific innovations. So it's all the more astonishing that the country embraced a revised form of barbarism.

But Germany saw a shift in the type of thinking that gets valued, from “slow thinking,” which is reasoned and skeptical, to “fast thinking,” which feels instinctive but is actually often based on stereotypes or biases.

How We Think

Whether it's choosing a political candidate, a new car or a brand of toothpaste, our beliefs and decision-making are affected by subconscious influences and thought patterns.

Basu: Daniel Kahneman, behavioral economist and Nobel Prize winner, developed a model of the mind consisting of System 1 and 2 thinking. System 1 or “fast thinking” is fast, emotional and instinctive. Humans have evolved to size up situations rapidly, triage and sort out matters quickly. So we're able to ignore all the noise and distractions in a busy street in order to notice and jump out of the way of a hurtling truck. But fast thinking, which amounts to a series of pre-judgments, depends on what you've been exposed to through experience or cultural influences. It draws on stereotypes and can in turn produce bias. System 2 or “slow thinking” is more deliberative, reasoned and logical. Research shows that most of us engage in fast thinking, which is necessary but also imperfect — although slow thinking can be, as well.

Friedrich: When information is overwhelming, we often take “heuristic shortcuts,” focusing on only one aspect of a complex problem in order to form judgments and make decisions. It's not a bad rule of thumb when you lack time or expertise. That's how partisan politics works: “Do I trust Fox news or CNN?”

Also, people's thinking and decision-making is typically organized around trying to minimize the most costly mistakes, which often means we don't look at both sides of an issue very well. If you're in favor of having access to guns, the most costly mistake is being defenseless in an angry, hostile world. But someone who supports gun control would see the situation differently. In their respective frameworks, both people's decisions are not irrational.

Debra Ringold, JELD-WEN Professor of Free Enterprise and dean, Atkinson Graduate School of Management:

Information-processing is a very well-understood phenomenon that's been studied in consumer behavior since the 1950s. The vast majority of our decisions — which brand of yogurt to buy, which grocery store to go to — are routinized and low-risk. A person has made the decision so many times and has so much firsthand trial-and-error data, it's not cost-effective to look for new information.

Extensive problem-solving — particularly big, first-time decisions, such as buying a house — has more risk. There are different kinds of risk, including social (serving bad wine to your boss), financial, and potential harm (buying the wrong kind of bike helmet for your child). Faced with a new decision, people do a lot more research, such as talking to friends, consulting experts or reading Consumer Reports or the voter's guide.

If people don't search for information, it's often because they don't care, not because they're ignorant. Unlike many people, I don't believe consumers are stupid or easy to manipulate. Research, including my own into smokers' use of tobacco and whether people read nutrition labels, shows that even people with low levels of education can process information just fine. It's not, “Can they?”, it's “Will they?” Smokers aren't dumb — they know smoking could kill them. But smoking can seem a rational choice for people in certain situations. U.S. smokers are typically less well-off from a socio-economic standpoint; they have a much shorter time horizon and a very different orientation to life.

I see the plethora of information now available to people on the internet as a good thing. Better, faster information has shifted the power away from the producer to the consumer. It used to be that when one bought a car in the U.S., one had to go to a car lot. The salesman was in complete control of the information one received. Now, one can build a car on the internet with the desired specifications. The consumer now has better information than the car salesperson. That's true for everything in the marketplace. Producers can't corner the information market because there's too much out there. That's why it's in their best interest to be open and honest. I'm a consumer advocate, so I'm all for today's rich information environment.

Beware of Biases

A host of cognitive biases — of which we're barely conscious — also affect our views and actions. Confirmation bias leads us to seek out information that supports our preconceptions, while the backfire effect causes us to ignore contrary evidence and strengthen our original beliefs. Such ways of thinking can distort our perception of reality, as well as our judgment and decision-making.

Friedrich: Research suggests we think we know our own thought processes — and are aware of our biases — better than we do. That's misplaced confidence, as we don't recognize our mental contamination by unwanted influences. In fact, we suffer from what's called the illusion of introspection, believing we have more introspective access to our thought processes than we do.



The core mission of the Mark O. Hatfield Library instruction program is to prepare Willamette students to be successful information-seekers and critical consumers in a rapidly changing technological environment."

That can be a challenge for a generation that grew up with the answers to everything just a Google search away. John Repplinger, science librarian at the Hatfield Library, says that even Willamette students demonstrate a range of skills in seeking and evaluating information.

"I ask where they start to look for information, and most say Google or Wikipedia," he says, "but they're also aware that anyone can put anything up on the internet or Facebook, and it could be fake or incorrect."

Repplinger recommends using Google and Wikipedia responsibly and not necessarily citing them in a paper; instead, he tells students to go to the direct source of the information and "triangulate" data by consulting more than one source.

Repplinger and other librarians visit classes to raise awareness of library resources and explain the crucial differences between media such as personal blogs and journals or encyclopedia that use peer review or an editorial process for fact-checking.

"Students are constantly being bombarded with information," Repplinger says, "and we're here to help them process that information."

The library also produces research guides that encourage students to ask the right questions when assessing information, whether from print newspapers, the internet, social media or email. One digital guide, adapted from the American Press Institute, recommends six essential questions:

What's the type of content? Is it a news story, an opinion piece or an ad?

Who's the source? In general, reputable news organizations cite sources. If the source isn't clear, be more skeptical.

What's the evidence? Don't just take someone's word about information. What's the evidence and how was it vetted?

Is the main point proven? Do conclusions make sense and follow logically from what's been cited?

What's missing? If important information is missing, or something is explained unclearly, that's a problem.

What did I learn? Think about the media you consume, including social media or even conversation, and assess what you learned.

The library also encourages students to check their biases, consult experts and use websites such as factcheck.org, snopes.com, politifact.com, the Washington Post Fact Checker and Media Bias Fact Check.



Over the course of a semester, Willamette students learn to wield — rather than be on the receiving end — of persuasive techniques used in marketing and public relations.

In the "Designing Persuasive Campaigns" class offered by Professor Courtney Dillard in the Department of Civic Communication and Media,

students research, plan and create marketing campaigns for local nonprofits, small businesses and campus organizations.

Whether the aim is to recruit more volunteers or encourage someone to try a new product, students learn the most effective ways to craft and disseminate a message. After conducting research into their audience and

appropriate communication channels, they analyze and apply relevant persuasive techniques, including:

Making a good argument and providing good evidence. A campaign or ad has to provide rational answers to people's question, "Why should I?" Evidence can take the form of images, statistics or examples.

Using emotional persuasion. Motivational appeals speak to values, needs and emotions.

Providing credibility. Dillard notes, "Today, credibility is more important than ever for organizations to communicate to their stakeholders."

Using identification. Effective campaigns find common ground with the audience, saying in essence, "I'm like you."

Framing it. Take a complex issue, such as homelessness, and focus on one aspect.

Using language and visuals effectively. Alliteration, double entendres and creative photography help grab attention and focus the issue.

Creating a narrative. Adopt the power of storytelling, with devices such as strong heroes, a plot with a concrete beginning and ending, and a moral to the story.

By the end of the course, students have created a multi-step communication plan, as well as work samples — such as a website, brochures or social media campaign — that look good in their portfolios. Perhaps more importantly, they've gained an insider's look at the power of persuasion.



The need to understand and use data doesn't only happen in a math or physics class — it's also a part of everyday life beyond college. Whether you're checking a paystub, applying for a mortgage or deciphering a news story about a medical trial for a new drug, a grasp of numerical — or quantitative — information is essential.

"So much about basic citizenship — let alone professional skills —

demands numerical literacy," says Kelley Strawn, associate professor of sociology. "Quantitative thinking isn't superior to other modes of thinking — it's complementary."

Fortunately for Willamette students, a dedicated center in Smullin Hall helps them become more comfortable with data. The Center for Qualitative Understanding, Analysis, and Design (QUAD) was founded in

2010 by psychology professor James Friedrich, who now co-directs it with Strawn. The center also provides support for classes and for faculty doing research.

"Quantitative literacy extends beyond calculations," says Friedrich. "Understanding that small samples in a study may be unrepresentative either by chance or bias, that predictions are imperfect, and that certain ways of collecting data allow inferences only about association and not causation — these are among the many "study design" elements of thinking about numbers and data that form the basis of quantitative literacy."

Quantitative and qualitative approaches ask fundamentally different questions. The quantitative approach measures information, while the qualitative approach describes and helps explore different options.

With the help of the center's undergraduate research

assistants, students from across academic disciplines can learn how to better collect, analyze and critically evaluate quantitative information for their projects, papers or assignments. A history student might need help deciphering voter patterns, an economics student might want food production statistics and a chemistry major might need assistance testing a hypothesis.

"In this age of digital information, the ability to use quantitative information is fundamental to what we should define as a liberal arts education," says Strawn. "Students need to be 'words' and 'numbers' people."

Friedrich agrees, saying, "Especially at a time when statistics and other 'evidence' flow freely through social media and the web, being motivated and able to assess the quality of information and the justification for evidence-based claims is critical."



Laura Appleman is used to public misperceptions about legal proceedings. But perhaps the most persistent myth is that all criminal cases go to trial. In fact, 98 percent of cases end up with a plea bargain.

"The suspect in the recent Parkland, Florida, shooting would like to entertain a plea deal to avoid the death penalty. Even fraudster Bernie Madoff got a plea bargain," notes Appleman, a former public defender and now a professor in the Willamette University College of Law. "Jury trials are a classic paradigm, but we have few of them. For lawyers, it's more a

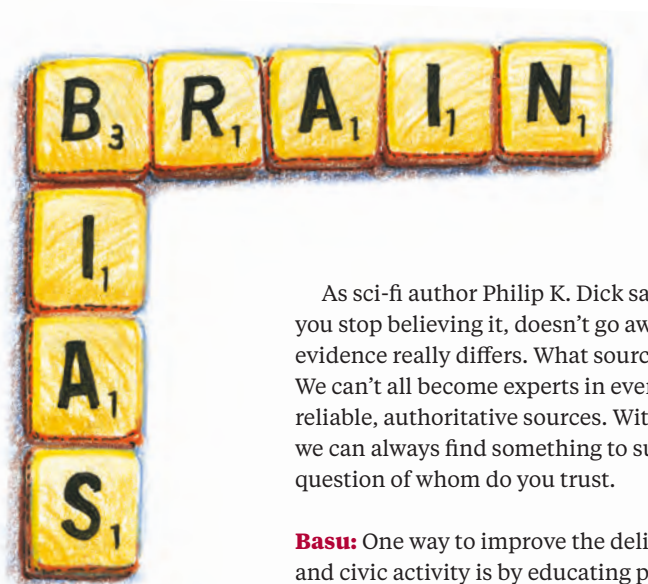
question of convincing a judge at an earlier or later stage of criminal indictment."

Such attempts to persuade a judge are usually done in writing. "Most of being a lawyer is doing legal writing," says Appleman, "not being Perry Mason in a courtroom."

That's why a key element of Willamette law students' education is research and writing. In order to graduate, law students have to successfully complete both a research writing requirement and a professional skills requirement. So, they learn to analyze and

reason using statutes, court rules and judicial opinions, communicating their legal analysis clearly and effectively in documents such as memorandums and trial briefs.

"The key thing to being a good lawyer is being a good writer," says Appleman. "That's an approach we share with the College of Liberal Arts. Being able to write persuasively is absolutely critical."



When we recognize that we might be as biased as others and simply lack awareness of it, we can take appropriate precautions. That's why I and some of my colleagues grade papers "blind" — students put ID numbers rather than their names on papers — so our grading isn't affected by knowing students' identities.

Similarly, the bias blind spot refers to our tendency to see ourselves as less vulnerable to cognitive biases than other people. In one study, 100 percent of students rated themselves as better than their peers in getting along with others.

Naive realism refers to the tendency to believe that we see the world objectively; therefore, other unbiased, intelligent people will think like we do, while the people who don't agree with us are uninformed, irrational or biased. When people "resist" our attempts to inform and educate them, we tend to attribute to them unfavorable qualities.

Bias is evident on both sides — right and left. The larger issue is we get angry and assume hostile motives on the part of people who don't believe what we do.

Ringold: In consumer behavior literature, there's a concept called the "third-person effect," in which a person exposed to a persuasive communication in the mass media sees it as having a greater effect on others. Each individual reasons, "I will not be influenced, but they (the third persons) may well be persuaded." Yet, research shows that most consumers aren't naive about advertising — in fact, they're quite skeptical and sophisticated. Consumers use advertising, not the other way around.

Question Everything

In the light of information overload and these powerful external and internal psychological influences, how do you decide what's true and what you believe in?

Friedrich: People hold beliefs for a variety of reasons — because they are psychologically comforting, or bolster an identity or connection to a community — and aren't always concerned with their accuracy. We want to think of ourselves favorably — as rational, objective observers — but we're not concerned enough about the truth to try effectively to see if we might be wrong.

As sci-fi author Philip K. Dick said, "Reality is that which, when you stop believing it, doesn't go away." But what we accept as evidence really differs. What sources do we trust for information? We can't all become experts in everything, so we need to consult reliable, authoritative sources. With all the information out there, we can always find something to support whatever we think; it's a question of whom do you trust.

Basu: One way to improve the deliberative qualities of U.S. politics and civic activity is by educating people about how implicit biases can lurk unnoticed in their fast thinking. Harvard's Project Implicit (<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit>), for example, offers several short interactive tests based on fast thinking that help people become aware of their biases in areas such as race, gender, religion, age, weight and ability.

Kelley Strawn, associate professor of psychology: Strong social and psychological forces keep us supporting evidence that backs up who we think we already are. It takes a conscious and purposeful effort to get beyond that. You have to have the integrity to value evidence that is contrary to what you already see or believe, that challenges you to admit that sometimes the world isn't what you want it to be. It takes mental energy, commitment and the desire to value fairness and objectivity more than being right or staying in your "group."

In contemporary media discourse, we've gotten lazy about how much information we are willing to acquire, evaluate and process before we deem a question answered. We seem to value "verification" of our existing beliefs — which requires only limited information to achieve — over "reasonable truth," which is almost never as simple as the limited presentation of issues in public media would suggest. Rather than just accepting answers uncritically, we need to develop a skeptical approach to all the information we receive.

In a liberal education, one of the most important things students learn is the difference between normative and empirical questions. Evidence can inform normative, value-based answers, but it cannot conclusively answer them. Empirical questions can be answered with visible or measurable evidence. We need to better acknowledge how information can and cannot support conclusions that we draw. That's what liberal arts education teaches you — to be critical and to expect high-level standards for drawing conclusions. Some things are factually real and can't be debated, e.g. $2+2=4$. But is four a lot or not? That has no right answer.

Ringold: I want people to make thoughtful, well-informed decisions, but they may choose to behave differently than I would. In the case of smoking, there are people who don't see their health as a priority. It's about whether we trust our fellow citizens, consumers, colleagues, neighbors and children to make their own decisions in the context of their own priorities. Give people the information to make well-informed decisions and then let them make their choices. ☐



ON TOP OF HER GAME

Rosie Roberson '99 and her son play one of her games in a game cafe.

Like most children of the '80s, Rosie Roberson '99 enjoyed classic board games such as Monopoly and Life.

But it wasn't until 2005, when she started buying for her own children, that she realized the market had expanded beyond a few mainstream bestsellers. Today, people can choose from thousands of games, many invented by independent designers and produced by small publishers. Roberson had been looking for a creative outlet, so she decided to try her hand at game design.

An Oregon-based software designer by day, Roberson has now created nearly 100 games — mostly unpublished and geared toward children — in her spare time. Several of her 12 published games have won awards, and she was nominated for a Toy and Game Inventor Excellence Award in 2012.

The former Willamette art major enjoys game design because it marries her artistic, problem-solving, writing and math skills. She says, "It gives me a reason to create art but also engages the part of my mind that makes me successful in software design and systems analysis."

Games can teach skills such as teamwork, strategy and how to handle failure. Smaller children learn basics like taking turns, simple math and counting skills, and color and shape identification, as well as the fine motor skills needed to maneuver game pieces. Roberson's "Say The Word" blends charades and silly words to test players' memories, while "Shapetigo" requires players to use strategy to recreate a picture card.

But Roberson says she doesn't design with learning in mind. "I think the learning just happens," she says. "I create games for fun, laughter and time together with family and friends."

ROBERSON'S INVENTIONS

Cha-Cha Chihuahua

Say The Word

Treasure Trax

Shapetigo

What's It?

Wizards of Waverly Place:
Under My Spell Card
Game

This Big!

Super Scooper

Stack-o-Saurus Card Game

JONAS: All Access
Card Game

Fancy Nancy Posh Bedroom

Clothespins!

GAME DEVELOPMENT

CONCEPT

Roberson usually finds inspiration in everyday life. Her husband's fishing hobby led to "This Big!" while her dog, Piccolo, sparked the idea for her latest game, "Cha-Cha Chihuahua."

PROTOTYPE

After creating a basic prototype and writing the rules, Roberson tests the game on family and friends to gauge the "fun factor" and to identify problems. When she feels good about the gameplay, she creates the "pretty" prototype, with full illustrations and polished components, worthy of a company pitch.

PITCH

Roberson may pitch a game to one or several companies. Some companies want an online pitch, while others prefer a Skype conversation or even a 90-second video. If a company likes a game, Roberson sends it a prototype for testing and to make a final licensing decision.

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Roberson and the company may continue joint product development to perfect the game for market by tweaking the rules or finding alternate options for the components to minimize manufacturing costs. The publisher engages an illustrator and has the final say on the end product. Roberson says, "One of my favorite parts of the process is getting my samples in the mail, so I can see how it all turned out."

PUBLISHED

The final product may be published within a year, although others take longer. The idea for "Cha-Cha Chihuahua" came to Roberson in 2009. After about 30 iterations by the company and Roberson, the game finally hit shelves in 2017.

Learn more at amindinbloom.com

This series highlights interesting and thought-provoking classes taught at Willamette.

COURSE ENVR 327W: WATER RESOURCES



HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout the course, students work within a systems framework. This holistic approach views the Earth's natural components, such as atmosphere, hydrosphere and biosphere, as interacting within one unified system. Human society is layered on top of — and affects — these natural systems and processes.

To clearly observe the interactions, students create elaborately charted and color-coded diagrams that show the flows of water between and within natural and human systems. They study each river in detail to see how the natural and human systems interact, and soon learn that each one has unique features — and problems.

The 257-mile Klamath River is an “upside-down basin” that starts in a flat agricultural area in south-central Oregon and travels through remote canyons to the ocean in California. As the river is a prime habitat for salmon, steelhead and rainbow trout, fishing rights for Native Americans are a key issue — and heated conflicts have arisen with local farmers who demand access to the water to irrigate their crops. In fact, about 80 percent of water in the West goes to agricultural use.

The 1,243-mile Columbia River, the largest river in the Pacific Northwest, originates in Canada and empties into the Pacific Ocean at the border between Washington and Oregon. With 14 hydroelectric dams on the main river, notes Arabas, “the Columbia has powered the development of the Pacific Northwest.” In particular, the cheap hydroelectricity supported the Hanford Site, a nuclear production complex established in southeastern Washington in 1943. Radioactive material was released into the river before site decommissioning began in the late 1980s, and future contamination of the Columbia by leftover waste remains a concern.

The final river studied, the 1,450-mile Colorado River, starts high in the

SYLLABUS

The course takes a systems approach to examining the water resources of the U.S. West. Emphasis is placed on evaluating water resources from a variety of scales and perspectives, using the Colorado, Klamath and Columbia river basins as case studies.

ENROLLMENT

This writing-centered course enrolls about 20 students from across disciplines, although they are expected to have background knowledge about human and earth systems. Several students have been inspired by the course to go into careers related to water resources.

INSTRUCTOR

Karen Arabas, professor of environmental sciences, has been teaching this course since she arrived at Willamette almost 20 years ago. An East Coast native, she became fascinated as a graduate student at George Washington University by the complex story of Western water issues. Today, even her students from arid parts of the West, who are familiar with water conservation needs, are surprised to discover the complicated, interwoven natures of these crucial issues.

Rockies and winds through 11 national parks, including the Grand Canyon, five U.S. states and two Mexican states before heading to the Gulf of California. Most years now, its water is used up hundreds of miles before it reaches the delta in Mexico, where a once-lush and thriving ecosystem is dry and desolate.

To meet the needs of about 30 million people in major metropolises including Denver, Salt Lake City and Los Angeles, the Colorado is diverted hundreds of miles via aqueducts. In a documentary watched by the class, one Los Angeles resident jokes, “Even the water commutes here.”

With such demand on its resources, the Colorado has earned the title of being the most litigated river in the U.S. — and probably the world. Arabas sees more difficulties ahead. Climate change is influencing precipitation patterns, which in turn affect the amount of water in the river basins.

“The Western U.S. was settled during a very wet climate period,” says Arabas. “It wasn’t designed to withstand the kinds of severe droughts we increasingly see. The problem is likely to get worse as the climate changes. It’s the looming issue for the future.”

A PARTICULAR CHALLENGE:

After learning about these problems with water resources, students wrestle with how to find solutions. “The texts we read often make broad, global suggestions, like ‘shift public perceptions,’ ‘instill respect for our environment and natural resources’ or ‘change public policy,’” says Arabas, “but they’re often not satisfactory because they lack details.”

So for the final exam, Arabas uses a simulation developed by Harvard Law School’s Program on Negotiation. Each student receives a packet of information about a water issue and a role as a stakeholder. They prepare a strategy briefing, role play during final exams and then write a follow-up essay. “It seems to do a nice job pulling the course themes together, and the students get very invested in the outcomes,” says Arabas. “Getting stakeholders to listen to one another holds out hope for solving these problems.”

WHAT STUDENTS SAY

“This course opened my eyes to how critical water is for us as a society — in a role beyond drinking and farming purposes. Water is as much binding as it is dividing for societies, and protecting water has never been more important for the continuation of all livelihoods.”

Alice Fontaine '18

Aerial view of the Klamath River in northern California's Redwood National Park. Photo courtesy of NASA

Recommended Reading

To learn more about water issues in the West, Arabas recommends these books from the class’s required texts:

“A River Lost: The Life and Death of the Columbia River,” by Blaine Harden

“Encounters with the Archdruid,” by John McPhee

“River of Renewal: Myth and History in the Klamath Basin,” by Stephen Most



Across the country and on the Willamette campus, more and more people say that traditional notions of gender are insufficient for expressing the diversity of human identity.

BY ROSEMARY CAMOZZI

Beyond Binary

In a small town in northeastern Wyoming — a place so authentically Western that you can still spend the night at a hotel where Buffalo Bill once slept — a high school sophomore reached a tipping point.

Something needed to happen, and it needed to happen now.

She stood in front of a bathroom mirror and picked up an electric razor, shaving one side of her head in defiance of her mom's complaints that her hair was too short. Then she picked up her cell phone and called her dad, who was out having dinner with her mom and some friends.

"I'm gay," she blurted out when he answered the phone, "and oh, I also shaved my head."

Looking back, Bridget Blaney realizes her mode of delivery wasn't the best. "I regret it very much," she says, "but I don't think I could have done it in person. I was terrified."

Her parents were aghast. "They asked me over and over, 'Were you raped?'" She was dismayed by their assumption it was the only reason she could be gay. And then it got worse. Her parents grounded her, took away her cell phone and computer, and deleted her social media accounts.

That was 2014. Now Blaney is a self-confident, articulate Willamette University sophomore, excited to be exploring social constructs around gender through her major in sociology. Her parents have grown to understand and support her, she says, although they have been taken aback by how different things are here in Oregon. "Wyoming is man-up, 'cowboy strong,'" she says. "You can still be fired for being gay."

After arriving at Willamette, Blaney came out as nonbinary. "I feel like I am out of the equation of either binary male or binary female," she says. "I just don't ascribe to the strict categories that have

A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

While the idea of not forcing people into strict male/female categories may seem like a new — and perhaps radical — concept, transgender and nonbinary individuals have been part of human culture for millennia.

Many Native American tribes recognize people who don't conform to traditional gender roles as "Two Spirit," meaning that they house both a male and a female spirit. According to "Indian Country Today," a publication of the National Congress of American Indians, Two Spirit people are "blessed by their Creator to see through the eyes of both genders."

In India, the transgender community, whose members are called Hijra, dates back more than 4,000 years. Hijra have long been associated with sacred powers, and are often called upon to give blessings at weddings and births.

Although their lives have been fraught with poverty and struggle since the British criminalized their existence in 1897, India's Supreme Court in 2014 recognized trans individuals as a third gender, ruling "It is the right of every human being to choose their gender."



been so pervasive in our society up until this point."

Transgender is an umbrella term for people whose gender identity (one's innermost concept of self as male, female, a blend of both or neither) and/or expression differs from the sex they were assigned at birth. It is not the same as sexual orientation, which refers to whom a person is attracted romantically or sexually.

According to research published by the Williams Institute, a think tank at UCLA School of Law, about 1.4 million transgender individuals live in the United States. More than one-third of transgender people describe themselves as nonbinary, with some identifying as a combination of genders and others as neither.

Blaney says that from a young age, she felt uncomfortable presenting as female, but she also didn't feel like a boy. "I only learned about nonbinary identities in high school, through the internet," she says. "In Wyoming, it is safer to be gay than to be trans or nonbinary, so I tried to push that as far away as I could. As soon I got to college, I figured I might as well start off presenting something that I've known but haven't been open about before."

More and more students are challenging the fact that there should be strict gender categories, says Jade Aguilar, associate professor of sociology and Willamette's vice president of equity, diversity and inclusion. In a 2016 survey of more than 80,000 Minnesota teens, nearly 2,200 participants identified as transgender or gender-nonconforming, with many of them perceiving their gender expression as equally masculine and feminine. In a recent survey of Willamette students, 7.6 percent of responders said they were trans or nonbinary.

"I think we're moving into a new world," Aguilar says. "I don't know if we'll ever be gender-free, but it will be a world where people are going to have a lot more room to create new definitions of gender and presentation."

Transgender individuals in the United States walk a fine line between acceptance and discrimination. Caitlyn Jenner has brought enormous visibility to the trans population, and transgender actress Laverne Cox has won numerous

awards for her activist approach in spreading awareness. Danica Roem made history in Virginia last year by becoming the first transgender person elected to a state legislature.

But while the repeal of the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy in 2011 allowed lesbian and gay people to openly serve in the military, transgender people were still banned from service. In 2016, the Department of Defense (DoD) issued a new policy stating that the military would pay for medical costs relating to gender transition for current service members, and within a year, would begin admitting openly transgender recruits. No official statistics exist about the number of transgender people serving in the military, but estimates range from about 2,000 to 15,000.

For those people, the past year has been tumultuous. In July 2017, President Trump tweeted that the U.S. government would not allow transgender individuals to serve in the military. After four federal courts struck down Trump's edict, the DoD announced in December that it would accept transgender recruits.

Then, in March, Trump announced another ban, which is also likely to be challenged legally.

"Things go back and forth every day, and trans people in the military feel threatened," says Kai Blevins MLS'17, who served in the Army for six years. "Many had come out and started transitioning because they thought they were in the clear. Now, their careers have been pronounced over by the administration."

Policies regarding the use of public bathrooms are another point of stress. Between 2013 and 2016, at least 24 states considered "bathroom bills," legislation that would restrict access to multiuser restrooms, locker rooms and other gender-segregated facilities on the basis of a definition of gender consistent with the sex assigned at birth. North Carolina was the only state to actually pass such a bill, and it was repealed after major businesses left the state and sports events were canceled.

Then, in January of this year, the U.S. Department of Education announced that it would no longer investigate civil rights complaints from transgender students

who have been prohibited from using the bathroom corresponding to their gender identity.

Most people have no idea what a transgender person may experience in the simple act of walking into a public restroom, especially in a busy place like an airport. "People sometimes pull their kids out of the women's bathroom, or tell me to leave," says Jackie Sandmeyer, a third-year student at Willamette Law who wears their hair short and tends toward men's-style clothing.

"I've had people bring in their male significant other to get me out of there," says Sandmeyer, who uses the pronouns they/them. "Out of safety concerns, I have to ask someone to go with me. It's a humiliating experience."

Even on the Willamette campus, the bathroom question looms large. Andrés Oswill '15, now a housing policy analyst for the City of Portland, raised awareness of the need for gender-neutral bathrooms by circulating and submitting a petition to Residence Life during his sophomore and junior years at Willamette, when he was president of the Queer Student Union. "While the campaign was not entirely successful," he says, "it did bring a lot of awareness to campus."

"I think we're moving into a new world. I don't know if we'll ever be gender-free, but it will be a world where people are going to have a lot more room to create new definitions of gender and presentation." Jade Aguilar

Willamette now has 15 gender-neutral bathrooms scattered across campus, but not in many of the older academic buildings. “Sometimes I would have to run three blocks to get to a gender-neutral restroom,” Sandmeyer says. “Then I’d be late to class, because I couldn’t make it back in time.”

In the residence halls, where most floors are mixed gender, students on each floor generally decide who will use what bathroom at the beginning of the term. “This sounds good in theory,” Blevins says, “but in reality that forces trans people to out themselves, which is not good for their safety. It should be a given that every single place in the university has gender-neutral restrooms.”

Aguiar agrees, saying, “I would make all the bathrooms all-gender. People who are uncomfortable could find a single-stall bathroom.”

Bathrooms aside, transgender students say they find Willamette a welcoming place — and it is often the first place they have felt comfortable exploring their gender identity. “The feeling of missing something was present my whole life,” says junior Ilia Forkin, who is double-majoring in women’s and gender studies and theatre.

“What changed was moving out of my hometown and being in an environment where I had more agency.”

Forkin, who wore a skirt with a black t-shirt and tights, gold earrings, and a Victorian brooch pendant during our interview, uses the pronouns she/her and identifies as both queer and transgender. “I use the term transgender because I was raised and taught to identify as a boy, but I identify as a girl,” she says. “The term ‘queer’ has to do with understanding that, because of my situation as a gender-nonconforming individual, none of my romantic relationships will ever be normative. Queer is kind of a shortcut way of saying, ‘It’s not very simple.’”

As a boy growing up in Davis, California, Forkin says she didn’t relate to society’s expectations of how a male should feel, dress or behave, but also didn’t identify with transgender stereotypes seen in the media. She was comfortable wearing pink clothing and having long hair until she reached junior high, when the norms of gender conformity became more explicit — and the absence of feeling connected to herself more palpable.

During high school, she pondered whether changing some aspect of her life — perhaps finding a good relationship or

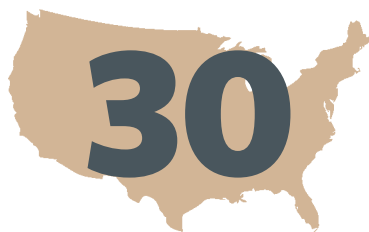
a fulfilling profession — might help her feel whole. “I didn’t have the vocabulary — or the community — to articulate my discomfort in a way that related to gender,” she says, “so my response was to attribute it to other things.”

Once Forkin got to Willamette, she began to meet trans and nonbinary people, and everything began to click. “Eventually I hit the point where I was sure about how I wanted to identify,” she says. “Then it was just a process of exploring what I needed to change to make myself feel comfortable.”

Part of accepting her true identity was changing her name from William to Ilia. But she doesn’t plan to legally change it — at least not anytime soon. “Identity doesn’t have to be so formal,” she says. “People jump to the conclusion that the goal is to exist comfortably within institutional society, but it’s more important that it’s meaningful for me rather than that it’s written down somewhere.”

Forkin rejects the idea that to express herself as a woman, she has to change her body. “The way people think about bodies as male or female is socially constructed,” she says. “There is not one way to be a certain gender, or to be trans or queer. Everybody needs to confront the idea that gender is very complicated.”

Challenges to Being Trans



U.S. states lack gender identity protection, meaning that transgender employees can be fired just because of their gender identity.



percent of transgender people experienced mistreatment in the past year in a place of public accommodation.*



percent reported being refused medical care due to their transgender or gender non-conforming status, with even higher numbers among people of color.**

Aguilar, who teaches classes in the sociology of gender, sexuality and family, notes that fewer trans people are seeking gender reassignment surgery. “Now, you can be a full woman because that’s who you know you are and that’s what you’re presenting as — and you can still have a penis,” she says. “People are not sure they want to make the trade-off. They say, ‘I’m not going to get major surgery to make my body more intelligible to you. My body might not look the way that you thought it would, but that’s not on me, it’s on you.’”

Transgender millennials are more likely to see the desire to transition into a beautiful woman or a manly man as indicative of society’s emphasis on gender essentialism (meaning that everyone needs to be categorized as one gender or the other).

“It continues to reinforce that there are only two genders,” Blevins says. “People say Laverne Cox is a “good” trans woman — that being transgender means having all the possible surgeries and hormone treatments, so you can be beautiful and pass as a cisgender (not trans) woman.

“This concept directs the medical and legal systems to say that if you aren’t doing that, you aren’t performing your ‘transness’ in an appropriate way. Ultimately, it sets

transgender people up to be treated as less than human because law and medicine have such authority in our society, particularly when it comes to issues the general public knows little about.”

But Forkin acknowledges that living in a body that many misread as masculine is not easy. “There’s nothing wrong with my body, by any means,” she says, “but cultural pressures tell me that it has to feel a certain way. It’s frustrating to still not feel at home. If it’s hard to look at yourself in the mirror in the morning, then eventually you have to deal with that, one way or another.”

Gender identity disorder was once listed in the “Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders,” the psychiatrists’ manual for diagnosing mental illness, but it has been replaced by the term gender dysphoria. The change signals a new understanding that identifying with a different gender than the one with which you were born is not a mental disorder. It’s the distress — caused by a culture that stigmatizes people who don’t conform to gender norms — that can cause depression and anxiety.

While not everyone who is transgender experiences gender dysphoria, 52 percent

of incoming transgender college students reported their emotional health as well below average relative to their peers, according to research by the Association of American Colleges and Universities. A 2016 study by the National Center for Transgender Equality found the prevalence of suicide attempts among respondents to be 41 percent, versus the 4.6 percent of the overall U.S. population who report a lifetime suicide attempt. Suicide rates were even higher — 54 percent — among those with a multiracial background. And in the transgender group who had attempted suicide, 92 percent reported that the attempt happened before age 25.

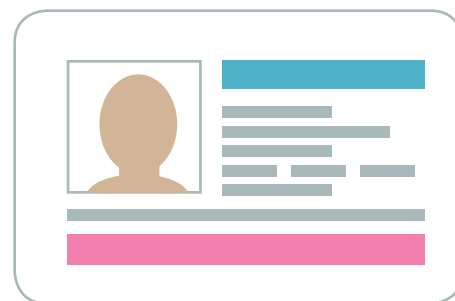
Sandmeyer can tell you about the dark days. During the summer after their freshman year at a university in a traditionally non-progressive state, on their 19th birthday, they called their parents to tell them they were gay. Their mom abruptly ended both the conversation and their relationship, saying, “I don’t know what we could have done to get a fag as a child.”

Their parents cut off all contact, shut down their bank account, and took back their car. “Inherently we always see our parents as safe spaces,” Sandmeyer says now. “You can prepare all you want, but in

28 percent were subjected to harassment in medical settings and **2 percent** were victims of violence in doctor’s offices.**

35 percent of transgender people have not changed their legal name

32 percent of those who have not updated their gender reported that it was because they could not afford it.**



40 percent of transgender people who presented ID that didn’t match their gender presentation were harassed, **15 percent** were asked to leave an establishment and **3 percent** were assaulted.**

*National Center for Transgender Equality **National Transgender Discrimination Survey

“Existing as a gender-nonconforming person in a society that is based on the sanctity of gender means that everyday interactions are complicated.” Ilia Forkin

the end it’s still a kick to the gut.”

After being disowned, Sandmeyer hit a deep low. “That was the icing on the cake for me — being told that my truth as a person was cumbersome to the people who loved me, to the point where they couldn’t love me anymore. I remember thinking that maybe it would be easier if I wasn’t there, if I wasn’t so hard on the people who care about me.”

But Sandmeyer bought a Greyhound bus ticket back to university, having decided that one way or another, they would stay in school. They crashed on friends’ couches because they couldn’t afford rent, and worked as many jobs as they could find. “I tried to keep my dignity about me,” they say. “I didn’t tell anyone that I was homeless. Because in the house I grew up in, if you couldn’t take care of yourself, you probably did something to get yourself into that situation.”

After six years, Sandmeyer graduated from college and moved to Oregon with two milk crates full of clothes and \$100. “I was ready to work,” they say. “I figured if someone saw the potential in me, I would figure out the rest.”

Someone did. Sandmeyer was soon hired as the campus coordinator for Oregon’s Sexual Assault Task Force. They are also fulfilling a long-held goal by attending law school at Willamette while working full-time. They were recently awarded the Bill and Ann Shepherd Legal Scholarship, administered by the LGBT Bar Association of Oregon, and also received

the 2018 Voice for Justice Award from the National Crime Victim Law Institute.

“Many transgender people don’t make it to my age. The suicide rate is so high,” Sandmeyer says. “Growing up, the constant message I got was that I didn’t have value in society, and I still struggle to this day, as a professional. I feel like I am something that people have to deal with, whether it is about where can I go to the bathroom, or asking people to use certain language, or people making remarks about me.”

Willamette students seeking help, whether with understanding their own gender identity or dealing with others’ reactions, can visit with a counselor at the Bishop Wellness Center or with university chaplains. The Student Center for Equity and Empowerment, where Aguilar has office hours, also provides a welcoming space where students of various identities can find resources and support networks, as well as build community.

Psychologist Audrey Schwartz, who practices at Bishop, says that about 15 percent of the students who seek her services identify as transgender or nonbinary. “They are often trying to better understand themselves,” Schwartz says. “Besides dealing with depression, there is a higher likelihood of them encountering stigma and financial difficulties, or problems in their family groups.” Another concern is safety. “For those who want to transition, the process can be quite scary,” she says. “That can be a time when they are

at increased risk of being confronted.”

Forkin hasn’t encountered any physical violence at Willamette, but she describes the experience of walking across campus as one of “atmospheric pressure,” involving subtle confrontations. While there have been a few instances when someone expressed explicit disgust or anger, many times the reactions are so subtle that she is not sure whether she’s reacting to her own internalized fears or whether the person really has a problem with her. As she says, “Existing as a gender-nonconforming person in a society that is based on the sanctity of gender means that everyday interactions are complicated.”

Schwartz says she meets students where they are. For some, transition means they want to change their name and their gender marker (the way their gender is listed on their birth certificate, ID or passport), but nothing else. Others want hormones or surgery. “My job is to give them good information about what their resources are and what each thing might mean,” Schwartz says. “I try to make sure they’re in an emotionally stable place and provide support along the way.”

Chaplain Karen Wood also provides a safe and confidential space. “We know that what helps students succeed in a small liberal arts college is having one adult who takes a special interest in them and two or three close friends,” she says. “Those are the elements you absolutely must have in order to feel like you can succeed, and we take that very seriously.”

All college students are at the age when they’re making a break from their families, she says, so they are all struggling with creating a new identity. But transgender students are trying to manage a gap that is harder to bridge. “These students are beginning to understand that they don’t fit into their families’ expectations of whom they will love,” Wood says. “This process is not for the faint of heart.”

In her sociology classes, Blaney has been studying intersectionality, a theory that class, race, sexual orientation, ability and gender are completely interwoven. “I am incredibly privileged because I’m white and raised in an upper-middle-class family, and I have educated parents,” she says. “We should pay attention to the voices that are not as easily heard as mine.”

Sandmeyer can speak to that. They

describe being black, Japanese and transgender as a crossroads of various types of trauma. “You are so terrified your whole life,” they say. “You grow up with such hypervigilance.”

Being queer is generally seen through a white framework, Sandmeyer adds. But at the same time, communities of color are not always tolerant of trans people. “It’s hard because you feel like you are right in the middle of two communities that don’t fully accept you,” they say. “Every community that is marginalized feels like they’re fighting for scarce resources.”

Aguilar notes that the system of college education was originally built to meet the needs of middle-class, white students, mostly men. “My job is to recognize that the student body is becoming increasingly diverse,” she says, “yet we don’t necessarily have the institutional support system in place to handle all these kinds of students.”

She says that a lot of her work entails being a resource for faculty, who are trying to figure out how to “teach, support and not fumble in this murky, ever-changing social justice situation.”

Last winter, she organized two workshops to help faculty and staff understand these new social paradigms. More than 80 people attended the second workshop, where they discussed issues such as the difficulty navigating the pronouns used by transgender students. Aguilar says, “We used to ask, ‘What are your preferred pronouns?’ but now we just ask for their pronouns. We’re not asking, ‘Who do you prefer to be,’ but ‘Who are you?’”

Other thorny questions included whether students should be encouraged to share their pronouns on the first day of class, an idea that some see as inclusive, but others as a practice that forces students to out themselves when they may not feel comfortable.

“This is a real dilemma,” says Roy Pérez, associate professor of English and American ethnic studies. Students in his classes fill out an index card on the first day with details they’d like to disclose to the class, including their pronouns. After sharing with their classmates, they have the opportunity to add anything on the index card that they would like only their professor to know.

Other needs are more structural, such as the fact that Willamette’s computer systems are set up in a binary way, with students addressed by gender on their transcripts, student account bills and other documents. “Students say it’s hard when you get your bill and you feel misgendered,” Aguilar says. “You expect that, but not at random times where you’re just getting a piece of mail. It’s like, ‘Ugh, again?’”

Changing outmoded systems — and ways of thinking — is an ongoing process, one that colleges all over the country are addressing. “An institution like Willamette will never be done reforming itself to better support marginalized students,” Pérez says, “and there will be steps forward and backward. The university will always be a flawed institution, but it does its best work when it trusts, listens to and acts upon the vital political visions of its most thoughtful students.”

If the university still struggles to fully understand and embrace the needs of transgender people, the situation in society at large can be even more difficult (see “Challenges to Being Trans” sidebar, p. 24).

Recently, state governments have begun to include a gender-neutral option on drivers’ licenses and ID cards, with Oregon leading the charge. Various forms of state identification now include an “X” as a third option, in addition to the traditional “F” and “M.”

Blaney acknowledges that being a student at Willamette makes life as a nonbinary person relatively easy. “We call it the Willamette bubble,” she says. “I don’t stress about walking around here at all.”

She sometimes wonders what she might encounter when she applies for jobs later on: “If I write Bridget on a job application, and I go in for an interview, and they see someone who doesn’t look like a Bridget to them, how will that work?”

She hopes such a scenario won’t happen, as she plans to stay in the Northwest, get a master’s degree in social work and then work with queer youth.

But Blaney admits to worrying about it sometimes. As she says, “It’s hard to deal with other people rejecting something that feels so innate to my being.” ☐

Rosemary Camozzi is a freelance writer in Eugene.

“An institution like Willamette will never be done reforming itself to better support marginalized students, and there will be steps forward and backward.”

Roy Pérez

ON LOCATION

Pork carnitas or eggplant coconut curry. Yakisoba noodle salad or lemon cod en papillote with Calabrian chili butter. Or perhaps just a burger or slice of pizza. Students, employees and visitors to Willamette's dining facilities can choose from a smorgasbord of dishes that are healthy, tasty and creative.





Each week, Bon Appétit food service company, which runs the four campus cafes — Goudy and Kaneko commons, Rick's Cafe and Montag store — serves about 17,500 meals at breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Bon Appétit at Willamette goes through about 3,500 lbs. of meat and 1,800 lbs. of vegetables and fruit a week.

Food is often locally sourced, organic and sustainable, with options for vegans, vegetarians and people with allergies or dietary restrictions. Included in the local produce is quinoa grown in the Willamette Valley.



Cardinal & Gold

The 2017 season may have started slowly for the men's soccer team but it ended in triumph.

After losing the first three games, the team went on to earn a winning record, its first Northwest Conference title and its first trip to the NCAA Division III Men's Soccer Tournament.

The Bearcats ended the season with a 10-7-2 record, scoring 22 goals and earning a 0.97 goals against average. A 2-1 victory over archrival Linfield helped the team clinch a conference co-championship, shared with Pacific Lutheran University.

After the game, Head Coach **Lloyd Fobi** said, "We have believed in each other all season, fought together, cried together and always played together. I am proud of these young men for representing Willamette in an exemplary fashion. We made school history today."

The conference title also secured an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament. Competing against Mary Hardin-Baylor (Texas) in the first round, the Bearcats played with extra effort and intensity. Eventually, a rebound off the crossbar led to the game's only goal and a 1-0 win for the Texas team.

The Bearcats also celebrated individual successes at the end of the historic season. Coach Fobi was chosen NWC Coach of the Year, **Alan Hernandez '18** and **Max Berner-Hays '21** were chosen First Team All-Northwest Conference, and Berner-Hays was also selected as NWC Freshman of the Year.





Willamette soccer players (left to right) Quinn Nottage '18, Alan Hernandez '18, Liam Main '18 and Quinn Mello-Bastida '20 display the Northwest Conference Championship trophy the team won this year.

Bearcats break new ground



No wonder fans of the women's basketball team were full of excitement and anticipation last fall.

The Bearcats clinched their first winning season, the first Northwest Conference Tournament berth since 2000-01 and an NWC championship game appearance for the first time since 1996. **Kylie Towry '18** ended her career by breaking multiple school records, including total points scored. To top it all off, Head Coach **Peg Swadener** received Northwest Conference Women's Basketball Coach of the Year honors.

“Kylie was at the gym all the time and helped transform the culture of the team.”

— **Peg Swadener**
Women's Head Basketball Coach

Swadener and Towry (pictured above at right) say several factors contributed to the strong season: a hard preseason schedule, the team's camaraderie and the type of leadership and urgency achieved with half of the players being seniors. Overall, the team ended the season with a 17-10 record and 62.6 points per game.

“I was conscious of the senior mentality,” says Towry. “This is it: You have one year. What are you going to do?”

A historic moment

Early on, players agreed simply to keep their head in the game rather than stress about winning. Towry adopted this mindset as she stood at the free-throw line at the University of Puget Sound in February, poised to break Willamette's career scoring record.

All season, she hadn't given it much thought — in fact, she'd only become aware of it because others mentioned the record.

“I barely reached the thousand career-points mark earlier in the season,” she says. “I thought there was no way I'd even get there.”

But she did. The moment she made Willamette history was a quiet one — it was a free throw like “every other free throw, not the cool shot where you step back then shoot,” she says. But it pushed her to 1,310 points over 104 games, surpassing the record of 1,309 points in 106 games previously held by **Jenny Joseph '97**.

Towry would have preferred to make the shot during a home game, but she says the Puget Sound announcer “made a big deal” of the milestone, and her family was there to celebrate the achievement.

By the end of the season, Towry had racked up 1,433 points. Swadener refers to Towry as “another coach,” a student of the game who has an incredibly high basketball IQ.

“Everyone talks about what a great shooter she is, and there’s no doubt about that, but it’s the work ethic,” Swadener says. “Kylie was at the gym all the time and helped transform the culture of the team.”

Putting the team first

Captains Towry, **Ashley Evans '18** and **Kali Vickery '19** had a team-first mentality. They arranged open gym and group workouts outside of practice, which built strong camaraderie between the freshmen, transfer players and seniors. Several players consistently attended open gym — but the captains didn’t have to get on their case to do it. Towry says, “They truly wanted to play basketball.”

Swadener recruited Towry when she started at Willamette six years ago. The year before Swadener arrived, the team had won only a single game. At this year’s NWC tournament, the Bearcats made it to the final game, falling to George Fox University 60-50. Yet they defeated nationally ranked Whitman College twice — 62-55 in the penultimate game of the regular season and 55-52 during the tournament semifinals — and came close to earning the NWC’s automatic bid into the NCAA Division III National Tournament.

Swadener says part of her role this year was to “set the team up for success and stay out of players’ way as often as possible.”

The team’s strength was proven in numbers. Besides total points scored, Towry set a career record for total three-point field goals (293, beating the 177 achieved by Ashley Evans '18) and tied with Evans for the most single-game three-pointers (9). Towry was also named First Team All-NWC.

Evans, who began the year in the university’s top 10 all-time scorer list, ended her career with 664 points. She also set the university record for career free throw percentage with 83 percent, converting 49 of 59 attempts.

Swadener says players learned how to maximize their potential not only for their individual success but also for their teammates’, an attitude she’s seldom seen in her 20 years as a coach.

“That Coach of the Year award has my name on it,” she says, “but it belongs to everyone in the program.” ☐

NEWS & NOTES



McGuirk



Fobi



Swadener

Three Earn NWC Coach of the Year Awards

Three Willamette University head coaches have been selected as the Northwest Conference Coach of the Year in their sports.

Matt McGuirk, who led the Bearcat men’s cross country team to its sixth consecutive NWC Championship in 2017, received the award for the sixth season in a row and the 13th time since 2001.

Lloyd Fobi led the men’s soccer team to an NWC co-championship this fall — Willamette’s first NWC title in the sport. The team also won the tie-breaker to receive the NWC’s automatic bid into the NCAA Division III National Tournament but fell to University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, 1-0, in the first round in San Antonio, Texas.

Peg Swadener led the women’s basketball team to a third place regular season finish in the NWC and Willamette’s first winning record since 2000-01.



Bearcats Set Four Records at Championships

Bearcat swimmers set four school records during the 2018 NWC Championships in February.

Ben Hedman '20 broke the school record in the men’s 200-yard individual medley with a time of 1:55.78. In the men’s 1,650-yard freestyle, **Ben Fritz '21** set a record with 16:30.97. **Kiley Lin '19** earned a record time of 58.81 seconds in the prelims of the women’s 100-yard butterfly, while **Ashlyn Witherwax '18** produced a school record of 1:06.65 in the championship final of the women’s 100-yard breaststroke.

In addition, nine Bearcat swimmers earned All-Northwest Conference honors 22 times during the championships.



Gordon to Retire

Judy Gordon, Willamette’s associate director of intercollegiate athletics and senior woman administrator, is

retiring at the end of this academic year after 22 years working with the Bearcats. Gordon is responsible for oversight of the athletics budget and financial activities, as well as handling human resources for athletics and coordinating NCAA and Northwest Conference rules compliance. In 2012, she received the Distinguished Service to Willamette Athletics Award.

Keep up with all the athletic news, rosters, game reports and schedules
wubearcats.com



Well Read

Four graduating students share books that resonated with them during their college career.

Why People Believe Weird Things

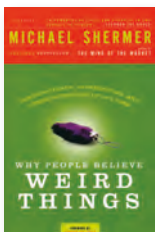
by Michael Shermer

Author Michael Shermer, publisher of Sceptic magazine, explores how faith in ghosts, aliens and other phenomena — even by scholars — persists in the post-Enlightenment age.

Even as Shermer debunks illogical claims, he notes that skeptics and believers share one trait: hope in the face of uncertainty, vulnerability and fear.

He says, “This hope is what drives all of us — skeptics and believers alike — to be compelled by unsolved mysteries, to seek spiritual meaning in a physical universe, desire immortality and wish that our hopes for certainty may be fulfilled.”

Recommended by Sierra Wilson '18, pre-health major, who read it during her College Colloquium class with Professor Roberta Bigelow.



The Lost Wolves of Japan

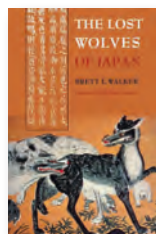
by Brett L. Walker

The modernization of Japan had disastrous consequences for one of the country's most worshipped animals.

For centuries, wolves were considered protectors and valued for fending off wild boars and deer from crops. Indigenous people created charms in the creatures' image to ward off disease or bring fertility to couples. But in the 18th century, as Japan moved toward modernization, people began to view wolves as threats. By 1905, as a result of poisoning and over-hunting, the animals were extinct.

Author and scholar Brett L. Walker examines the historical, cultural and environmental elements behind the loss.

Recommended by Jose Fausto '18, international studies major, who says the book “opened my eyes to the importance of advocating for sustainability.”



The Mother of All Questions

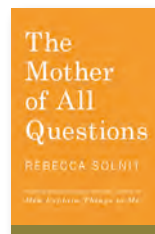
by Rebecca Solnit

According to one reviewer, the latest book by recognized author and activist Rebecca Solnit offers “exactly the quality of thinking that has been missing in American civic life this past election cycle.”

Through humor and sharp analysis, Solnit's follow-up to “Men Explain Things to Me” explores the gender binary, rape jokes and how sexual violence thrives in silence.

“My suggestion is to read Solnit as though you are thirsty and her book is a glass of water,” says one reviewer. “Then go out and talk to some of the women you know about what you read and ask them what they think. And then listen to them.”

Recommended by Megan Hinzdel JD '18, who says the book addresses “the power of the words we speak and the stories we tell.”



Tribe of Mentors: Short Life Advice from the Best in the World

by Timothy Ferriss

Losing loved ones can turn life upside down — and push you to find what matters most.

After several people close to him died in one year, New York Times bestselling author and podcast star Timothy Ferriss wanted to navigate his life better. So, he asked the world's top actors, sports stars and entrepreneurs 11 critical questions and collected the answers.

More than 100 people, including Facebook co-founder Dustin Moskovitz and Russian tennis player Maria Sharapova, offer their secrets to success, happiness and meaning. Among them are the best purchases of \$100 or less, how to overcome failure and bounce back towards success, and how to achieve clarity on your purpose and assess your priorities.

Recommended by J. Connor Maloney '17, MBA '18, who describes it as “a cookbook of success stories.”





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

Alumni Awards Celebrate the Best

At a ceremony and dinner during Alumni Reunion Weekend next month, the alumni association will present its highest honors to outstanding Bearcats.

LESTLE J. SPARKS MEDALLION



Russ Beaton '60

Willamette has been part of Russ Beaton's life since he arrived from Hood River Valley in 1956. After completing a PhD in economics at Claremont Graduate School, he taught in California and Vancouver, B.C., before returning to Salem.

He spent 33 years in the economics department at Willamette and served on the original planning committee for the Atkinson Graduate School of Management.

Beaton taught 22 different courses, including several he originated, and team-taught interdisciplinary courses with 14 other faculty members. When Willamette created the position of faculty mentor, he was elected by his peers to serve as the first mentor.

Beaton has coauthored three books about sustainable development and is completing a fourth, "Localism: The Economics of Peace," with his brother Dave '63.

YOUNG ALUMNI LEADERSHIP AWARD



Brandon '08 and Kara '08 Adams

After graduating from Willamette, Kara and Brandon entered a year of service with Lutheran Volunteer Corps, where Brandon taught video production as a tool for social change in Chicago and Kara worked in refugee resettlement in Minneapolis.

In 2010, they returned to Seattle and were married. Brandon is a video producer for All for Kidz, a company that creates educational theater performances for elementary school students nationwide. To deliver more socially conscious educational programs, he introduces topics of race and gender for deeper critical reflection.

Kara is director of community engagement at the University of Washington Bothell, leading the institution to more proficiently educate students, engage faculty and deepen community impact through community-based learning and research.

Ardent fans of the Northwest, Brandon and Kara credit Willamette friends, faculty, staff and the community for having helped shape their lives and outlook.



Colby R. Takeda '11

In 2015, Colby Takeda became one of the nation's youngest administrators when he opened The Plaza at Waikiki, an assisted living community in Honolulu, Hawaii. He has since become a champion for intergenerational relationships.

Takeda coauthored the award-winning children's book "It's Just Aging," and is an Argentum Senior Living Leader Under 40 and a Pacific Business News 40 Under 40 awardee.

Following his exercise science studies at Willamette, Takeda received an MBA from the University of Hawaii, and is currently a Master of Public Health candidate at the University of California, Berkeley. Takeda is the board chairman for the Kaho'omiki nonprofit and also serves on the board of directors for the Hawaii Public Health Association and the Better Business Bureau of the Northwest and Pacific.

Proud of his Willamette education, Takeda continues to volunteer as an alumni and admissions representative.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI CITATION



Ashley Holmer '02

Ashley Holmer is founding executive director of Red Sweater Project, a nonprofit that provides educational opportunities for rural Tanzanian students, and CEO at Red Rhino Tours.

After earning her Willamette degree in psychology, Holmer moved to Tanzania to work as an English teacher and soccer coach in a Maasai village. Over the next 13 years, she opened two secondary schools in rural areas of the country, enrolling over 400 students.

Fluent in the local language of Swahili, Holmer continues to live part-time among the Maasai. Red Sweater Project has become a model for other development programs seeking to create partnerships that honor tradition and local leadership and encourage sustainability.

As an alumna, Holmer served as the chapter advisor of her philanthropic sorority, Alpha Chi Omega, and she has been inducted into Willamette's Athletic Hall of Fame for women's soccer.



Mark Hanken '93

Mark Hanken has spent his career striving to improve lives and change perspectives through the power of sport, social inclusion and community service.

As senior vice president of sports for Special Olympics Oregon, Hanken is recognized within the global movement for his leadership, passion, knowledge and innovation.

Hanken started working for Special Olympics 20 years ago in Texas, and in 2003 returned to the Pacific Northwest to help grow the Oregon program significantly. He collaborates with staff and volunteers to provide year-round training and competition opportunities to more than 12,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Since graduation, Hanken has stayed connected to Willamette. He was an assistant men's and women's soccer coach in 1996 and served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors from 2007-13.



Daniel P. Santos JD '86

Daniel "Danny" Santos, who recently retired as associate dean at Willamette College of Law, also spent 24 years serving four Oregon governors as legal counsel and policy advisor.

During his long career of servant leadership, Santos helped governors, Oregonians and students on issues including education, social justice, tribal sovereignty, and agricultural labor.

Recognition for his work includes a Willamette law scholarship named in his honor; the Paul J. De Muniz Professionalism Award (Oregon Hispanic Bar Association); the Judge Mercedes Deiz Award (Oregon Women Lawyers); the Literacy Trailblazer Award (Mid-Valley Literacy Center); Keeping the Dream Alive – Lifetime Achievement Award (World Arts Foundation); and the Southern Oregon University Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Santos remains committed to social justice, education and the arts through service on numerous boards.



Jon Steiner '63

Jon Steiner is a retired educator, humanitarian, photographer and adventure traveler.

In his 40 years of teaching, Steiner instilled a sense of appreciation for other cultures in his students both in the classroom and through numerous homestay exchanges in France. He founded Echanges France Amerique du Nord in order to facilitate travel and exchanges for his colleagues nationwide.

In retirement, travel around the world led Steiner to life-changing encounters and humanitarian opportunities. Meeting impoverished students with seemingly impossible dreams, he acted to help them realize their potential, eventually forming a nonprofit, Water and Education Care International. As well as supporting secondary and university students, WE Care now plans community water projects in western Kenya, where drought and contaminated water often lead to outbreaks of cholera and typhoid.

Class Notes

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



Left to right: Barbara (Sherk) Schacht '61, Bill Schacht, Karen Cheeld '61, Karen (Madison) Myers '61, Eldon Olson '61, Marcia (Humphrey) Olson '61, Sammie (Barker) McCormack '61 and Jo (Gannon) Roughton '61



Left to right: Nancy Hall Parks '67, Peggy Schlegel '69, Madge (Baughman) Bauer '69, Corrine (Maxwell) Stewart '71, Julie (Jelline) Barker '67, Susan Gilpin '69 and Laani (Watanabe) Gazeley '70



Stephen Smith '65



George Mante '69

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

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

1955

Vivian (Chance) Didzun writes: "I just learned about the connection of Willamette University and the Zena area. Zena has always been a part of my family history, as my great-great-grandfather arrived there in 1874, and now most of my relatives are buried in the Zena Cemetery, including my son. My granddaughter will be starting at Willamette in the fall and will continue the family connection to Salem."

1960

Dale Denham and **Connie (Egger) Curtis** were married on July 2, 2017, at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Tigard, Oregon.

Barbara (Pfaff) Ford writes: "I have moved once again and now live in a senior community in Carmel, California. I would love to hear from some of you, class members."

1961

Bruce Buzzell lives in Vancouver, Washington, with his wife, Ginger.

Paul deLespinasse writes a weekly commentary column for NewsMax.com.

Peter Manning has been named an honorary professor at the Education University of Hong Kong.

Sammie (Barker) McCormack and her Delta Gamma sisters from the class of 1961 gathered in Bend last year to celebrate their longtime friendships, share memories and mourn the loss of **Judy (Taylor) Lasswell**, who passed away in June 2017. Among those in attendance were **Barbara (Sherk) Schacht** and her husband, Bill; **Karen Cheeld**; **Karen (Madison) Myers**; **Eldon Olson** and **Marcia (Humphrey) Olson**; and **Jo (Gannon) Roughton**. **Barbara (Simon) Bunney** was unable to attend.

Bill Richter is a contributor to and co-editor, with Albert Tzeng and Ekaterina Koldunova, of the book "Framing Asian Studies: Geopolitics and Institutions."

In December, **Fred VanNatta** was honored with the 2017 Home Builders Association Lifetime Achievement Award in Portland, Oregon.

1962

Fidel Gaviola and his wife, Arlene, along with two friends, traveled the ancient Silk Road, from Istanbul to Beijing, by bus, train, ferry and local transport for three months.

1964

Terry Henderson congratulates fellow members of the class of 1964 who turned 75 during 2017. "We are all three-quarters of the way to reaching 100," he says. Terry and his wife, Krimhilde, are longtime residents of Australia's capital, Canberra. Terry was a telecommunications policy advisor for the Australian Department of Communications for 25 years.

1965

In December 2017, **Stephen Smith** retired from Kurrus Funeral Home, where he served as director of continuing care services for 16 years, in Belleville, Illinois.

1967

John Bingham published "Hangtown: Secrets and Schemes," the second book in his Hangtown series. John also says he had a great time at his 50th reunion last September.

Anna Leland is a freelance travel writer. She says: "Congratulations to my classmates on our 50th reunion. Sorry I could not join you last year."

1968 50TH REUNION

1969

Nancy Bearg recently moved from Washington, D.C. to Portland, Oregon, after 48 years in the nation's capital. She continues teaching leadership at George Washington University and working

as a co-founding partner at Reboot Partners, as well as traveling overseas for entrepreneurship conferences and to countries in transition. Besides her three grandchildren in Lake Oswego, her passion is post-conflict peacebuilding.

John Hudkins, Teresa (Krug) Hudkins, Bill Gaynor and Dan Schneider JD'74 collaborated on music for a documentary film, "A Song for Alan," to honor the late husband of **Glenda (Hieber) Blanchard**, and to highlight the power of friendship and the arts in their lives. It was the first time the group had made music together in 45 years. John, Bill and Dan wrote, performed and produced the music, which is part of their recently released CD, "A Portion of Time." Dan's son, Ted Schneider, a stage and screen actor and director in New York, directed and edited the film. Former WU art history instructor James Hicks provided and directed the photography, while Teresa participated in some of the singing and interviews.

George E. Mante is a senior management analyst for the Washington state Department of Employment Security. He was recently elected to a three-year term on the board of the Generations Credit Union in Olympia, Washington, and to his fourth term as treasurer of the Washington State Chapter of the International Association of Workforce Professionals. He is completing work on two new books relating to strategic planning and governing in the public sector.

Larry Gale and his wife, Vanida, visited friends and relatives in Thailand.

Susan Gilpin and several classmates gathered at the home of **Peggy Schlegel** and **Bob Schlegel** for the holidays, which included a customized game of Bearcat Bingo. Also in attendance were **Nancy Hall Parks '67, Madge (Baughman) Bauer, Corinne (Maxwell) Stewart '71, Julie (Jelline) Barker '67** and **Laani (Watanabe) Gazeley '70**.

1971

Roger Hansen retired in July 2017 after 41 years as a probation and parole officer for the Washington

State Department of Corrections.

Bruce Wright, associate vice president for Tech Parks Arizona, received a 2017 Man of the Year Award from Greater Tucson Leadership.

1972

Gail (Kaufmann) Riley is enjoying her new grandson and the "wonderfully rewarding experience" of being a grandmother.

1973 45TH REUNION

Gordon Massae retired and is now temporarily in Herndon, Virginia, helping disaster victims of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico receive Small Business Administration low-interest loans to help rebuild and put their lives back together.

Joann Frances Young and fellow Alpha Phi alumni from the early 1970s gathered at Alumni Weekend 2017 to share memories and honor the memory of their sorority sister **Marty (Messner) Cloran '71**, who passed away last August.

1975

Terry Hanson retired in 2013 after a 30-year career as an award-winning Oregon high school teacher, coach and athletic director at Waldport and Gresham's Sam Barlow high schools. Currently, Terry is co-executive director of the Oregon Athletic Directors Association and an adjunct professor for Ohio University College of Business's online interscholastic athletic administration master's program. He continues to live in Gresham, Oregon, with his wife of 44 years, Sherry, near his son, daughter and three grandsons.

Ken Morris is developing Internet of Things (IoT) solutions for KnectIQ, a tech company he founded based in Minnesota.

Judi Ranton retired from the Portland (Oregon) Water Bureau, after more than 30 years working primarily in the water efficiency program, to start an income tax preparation business, Tax Works Incorporated. She also sings in choirs around Portland, including a capella group PDX Vox, and Aurora Chorus, a women's choir singing for peace and social justice.



Joann Frances Young '73 and friends at Alumni Reunion Weekend



Terry Hanson '75



Bruce Wright '71

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

Class Notes



Sally Purbrick-Illek '76



Rick Sherwood '77



Chris Blattner '78 and family



Robert Manicke '84



Keith Riggs '82

1976

Sally Purbrick-Illek works part-time for the Tourism Confucius Institute at Griffith University in Queensland, Australia, and volunteers with therapy dogs, as well as training her working border collies.

1977

Rick Sherwood is celebrating the 20th year in business with his firm, Innovative HR Solutions, LLC. Rick adds, "Willamette prepared me for the business world by providing me with a world-class education, for which I am forever grateful."

1978 40TH REUNION

Chris Blattner and his wife, Cindy, took a three-month sabbatical in summer of 2017 to sail from Athens to Santorini in the Aegean Sea and then the Inland Passage from Bellingham, Washington, to Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

Steve Fullmer, an instructor with Interface Technical Training for the past 10 years, recently published a book, "PMI-PBA: Business Analysts and Project Managers."

1980

Bill Bishop was recently listed in Best Lawyers in America for 2018 and selected as a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. Bill is the managing partner of Bishop Law Office in Phoenix and a certified family law specialist in Arizona.

Tim Overton-Harris is district superintendent of the Cascadia District of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, responsible for 49 churches and faith communities and over 75 clergy.

Cammy Shay is a professor of government at Houston Community College in Texas.

1981

Anne Davenport is a physicist for the U.S. Department of the Navy.

In October, **Kerry Tymchuk JD'84** received a Governor's Gold Award

for his work with Special Olympics Oregon, where he serves as board chair emeritus. Kerry is also in his seventh year as executive director at the Oregon Historical Society. His wife, **Becky (Banks) Tymchuk**, is vice-chairman of the Beaverton School Board.

1982

Keith Riggs is beginning his fourth career, as a product and furniture designer, at the age of 60. He says, "Thank you to Willamette, especially my mentors, Bill Duvall and Maurice Stewart, as well as the many kind and professional faculty and friends from that time."

1983 35TH REUNION

1984

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown appointed **Robert Manicke** as the judge of the Oregon Tax Court. Robert was previously a partner with Stoel Rives LLP in Portland, Oregon.

1985

Brooks Houser MBA'87, JD'90 and Lori (Schmer) Houser were married on July 1, 2017, in Portland, Oregon.

Vonnie (Nix) Mikkelsen, Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce president and CEO, was appointed to serve on the Oregon State Chamber of Commerce, Government Affairs Council.

1988 30TH REUNION

Patrick Carman's 37th book, "Mr. Gedrick and Me," has been published by HarperCollins.

1989

Dr. Rob Skinner, who has been in practice in the Portland, Oregon, area for 27 years, was named president of the Oregon Urological Society.

1992

Anthony "The Bear" Behrens JD'95 is a senior policy advisor with the State of Oregon. He recently led a project that obtained more than \$32 million from the federal

government to lower insurance rates for Oregonians. Anthony lives in Salem with his wife, Emily, and son, Henry.

To **Erik Hansen** and Bonnie Hansen, a daughter, Margareta Joy Hansen, born June 9, 2017. She joins the couple's two adopted children.

Seiji Shiratori is the State Department's political advisor to the Naval Amphibious Force, Task Force 51/5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade in Manama, Bahrain. After more than 20 years abroad, Seiji and his family plan to return permanently to the Pacific Northwest after his last tour in 2019.

1993 25TH REUNION

Kevin Grossman is a captain in the Seattle Police Department, in command of the department's south precinct.

Andres Luehring MBA'94 has been working for Menzerna Polishing Compounds, a company that produces car care products, since 2016. He lives in Germany with his wife, Dina, and their daughter, Emma.

1994

Greg Koger was promoted to full professor of political science at the University of Miami. He also co-authored with Matthew Lebo a book, "Strategic Party Government," published by the University of Chicago Press.

Angela Mahoney MBA'00 is director of professional services, Latin America, at Sunreach Consulting, which works with clients on the force.com platform. Angela is a four-time Salesforce MVP who co-leads the Portland Salesforce Developer Group, WIT group, and is a co-founder and steering committee member of both Forcelandia, a Salesforce developer-oriented conference, and RADWomen, an initiative that uses a mentor-coach model to teach female administrators on the platform how to code.

To **Jim Stratton** and his wife, Maria Augusta Gutierrez, a daughter, Emma Marie Stratton Gutierrez, born May 31, 2017. The family lives in Panama City, Panama, where Jim is director of technology at the



Anthony "The Bear" Behrens '92, JD'95



Seiji Shiratori '92, his wife, Alisa, and sons, Takeshi and Kai



Jim Stratton '94, his wife, Maria, and daughter, Emma



Andres Luehring '93, MBA'94



Erik Hansen '92, his wife, Bonnie, and their daughter, Margareta

Spanish major travels half the world



Here are a couple memorable stats about **Phoebe Kever '07**: She's 32 years old. And she's traveled to 95 countries.

She's camped in the Australian Outback, peered at hot lava in a Nicaraguan volcano and danced inside a fortress for a Serbian music festival. She's driven 18,642 miles across Europe, spent a night in the mountains of Myanmar and taught English in South Korea.

This year, Kever wants to visit five more destinations: New Zealand, Hong Kong, China, Mongolia and Russia, just in time for the 2018 World Cup kickoff. Her ultimate goal? To travel to all 195 countries.

Kever, a substitute teacher in Portland, Oregon, enjoys traveling because it pushes her outside her comfort zone, broadens her perspective and enables her to serve others during service trips.

"As great as the Travel Channel may be," she says, "there's something about living abroad that television just can't capture."

Kever's thirst for exploring began early. At age 15, with dreams of becoming a doctor in a developing country, she went to Costa Rica for two months for a study-abroad program. The experience drove her to seek a university that shared her values of service and travel — and Willamette and its International Education program fit the bill. She majored in Spanish and spent her junior year in Uruguay and Argentina.

Over the next decade, she says she spent so much time abroad that "being in a new country felt familiar."

From her mental Rolodex, she can suggest locations based on themes — Spain for its

culture, Plitvice Lakes in Croatia for its beauty — but her personal favorite is Puerto Rico for its beaches, language and music.

Kever has stayed in countries from a few days to a few years. She's traveled with friends, in groups and with her dog, but also alone. Although careful about her personal safety, she doesn't let such concerns regulate her visits. In 2013, she visited Egypt not long after the coup d'état, but felt safe and found everyone hospitable. To top it off, she stayed in a four-star hotel for cheap.

How does she afford this lifestyle, anyway? Kever insists you don't need to be rich to travel the world. She's mastered the nomadic life by taking advantage of credit card deals, frequent flyer miles and work at hostels. The low cost of living in some countries helps, too. In southeast Asia, she survived on \$20 a day, including lodging.

Teaching provides the flexibility she needs and also fulfills her desire for service, another reason she travels. In 2012, she volunteered for six months in Vietnam and Serbia to improve the lives of orphans through teaching and community work.

Her lifestyle might seem scary to some people, but even when she travels to distant lands, Kever never feels alone.

"There are like-minded people every step of the way," she says. "I took a leap of faith and never gave up on myself, and now I live out Willamette's motto."

International School of Panama.

Crayton Webb has purchased Dallas-based PR agency Sunwest Communications.

1995

Joelfre Grant MAT'96 is assistant director for partnerships and professional development at the Brazelton Touchpoints Center, in the Division of Developmental Medicine at Boston Children's Hospital.

1997

To **Kara (Erlwein) Burke MAT'98**, a son, Keegan Dewey Burke, born Feb. 27, 2017. He joins big sister, 3-year-old McKenna.

Elizabeth Stallard, an attorney for the Downey Brand law firm, was named a 2017 Top Lawyer by Sacramento Magazine.

Jolene Yee and her husband, **Jeff Smith**, got together with fellow Bearcats and their families to view the total solar eclipse in August 2017. Joining them were **Dustin Olde '96**, **Dan Noyes '96**, **Aashish Patel '96**, **Mike Heald '96** and **Casey Sims**.

1998 20TH REUNION

Shelley (Markwell) Biss, a jazz vocalist living in Anchorage, Alaska, has recorded her first jazz album, "Heartsongs."

Tonya Meehan JD'01 moved to Seattle and works as an attorney for the firm Goldberg Jones.

Mike Omeg, owner and operator of Omeg Family Orchards in The Dalles, Oregon, was named Good Fruit Grower's 2017 Grower of the Year.

1999

Ryan Calkins was elected to a four-year term on the Port of Seattle Commission, which governs Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, as well as maritime operations, including container, cruise and bulk cargo, and the homeport for the North Pacific fishing fleet.

After seven years of medical



Crayton Webb '94

practice in the Portland, Oregon, region, **Andrea Moore** returned to the Salem area to work as a nephrology physician assistant with Kidney Care Physicians.

Neil Morrow is an aerospace engineer with Janicki Industries. He lives in Bellingham, Washington.

2000

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown named **Dustin Buehler** as her deputy general counsel in November 2017.

Bob Reinhardt is an assistant professor of history at Boise State University.

Adam Schmidt MBA'01 is executive vice president of sales and marketing at Leyard and Planar, a manufacturer of digital displays.

2001

Jazz vocalist **Jeff Baker** has released his fifth album, "Phrases," which marks his debut as a composer, with seven tracks featuring his music and lyrics.

To **Ellie (Bayrd) Siler** and Lance Siler, a daughter, Clara McCullough Siler, born June 9, 2017.

2002

Julie Stefan Lindsay MAT'04 is coordinator of school transformation, secondary literacy, at Partnership for Los Angeles Schools, one of the largest urban turnaround organizations in the country.



Keegan and McKenna Burke, children of Kara (Erlwein) Burke '97, MAT'98



Julie Stefan Lindsay '02, MAT'04



Ellie (Bayrd) Siler '01 with her daughter, Clara



Alumni left to right: Aashish Patel '96, Jeff Smith '97, Dustin Olde '96, Casey Sims '97, Mike Heald '96 and their families



Elizabeth Stallard '97



Neil Morrow '99



Ryan Calkins '99

Class Notes



Raul Moreno '03 with his wife, Lauren, and daughter, Olivia



Alicja Lei '04 and husband, Arnthor Heimisson



Allison (de la Torre) Muhlendorf '05



Edith Killpack, daughter of Kate (Harrie) Killpack '05 and Bracken Killpack '05



Tess Davis '07



Sara Colling '07, Bennett Kling '07 and their daughter, Leda



Georgia, daughter of Emma (Knox) Williams '07 and Owen Williams '05, MBA'08



Emily (Doerr) Offerdahl '06 and her husband, Kyle



Greg Nielsen '05 and wife, Sarah Barbo



Kaitlin (Thackery) McCumber '08 and husband, Sean



Lazaro Lima, son of Maddie (Coffman) Lima '09 and Jaime Lima

2003 15TH REUNION

To **Raul Moreno** and Lauren Moreno, a daughter, Olivia Marie Moreno, born Aug. 19, 2017, in Portland, Oregon.

In January, **Jason Rowton**, also known by the stage name "Jackson Rayne," spoke at TEDxSalem about his career as an illusionist, magician and escape artist.

2004

Alicja Lei and Arnthor Heimisson were married on Oct. 7, 2017, on the Snæfellsnes Peninsula in Iceland. The couple lives in Reykjavik, Iceland, where Alicja is a marketing consultant.

2005

Andrea Countner and Scott Wenburg were married on June 3, 2017, in Seattle.

To **Kate (Harrie) Killpack** and **Bracken Killpack**, a daughter, Edith Coraline, born Nov. 10, 2017, in Seattle.

Lesley Lavery received tenure and a promotion to associate professor of political science at Macalester College in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Allison (de la Torre) Muhlendorf, executive director for the Alabama School Readiness Alliance, was named one of the 2017 Women Who Shape the State by the Alabama Media Group.

Greg Nielsen and Sarah Barbo were married in July 2017 in Holland, Michigan. Bearcats in attendance were **Erick Luerken '02**, **Kellen Galster**, **Lindsey (Young) Galster '06**, **Lopaka Purdy** and **Patrick Keys**.

To **Heather Sly-Haley MAT'06** and **Brian Sly-Haley MBA'10**, a daughter, Zoe Aurelia, born Nov. 10, 2016.

2006

Emily (Doerr) Offerdahl and Kyle Offerdahl were married on Sept. 16, 2016, in Portland, Oregon. **Elizabeth Doerr '03** and **Abigail Doerr '11** were bridesmaids. Emily is director of marketing and communications for undergraduate admissions for Portland State University.

Scott Herman joined Teach For America and is teaching fifth grade at Woodmont K-8 in Federal Way, Washington.

2007

To **Sara Colling** and **Bennett Kling**, a daughter, Leda Elizabeth, born Nov. 25, 2017.

Tess Davis is an assistant attorney general with the Utah State Attorney General's Office, serving in the Division of Public Lands. She is also chair of the board of directors for Breathe Utah, a nonprofit air quality advocacy organization based in Salt Lake City.

Melissa Griffiths joined Alaska's Educational Resource Center as its communications director.

To **Emma (Knox) Williams** and **Owen Williams '05, MBA'08**, a daughter, Georgia, born in September 2017. She joins big brothers Nathan, 5, and Cole, 2. The family lives in Seattle, where Owen is a controller at Unify Consulting and Emma is an elementary school teacher.

2008 10TH REUNION

Kaitlin (Thackery) McCumber and Sean McCumber were married on Oct. 28, 2017, in Memphis, Tennessee. **Elizabeth Cauley '07** was a bridesmaid and **Amanda Watson** served as a eucharistic minister.

2009

To **Maddie (Coffman) Lima** and Jaime Lima, a son, Lazaro Azael Lima, born July 21, 2017, in Boise, Idaho. He joins older brother Urijah.

A first-time novelist earns critical acclaim

Just back from a rock climbing trip last year, **Gabriel Tallent '10** was sitting in a Mexican restaurant in the town of Twentynine Palms, California, when a curious email popped up on his phone.

Out of the blue, Stephen King — perhaps the most popular writer of this age — was emailing with an offer to write a promotional blurb for Tallent's debut novel, "My Absolute Darling."

King called Tallent's novel "a masterpiece" to rival "To Kill a Mockingbird" and "The Things They Carried."

"I was totally shocked," says Tallent. "I knew nothing about the community of writers because I had never been a part of this community."

The New York Times, The Washington Post, the Financial Times and other media joined in the love-fest, describing Tallent and his work as "prodigiously talented," "breakout debut of the year," and "a gripping read, written in beautiful, brutal prose."

Despite such heady praise, Tallent followed a path to literary stardom that was far from straightforward. After graduating from Willamette, Tallent worked with a program that leads high school students on trail restoration projects throughout the Northwest. Then he moved to Salt Lake City, where he worked as dining room staff at a ski resort. During those five years, Tallent wrote multiple drafts of a different novel that ultimately became "My Absolute Darling."

The novel's main characters are Turtle, a 14-year-old girl, and her father, Martin. Their relationship is fraught with abuse and hatred, but also intense love. Tallent aimed to show how people like Martin could hurt the people and places on which they depend. In addition to examining human relationships, Tallent wanted his book to confront the mistreatment of the planet.

"I wanted to write about global warming," he says, "and why we destroy the things that are important to us."

Mendocino — Tallent's hometown — provided the perfect backdrop for this concept. Tallent's familiarity with the California area's sweeping meadows and rugged overlooks was crucial to developing Turtle's independence and grit.

Tallent's studies and experiences at Willamette helped him through the difficult process of writing the novel. He credits Professor Mike Chasar's poetry classes and Professor Gretchen Moon's first-year colloquium on Ovid's "Metamorphoses" as turning points in his writing education. His study of poetry inspired the prose in his book that critics later praised.

Tallent read widely at Willamette, and he cites Louise Gluck and James Thomson as key influences. He also worked as a consultant in the Writing Center, and met his wife, **Harriet Greenlee '11**, at the library.

After his graduation, Tallent's mother, Elizabeth (who is also a writer), encouraged him to pursue his desire to be a writer. He recalls, "She told me if I didn't take the chance, if I didn't take that risk, I'd always regret it."

It looks as if the risk has paid off. Tallent's working on his next novel, about climbers tackling dangerous sandstone towers, and he's proven that he's willing to take risks. Plus, he knows now there isn't any secret to writing a good book. "I worked like hell and did a lot of writing," he says. "That's not going to change."





Heather (Hurlburt) Terada '12 and Naoto Terada '12



Bianca Arreola '13, MAT'14 and Michael McGrew '13



Aubrey Palmblad, daughter of Tyler and Stephanie Palmblad '09, JD'12



Jenna (Krueger) Li '09, Cameron Li '10 and their daughter



Chelsea Cagaoan '14

To **Stephanie Palmblad JD'12** and her husband, Tyler, a daughter, Aubrey, born in January 2017.

2010

Cameron Li and Jenna (Krueger) Li '09 recently moved back to Salem and opened a business, Lilac Wellness and Counseling, which provides acupuncture, bodywork, counseling and naturopathic care. Cameron adds, "I went on from my exercise science degree to become a licensed acupuncturist, and my wife, Jenna, used her psychology degree to become a licensed counselor. We're so thrilled to be back in the Salem community to stay. We love what we do and we love doing it here."

2011

Geneva Hooten is innovation and improvement lead at the Colorado Department of Transportation, where she runs a statewide program that encourages frontline staff to innovate, share and replicate great ideas.

2012

Eli Beller is deputy director at Hope Border Institute, a public policy organization in El Paso, Texas, that focuses on border issues, particularly immigration.

Anna Bower graduated with a master's degree in plant and soil science from the University of Delaware and is assistant curator of the Living Collection at Ganna Walska Lotusland in Santa Barbara, California.

Heather (Hurlburt) Terada and **Naoto Terada** were married on Aug. 18, 2017, in Maui, Hawaii, with many WU alumni, Tokyo International University and Japanese Studies Program alumni in attendance. The couple lives near Tokyo, where Naoto works at Sage Publications and Heather works at Sony.

Mark Waters is a third-grade teacher for Greater Albany Public Schools in Oregon.

2013 5TH REUNION

Bianca Arreola MAT'14 and **Michael McGrew** were married on July 22, 2017, in Klamath Falls, Oregon, on W C Ranch. **Erin McGrew '15** and **Isabel Feibert** were members of the bridal party. The couple lives in Portland, Oregon, where Bianca is a science teacher at Cedar Park Middle School and Michael is a project engineer at RH Construction.

2014

Chelsea Cagaoan is working for Apple in Fukuoka, Japan. She's involved in the Apple Store Leader Program.

Wesley Dawn and **Winnie (Albright) Dawn** were married on Feb. 22, 2017, at the Marion County Courthouse in downtown Salem.

In December 2017, former Willamette Bearcats quarterback **Josh Dean '14** was signed by the Ancona Dolphins of the Italian first division for American football. Playing American football overseas for the past few years, Josh helped Switzerland's Calanda Broncos reach two consecutive Swiss Bowls, winning the championship in 2015.

Nichola Greenblatt is Illinois Sen. Tammy Duckworth's deputy press secretary in the U.S. Senate in Washington, D.C.

Jennifer Smrz has published her first novel, a young-adult, superhero, adventure comedy titled "The Amazing Captain Casual." This book was edited by fellow Willamette alumna, **Lynne Fetter '15**. The first chapter is currently available to read for free on Jennifer's website at www.jleesmrz.com.

2015

Jon Heynen is a public affairs specialist with Oregon Secretary of State Dennis Richardson's executive team.

Professional video game player **Jake Straus** was featured in an October 2017 Rolling Stone profile titled "'Destiny 2' Legend Gernader Jake on Mastering Trials of the Nine, Life in Twitchland." Jake has amassed more than 3.4 million views and nearly 200,000 followers on the video streaming platform Twitch.

2016

Joseph Good is a graduate student in the dual-degree MSc in International Affairs program between the London School of Economics and Political Science and Peking University.

2017

Madalyn Gordon is an executive administrator with Microsoft in Bellevue, Washington. She also joined the board of directors of GeekGirlCon, an organization focusing in intersectional feminism within the nerd community.

ATKINSON GRADUATE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

1980

Steven Boedigheimer retired from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention after a long career in local, state and federal public health practice and started his own consulting firm, Steven F. Boedigheimer, LLC.

1984

Linda Ward had her artwork selected for inclusion in the Sawdust Winter Festival in Laguna Beach, California.

1998

Loren Harwood is a partner at Harwood, MacAdam, Wartnik, Fisher & Gorman, LLC, the largest full-service CPA firm on the Oregon

Coast. Loren is a certified public accountant and certified financial planner specializing in taxation. Loren, his wife, Skaidra, and their son, Zane, live on Cape Arago in Charleston, Oregon.

2001

After 13 years in California, **Casey McQuaid** relocated back to the Portland, Oregon, area. Managing director of customer development for the E. & J. Gallo Winery, he would love to reconnect with AGSM classmates.

2004

Casey Wolf JD/MBA'04 is chief investment officer for the Texas County & District Retirement System.

2017

Heba Saleh is HR coordinator at the Somabay resort in Egypt. Heba adds: "I miss Willamette, Oregon, the U.S., my friends and my host family."

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

1993

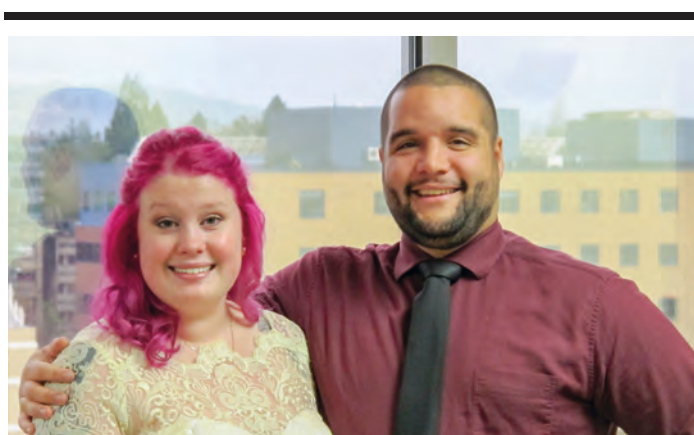
Joanne Viale is a part-time preschool support teacher for the elementary school district in Avondale, Arizona.

2005

Scott Henderson and Angela Tramelli were married on Aug. 10, 2017, at the Haiku Mill on the island of Maui, Hawaii.

2009

Sarah Quezada is founder of the Tohui Language Academy, the only multilingual private school in San Antonio, Texas. In 2017, she was featured as Teacher of the Month for DualLanguageSchools.org.



Wesley Dawn '14 with his wife, Winnie



Nichola Greenblatt '14 with Senator Tammy Duckworth



Jennifer Smrz '14



Madalyn Gordon '17



Heba Saleh MBA'17 and family

ALUMNI NEWS



Washington, D.C.

Bearcats give back with Day of Service

Founded last year as part of the university's yearlong 175th celebration, Willamette's Global Day of Service took another step this spring toward becoming a new Willamette tradition.

On March, 10, the event brought together nearly 200 members of the Willamette community for service projects across the country. In Salem (as seen in the photo on the inside front cover), students, alumni, faculty and staff joined forces for 11 different volunteer opportunities. They painted a house for Catholic Community Services, restored used shoes for 1000 Soles, helped the Salem-Keizer Education Foundation prepare for upcoming events, and completed other good work.

Meanwhile, alumni leaders in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Denver and Washington, D.C. organized and led a variety of service projects, including restoring a butterfly habitat at Golden Gate Park, cleaning up Southern California's Hermosa Beach and sorting donations at Capital Area Food Bank.

Altogether, Bearcat volunteers donated nearly 600 hours of service to their communities.

The Office of Alumni and Parent Engagement thanks all alumni volunteers, including Day of Service leaders **Katherine D'Zmura '09**, **Paul Friedman '07**, **Allison Tenold '07**, **Cheyenne Boon '17**, **Joe Gruber '09**, **Kayley Abrams '15** and **Sam Newman '16**.



San Francisco



Los Angeles



Denver

In Memoriam

Irma (Calvert) West M.D. '40 **Dec. 31, 1917–July 1, 2017**

Irma Marie West was born in Hespeler, Ontario, Canada. She earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry at Willamette before working in military aircraft research at the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (now NASA). In 1947, Irma graduated from the Medical College of Pennsylvania and later received her master's in public health from the University of California, Berkeley. She served in several prominent roles, primarily in occupational medicine and toxicology, with the California Department of Public Health. In addition, Irma authored over 30 scientific papers, contributed to seven books, was a member of many medical organizations, and received numerous awards and honors. Survivors include her son, Michael.

Luann (Green) Enz '42 **Nov. 6, 1920–July 23, 2017**

Luann Enz was raised on a farm in Madison, Kansas, before her family moved to Salem in the late 1930s. While studying sociology at Willamette, Luann worked at the Thomas Kay Woolen Mill and volunteered as a plane spotter as part of the war effort. After graduation, Luann married Clark Enz. When Clark became a pastor, Luann served as a Sunday school teacher, choir director, parish hostess and even church softball coach. When her children were in elementary school, Luann returned to school to earn a teaching credential and later substitute-taught and became a junior high administrative secretary. Luann was predeceased by her husband, Clark. Survivors include her children, Linnea, Karen and **Jonathan Enz JD'71**.

Raymond A. Hutchinson '43 **Sept. 11, 1917–June 4, 2017**

After attending Willamette, Ray Hutchinson went on to a career as a pension consultant and an importer of fine goods. Ray was preceded in death by his siblings, **Harold Hutchinson '40**, **Leonard Hutchinson '42**, **Patricia (Hutchinson) Coffeen '43** and **Aileen (Hutchinson) Steeves-Pobanz '45**. Survivors include his daughter, Helen; and many nephews and nieces, including **Robbie Steeves '71**.

Andrew Rogers '43 **July 18, 1920–Oct. 26, 2017**

Andrew Rogers graduated from Willamette with a bachelor's degree in business administration. Andy played for the Bearcats football team and was, until his passing, the last surviving member of the team that helped United States military personnel recover from the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor. He later enlisted in the Marine Corps and served as an infantry platoon leader in the recapturing of Guam and in the Battle of Iwo Jima during World War II. After his service, Andy became an apartment construction contractor, retiring in 1989. His wife, Dotty, preceded him in death in 2012. Survivors include his daughter, Theresa.

Phyllis (Gueffroy) Llambias '44 **April 20, 1923–Aug. 26, 2017**

Phyllis Llambias earned her bachelor's degree in physical education from Willamette, where she was a talented multi-sport athlete involved in archery, soccer, volleyball, basketball and tennis. After college, she became a physical education teacher at Salem High School. Phyllis was preceded in death by her husband, Sidney.

Freda (Bucurenych) Morris '44 **Feb. 14, 1923–Oct. 31, 2017**

Freda Elizabeth Morris was born in Salem. After graduating from Willamette with a bachelor's degree in music, she went on to work as a music teacher at Wilson Elementary School, South Prairie Elementary School, Fairview Grade School and Liberty Elementary School in Tillamook, Oregon. Survivors include her sons, John and Brent.

Stanley A. Boyd M.D. '45 **Jan. 4, 1925–June 24, 2017**

Stanley Alden Boyd was born and raised in Portland, Oregon. He enrolled at Willamette as part of the Navy V-12 program and graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology before going to medical school at the University of Oregon. Upon graduation in 1949, he served in the Navy until 1952. He then began practicing medicine in Portland, Oregon, before settling in Eugene, Oregon, as a partner of the River Road Medical Group. He retired from practicing medicine in 1991. Stanley's son, Mark, preceded him in death. Survivors include his wife,

A life dedicated to others

Althea LaRaut Luttrell '41 **Oct. 13, 1919–Nov. 9, 2015**



Althea LaRaut Luttrell was born in Brockway, Oregon, not far from the family farm on Brozio Road near Winchester, where she grew up. She was the eldest of six — five girls and one boy. A true farm girl, Althea went off to college at Willamette University at the age of 17 and then traveled to the Midwest to finish her college degree in dietetics at the University of Minnesota.

After completing her internship at Harborview Hospital in Seattle, Althea joined the Army and traveled to England as part of the Army Medical Corps to take care of soldiers injured in the D-Day attacks of World War II.

After the end of the war, Althea was assigned to an Army hospital in Fukuoka, Japan, where she met and married Thornton Edward Luttrell and attained the rank of captain. Althea and her husband returned to the states, where their son, Thornton E. Luttrell II, was born in 1952. They settled in a house in Lakewood, Washington, near Fort Lewis, and Ed Sr. continued in the Army. Despite a couple of deployments, the family always ended up back in the Tacoma, Washington, area.

Althea reestablished her career in dietetics and worked until the age of 67, retiring from the Veterans Administration Hospital at American Lake, Washington, in 1986. She was very active in many of the women's professional organizations of her time and established one of the first five meals a day plans outside of geriatric care centers in the United States.

Although Althea had always worried about what she would do in retirement, she kept busy thanks to her interest in genealogy. She converted her old 8mm films to videotape and continued to chronicle life via the latest videography. Three grandchildren, born in a short period of time starting in 1989, also ensured that her life did not slow down.

Althea also traveled with her sisters and with her son and his family as often as she could. For one extended trip to England and Germany in 1997, she went to the YMCA at least four days a week to make sure she was ready for the trek.

In the early 2000s, Althea moved to be near her son but stayed very independent and active. Her friends and family remember her as a caring, giving person dedicated to God and other people. Althea always put the needs of others before herself, thus living Willamette's motto, "Not unto ourselves alone are we born."

Survivors include her son, **Ed Luttrell II '74, MBA'77**.

In Memoriam

Thyra (Currey) Boyd '46, and children, **Bruce Boyd '70**, Keith, Kirk and Katie.

Sara (Smith) Gunn '51
Aug. 12, 1929–Aug. 13, 2017

Sara "Sally" Louise Gunn was born in Champaign, Illinois. The eldest daughter of Eugenia (Brooks) Smith and former Willamette President George Herbert Smith, Sally attended Willamette before completing her bachelor's degree later in life at the University of Arkansas. Sally gave back to her community by supporting drug abuse prevention programs, as a Girl Scout professional and as an elected ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church. She also took pride in supporting Willamette's G. Herbert Smith Presidential Scholarship. Sally was preceded in death by her sister, **Margaret (Smith) Hardman '53**. Survivors include her husband, George, and children, George Jr., George Herbert, Margaret and William.

Albert P. S. Minn '51
Feb. 25, 1925–Nov. 7, 2017

Albert Peong Suk Minn was born in Hauula, Hawaii. After serving in the Army, Albert earned his bachelor's degree in physical education from Willamette and went on to teach and coach at Kapaa High School and Farrington High School in Hawaii. After receiving a master's in educational administration from the University of Oregon, he served as principal at several schools in Hawaii. As a swimming coach, Albert was named the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference Coach of the Year in 1986 and was inducted into the Hawaii Swimming Hall of Fame in 2002. Survivors include his wife, **Shirley (Allen) Minn '50**; children, Donna, Shelley, Mele and Albert; and hanai daughter, June.

Marian (Spann) Nordquist '51
Sept. 20, 1929–Oct. 14, 2017

Marian Nordquist was born in El Paso, Texas. She attended Willamette before transferring to Washington State University to complete her bachelor's degree. Marian worked for KING TV and also at radio station KKOL. Later, she earned a master's in theology from International Christian University, served as a chaplain for Pullman Regional Hospital and worked as a secretary at WSU's College of Veterinary Medicine. Survivors

include her husband, David, and sons, Eric, Mark, Daniel and Philip.

Patricia (Koupal) Downard '52
Jan. 5, 1930–Nov. 18, 2017

Patricia Margaret Downard was born in Ronan, Montana. She attended Willamette for two years before embarking on a career in the banking industry. Later, she worked as a travel agent and became active in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She was preceded in death by her son, Bradley; her first husband, David; and her second husband, Arnel "AK." Survivors include her children, Nancy, Stephen, Barry, Ted and Lyn.

Dorothy (Puckett) Gander '52
July 9, 1930–July 7, 2017

Dorothy "Maria" Gander grew up in Newberg, Oregon. She attended Willamette before going on to earn bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Portland State University. Maria was a physical education specialist for the Beaverton School District, spending the majority of her 20 years at West Tualatin View Elementary School in Portland, Oregon. During her career, she was also a teacher trainer and president of the elementary division of the Oregon Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. She was preceded in death by her husband, Paul. Survivors include her sister, Margaret, and her five children.

Howard W. Payne '52
June 16, 1930–July 30, 2017

Howard Payne was born in Salt Lake City. He attended Pasadena City College and Willamette before completing his bachelor's degree in economics at UCLA in 1953. He served in the Navy during the Korean War and later began a career with United Airlines that took him and his family to Detroit, Hawaii and the San Francisco Bay Area, where they settled in 1971. After retiring from United in 1987, Howard worked as a trainer at ROLM/IBM and taught travel courses at Los Medanos College in California. He also served as the president of the local chapter of the Retired United Airlines Employees Association. Survivors include his wife, Jo; his sister, **Eleanor (Payne) Ford '55**; and children, Julie, Thomas, Kathryn and Susan.

G. Thomas Edwards '53
June 14, 1931–Jan. 10, 2018

Thomas Edwards was born in Portland, Oregon. He earned his bachelor's degree in history at Willamette before receiving master's and doctorate degrees in history from the University of Oregon. While in graduate school, he taught at public schools in Eugene, Oregon, before accepting a teaching position at San Jose State College in California. In 1964, Tom joined the history department at Whitman College, where he spent the rest of his career, serving as a professor and in numerous leadership positions. Tom published four books and dozens of articles and received many awards, including the Robert Gray Medal from the Washington State Historical Society for lifetime achievement in teaching regional history. Tom's former students at Whitman founded the G. Thomas Edwards Award for Excellence in the Integration of Teaching and Scholarship in his honor. Tom's wife, Nannette, preceded him in death in 2015. Survivors include his children, Stephanie and Randall.

James P. Jackson '53
June 11, 1931–Aug. 25, 2017

James Jackson was born in Portland, Oregon. He graduated from Willamette with a bachelor's degree in economics. After serving in the Army, he received his juris doctor degree from the University of Colorado Law School in 1957. He worked as an attorney for the League of Oregon Cities in Eugene before becoming a member of the California State Bar in 1960. Through the 1960s, he worked his way up from being the assistant city attorney of Santa Rosa to city attorney of Sacramento, a role he held from 1968 until his retirement in 1991. He was preceded in death by his wife, Gloria, and his brother, **David Jackson '55**. Survivors include his children, Scott and Lynn.

Jane (Fooshee) Sanford '53
May 16, 1932–Sept. 24, 2017

Jane Sanford was born in Oroville, California. After attending Willamette at the age of 16 and graduating with a degree in music, she became an accomplished classical pianist. Later, she volunteered with the Boy Scouts of America and was honored with the Silver Beaver Award, the highest award a council can bestow

on a volunteer scout leader. Jane was preceded in death by her husband, William, in 2002. Survivors include her sons, Scott and Robert.

William A. Galbreath '54, LLB'57
April 23, 1930–Sept. 13, 2017

William Arthur Galbreath was born in Sherwood, Oregon. His attendance at Willamette was interrupted by his enlistment in the Army. Upon his discharge, he returned to Willamette and completed his bachelor's degree in political science and his law degree. In 1952, Bill moved with his wife, LaVonne, to Milton-Freewater, Oregon, where he began his law practice. He practiced there for over 20 years, including serving as a municipal court judge. Bill returned to the Portland area in the mid-1980s and continued to practice law. Survivors include his sister, Betty, and children, Bryan, Brenda, Bruce and Brad.

Donald A. Humphries '55
Sept. 8, 1930–Aug. 27, 2017

Donald Austin Humphries was born in Wenatchee, Washington. After serving in the Army during the Korean War, he earned both a bachelor's and master's degree in education from Willamette. He taught and coached at Pilot Rock High School in Oregon for seven years, coaching the men's basketball team to a state championship in 1959. Later, Donald earned an accounting degree from Portland State University and spent 25 years working as an accountant for the Cascade Corporation. Survivors include his wife, Nancy, and children, Susan, Gary and Linda.

Betty (Gilmore) Brown '56
June 1, 1934–Oct. 20, 2017

Betty Lois Brown was born in Brainerd, Minnesota. Betty attended Willamette for one year, and while there, met her future husband, **Phil Brown '55**. Betty and Phil were married in 1955, started a family and lived in Salem until 1972. They moved to Beaverton, Oregon, where Betty worked as a legal secretary for **Judge Otto Skopil '41, LLB'46** for 20 years. Survivors include her daughters, Keri and Julie.

Gordon Chang '56
June 22, 1933–May 10, 2017

Gordon Heung Ing Chang was born in Waipio, Hawaii. At Willamette, Gordon played for the Bearcats football team and graduated with

a bachelor's degree in physical education. He earned a master's in education from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and worked as a teacher and coach at Hilo High School and Castle High School before retiring in 1991. Survivors include his wife, Kay.

Eric J. Dahlberg Jr. '56
Oct. 13, 1934-Dec. 4, 2017

Eric "John" Dahlberg Jr. was born in Portland, Oregon. He attended Willamette for one year before transferring to Pacific Lutheran University and graduating with a degree in education. John taught in the Beaverton (Oregon) School District for several years before earning his master's degree from Lewis & Clark College and his doctorate in education from the University of Oregon. From 1968-1969, he worked for the Northwest Education Lab on Guam before becoming a professor in the education department at Boise State University. After he retired from Boise State, John and his second wife, Lori, settled in Turner, Oregon, where he was a member of the Turner Fire District. John was predeceased by Lori. Survivors include his first wife, Carol; daughters, Nancy and Jane; and son, Andy.

Patricia (Beckwith) Hitchman '56
Oct. 31, 1934-Nov. 10, 2017

Patricia Louise Hitchman was born in Portland, Oregon. She graduated from Willamette with a bachelor's degree in English. After working for two years as a flight attendant for United Airlines, she married **John A. Hitchman '56** in 1958. They made homes in Springfield and Aloha, Oregon, before settling in Olympia, Washington, in 1969. Pat worked as a secretary in Springfield for the utility board in the late 1950s, and for the state senate in Olympia in the early 1980s, but her primary vocation was as a mother and homemaker. Survivors include her sons, David, Michael, **Thomas Hitchman '82** and **John M. Hitchman '84**.

David A. Rhoten '56
April 25, 1934-Aug. 30, 2017

David Alexander Rhoten was born in Salem. He served in the Army from 1954-1956 and attended Willamette before earning his bachelor's degree in law from Gonzaga University in 1961. David practiced law for more than 50 years and was a senior

partner with Rhoten, Rhoten and Speerstra (now Rhoten Andrews) in Salem. He was also involved with local and statewide elections and served on several boards and committees, including the Oregon State Bar, Oregon Arts Commission and Oregon Community Foundation. Survivors include his wife, **Coralie (Doughton) Rhoten '56**; children, Amy, David Jr. and Ross; and sister, E. Merlie (Rhoten) Reeves.

Rev. Margreeta (Christensen) Cline '57

June 2, 1936-July 12, 2017
Margreeta "June" Cline was born in Walla Walla, Washington. She attended Willamette before going on to complete her bachelor's degree in nursing from Oregon Health & Science University in Portland. She worked as a pediatric nurse at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago for a year before returning to Walla Walla to serve as a public health and school nurse for seven years. In 1969, she earned a master's in religious studies from the Graduate Seminary of Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma, and in 1972, was ordained in the Christian ministry. June served as an associate minister and chaplain before eventually becoming the pastor of First Christian Church in White Hall, Illinois. June was preceded in death by her husband, Loren. Survivors include her sister, Maita.

Donald F. Laws '57
Feb. 23, 1936-Nov. 2, 2017

After graduating from Willamette with a bachelor's degree in political science, Donald Frank Laws continued his education at UCLA and the University of Oregon, earning his master's and a doctorate in philosophy. In 1968, he began a long and distinguished career as a professor of political science at Southern Oregon University in Ashland, Oregon, where he also served as a longtime city councilor (1973-2007). In 2002, he retired from SOU as a professor emeritus. Survivors include his wife, Sharon, and children, Tim and Natalie.

Patricia (Hostetler) Pedersen '57
Aug. 12, 1935-Sept. 9, 2017

Patricia Ruth Pedersen graduated from Canby High School in Canby, Oregon, before attending Willamette. After college, Patty worked as a special education teacher in Milwaukie, Oregon, and later taught in Japan and Libya.

Patricia was preceded in death by her husband, Dick, in 2003. Survivors include her children, Andrew and **Margaret (Pedersen) Mainzer MBA'92**, and her sister, Gloria.

Charlotte (Kleen) Miller '58
Jan. 20, 1936-Oct. 24, 2017

Charlotte Alice Miller was born in Lebanon, Oregon. She attended Willamette and the University of Colorado, but left school to marry **Donald Miller '57**. With Donald serving in the Air Force, the Miller family moved often, living in many different parts of the U.S., as well as Germany and England. Survivors include her husband, Don, and sons, Wes, Mike, **Steven Miller '82** and **Keith Miller '86**.

Richard Rohrer '58
Aug. 5, 1933-June 16, 2017

Richard "Dick" Rohrer graduated from Willamette with a bachelor's degree in English before earning his master's in education from the University of Oregon. He taught at North Bend High School and Milwaukie High School, and served as an administrator at the American School in the Philippines and Sunset High School in Portland, Oregon. Dick spent much of his career as a communications consultant for Pacific Northwest Bell before retiring in 1994. Survivors include his wife, Joan, and four children.

Bette (Pitcher) Jackson '59
May 24, 1937-Nov. 1, 2017

Bette Diane Jackson was born in Salem. While attending Willamette, she met her future husband, **Bill Jackson '58**, whom she married in 1957. They made their home in Salem until 1973, when they moved to Hillsboro, Oregon. Bette worked as a financial system analyst for companies including Floating Point Systems and Pacific Technology. She was also an amateur pilot. Bill preceded her in death in 2005. Survivors include her three children, Julie, Bill Jr. and Michael.

Charles H. Murphy Jr. '59
March 15, 1935-Aug. 7, 2017

Charles Howard Murphy Jr. was born in Greenville, Mississippi. He attended Willamette for one year before enlisting in the Army, and returned to WU following his honorable discharge in 1956. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in economics, and that same year, met his future wife, Jackie

Hayes. Soon after, Chuck landed a job with IBM's data processing division. He retired in 1997 after 37 years with IBM/Lexmark. His wife, Jackie, passed away within hours of Charles. Survivors include his children, Lisa, Laura and David.

Ann (Garner) Culver '61
March 30, 1939-Oct. 3, 2017

Ann Buchwalter Culver was born in Philadelphia. She attended Willamette for two years before transferring to the School of Nursing at Oregon Health & Science University, from which she graduated in 1962. Ann then moved to Mountain View, California, where she embarked on a nursing career that spanned nearly four decades, including time spent as a pediatric nurse, doctors office nurse and medical surgical nurse. She finished her career at Providence St. Vincent Hospital, retiring in 2001. Ann was preceded in death by her husband, Cortland. Survivors include her sister, **Susan (Garner) Gallino '66**, and her daughter, **Shelley (Culver) Hutchinson '91**.

Richard D. F. Wayland '62
Aug. 17, 1940-Nov. 9, 2017

Richard De Fremery Wayland was born in Oakland, California. At Willamette, he was a mathematics major and a swimmer. Rich was also an officer in the Air Force, and served as an F-4 fighter pilot in the Vietnam War. Rich was the owner of Wayland Industrial Supply in Redmond, Oregon. A former nationally ranked fencer, he founded the High Desert Fencing Club in Bend, Oregon, in 1993. Survivors include his wife, Katie, and children, Cynthia, Bob, David and Roger.

Janice (Allen) Goodenough '64
July 9, 1942-Sept. 28, 2017

Janice Goodenough was born in San Francisco. She attended Willamette, where she was a member of Alpha Phi sorority, before going on to a 30-year career with Pacific Bell as an employee benefits manager. Jan finished her professional career at AirTouch Communications. After Jan retired, she volunteered for 20 years at Assistance League of Sonoma County, where she served in several board positions, including president. Her sister, **Denise (Allen) Thompson '73**, preceded her in death in 1996. Survivors include her husband, Gary.

In Memoriam

Jane (Hill) Herring '67 Feb. 22, 1945–July 15, 2017

Jane Charlotte Herring was born in Portland, Oregon. After graduating from Willamette with a bachelor's degree in English, she taught third grade in San Francisco. Jane and her husband, Craig, moved back to Portland, where they had a son. Survivors include her husband, Craig, and son, John.

David M. Johnson '69 May 5, 1947–Aug. 21, 2017

David Miles Johnson studied economics at Willamette and was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity. After graduation, David began a career in the food industry, during which he worked as assistant manager at the Refectory restaurant in Portland, Oregon, and as vice president of purchasing and distribution for Restaurants Unlimited, a company that owns and operates 20 brands in the Pacific Northwest, including Henry's Tavern, Stanford's and Portland Grill. Survivors include his son, **Robert M. Johnson '00**.

Stephen B. Alkire '71 Dec. 13, 1948–Nov. 27, 2017

Stephen "Bud" Alkire was born in Everett, Washington. After graduating from Willamette with a bachelor's degree in political science, he worked for the cities of Salem and Portland before starting a lengthy career with the Everett Housing Authority. Bud worked his way up to executive director, a position he held until his retirement in 2012. In retirement, he joined the board of directors of Housing Hope, a low-income housing program in Everett. Bud also served on the alumni board (1993-1999) and the board of trustees (1978-1981) at Willamette. Survivors include his fiancée, Rosemary; two of his siblings, Karen and Wayne; and his half-brother, Bill.

Martha (Messner) Cloran '71 Feb. 14, 1949–Aug. 20, 2017

Martha Allison "Marty" Cloran was born in Pasadena, California. At Willamette, where she was a member of the Alpha Phi sorority, she earned a degree in mathematics and a teaching certificate. In 1971, she married **Bill Cloran JD'72**, a Willamette Law student on delay from active duty in the military. As the couple moved around to locations where Bill was stationed, Marty completed a bachelor's

degree in accounting at Weber State College. In 1984, the Clorans settled in Salem, where Marty taught high school math until the mid-2000s. She was also heavily involved in the Salem community, including as a volunteer with Willamette's alumni office. Survivors include her husband, Bill, and her sons, Francis and Timothy.

Lloyd Hiroshi Shimabuku '77 July 18, 1954–July 6, 2017

Lloyd Shimabuku grew up and was educated in Honolulu. He graduated with a sociology degree from Willamette, where he was an outstanding football player. He became an Oregon State Police trooper before returning to Honolulu and working as the driver for the governor of Hawaii and as an investigator for the Office of the Attorney General. In 2010, Lloyd and his wife, Marsha, relocated to Salem, where he worked for the Oregon Justice Department and in the Oregon Department of Corrections. Diagnosed with lung cancer in 2016, Lloyd endured the treatments by anticipating walking his daughter, Courtney, down the aisle at her June 2017 wedding in Hawaii. Lloyd passed away shortly after the wedding. A memorial service was held in Honolulu, followed by one in Salem, where many of Lloyd's WU football teammates, alumni friends, neighbors and former coworkers celebrated a life well-lived.

Randolph J. Traeger '79 Oct. 10, 1957–Oct. 30, 2017

Randy Joseph Traeger graduated from Willamette with a bachelor's degree in economics before going on to a long and successful career in business and as a football coach. He coached high school football for 38 years, mainly at his alma mater, Kennedy High School in Mount Angel, Oregon. Mount Angel's mayor for 11 years and a volunteer firefighter for 18 years, Randy also helped run two successful family businesses, the Mount Angel Brewing Company and Traeger Grills. Randy also founded the nonprofit Virtue First Foundation. Survivors include his wife, Lynnette; children, Richard, **Rylan Traeger '03**, Tyson, Simon, Krystal, Nicolle and Derek; and nephew, **Kyle Fessler '07**.

Steven J. Gilson '84 Aug. 19, 1962–March 6, 2017

Steven James Gilson was born

in Salem. He graduated from Willamette with a bachelor's degree in economics and political science and participated as a class leader in Glee, helping his class win first place three times. He earned his master's in cinema and television from the University of Southern California and worked as an editor for many TV shows and for one major film, "Driven." Survivors include his parents, **Layton J. Gilson '54** and **Mary Jo (Ewell) Gilson '55**; and siblings, **Mike Gilson '81** and Tom.

John M. Unfred '84, JD'89

July 6, 1962–Oct. 14, 2017
John Michael Unfred was born in Dayton, Ohio. He earned history and law degrees from Willamette. Mike served in the Air Force as a captain and judge advocate/chief prosecutor. Following his years in the service, he returned to Salem, where he established his own law practice. Survivors include his siblings, Steven, Kristina and **Amy Unfred '01**; children, Glenna and Joseph; and his partner, Karen.

Christopher B. Davis '88 March 7, 1966–Oct. 9, 2017

Christopher Blake Davis was born in Santa Clara, California. He earned a full scholarship to Willamette, where he was an honor student and a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity. After graduating with his bachelor's degree in business administration, Chris spent some time traveling overseas, and then came back to WU to work as a student activities assistant, admission counselor and Greek affairs assistant. Later, he earned his master's in education from Colorado State University and moved to Birmingham, Alabama, to work at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in student life and scholar services. Chris later tutored at Better Basics, helping to empower children by advancing literacy. Survivors include his parents, Fran and Clyde; sister, Kathy; and daughter, Rachel.

Lauren L. Moughon '90 July 9, 1968–Nov. 28, 2017

Lauren Lyle Moughon graduated from Willamette with her bachelor's degree in psychology before going on to study at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver. She then worked in communications roles from press secretary to deputy campaign manager in Democratic gubernatorial and U.S. Senate

campaigns, including for Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden. Over the past 15 years, Lauren worked in various communications positions for companies in healthcare and other fields. Survivors include her mother and stepfather, Emily and Nick; her father, Tom; and her siblings, Caitlin and Stewart.

Marika (Middag) Stone '01 May 28, 1979–Dec. 30, 2017

Marika Jeanne Stone was born in Sand Point, Idaho. She graduated from Willamette with a bachelor's degree in exercise science before going on to study at the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry. In 2007, she started her own dental practice, Mill Point Dental Care, in Bend, Oregon. Also a competitive cyclist, Marika was killed by an impaired driver while on a bike ride with friends. Survivors include her husband, Jerry; twin sister, **Tansy (Middag) Brown '01**; and children, Kiptyn and Kinley.

Jacob J. Vasey '02 April 15, 1980–Sept. 25, 2017

Jacob Jones Vasey was born in Portland, Oregon. After graduating from Willamette with a bachelor's degree in politics, Jake began working for U.S. Congresswoman Darlene Hooley as a field representative. In 2004, he met his future wife, **Hannah (Meisen) Vasey-Vehrs '04**, and they were married in 2008. He later moved to the Marion County Commissioners Office in Salem, until Hannah was accepted to law school at the University of Oregon. The couple then moved to Eugene, Oregon, where Jake worked as an operations manager at the University of Oregon's Erb Memorial Union student center. Survivors include his wife, Hannah; parents, Ralph and Robin; children, Olivia and Henry; and sister, Meghan.

Michaelanne M. Foster '15 May 29, 1993–Sept. 18, 2017

Michaelanne McCormick Foster earned her bachelor's degree in art history from Willamette, where she also participated in women's rowing. After Willamette, she took courses at the Art Institute of Chicago, but decided to move back to her hometown of Spokane, Washington, where she became a member of the Richmond Art Collective. Survivors include her parents, Michael and Kathryn, and four brothers.

ATKINSON GRADUATE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

Wahome Gakuru MBA'01
April 4, 1966–Nov. 7, 2017

Wahome Gakuru earned bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration from the University of Nairobi in the early 1990s. Later, he graduated from the Atkinson Graduate School of Management at Willamette, and in 2004, earned his PhD in public administration from Arizona State University. He became a prominent public official in Kenya, serving as the director of Kenya's Social Sector Department at the National Economic and Social Council and as head of strategy development at the National AIDS Control Council. At the time of his death, Wahome was serving as the governor of Nyeri County, a position he had been elected to in August 2017. Survivors include his wife, Catherine.

FACULTY

Gwynne L. Skinner
July 17, 1964–Dec. 11, 2017

Gwynne Skinner was born in Des Moines, Iowa. She went to college at the University of Northern Iowa and worked in politics before graduating with law degrees from University of Iowa Law School and Oxford University. Gwynne practiced law in Seattle and founded the Public Interest Law Group before transitioning into academics. She taught at Seattle University Law School before joining Willamette University College of Law in 2008. At Willamette, she founded and was the director of the Human Rights and Refugee Law Clinic, and she also served as faculty advisor for the OUTlaw student group for LGBTQ legal issues. In 2015, Gwynne received the university's Jerry F. Hudson Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Public Interest Law Project's Raising the Bar Award. Gwynne is survived by her spouse, Dr. Beth Skrypzak; her daughters, Lucy and Ella; her mother, Joy Skinner; and her siblings, Brenda (Lyttle), Susan, Steven and Jill. She was preceded in death by her father, Robert E. Skinner Jr.

Maribeth (Wilson) Collins

Oct. 27, 1918 - Oct. 4, 2017

As a member of Willamette's Board of Trustees for over a half century and as an extraordinarily generous donor, **Maribeth Collins** made an indelible mark on the institution during her lifetime, continuing a legacy of philanthropy started by the Collins family in the early 20th century.

After marrying a successful lumberman named **Truman W. Collins Sr. '22** in 1943, Maribeth joined what would eventually be known as one of the university's largest and oldest legacy families. Her father-in-law, Everell S. Collins, became a trustee in 1912, and her husband was elected to the board in 1926. Another 12 Collins family members, including Maribeth and Truman's four children, also became Willamette alumni.

Although Maribeth was a graduate of the University of Oregon, she forged a deep relationship with Willamette. After Truman's sudden death in 1964, Maribeth followed his 20 years of service on the Board of Trustees, becoming a trustee herself and, in 2011, a life trustee emeritus.

Over the years, Maribeth also made personal gifts of more than \$11 million to the university, especially to the Hallie Ford Museum of Art (HFMA) and the College of Law. At HFMA, Maribeth created several endowed positions, supported art acquisitions for more than 25 years and endowed an exhibition fund that helps organize a major regional art exhibition every two years.

In 2007, Maribeth funded a complete reconfiguration and renovation of the museum basement into a state-of-the-art support space where collections are stored, new acquisitions are processed and exhibition preparation can take place in a fully equipped workshop. In 2013, the HFMA lobby was named in her honor.

Maribeth also supported a number of projects at the College of Law, which is housed in a building named after her late husband. Most recently, she endowed the Truman W. Collins Sr. Law Internship Fund, which helps law students pursue real-life, practical legal experience, especially in nonprofits and other public interest organizations.

From 1974 to 2005, Maribeth served as chairman of the board of the Collins Companies. As president of the The Collins Foundation following her husband's death, Maribeth also helped direct the foundation's philanthropic giving over the past 30 years, supporting Willamette as well as improving the quality of life and well-being for people in communities across Oregon.

For her philanthropic efforts and contributions to the arts, Maribeth received a number of awards and honors, including the Lewis & Clark Aubrey Watzek Award (1978), Governor's Art Award (1979), the Association of Fundraising Professionals' Vollum Award for Lifetime of Philanthropic Achievements (1999) and the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries' Everell Stanton Collins Award (1999).

Maribeth's survivors include her children, **Terry Collins '70**, **Timothy Collins '70**, **Cherida (Collins) Smith '72** and **Truman W. Collins Jr. '86**; daughters-in-law, **Sandra (Fujimoto) Collins '70**, Barbara (Kalin) Collins and **Kristin (Best) Collins '85**; son-in-law, Glenn Smith; and grandson, **Galen Smith '06**.



This series shares the stories of interesting artifacts at Willamette.



When an Oregon collector presented Ricardo De Mambro Santos with a historic bible a few years ago, the associate professor of art was lost for words.

He was simply thrilled to hold a nearly pristine first edition, 17th-century King James Bible, lined with centuries-old Dutch and Flemish prints and copper engravings.

“Half the history of 16th-century Europe is encapsulated in this Bible,” says De Mambro Santos, who researched the historic item for two years with a group of Willamette students and alumni. “It’s like having the Sistine Chapel come to you.”

The Hexham Abbey Bible — named after a church in a northeast England town — went on public display for the first time in a two-month exhibit at Hallie Ford Museum of Art earlier this spring.

The Hexham Abbey Bible is the only known English version with engravings from the 16th century. Even more outstanding is the fact the 110 images — from renowned artists including Pieter Bruegel and Hendrick Goltzius — were inserted after the Bible was published in 1629.

The Bible’s owner was likely inspired by 17th-century Czech philosopher, educator and theologian John Comenius — who believed images should be used as educational tools — to strategically add artwork as a conversation piece.

After all his research on the book he calls a “portable museum” and a “condensed cathedral,” De Mambro Santos says the Hexham Abbey Bible offers many more potential insights into centuries of art, history, religion and culture.

Almost 400 years after its creation, this holy object still inspires wonder.



Top: Hexham Abbey Bible, printed by Thomas and John Buck in Cambridge, England, 1629. Left: Jan Sadeler (Flemish, 1550-1600), after Maerten de Vos (Flemish, 1532-1603), *The Creation of Animals*, 1587, copper engraving. From the collection of Historic Bibles & Engravings, Albany, Oregon.

BEARCATS ARE NATURAL EXPLORERS

Lifelong learning is a cornerstone of a Willamette education. Through the Bearcat Explorers Travel Program, alumni and parents share the experiences of new places and cultures in the company of friends, family and fellow Bearcats. All the planning and logistics are handled by one of our experienced and acclaimed tour operators, leaving travelers the freedom to embrace and enjoy all that their destinations have to offer.

Join us!

New York Theater Tour

Oct. 1-7, 2018

London Theater Tour

May 6-12, 2019

Canyonlands of the Southwest

June 15-22, 2019

America's Majestic National Parks

June 15-29, 2019

Wild West Adventure

June 22-29, 2019

Mediterranean Pathways

Aug. 22-Sept. 2, 2019

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