OREGON STATER
FALL 2021
THE CURIOUS DOCTOR WATERMAN
Welcome back, Beavs!
OK, no one wants a traffic jam like this one in 1915, when fans in cars, on motorcycles, on bicycles and on foot vied to cross the two-year-old Van Buren Street Bridge into downtown Corvallis on a Beaver football game day.

However, as the OSU community prudently adjusts to changing pandemic precautions, it would be sweet to see more alumni and friends in our cities, on our campuses, in the stands at Reser Stadium and elsewhere. (Stay up to date on the university’s response to the pandemic at covid.oregonstate.edu.)

Many fans leaving Corvallis after games this fall will still use the 108-year-old bridge, now eastbound only and slated by the Oregon Department of Transportation for removal and replacement in the next few years. It was the city’s first span over the Willamette River.

Optimistic locals had assumed game day traffic woes would ease when the bridge opened in 1913, but huge groups of fans from Portland and elsewhere were dropped off by trains on the east side of the river and wanted to walk into town on their way to the games. (Photo courtesy OSU Special Collections and Archives Research Center)
BIG KITTY

Patients like this endangered Sumatran tiger challenge Kadie Anderson, D.V.M. ’11, (left), at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium in Tacoma, Washington. Here, keeper Talena Welsch helps her check Kirana’s teeth. (Photo by Katie Cotterill)

ON THE COVER

Curiosity drove mathematician Michael Waterman from an isolated childhood into worldwide fame. Story on page 18. (Photo by Leah Lee)

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ON THE WEB

Oregon State University: oregonstate.edu
OSU Athletics: osubeavers.com
OSU Foundation and Alumni Association: ForOregonState.org
Beaver Lodge: ForOregonState.org/BeaverLodge
OSUAA Travel: ForOregonState.org/Travel
OSU Connections: OSUConnections.org

FACEBOOK

Oregon State: facebook.com/osubeavers
OSU-Cascades: facebook.com/osucascades
OSU Athletics: facebook.com/beaverathletics
OSUAA: facebook.com/oregonstatealum
OSUF: facebook.com/oregonstatefoundation
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Brooklyn the decidedly unbashful cat photobombs an interview session with Interim President Becky Johnson, right, and her wife, Lori Elkins. (Photo by Karl Maasdam)

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Gloire Amanda.
Memories of war, coincidence, aftermath

I called Frank Haak, '74, to ask why he was one of the first people to donate to a new veterans’ fund at Oregon State. His answers took us both back half a century.

He first saw combat in Vietnam in 1967, after he enlisted in the Marines as a freshman at OSU, leaving behind a Navy ROTC scholarship that would have kept him out of the war until he graduated.

“This is almost me ridiculing myself, looking back,” he said. “But it was my belief that I was going to be a professional soldier, and that the war was going to be over before I graduated. We all know how wrong that was.”

Haak, from a family of naval officers, became a classic “grunt,” a Marine infantryman based at Dong Ha in the far north of South Vietnam, a day’s march from the no man’s land of the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone).

He knew before he shipped out that he would get his wish and see combat. He’d met men who had been where he was headed. “I talked to them about it,” Haak said. “I saw the mental changes in some of them.”

He was in Vietnam from March 1967 to February 1968. When he returned to his studies in Corvallis, more than one Oregon State-related coincidence awaited. Once, hunkered down in a foxhole, he had found a paperback and seen that it had been donated to the war effort by an OSU student. Reading helped the soldiers pass time in the muddy holes. The books were treasured, and were left for the next occupants to read.

One day, when Haak was back on campus as a student, he realized he was sharing an honors colloquium with the book’s donor and was able to thank her for it. “I think there may have been a project done by her sorority to send books over there,” he recalled.

Another time he found himself in an OSU class with a fellow Marine veteran, who had a harrowing story about his unit being ambushed and pinned down by the enemy deep in the DMZ until they were rescued by another Marine unit.

“It was in Floyd McFarland’s econ class,” Haak said. “The man next to me and I got to talking, and it turned out that my unit was the one that rescued his unit! He thanked me. They were taking a beating. We walked in and got them out.”

After earning his history degree, Haak went on to become a CPA and a credit manager for large corporations. His late wife Patricia Haak was a fellow Beaver, class of 1970. He lives in their family home in Gresham and has one child, a daughter.

Around Memorial Day of this year, the OSU Foundation launched a campaign to raise money to support students who are veterans or otherwise connected to the military. (See page 64 or visit beav.es/veterans.)

Haak found himself looking at an email about the fund and thinking of one man. “I was helped so much by Capt. John Hitchcock, professor of naval science, when I returned to OSU after Vietnam. And — this is a hard thing — I never took the opportunity to thank him. He has since died. My donation was in his memory.”

He also thought of two other OSU teachers, both of whom were ardently against the war. One — Haak chooses to leave him nameless — ridiculed the young Marine back from combat, 1967 to February 1968. When he returned to his studies in Corvallis, more than one Oregon State-related coincidence awaited. Once, hunkered down in a foxhole, he had found a paperback and seen that it had been donated to the war effort by an OSU student. Reading helped the soldiers pass time in the muddy holes. The books were treasured, and were left for the next occupants to read.

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“Killer” in front of the class. The other was his econ prof, Floyd McFarland, who led campus antiwar activities and was beloved by his students. “We’d talk,” Haak recalled. “He treated me with nothing but respect. He could separate the warrior from the war, and that meant a lot to those of us who’d been there.”

Haak is happy to know that these days, his alma mater is ranked in the top 5% of universities for being responsive to the needs of veterans and their families. He also liked hearing about the comfortable Veterans’ Lounge near the heart of the Memorial Union. “Next time I’m in Corvallis, I’ll have to stop in,” he said.

— Kevin Miller, ’78, editor

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When the soil lab kit was delivered to her California home, Maria Carpenter was ecstatic. “It was like Christmas,” she said, eager to roll up her sleeves and conduct experiments. Earning her agricultural sciences degree online with Oregon State Ecampus was a get-your-hands-dirty adventure. It featured science-based field work and a summer internship with the Bureau of Indian Affairs — one she turned into a full-time role with the BIA. “Going into a job and having that hands-on experience already was perfect,” Maria said. Talk about the gift that keeps on giving.

Read her story: ecampus.oregonstate.edu/maria

Maria Carpenter
B.S. in Agricultural Sciences
Mather, California
Class of 2018

TOP-RANKED DEGREES ONLINE
‘Scoop’ is fabulous
I just wanted to share with you that my encounter with Jim “Scoop” Schupp on the day of this year’s graduation procession was an 11 out of 10!
What a wonderful spirit he is and you can see it on full display when he interacts with those around him. On a day so monumental to not only myself but to the entire family, especially my daughter, Scoop made it extra special and I can’t thank him enough. You have a gem on your hands, so I just thought I would share the good news and my gratitude.

Julia Harrison
Albany

Editor’s note: We agree with the letter writer about James “Scoop” Schupp, ‘78, M.B.A. ’79, who generously volunteers his services as a photographer for the Stater, the OSU Alumni Association and the OSU Foundation. Below is a photo he took on the day of OSU’s informal procession for 2020 and 2021 graduates. Julia Harrison, at right, is every bit the proud mom as her daughter, 2021 OSU animal sciences graduate Jordan Chalia Plemons, celebrates. More graduation photos are on pages 33-37.

Best issue
I have received many of the Oregon Stater magazines through the years but the spring 2021 issue was the best that I have ever read. Great job!

Sharon Dillingham, ’73
Medford

Send us letters
We’ll edit them for clarity, brevity (no more than 250 words) and factual accuracy. We give preference to letters that support the Oregon Stater’s mission of growing pride and strengthening connections in the worldwide community of graduates and friends of Oregon State University. Send them to stater@osualum.com. Please include your class year when appropriate, your city of residence and a telephone number in case we need to contact you.

Corrections
Eric R. Eaton, author of Wasps: The Astonishing Diversity of a Misunderstood Insect, is a 1983 alumnus of OSU but has not received a degree. We incorrectly reported his degree status in the “In print” section of the spring Stater.

We also need to rectify an editing error in the spring issue’s story on the student life of Linus Pauling, who left Oregon after graduating from Oregon State in 1922 to begin his scientific career in Pasadena, California. Ava Helen Miller, the love of his life, did not join him in California until the next year, once they were married.

Report errors at stater@osualum.com. Please note that in most cases, mistakes reported in this space will have already been corrected in the Stater’s digital versions, available at ForOregonState.org/Stater.

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Johnson brings four decades of OSU service to interim presidency

Rebecca Johnson, who prefers “Becky” in all but formal references, became interim president of Oregon State University on May 1, after F. King Alexander’s resignation. She had been vice president of OSU-Cascades — the top executive on the Bend campus — since 2009. There she helped reshape the future of Central Oregon by leading the creation of the region’s first four-year university, overcoming a series of community relations challenges and funding hurdles.

She joined Oregon State in 1984 as an assistant professor in the College of Forestry before ascending into college and university academic and administrative leadership. She and her wife, Lori Elkins, an engineer with bachelor’s and master’s degrees from OSU, recently sat down for an interview in the presidential residence on the southwest side of the Corvallis campus. Dallas, the couple’s 10-year-old chocolate lab, and their cats Bader (after the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg) and Brooklyn (because that’s where Ginsburg grew up) made several appearances.

(For those invited to the presidential residence, here’s a pro tip: Don’t let the cats out. Bader and Brooklyn are indoor felines for their own safety, but they only grudgingly tolerate that status.)

You’ve closely observed the OSU presidency for many years. But it seems like one can never fully comprehend such a job without occupying it. Have there been any surprises?

“It’s just so much bigger than what I was doing at OSU-Cascades, in terms of the number of students we have, the number of faculty we have, the community members. You think about OSU as being statewide, with a presence in every county, and worldwide. There are so many more people that I hear from and think about as we strategize about how we’re going to move forward on the thousands of different things that OSU is involved in. But I’m not one to get too stressed out. I take this as a responsibility. I have great support, and I study issues and prepare myself. It’s just something you’ve got to take on.”

You gave much of yourselves, individually and as a couple, to get Cascades’ beautiful, growing campus up and running as a four-year university. You were preparing to retire in Bend and spend more time with one another, doing more of the things you love, when, all of a sudden, the opportunity to be interim president of OSU arose. What was that like?

Johnson: “It was really hard to leave OSU-Cascades, but in some ways it was good that this happened so fast. I had, like, two weeks to think, ‘Oh my God, I’m going to be leaving this thing that I really took under my wing and helped grow.’ Otherwise, it would have been six months of me fretting and feeling sad about leaving as I got ready to retire. ... As for us as a couple, there we were, planning for the next part of our lives, and then whoa, we’re ramping up again.”

Interim President Becky Johnson, right, and her wife, engineer Lori Elkins, ’03, M.S. ’06. (Photo by Karl Maasdam)
“Our students need to come back, in person, and get engaged with their faculty and each other, and not just in classes but in all those extracurricular things that students do.”

“Lori’s been great about saying, ‘OK, we’re just going to do this for a year or however long it takes to get a new president in place. We’ll have a lot more evenings and weekends that aren’t our own anymore, and we’ll call it fun.’”

Elkins interjected: “With the move over to Bend from Corvallis 10 years ago, Becky said, ‘I won’t go if you don’t want to go.’ Looking back, I can’t imagine Becky Johnson not going over to Bend and doing what she did there. This time, it was like, ‘How can you not take the chance, after a 37-year career, to be president of the university you love?’”

Elkins cut her engineering job to part time to be more available to attend events and otherwise support Johnson in her new role.

“I said, ‘If you’re going to do this, we’re going to do this.’”

To Johnson: Our students have gone through a lot over the past couple of years. What do they need most right now from the president and the OSU community?

“Our students need to come back, in person, and get engaged with their faculty and each other, and not just in classes but in all those extracurricular things that students do. And especially with our incoming freshmen, we — and especially our faculty — need to understand what they’ve been going through. Maybe we need to do some extra assessments the first couple of weeks to see where they are, and then do some reviewing. If we listen carefully to our students, they’ll tell us what they need. We have a lot of really talented, dedicated people working on this.

“Beyond academics, there’s the need to make students feel comfortable and welcome. Depending on their high school experience, Oregon State can be really different for them. When they get here, do they see people who look like them? Is there a place they can go to find people who have the same cultural background as they do? ... I think we’re pretty good about having those things available, but can students find them and access them?”

What can you do to help with the student experience?

“First, there are lots of people on campus working on this. As the president, my role is more one of communication to deans, to department chairs, to faculty, and then directly to students. It can be hard to find ways to reach everyone, so I want to look at things like how we communicate with students on social media.”

What have you learned about the role of philanthropy in a modern university’s success, and the president’s role in it?

“This is a huge part of the presidency. We need to make sure our major donors in particular understand the power of their philanthropy — what a difference they can make here — because these people have hundreds of different opportunities for their funds. What is it about Oregon State University that makes us the best place to invest their money? And they need to trust us — and specifically me — to do what we say we’ll do. I think building trust — being a person who does what I say I’ll do — has always been one of my strengths.”

Elkins noted that once, in Bend, after Johnson addressed a Rotary group about OSU-Cascades’ need for better support from the Central Oregon region, a person approached her and committed, on the spot, to a six-figure gift.

“Somebody just walked up and did that because of her personal relationship with them, because they trusted her,” Elkins said. “Trust goes a long way.”

To Johnson: You’re the first female to be OSU president, and the first “out” gay person. How do you feel about that?

“What I find, mostly, is that when you get to know people, then we’re all just people. But there is, maybe, even more of a desire to be sure to do a good job. I felt the same way about being a woman in forestry, being a lesbian in forestry, and about being a lesbian in general and being successful. You do kind of stand for something, and you feel that if somebody in your position screws up, it paints a picture for everyone, and it lets people down.”

Both you and Lori played college basketball and are big OSU sports fans. Some in the Oregon State community question the need to spend money to stay competitive in the Pac-12 Conference and in college sports in general. What do you say to that?

“Being associated and competitive with the schools in the Pac-12 puts us in the company of universities with the kind of academics we want to be associated with. On the research side, we’re connecting with our Pac-12 counterparts. On the government relations side, we’re connecting with them. The presidents are connecting. It affilitates us with some incredible institutions.

“Plus, athletics is the front door to the university. How many more people know about OSU because our men’s basketball team made a splash in the NCAA’s this year?

“On the donor side, athletics provides a focal point where we can gather and celebrate and maybe increase their involvement. That’s one thing I missed at Cascades. You couldn’t invite someone to a football or basketball game.”
Spinrad is third OSU expert to lead NOAA, key U.S. science agency

Richard “Rick” Spinrad, an Oregon State professor and former OSU vice president for research, was nominated by President Joe Biden and confirmed by the U.S. Senate June 17 to serve as undersecretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce and administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

He has a 1978 master’s and a 1982 doctorate in oceanography from OSU, and served as NOAA’s chief scientist from 2014 to 2016 during the Obama administration.

He is the first OSU graduate and the third person connected to Oregon State to lead NOAA, the federal scientific agency whose mission is to understand and predict changes in climate, weather, oceans and coasts and to conserve and manage coastal and marine resources.

Former OSU President John Byrne led NOAA during the Reagan administration, from 1981 to 1984. OSU Distinguished Professor Jane Lubchenco led NOAA during the Obama administration from 2009 to 2013. Lubchenco has accepted an appointment in the Biden administration as new deputy director of climate and environment in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. (See page 12.)

“I am deeply honored by this nomination. From my days as a graduate student at OSU, I always held NOAA in such high regard for the quality and importance of its work. The opportunity to serve as NOAA administrator is both humbling and exciting.”

— Rick Spinrad, M.S. ’78, Ph.D. ’82

“I am honored to follow in the footsteps of such venerated Oregon Staters as John Byrne and Jane Lubchenco,” Spinrad said. “My experiences as an OSU grad student and senior administrator provided me the important tools that will guide me in my leadership of our nation’s environmental agency.”

Spinrad is an internationally recognized scientist and executive with more than 35 years of experience, who served four years as OSU’s vice president for research before stepping down in 2014 to serve as NOAA’s chief scientist.

During his tenure in the OSU research office, Spinrad led the launch of Oregon State University Advantage, which boosts the university’s impact on job creation and economic progress in Oregon and beyond.

Spinrad returned to OSU in 2016 as a professor of oceanography in the College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences and senior adviser to the vice president for research, where his responsibilities included a focus on funding for the PacWave wave energy test site project off the coast of Oregon. (See item, page 38.) He has resigned from that role to take on the NOAA position.

Before coming to OSU, Spinrad also was a research director for the U.S. Navy; taught oceanography at two universities; directed a major national nonprofit organization; served as president of a private company; and worked as a research scientist.

He received Presidential Rank Awards from presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama. Spinrad is past president of The Oceanography Society and the Marine Technology Society. He is a fellow of the American Meteorological Society, MTS and the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology.

On Oct. 21, he will receive the E.B. Lemon Distinguished Alumni Award, the OSU Alumni Association’s highest honor for OSU graduates, during a virtual ceremony. See page 39 or visit ForOregonState.org/BlackAndOrange.
“I’m honored to pay it forward.”

Because of mentors at OSU, Keith Dempsey was inspired to push himself to pursue a doctorate — and a very meaningful career. As a Beaver Leader and OSU volunteer, he helps others achieve their full potential as well. He says today’s students “need exactly what we needed, and we can be gifts for them.”

Will you join Dr. Dempsey and the Beaver Leadership Circle in making a difference for the next generation?

ForOregonState.org/BeaverLeaders
OSU’s Lubchenco tapped by White House to lead climate, environment initiatives

“I’m eager to work with the stellar team at the White House and across the federal government to craft evidence-based solutions to climate and environmental challenges.”

— Jane Lubchenco

In an interview with The Washington Post, Lubchenco said her aim is to seek to promote solutions to global warming that would have tangible benefits for working class Americans, in keeping with Biden’s “Build Back Better” campaign.

“I frankly relish the opportunity to represent a president who values the science,” she said, noting that for Biden, complex issues such as climate change are ultimately about people on the ground. “I really like that he always brings policy back to people. ... It’s very grounded in what’s real.”

According to The Post, she will work with the White House climate adviser, former EPA administrator Gina McCarthy, as well as the myriad federal agencies that conduct climate science research, from NASA to the Energy Department.

“Dr. Lubchenco is deeply devoted to practical, science-based solutions that have a meaningful impact on the everyday lives of American families,” McCarthy said in a news release. “I’m looking forward to working alongside her in this historic, newly named role to battle climate change and improve the lives of Americans for generations to come.”

Lubchenco is past president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Ecological Society of America and the International Council for Science. She is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences and was a National Science Board member for 10 years. She has received a MacArthur Fellowship, or “genius grant.”

“This elevation of one of the nation’s most distinguished scientists to the forefront of the climate crisis is yet one more example of President Biden’s pledge to use science to inform pragmatic, evidence-based policies to ensure the welfare of all Americans, including children and grandchildren for generations to come,” said Marcia McNutt, president of the National Academy of Sciences, in a news release.

Lubchenco is on loan from Oregon State to the White House for the duration of the appointment. ❍
What gives you
THE EDGE?

Think about what gives you the competitive edge when you want to move up in your career — is it your desire to constantly improve, your drive to enhance your professional skills and/or your confidence to take on bigger projects?

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The OSU Alumni Association believes in the power of the OSU network, and so does Ellen Yin, ’16, a proud Oregon State graduate. She is a rising alumna star who founded and bootstrapped her digital media and marketing company (ellenyin.com) to over $1 million in revenue by the age of 26. She believes in the OSU connection so much that all three of her full-time employees are fellow alumni. She is always looking for ways to elevate others, especially Beavers, and enthusiastically volunteers as an OSUAA career ambassador.

When asked for her top career advice, Yin recommends prioritizing relationships.

“My rule of thumb is to lead with generous action. You always want to think about what’s in it for the other person. Lead from a place of value and what you can offer to someone else, not what you can ask for. If you think you don’t have much to offer or a platform, one of the best ways to create value is to be a connector for others in your life. Who would be a good referral, collaborator or contact for someone else to have? Challenge yourself by thinking of one person in your existing network who you can introduce to someone else in your network today. By elevating others first and creating new connections within your community, you’ll always be top of mind for an introduction when the right opportunity comes along.”

“People are your true assets in business,” Yin said. “The relationships you develop will pay more dividends in your career and your life than any skill you learn.”

People often ask how to begin their career networking. Yin shares her perspective:

Join Yin and other alumni at OSUConnections.org. (See next page.) Hear her on a podcast at bit.ly/ellenyinpodcast. Connect with alumni career services at ForOregonState.org/Career.
LINK UP WITH FELLOW BEAVERS EVERYWHERE.

INTRODUCING...OSU CONNECTIONS.
Your new online professional and social network — just for Beavs!

- Connect with fellow alumni
- Swap advice and stories
- Find new jobs
- Volunteer with your alma mater
- And more

Put this Beaver network to use! Reach out to a graduate in your field and ask or offer to conduct an informational interview with you.

“Make the first move by showing you want to talk with them by searching the directory and messaging alumni today. You’re sure to find several alumni eager to help you nail that next step!”

-Macklin C. Turnquist, ’18

Join your fellow alumni: OSUConnections.org
BEYOND STEREOTYPES
Recent grad challenges assumptions with her art

By Gretchen Schrafft | Images by Daisy Truong

Last year, Daisy Truong, then a photography and digital communication arts major and now a 2021 OSU graduate beginning a career in graphic design, spent her winter quarter inviting members of OSU’s Asian American community to participate in a series of photo shoots. She asked each of the students to select an example of traditional clothing and their own take on modern street wear. The results became “Transcending Traditions,” an exhibit Truong unveiled at OSU’s Asian & Pacific Cultural Center, where she worked as a peer facilitator. (See it at dayzphotography.wordpress.com/transcending-traditions.)

“The moment I got to see her whole piece together I was, like, ‘Oh wow,’” said Jonathan Ganal, a nuclear engineering major who modeled a barong — formal attire from his parents’ native Philippines.

Truong interviewed each participant, asking them to reflect on their connection to the clothes they chose, and used her digital skills to showcase details of each traditional garment. Viewers experienced fashion design from 10 Asian cultures.

Truong’s parents immigrated to the U.S. from Vietnam. Her father is Vietnamese and came by boat as a refugee. Her mother is of the Hoa people, a Chinese community within Vietnam, and came to America with her parents via a sponsor. Growing up in Portland, Truong “really wished I wasn’t Asian for the longest time,” a response she now believes stemmed from silence about cultural experiences in Asian American families and in the schools she attended.

Her art evolved as a way to start conversations that weren’t otherwise happening.

One of Truong’s goals with “Transcending Traditions” was to combat the “model minority myth,” the stereotype that “all Asians are one monocultural race, and that they’re super successful,” she said. Truong said she internalized this idea growing up and still struggles against it.

“That (image of a) submissive or docile stereotypical Asian American woman affected how I speak, my insecurity. ... I don’t really like to take charge of things.”

Her most recent work, released in installments throughout the spring prior to her June graduation, is a film project, “I Am, But I Am Not” (dayzphotography.wordpress.com/i-am-but-i-am-not). It’s a docuseries tackling the dual topics of hate directed at Asians during the pandemic and anti-Blackness within Asian communities.

Empowered by her own work, Truong asked unflinching questions of a diverse group of interviewees in the series, expanding the reach of the conversation she started.

She won entry into the 2021 DisOrient Asian American Film Festival in March at the University of Oregon, where she was the sole college student and only first-time filmmaker to appear on a panel about the role of Asian and Pacific Islander filmmakers in supporting Black Lives Matter.

Sharing the virtual stage with four award-winning filmmakers, scholars and activists, she was, she recalled, confident and quite clear in her voice.

Gretchen Schrafft, M.F.A. ’16, is a teacher and writer in Providence, Rhode Island.
On Oregon State University’s day of giving and connecting, Beavers from around the world made more than 4,000 gifts totaling over $1.1 million.

We are grateful to all the alumni and friends who came together to empower tomorrow’s leaders and enable OSU to continue advancing its education, research and outreach mission. Thank you!

Join us again on April 27, 2022. DamProudDay.org

Pictured: Benny greets students at the Memorial Union during the inaugural Dam Proud Day, April 30, 2019.
Escaping an isolated, brutal childhood and driven by unquenchable curiosity, Michael Waterman applied a world-class intellect to create math that helps biologists understand the essence of life.
The college had almost 10,000 students and I was amazed by their numbers and dazzled by their sophistication. As for the library, “how could such riches be coped with? ... I thought I’d died and gone to heaven.”

— Michael Waterman, describing his arrival as an Oregon State College freshman in 1960

By Kevin Miller | Photo by Leah Lee

Before he could earn bachelor’s and master’s degrees in math at Oregon State and head off to become one of the most brilliant thinkers of his time, Michael Waterman had to get outside.

In the remote coastal valley where he grew up, “outside” meant anywhere else. It was a place eyed with suspicion, as was anyone who wanted to go there.

His ancestors had settled along Four Mile Creek in the southwestern corner of the state in 1911, having traversed hundreds of unforgiving miles from Eastern Oregon in 45 days in a covered wagon. Motorized transport was available but expensive, so they journeyed the hard way.

The hard way was how Waterman’s father did pretty much everything on the family sheep and cattle ranch, and as soon as his oldest son could work, the boy became his main laborer and a frequent target of physical threats and profane tirades.

“I cannot recall a time as a child when I did not deeply hate him,” Waterman wrote in his 2016 autobiography, Getting Outside: A Far-Western Childhood. “I was like a shovel or an axe, a tool to get the job done.” His father often called him stupid, and routinely harangued him with detailed instructions on how to do simple tasks, then sent him up the valley to work all day on his own.

Neither the father nor the son could know that young Michael was destined for greatness. He would grow up to found the fields of bioinformatics and quantitative biology; be elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering; and receive a Guggenheim Fellowship. Working at the outer edge of human knowledge, he and his colleagues would invent formulas to help microbiologists analyze complex structures and begin to predict what might happen as they changed. To the wizards of the Human Genome Project, Waterman would be what he smilingly calls “their math guy.” In 2020, he would receive the $100,000 William Benter Prize for “outstanding mathematical contributions that have had a direct and fundamental impact on scientific, business, finance and engineering applications.”

But on those grueling mornings back on the farm, his father delivered Michael’s marching orders as if addressing an idiot, and the boy feigned rapt attention lest he be punished on the spot.

“One of the turning points was when I stopped paying any attention to him after I’d listened long enough to know what I had to accomplish,” Waterman recalled. “I could figure it out on my own, do it smarter and faster and have time to explore.”

He was sustained by those glorious hours when, chores done, he’d hike up to where the creek formed crystalline pools, sometimes getting down on his belly to watch tiny fish dart to and fro.

At 79, Waterman still loves to watch fish flit about in a mountain stream, and sometimes he catches a few on well-presented flies. Semiretired in Pasadena, California, he is a university professor emeritus at the University of Southern California and distinguished research professor at the University of Virginia.

He followed his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Oregon State in 1964 and 1966 with a doctorate in statistics and probability from Michigan State University in 1969, then worked at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico and at Idaho State University. His fame grew as he met and exchanged theories and formulas with legendary mathematicians. Always seeking to test his mind, he kept an eye on the elite microbiologists who worked with DNA and RNA structures in living cells.

“For me, it wasn’t necessarily that I wanted to go help the biologists,” he recalled with a mischievous smile. “It was more like, ‘Ooh, they have some really cool problems over there,’ and it pleased me to work on them.”

Work on them he did, and soon he was the acknowledged leader of a new field, quantitative biology, and also its chief promoter.
“I guess you could say I engaged in a little branding, because what we were doing needed an identity. I looked for opportunities for the area to grow and to bring people in who would make great contributions.” He co-edited the field’s main journal for decades and helped convene annual meetings to share ideas.

“There are thousands of people in it now,” he said.

Thinking back, Waterman marvels at the unlikely progression of his life. In his memoir, he describes what happened after he showed up for first grade at the tiny local schoolhouse:

“In a few weeks, my teacher sent a message home that I was far behind the class. An ex-teacher, my mother was upset and set out to make things right. Amazing to me now, she had not read to me as a child so I had no introduction to reading, nor to arithmetic. She made cards for the letters and sounds, and for arithmetic, and drilled me each night. Apparently I did not learn my sums properly, and in frustration she made me eat one of those flash cards. ... Full of flash card, I did learn my letters and sums.”

In high school, a few teachers and counselors told Waterman he had the talent for college. Both his desire to leave the tiny valley and his trepidation about doing so led him to consider Oregon State College, which was, maybe, not impossibly far away. He received little or no encouragement from his family for his desire to better himself, but he would flourish in Corvallis.

“In the logging woods where I worked setting chokers, the cables and winches created dangers which were beyond my experience and intuition,” he wrote. “Limbs and logs flew in every direction and I was often paralyzed by indecision as to which way to run.”

Today Waterman sponsors a scholarship fund to help first-generation students at OSU, and he is on the OSU College of Science Board of Advisors. He said he will always be grateful that the university was there for him when he needed it.

“I wonder, if there wasn’t somewhere like Oregon State for me to go to when I was ready to get outside, what would have happened to me.”

Kevin Miller, ‘78, is editor of the Oregon Stater.
Above: Published in 2016, Waterman’s autobiography tells the story of how he transcended an isolated and often brutal childhood in a remote coastal Oregon valley where the rest of the world was known, simply, as “outside.”

Left: Waterman, who says he has always needed time in the outdoors to keep him centered and sharp, takes a contemplative break during a 1972 hike between Yellowstone National Park and the Grand Tetons. (Photo courtesy Michael Waterman)
This pharmacist has a fan club
Career of service includes advice and well over 1,000 COVID shots

Story by Kevin Miller | Photos by Karl Maasdam

Four decades of taking care of her customers and eight months of going just about anywhere in town to give a COVID-19 vaccine have made Pam Becker, ’80, a handy example of what OSU leaders mean when they talk about the university’s graduates being Oregon State’s most important contribution to the world.

Becker is a pharmacist at the small, family-owned Rice’s Pharmacy in Corvallis. Over the years, customers of hers have recommended her as a Stater story subject, and that intensified as Corvallis became one of the most coronavirus-vaccinated communities in Oregon.

Seldom have so many people who’ve been stabbed in the arm by someone pleaded so fervently for that someone to get a little attention. When the magazine finally checked to see if Becker might stop helping people long enough to be interviewed for a story, the pharmacy tech who took the call was just a little excited, as in, “Oh! Oh! You have NO idea how amazing she is!”

What does Becker think about all this?

“| don’t know,” she said. “Maybe it’s because I’m that person who, if everybody else has told you no, I’m going to find a way to tell you yes, until I just can’t.”

She grew up in Corvallis. Her father worked at the university, at times helping legendary OSU marine mammal expert Bruce Mate invent devices to make his early research possible. Her summer jobs were typically on campus. In high school, a female student teacher from OSU made chemistry come alive and encouraged girls in the class to become scientists.

Becker was hooked. At OSU she focused on pharmacy because it seemed like a career in which she could be of service, be a scientist and still have time to raise a family. She and David Becker, ’80, married right after graduation, and they left for his first assignment as a U.S. Marine officer in Virginia before she had time to test for an Oregon pharmacist’s license.

She successfully tested for and earned a Virginia license. The ensuing years saw a lot of movement for her growing and itinerant military family, which eventually included four children.

The family returned to Corvallis in 2000, and by 2006, Becker was positioned in her dream job at Rice’s.

“I work behind the counter in the pharmacy during the morning and poke people in the arm all afternoon,” she said at the height of the vaccine effort.

“One of the really fun things is that a lot of our clientele are people I call our super seniors. They’ve been around a long time and they’re done with dealing with the big-box stores.”
To them, some of whom are parents of her high school friends, the pharmacy is more than a place to pick up some pills, and she is a trusted friend and adviser. “Pam, what are we supposed to do,” they’d say, early in the pandemic, when no vaccines were available. I had people who would call up and say, “You know my story. I have to take care of my parents. I can’t go down. What can you do for me?”

“Heartbreaking stories, and all you could say was, ‘As soon as I have something for you, I’ll let you know.’”

When Rice’s began to get a supply of the vaccines, “people would get weepy when they got their shot,” she said. She’d call a person on her waiting list and they’d say, “Don’t close, it’ll take me 20 minutes to get there. Please don’t close!”

Often she did house calls for people who were “sitting by themselves at home, falling apart, afraid to even open the door to get their vaccination.”

Half a century into it, she has zero regrets about her choice of professions.

“I’ve loved it,” she said.
Imagine you’re a doctor. Each day you get up and go to work. Some days your patients have fins. Some days they have shells. Some days they have fur and fangs. Some days they breathe through gills. Some days they have backbones. Some days they don’t. Your patients are a menagerie from every province of the animal kingdom, brought together to live in a metropolis. You and your colleagues are their medical care, covering routine checkups, emergency response and trauma treatment.

For Dr. Kadie Anderson, this is her typical, “there is no typical,” work life. “I work on everything here,” she said.

A 2011 graduate of OSU’s Carlson College of Veterinary Medicine, she’s an associate veterinarian at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium in Tacoma, Washington. “I work on rockfish, sea turtles, eagle rays, sharks, tigers, red wolves, seals, budgies, snakes, really anything — even invertebrates like scorpions, crabs, sea stars. If it’s at the zoo, I take care of it.”

She is one of two veterinarians at the zoo. They and their technician team care for more than 11,400 animals from more than 360 species.

Handling a caseload like that involves “lots of literature reading” and reaching out to other zoo and exotic animal colleagues for advice. “For example, we’re just starting to do exams on our eagle rays,” Anderson said. “OK, where do you get blood from? How do you get blood? How do you anesthetize them? It’s that whole chain of discovery, which luckily a lot of people have already laid the groundwork for. So it’s just finding the information and working on it from there.”

The work also requires inventive ingenuity to develop new treatments, procedures and tools, which in turn are often shared with the rest of the zoo and exotics veterinary community.
“It’s definitely a lot of MacGyvering sometimes,” Anderson said, invoking the TV hero with a knack for creative solutions. The Point Defiance team has built a recompression chamber that’s big enough to fit rockfish, which can reach several feet in length. It allows Anderson and her colleagues to treat gas bubble disease and other gas-related disorders in fish.

“I just put a fish in last week that had a buoyancy issue. He was tail up, nose down,” she said. “We were trying to get him so he could swim in a normal position. We put him in the chamber and increased the pressure. It simulates the fish going back down to deeper waters, and clinical signs resolved. So that was pretty cool.

“There’s literally no blueprint for building one of these. The Monterey Bay Aquarium started the process by building some smaller chambers, but we think we might have the biggest one,” she said.

Anderson decided early what kind of veterinarian she wanted to be.

“I knew before I went to vet school that I wanted to work in zoo or wildlife practice,” she said.

Classwork, practicums and other experiential learning during her OSU years only strengthened her resolve.

“The first summer when I was at Oregon State, I did the summer research program, and I got to go to South Africa and do work with African buffalo, which was really amazing. I spent time with wildlife vets. Then for my fourth year I did a lot of rotations focusing on zoo and wildlife practice.”

These experiences helped open the doors to zoo medicine but there are few such positions available, meaning she had to be persistent and take a career risk before her career started.

“I’m stubborn,” she said. Though most veterinarians have jobs lined up well before graduation, “I had the horror of, on graduation day, I didn’t have a job. I didn’t have an internship. I had no idea what I was doing. I decided that I didn’t want to do a small animal rotating internship. I just felt it wasn’t the right path for me.

“I felt like, I’m going to either try and get a zoo or exotics internship, which are highly competitive, or I’m going to just go into private practice and try and work at a place where I can at least still get exposure and help out with a zoo.”

Luckily, within a day or two of graduation, she got a call from Point Defiance asking her to interview for their new internship program. She nailed the interview and got the internship. Next came a conservation medicine residency at Ohio’s Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. In 2016, she was hired into her current position, back at Point Defiance, where she helps run the internship program.

She recently earned certification from the American College of Zoological Medicine, putting her in elite company. Fewer than 275 veterinarians globally have achieved the distinction.

Each day brings a fresh challenge for Anderson and her colleagues. Point Defiance recently had a baby tamandua born.

“They’re little mini anteaters,” she said. “She had a respiratory infection, which we successfully treated. Today, it was a very fishy morning, but Tuesday we had a tiger anesthesia and exam.”

In other words, just a string of typical days for a zoo vet.

Jens Odegaard is director of marketing and communications at OSU’s Carlson College of Veterinary Medicine.
In a growth phase, dedicated to inclusive excellence, the Honors College sees a challenging, bright future.

Honors College Dean Toni Doolen, Ph.D. ’01, knows what she and her college are up against as the growing program raises its profile in the OSU community:

“We have some educating to do about the Honors College being about, really, the opposite of elitism, and more about creating opportunity for students with tremendous capacity and potential. We are a fundamental part of the university’s access mission.

“Our students opt in to support a community of excellence. It’s not about putting themselves above others.”

The college is characterized by rigorous yet flexible admissions procedures, a strong on-campus community, small classes taught by many of OSU’s best teachers and a graduation thesis requirement that includes original research and a formal defense,
producing results that would pass muster in many master’s programs. (Browse nearly 1,700 Honors College theses at bit.ly/osuhonorstheses.)

Current requirements to apply are:

» First-year students who are entering from high school: 3.75 cumulative unweighted high school GPA. Students who don’t meet the GPA minimum can qualify with a test score of 1300 SAT or 27 ACT.

» Students transferring to OSU from another college or university: 3.5 Cumulative transfer GPA

» Students already enrolled at OSU: 3.5 Cumulative OSU GPA

From there, the process is more competitive, with selection based on a challenging essay question plus “the strength of courses taken in high school, as well as personal or academic attributes that will enrich the Honors community.”

Doolen and her team seek to make the college’s admission procedures more inclusive while keeping them rigorous. Because of the impact of the pandemic on many high school seniors, the college this year allowed students to petition for consideration and explain their circumstances even if they failed to meet some of the minimum requirements to apply. Doolen intends to make that a permanent change, because it gives students with great potential who have faced extreme challenges a chance at a more level playing field.

“When we were small, there were tons of students that we couldn’t say yes to,” She said. “Now that we are growing, we have some opportunities for change.

“A lot of times the very students who we believe would be amazing Honors College students don’t know about us in high school, don’t understand what an honors college is or don’t have the family or community support to check that box and apply. We want to encourage them to find us.”

By definition the college is multidisciplinary, because its students also have academic majors in traditional OSU colleges.

“For many of them, there’s an intellectual curiosity and an interest in not being judged completely based on the college they’re part of,” Doolen said. “For a lot of them who are in STEM majors, part of the attraction to the Honors College is the ability not to be defined solely by what their major is as they continue to grow and broaden their interests.”

Kevin Stoller, the college’s director of external relations and operations, sees the supportive atmosphere of the honors community as key, especially for students who may have great abilities and potential but are coming from small communities or situations where academic excellence wasn’t encouraged. Such students can get lost before they gain intellectual and social traction on a large campus, he said.

Opposite page, top: Honors College classes are kept small and are often held in one of OSU’s newest buildings, the Learning Innovation Center. (Photos taken before the pandemic.)

Are you Honors College material?

Each year, Honors College applicants face an essay challenge as part of their application. Here are the latest instructions:

“Not everything that is faced can be changed. But nothing can be changed until it is faced.”

– James Baldwin, As Much Truth as One Can Bear

“Paying attention is a form of reciprocity with the living world, receiving the gifts with open eyes and open heart.”

– Robin Wall Kimmerer, Braiding Sweetgrass

“There are years that ask questions and years that answer.”

– Zora Neale Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God

Respond to one of the above quotes in a well-organized and thoughtful essay that:

» analyzes what the quote is saying, and

» shows how this meaning connects to something specific that’s important to you, such as an academic subject, profession, current event, concept, activity or a passion of yours. Be sure to support your points with examples.

Making room for a broader mix of students to try OSU Honors

Fall enrollment figures over the past 16 years make it clear that the Honors College is growing; leaders plan to use some of the added capacity to encourage more students to apply.

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Honors students trade ideas in front of the Learning Innovation Center, home to the college. (Photos taken before the pandemic.)

Honors College Dean Toni Doolen, center, gathers with students.

Below: Previous students' honors theses are kept on display.

“The community support in the Honors College allows students with great intellectual potential to succeed when they might not have succeeded,” Stoller said.

Dylan McDowell, a 2014 alumnus of the college, graduated with an Honors B.S. in fisheries and wildlife science and an Honors B.S. in education. He grew up in tiny Yachats on the Oregon Coast and now works to improve environmental education and policies in several states. The college was initially attractive to him because of its “incredible community and individualized learning experiences, with small class sizes and engaged professors.

“Students will choose their university for a variety of reasons,” he said. “But offering this tightly-knit academic community within OSU is a huge draw for many people, including me.”

Maya Livni, entering her junior year, said she understands the roots of the elitism issue: “I have felt at times that aspects of the college are elitist when compared to the greater OSU community, when I find myself surrounded by Honors College peers who mostly come from middle-income or upper-middle-income families … But I would not say that the Honors College is elite
The college was attractive because of its “incredible community and individualized learning experiences, with small class sizes and engaged professors.”

— Dylan McDowell, 2014 alumnus of the Honors College

in a way that many private schools or schools with incredibly low acceptance rates are elite. To me, the college is trying to create a space to challenge students (and) does its best to provide additional resources to all of its students while trying to remove cost as a factor for students deciding to be in the Honors College.”

Christopher McCracken is entering his senior year in the college: “I really think ‘honors’ in the popular sense of the word is almost a misnomer for what the college is and does. We don’t focus solely on academic excellence or encourage intense competition like a lot of people imagine we do. I’ve found that, much more than grades or quantitative outcomes, the college is interested in the opportunities students choose to take on above and beyond their required coursework. The Honors College is just one of any number of ways to more fully engage with one’s time here, and I don’t think there’s anything elitist about that opportunity.”

Doolen and her team also want to make it easier for qualified students to transfer in from within Oregon State and from other institutions. This can grow diversity, she said, because it helps attract students who finished high school in situations where applying to an Honors College was not top of mind.

To help cover extra costs for things like smaller class sizes and some study supplies, the college charges students a differential tuition of $1,500 per school year. Students from financially strapped backgrounds often can’t afford that without scholarships supported by donors.

“Philanthropy is a big part of making a lot of the things we want to do a reality,” Doolen said. “We want a transformative honors experience, accessible to all, that is about honors degree completion.”

The college’s wish list includes more experiential learning, such leadership opportunities, studying abroad, internships, practicums with businesses and institutions, etc.

“For a lot of students, just getting their thesis done is a financial challenge,” Doolen said. “If we also want to make these broader experiences accessible to all — and they are critical to developing leaders across all disciplines — that’s going to require more support.”

She said the Honors College, like the entire OSU community, is intentional in its work to get better at welcoming and supporting students from historically underrepresented groups.

“For example, we know — because we ask them — that our students who come from lower socioeconomic status and students who don’t identify primarily as the male or female gender often don’t feel welcome in the college. And we know our Black students often don’t feel welcome. We know because we listen.

“We have work to do, and we’re doing it.”

Learn more about the Honors College at honors.oregonstate.edu.

Donors give to broaden, diversify Honors College impact

As the Honors College grows and broadens its footprint at OSU, it has been essential to build a broader philanthropical base. Here, three donors make the case for supporting the college:

**Carol Hill Pickard,** ’76, former chair of the college’s Board of Regents and current OSU Foundation trustee, and her husband **Rich Pickard** have supported the Honors College for years.

“Our country succeeds in great part because of the diverse perspectives that different backgrounds provide to well-educated people,” the couple said in a joint statement. “Unfortunately, for much of our history, opportunity for all has not been equal. We need to remedy those past wrongs.

“Education is the great leveler in our society. Making an Honors College education available to students from all kinds of diverse backgrounds will help to make our world better for all. It is our privilege to support the Honors College to try to make this happen.”

In 2020, the Pickards joined an inaugural group of seven Honors College Champions, donors who have made gifts of at least $100,000 to the college in an effort to inspire other potential supporters to build new opportunities for honors students.

“The Honors College offers a world-class education and that comes with extra costs,” said **Julian Uselman,** ’02, an Honors College graduate who is on its Board of Regents. “Oregon’s brightest students come from the whole spectrum of the population. My whole reason for giving is to make sure that no one has to miss out on this amazing experience simply because their family isn’t affluent enough or they can’t afford to take on that much debt.” For more about supporting the college, contact Kellie Parker at Kellie.Parker@osufoundation.org.
Always learning and leading
Faculty who receive extra support lift OSU

Gifted, entrepreneurial and passionate faculty are central to the success of Oregon State, and donors who support them help broaden their impact.

By creating endowed faculty funds, visionary alumni and friends provide a steady, reliable flow of resources that allow holders of these positions to accelerate their work, purchase technology and equipment essential to innovative research, support graduate assistants on research teams, fund travel for professional conferences and create life-changing opportunities for undergraduates.

Donors who create endowed faculty funds with gifts of $250,000 or more can leverage matching funds for the college or unit where the position is based, with the Provost’s Faculty Match program, funded at $2.5 million by the Office of Provost Ed Feser over five years. Learn more about the program at ForOregonState.org/ProvostsFacultyMatch.

Generous donors have created more than 150 endowed faculty position funds at Oregon State.

Meet three of the outstanding faculty chosen for endowed faculty positions:

Advancing public health
VERONICA IRVIN
College of Public Health and Human Sciences
Celia Strickland Austin and G. Kenneth Austin III Professor in Public Health and Human Sciences

How it began: After graduating with bachelor’s degrees in chemistry and French, Irvin got a temp job working at San Diego State University’s grant and contract department. As she read the abstracts of funded grants in public health, she realized this was the work she wanted to do. She met with faculty and volunteered in their research labs before going on to graduate school in public health.

Making a difference: Public health incorporates many fields — medicine, geography, psychology, social science and more — and is heavily engaged with community members, organizations and policymakers. Irvin’s work addresses a wide range of health priorities such as tobacco, nutrition, exercise and patient navigation. One current project studies interval breast cancers: aggressive cancers that develop between mammography screenings.

She said it: “Public health is a multidisciplinary field that flourishes when different specialties, communities or points of view come together. I enjoy working with individuals and organizations for change. I serve locally as a volunteer with the safety net clinic, Albany InReach Services; regionally as a board member for the OSU Extension Benton County Advisory Network; and statewide as the chair on the Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Advisory Board.”

The donors: Members of the OSU class of 1976, Celia and Ken Austin raise award-winning llamas at Rain Dance Ranch in Newberg and have a new tasting room at Rain Dance Vineyards. In addition to other volunteer leadership roles at Oregon State, both have served as OSU Foundation Trustees. Celia is a breast cancer survivor, and the Austins established the professorship to help advance research on the prevention of cancer and chronic disease.
Engineering for humanity

NORDICA MaccARTY
College of Engineering
Richard and Gretchen Evans Scholar of Humanitarian Engineering

How it began: After earning her bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering, MacCarty volunteered at the Aprovecho Research Center, a nonprofit in Cottage Grove, Oregon, that builds low-emission, high-efficiency biomass cookstoves and teaches organizations around the world about cookstove design. She planned to stay only a few months but ultimately stayed for 10 years as an international consultant before returning to graduate school.

Making a difference: Today, MacCarty’s work focuses on designing systems that provide clean water, energy and sanitation services to meet basic needs in resource-constrained communities. Engineering for Global Development is a field that barely existed 20 years ago, and now it is rapidly growing, aiming to reduce poverty and advance equity worldwide.

She said it: “In a single 24-hour period my students and I may speak with a conservation director in Nepal, a social entrepreneur in Guatemala, a climate consultant from France and members of a Native American tribal council’s energy committee in Oregon. It’s amazing to see that the technology developed in our labs can be of use to these diverse groups.”

The donors: Class of ’69 alumni Richard and Gretchen Evans have lived in many parts of the world. Richard, an industrial engineering alumnus, is now retired as CEO of Montreal-based Rio Tinto Alcan, the world’s leading producer of aluminum. He serves on the OSU Foundation Board of Trustees. Gretchen is an artist and interior designer who completed a B.S. in education at OSU, a B.A. in art from Eastern Washington University, and worked on her master’s in African studies while in Ghana.

Saving coral reefs

REBECCA VEGA THURBER
College of Science
Endowed Faculty in Whale Habitats
Emile F. Pernot Distinguished Professor in Microbiology

How it began: While Vega Thurber always knew she wanted to be a marine scientist, she came to microbiology during her last year of graduate school as she learned how important bacteria and viruses are to the marine system.

Making a difference: The Vega Thurber Lab studies the interactions of microbes with threatened marine species, and this work is making a significant impact on science as well as marine conservation. Her team helped develop methods that are commonly used today to explore the world of wildlife and human viruses. They’ve provided direct cause and effect evidence that pollution increases disease in coral reefs and shown the impact of climate change. This work, described in the film “Saving Atlantis,” (corals.oregonstate.edu/saving-atlantis) is leading to new legislation and governance that better protect marine habitats and species.

She said it: “Working with and mentoring junior scientists is an honor and pleasure: by far the best part of my job. The fields of wildlife disease and coral reef declines can be at times quite depressing, but knowing that this next generation of amazingly intelligent, talented and dedicated scientists is leading the way forward makes me so hopeful for the future.”

About the donor: The late Mabel Pernot created the Emile F. Pernot Distinguished Professorship in Microbiology to honor her father, who helped establish OSU’s microbiology department in 1890. Her grandfather, George Coote, was Oregon State’s first professor of horticulture and was responsible for many of the plantings that grace the older part of the Corvallis campus.

— Cathleen Hockman-Wert
Way more than fireplace curtains
Innovative use of woven wire creates a great business model

Ron Schoenheit’s grandfather, a master wire weaver from Germany, started a company in Portland in 1921, when he came to the U.S. It thrived on making woven wire fencing. As the business grew and split into different companies, simple, black, woven-wire fireplace curtains evolved into a small part of one firm’s business.

Then, recalls Schoenheit, a 1965 graduate of the College of Science, designers started calling with special requests, at first from the local area and soon from Montreal, Canada, an interior design hot spot:

“Can you make something bigger, and not black?”
“Can we hang it as a divider? As a window treatment?”

Now the company is Cascade Coil Drapery. Schoenheit is its president, and the product variety is limited only by customers’ imagination.

About 50 designers and workers at the Portland factory stay busy meeting one customized request after another. Many of the applications include a marriage of the protective nature of the wire drapes and a special color or other design consideration, but some serve purely as visual art.

“The areas that are really moving now, really growing, are blast protection, interior safety screening and screening for the exterior of parking garages, partly to keep people from jumping off them and partly for looks,” he said.

Let’s take a step back to your beginnings. Where did you go to high school and how did you get to OSU?
“I went to Cleveland High School. I was always great at math. There were times when I thought I wanted to be a weatherman, and that would be Oregon State. People started telling me I should go into electrical engineering, and that was OSU, too. Oregon State was always my favorite. I was the first in my family to go to college.”

What’s a lasting impression from your days at OSU?
“The general thing was that I felt lost in the large lecture classes. In high school I always sat in the front row so I could talk to the teachers. It has always bothered me that when I got to college, all of a sudden, I’m by myself and on my own. This is one place where the university has really improved over the years. In my giving to OSU, I’ve supported a program that has grad students helping some of the newer students who are struggling.”

How about an important lesson you learned on the job that helps you run your company today?
“What helped me the most was my ability to talk to the craftspeople, the ones in the shop. One of my bosses was a certified engineer, and a lot of time what he wanted the people in the shop to do didn’t make sense to them. He couldn’t communicate with them.

“I’d worked my entire life, from sweeping sidewalks when I was five, to loading wood into cellars and delivering newspapers. I had four routes at one point. I learned spelling by going around taking orders for subscriptions, and I learned how to handle money by collecting on my routes.”

If he had his career to do over again, he said, he’d build in more space in his life for healthy practices, and for time with family. At 79, he still works, and credits a meditation practice and an exercise discipline for helping him remain sharp.

“Corner Office” is a regular feature on executive-level OSU alumni.

Campari employed satin bronze Fabricoil wire partitions from Cascade Coil to create an elegant look for the Fortunato Bar in the lobby of its corporate headquarters in New York City. (Photo by James John Jetel; courtesy Gensler architects)
A well-earned celebration

By John Valva

On the morning of June 11, after combing my house for long-neglected office keys, I drove two miles to campus. Twice I had to consciously remember the way. A drive I have made countless times and could seemingly envision in my sleep somehow seemed distant and foreign.

After parking in my typical spot, I fretted over my expired university parking decal (only to discover later that such decals have been replaced with digital license plate monitoring). I made it inside the vacant CH2M HILL Alumni Center, sat in my dusty desk chair and immediately discarded the daily flip calendar interminably stuck on March 13, 2020. In my head, I could hear the voice of “The Twilight Zone’s” Rod Serling: “You are about to enter another dimension, a dimension not only of sight and sound but of mind ...”

But the initial oddities wore off within minutes. It was, after all, the day the classes of 2020 and 2021 of Oregon State University had been invited to party. How great did that sound? It was time to honor a fresh crop of alumni, for whom the pandemic had made the college experience a test of endurance and change like none of us who graduated them before could have imagined.

“This was our moment to congratulate and celebrate all involved. It felt like the start of our return home.”

It would be my first in-person workday in a long while, with no Zoom meetings, starting from my actual office, but it truly wasn’t about me. This was a day for our graduates.

In 2020, COVID canceled in-person Commencement celebrations and made the event fully virtual, and as the 2021 academic year wound down, we expected a similar fate for the class of ’21. For those in university leadership assessing ever-changing public health and safety guidelines, the road to Commencement had been long, winding, painful and like no other. Ultimately, the decision to hold the official Commencement online but also offer an in-person processional and celebration was made only 18 days in advance. The effort was herculean. Restrictions were inevitable — limited audiences, face masks encouraged and loved ones watching from a distance or online.

A few of us were honored to host hospitality tents during the event. Families had to wait outside Reser Stadium, and our briefing notes scripted us with properly conciliatory things to say to the disappointed and irate. As far as I could tell, none of that was needed. This was a day of celebration. It was a different and imperfect Commencement, but to those of us there, the experience was flawless. This was a moment to celebrate all involved, to rejoin as a community for the first time in what seemed like forever. The last 15 months had brought much loss for so many of us and challenged the very nature of our residential campus. This felt like the start of our return home, and even antimicrobial face masks could not hide our smiles.

The first group we encountered brought their well-mannered family dog, exquisitely attired in a formal tuxedo to commemorate the occasion.

An adorable family of a Ph.D. graduate arrived with twin three-year-old boys adorned in caps and gowns that matched their father’s.

We met the glowing parents of several of our alumni association student interns and group leaders. We greeted dozens upon dozens of other frolicking graduates.

In this adroitly revised format, traditional alphabetical order gave way to friends processing with friends, athletic team-mates marching together, sorority sisters arm in arm, and a casualness one might see on a Friday night on Monroe Street.

OSU President Emeritus Ed Ray gave the Commencement address originally intended to mark his 17 years of historic leadership — 12 months late but exquisitely timed and perfectly poignant. Interim President Becky Johnson moderated brilliantly, college leaders led cheers, and in the end, graduates thanked us for pulling something — anything — together. Our reply? “You earned this.”

I hope never to see another Commencement celebration like it, but I’ll forever cherish the memories of this one.

John Valva is executive director of the OSU Alumni Association — which also makes him publisher of the Oregon Stater — and he is the OSU Foundation’s vice president of alumni relations.

Enthusiastic family and friends helped members of the classes of 2021 and 2020 celebrate at OSU’s informal graduation processional. See more coverage of the celebrations at Corvallis and at OSU-Cascades on the next four pages. (Photo by Karl Maasdam)
Grad processional
2020-2021
Interim President Becky Johnson, left, and President Emeritus Ed Ray lead the proce- sional onto the Reser Stadium turf. Specta- tors were not allowed in the stadium because of pandemic precautions. (Photo by Jim “Scoop” Schupp; other photos by Karl Maasdam)
Oregon State University conferred 7,690 degrees on a record class of 7,391 graduates in June. As was the case in 2020, the pandemic caused the official 2021 Commencement ceremony to be held online. However, this year, with pandemic restrictions relaxing as June approached, the main campus in Corvallis and OSU-Cascades in Bend (with a drive-through event) offered informal, in-person processions for students from both classes. Those drew a combined participation of nearly 2,200 graduates and enthusiastic crowds of parents and friends along the routes. While the events may have lacked the gravitas of traditional in-person commencements, they offered a memorable outpouring of joy.
Spread the word

As part of an ongoing effort to enlist alumni and other friends to help share the Oregon State story, OSU University Relations and Marketing joins the Oregon Stater to present another batch of talking points for not-so-bashful Beavers.

COMMENCEMENT CELEBRATES ANOTHER RECORD CLASS

A record 7,391 Beavers graduated during a virtual Corvallis campus Commencement event on June 12, earning 7,690 degrees. The following day, 268 OSU-Cascades graduates were honored during a virtual Commencement ceremony. Both campuses had less formal in-person celebrations as well. The new Beavers join the ranks of more than 205,000 Oregon State alumni, who have earned more than 272,000 degrees. Read more on page 33.

OREGON STATE AMONG THE WORLD’S TOP 1.4% UNIVERSITIES

OSU is ranked in the top 1.4% of nearly 20,000 university and colleges worldwide this year by the Center for World University Rankings. The rankings measure universities and colleges for their quality of education, alumni employment, quality of faculty and research performance, without relying on surveys or university data submissions. Read more at beav.es/3IT.

OSU LEADS EFFORT TO TEST WAVE ENERGY PRODUCTION

Oregon State has begun construction of PacWave South, the nation’s first commercial-scale facility for testing wave energy production. The approximately $80 million facility is key to accelerating development of the wave energy industry to provide clean, reliable electricity to help meet the world’s rising energy demands. It will be located about seven miles off the coast near Newport and will allow wave energy developers to test technologies to harness the power of ocean waves and transmit that energy to the local electric grid. The project is funded by state and federal grants, OSU and philanthropy. Updates are available at pacwaveenergy.org/constructionupdates.

OSU WILL HELP IMPROVE PDX RUNWAY RESILIENCE, SAFETY

Research within OSU’s College of Engineering will help the Port of Portland save as much as $35 million to ensure runways at Portland International Airport can survive an expected magnitude 8.0-9.0 Cascadia earthquake. Associate Professor Armin Stuedlein led three days of test detonations at the airport in 40- and 90-foot-deep blast casings to help researchers determine how the sand and silt soils underlying the airport might respond to a “megathrust earthquake.” Stuedlein’s work will advise what improvements are needed to keep the runway intact, and planes taking off and landing safely.

COLLABORATION GETS COASTAL RESIDENTS VACCINATED

Lessons learned by OSU Extension Service agents in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic are helping to encourage vaccinations among underrepresented communities along the Oregon Coast. Extension and College of Public Health and Human Sciences faculty, along with community partners in Lincoln County, are conducting public outreach through YouTube videos, radio and other media in Spanish and Mam, an indigenous Guatemalan language. The project, Juntos en Colaboración, which means together in collaboration, also includes community meetings held in Spanish where OSU experts answer questions and seek to foster vaccine confidence.
CELEBRATE OSU’S FINEST AT THE
2021 BLACK AND ORANGE AWARDS
Join us ONLINE Oct. 21

E.B. LEMON DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
Rick Spinrad, M.S. ’78, Ph.D. ’82
Renowned ocean science researcher and policymaker

JOAN AUSTIN HONORARY ALUMNI AWARD
Larry Roper
Higher education trailblazer and changemaker for students

JEAN AND C.H. “SCRAM” GRAHAM LEADERSHIP AWARD
Wade Westhoff, ’93
Committed OSUAA volunteer and alumni leader

DON AND SHIRLEY WIRTH YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD
Roman Hernandez, ’92
Milikaleakona “Tonga” Hopoi, ’12
Legislative leader and inclusive community influencer

MARTIN CHAVES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Kate, ’83, and John Stirek, ’82
Proud supporters of OSU Athletics and the success of student-athletes

Attended the online celebration:
ForOregonState.org/BlackAndOrange
Cassie the robot, invented at Oregon State and produced by OSU spinout company Agility Robotics, has made history by traversing five kilometers, completing the route in just over 53 minutes.

Cassie was developed under the direction of robotics professor Jonathan Hurst with a 16-month, $1 million grant from the Advanced Research Projects Agency of the U.S. Department of Defense.

Since Cassie’s introduction in 2017, OSU students funded by the National Science Foundation have explored machine learning options for the robot.

Cassie is the first bipedal robot to use machine learning to control a running gait on outdoor terrain. The robot completed the 5K on Oregon State’s Corvallis campus untethered and on a single battery charge. (Learn more and see a video of the run at beav.es/3DQ.)

“The Dynamic Robotics Laboratory students in the OSU College of Engineering combined expertise from biomechanics and existing robot control approaches with new machine learning tools,” said Hurst, who co-founded Agility in 2017. “This type of holistic approach will enable animal-like levels of performance. It’s incredibly exciting.”

Cassie, with knees that bend like an ostrich’s, taught itself to run with what’s known as a deep reinforcement learning algorithm. Running requires dynamic balancing — the ability to maintain balance while switching positions or otherwise being in motion — and Cassie has learned to make infinite subtle adjustments to stay upright while moving.

“Cassie is a very efficient robot because of how it has been designed and built, and we were really able to reach the limits of the hardware and show what it can do,” said Jeremy Dao, a graduate student in the Dynamic Robotics Laboratory.

“Deep reinforcement learning is a powerful method in AI that opens up skills like running, skipping and walking up and down stairs,” said Yesh Godse, ‘21, who worked as an undergraduate in the lab.
OSU joins effort to bring more AI into ag

Thirteen researchers from OSU’s College of Engineering are part of a $20 million federal effort, known as the AgAID Institute, to develop artificial intelligence to tackle mounting agricultural challenges such as diminishing water and labor supplies, weather variations and climate change.

“It is essential to improve the robustness, efficiency and adaptability of food production,” said Alan Fern, professor of computer science and the principal investigator representing OSU. “The institute aims to achieve this by identifying the best ways to integrate humans and AI/robotics technology.”

Washington State University is leading the AgAID Institute, whose other partners along with OSU are the University of Virginia, Kansas State University, Carnegie Mellon University, Heritage University, Wenatchee Valley College and the University of California, Merced.

The institute seeks to include people who will use the AI tools — farm workers and policymakers, for example — in their development, said Washington State’s Ananth Kalyanaraman, the institute’s lead principal investigator.

Oregon State’s team will lead the institute’s fundamental and applied research in AI, robotics and human factors, Fern said. The OSU group will work closely with agriculture researchers and others, including farmers, ranchers and those working in growing and harvesting agricultural commodities.

Hosting the Collaborative Robotics and Intelligent Systems Institute, Oregon State’s robotics program is a national leader and features more than 25 faculty and 180 graduate students. OSU researchers strive to look beyond technological development, exploring robotics and intelligent systems holistically, with a special look at their impact on people.

“Humans and AI/robotics have very different capabilities and competencies and there are many possible ways of combining them for any given agricultural application, but only some of those combinations will be effective,” Fern said. “We want to design and build workflows that have real utility and thus actually get used.”

The institute plans multiple education programs from K-12 through higher education and worker training, Fern said, with the goal of raising AI skill levels, opening new career paths and attracting more people to agriculture and computing professions. ✨
Meet Michael Haffner, ‘21, robot enthusiast, recent student alumni ambassador and grateful recipient of support from friends and alumni:

Where did you grow up?
Tualatin — about 20 minutes south of Portland. (Most people know it for the Cabela’s!)

Why OSU?
Oregon State has a fantastic program for students interested in a variety of STEM fields, which is what interested me. That, combined with the plethora of extracurricular activities in the form of clubs, teams and abroad experiences, meant OSU had everything I was looking for in a school.

You graduated in June, having earned an honors B.S. in industrial engineering. What was Commencement like?

What’s next?
Given the uncertainty caused by the pandemic, it was refreshing to be able to participate in an in-person processional. The additional in-person celebration hosted by the Honors College was likewise a delightful surprise, as they both provided a nicer sense of closure than could otherwise be achieved virtually. Since graduating, I have recently started a new job as a consulting analyst in Sacramento, California.

What was your favorite class at OSU?

Hmm ... while impossible to narrow down to just one, I’m particularly fond of the “Methods of Data Analysis” series I took. An application-heavy series that applied statistical analysis to practical problems, it helped cement the impact statistical literacy can make in one’s ability to tackle problems and observe the world around them.

How would you sum up the experience of being a college student during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Like it did in so many aspects of the regular world, the pandemic brought rapid change, resulting in a transition to virtual learning. The professors who taught me worked incredibly hard to adapt both their materials and teaching style to be conducive to the Zoom environment. Their understanding of the challenges posed to students in a virtual environment, and their efforts to address those challenges, made all the difference in one’s ability to successfully navigate such an abrupt, unexpected frontier.

Where’s your favorite place to hang out in Corvallis?

Grabbing a pint at the Downward Dog after class never hurt anyone, especially because their outdoor seating allowed them to adhere to the safety measures necessitated by the pandemic. Any excuse to get out of the house and away from the computer was a welcome respite, and the social distancing mandates meant much more time was spent doing outdoor activities. Another staple was to float the river, from Willamette Park to downtown.

How did you pay for college? Did you get help from scholarships and other forms of financial aid?

I was fortunate enough to benefit considerably from scholarships through the university. Without them, I wouldn’t have been able to experience functionally any of the opportunities that made my years here so impactful.

What’s an aspect of today’s student life that probably would surprise alumni from 10 or 20 years ago?

I think, given this last year especially, many alumni would be pleasantly surprised to know how many sociable aspects of the college experience have endured, despite the tremendous and drastic impact of COVID-19 on the education system and on learning as a construct. The pandemic and the shift to a completely virtual environment hosted through Zoom ushered in an unprecedented sense of isolation for many, if not all students. Despite this, many of the things that make college unique, persevered. Group study halls were replaced with group video chats — we still spent the evenings working together on projects, studying and, of course, procrastinating. But instead of the library, dorm or quad, students collaborated virtually — struggling, suffering and succeeding, maybe not in person, but still very much together.

Is there anything else you’d like to say to a potential readership of more than 230,000 Beaver alumni and friends?

I’ve never met a stranger from Corvallis, so feel free to reach out, connect and share your story with me. I can’t wait to be involved in this one-of-a-kind alumni base.
Alumni center reopens as restrictions recede

Just before shutting its doors on March 12, 2020, the CH2M HILL Alumni Center bustled with a large three-day conference.

The next day: crickets. The center sat dark and all but deserted, a sign of a mostly shut-down campus in a mostly shut-down world.

OSU’s movement toward its new post-pandemic normalcy is still ongoing, with no certain ending point, but the mid-July reopening of the alumni center was a clear sign for many — saying both “Welcome home,” and “We’re back.”

In normal times, the center — home to the OSU Alumni Association — and its neighbor building, OSU’s LaSells Stewart Center, form a large and important meeting place for the campus and the mid-Willamette Valley.

The alumni center’s 24,000-plus square feet of indoor and outdoor space — in the heart of Beaver Nation, across the street from Gill Coliseum and Reser Stadium — normally bustles with pregame parties, scientific conferences, the annual OSU grad night, weddings, reunions and hundreds of smaller gatherings.

“It feels great to be able to start working with clients again,” said alumni center director Richelle Hayes, ’96. “I know I’ve been looking forward to walking into the building and seeing people moving about with smiles on their faces.”

Newly remodeled, the center boasts updated amenities for safe gatherings, including covered outdoor space and a new HVAC system indoors, plus increased support for virtual and hybrid events. Fresh paint, a refurbished formal living room, library and lounge, new LED lighting and upgraded audiovisual gear add to comfort levels throughout.

Hayes noted that, from the alumni association’s event planning and staging staff to the approved outside caterers who serve center guests, many are eager and ready to collaborate and host successful events.

“It truly is a place to come home to,” Hayes said. “The design and feel of the building is like home. Whether your event is for business or personal, we will take care of you like you are family.”

To learn more about holding an event at the alumni center, see page 47 or visit ForOregonState.org/Center.

— Julie Cooper, ’18

“Whether your event is for business or personal, we will take care of you like you are family.”

— Richelle Hayes, alumni center director

Your network is growing.

Vamos OSU and OSU Rainbow Connect are joining the ever-expanding OSU community.

These alumni identity networks — and many others — are here for you to make connections, attend events and more.

Engage in the fun:
ForOregonState.org/AlumniNetworks
The power of the portal

Transfer rules add player choice, challenge coaches

Story by Kip Carlson | Photos by Karl Maasdam

Where to go from here?

That’s a question with literal and figurative meaning when it comes to transfer rules adopted by the NCAA in April, allowing student-athletes to use the “transfer portal” once in their careers without having to sit out a season between playing for different schools, as was the case with the old rules.

For thousands of student-athletes, the question quickly became, “Where’s my next stop?” And for coaches, it was, “How will I build my team from year to year, or my program for the long haul?”

“We’re still trying to adapt, for sure,” Oregon State men’s basketball head coach Wayne Tinkle said. He and his colleagues at OSU and across the country are adjusting to a dramatic increase in departures and arrivals within their programs.

In NCAA Division I men’s basketball, by mid-July, 1,727 players had entered the transfer portal, a virtual marketplace to match players wanting a change with new teams. With 4,550 scholarships available nationwide, that’s 38% transferring.

In NCAA Division I women’s basketball, the figure works out to 21%; in the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision, it’s 14% of scholarship players. Those are significant increases from prior years.

Under the old wait-to-play rules, Oregon State’s football program shopped the transfer portal to great effect over the past several seasons; among the Beavers who are Division I transfers are quarterback Tristan Gebbia from Nebraska, all-Pac-12 center Nathan Eldridge from Arizona and all-conference linebacker Avery Roberts from Nebraska.

“Recruiting a kid the first time out of high school is different than when you recruit them as a transfer,” OSU head coach Jonathan Smith told the San Jose Mercury News this spring. “We don’t want to recruit a kid with one year of eligibility left. But if we have a need or a previous relationship (with a player), we’ll start the process.”
Jarod Lucas, at left leading his teammates onto the court, says the churn of portal players coming and going makes it challenging to sync and get into a flow as a team. Tristan Gebbia, number 3 above, joined Beaver football from Nebraska via the old-style portal.

Since the start of last season, Tinkle has seen four scholarship players transfer out; he’s also had five Division I players transfer in to join Oregon State.

“With regards to your current roster, just having those guys kind of be patient and bide their time and continue to develop and wait for their opportunity, those days seem like they’re going to be gone — for the most part, not in total,” Tinkle said. Without immediate playing time, players may look elsewhere.

On the other hand, an experienced player from elsewhere can fill the void when a player leaves or can plug other holes in the roster.

“And I’m not just talking about somebody who has one year,” Tinkle said. “But maybe you get somebody from another program that had good success as a young player and they want to go to a level where maybe they can compete against higher-caliber players, so you can obviously get some help to your roster with that scenario as well.”

The jump in transfers this off-season may have partially resulted from on-campus isolation due to pandemic precautions. Women’s basketball head coach Scott Rueck said his team had fun, competitive practices and stayed positive — but that was only three hours of the day.

“It was the other 21 that was just a shell of the experience,” Rueck said. “It wasn’t real, it wasn’t normal, it wasn’t what we would normally do. So yes, it was an odd experience and that probably caused a lot of decisions that would not have been made otherwise.”

Jarod Lucas, a sophomore guard for the Beaver men’s team, said the increased roster churn means it will take longer for teams to get in sync for a season.

“I don’t know how many guys we had last year, maybe five or six, but early on we struggled,” Lucas said of the 2021 OSU squad that had few full-squad practices early in the season due to COVID-19, then won the Pac-12 tournament and reached the NCAA Elite Eight. “We struggled to connect, we struggled to win ballgames especially ... You’re not going to get results from day one as you might having a team or a group of guys for two or three years.”

Tinkle agrees.

“We feel that to maintain that level of consistency you’ve got to try to build from that freshman class up, but it’s going to be difficult,” Tinkle said. “So you’ve got to stay fluid and be ready.”

Rueck built his program around developing players over four years and has had relatively few transfers because his recruiting emphasizes finding players who will bond with teammates.

“And our program has had so many players come through that are legendary now,” Rueck said. “They are ‘one-name’ athletes now at Oregon State in women’s basketball because they have endeared themselves to our fan base. Our fan base has watched
them struggle, watched them succeed, and they have basically become part of Beaver Nation’s family.”

Rueck’s goal is to continue building from a base of four-year players, but he acknowledges the priority may go from building a program for the long haul to building a team for the next season.

“I hope it doesn’t become the norm for our program any sooner than it would have to, let’s just say that,” Rueck said. “There’s so much power in the freshman experience, and then leaning on three years on the grind, on the blood, sweat and tears, and sticking it out.”

Other aspects of the rule change have yet to be worked out. Tinkle said coaches nationwide are concerned players could be recruited off other rosters during the season. He noted that transfers can negatively affect the Academic Progress Rate of both the schools they are leaving and joining; failing to meet APR benchmarks can earn penalties from the NCAA. Those guidelines may need adjustment, he noted.

“But hopefully we can get all that stuff ironed out and we’ll see how it goes,” Tinkle said. “I think it’s the rule for now, but I know if it becomes a mess, it might be revisited somewhere down the road.”

Tinkle believes the new policy is fair: “Coaches can come and go, so I kind of tend to agree that players should be given that opportunity as well,” he said. “But I just hope that we make sure we do this thing ethically and that we don’t neglect the academic side and the impact that’s going to have on the school that they’re leaving and the one that they’re going to, as well.”

OSU’s women’s basketball team picked up Ellie Mack, a graduate transfer from Bucknell, before last season. In Mack’s case, she had to find a new place for her final year of eligibility because Bucknell doesn’t allow fifth-year student-athletes. Still, the 2020 Patriot League Player of the Year figures that even if she had been eligible to play another year at Bucknell, she likely would have transferred despite having a great experience there.

“I kind of achieved everything I wanted to achieve at Bucknell and so I felt I needed a bit of a higher ceiling and Oregon State provided that for me,” Mack said.

Mack says the new rules give student-athletes more of an opportunity to be happy with their situation.

“I know there’s a lot of controversy around it, but people transfer for so many different reasons,” she said. “And most of the time it’s because they just want different opportunities or they’re unhappy where they’re at. I think it just gives power to the student-athletes. … A lot of the time people commit when they’re 16 years old, and when they’re in college, so much changes. And so when you’re 16 you don’t necessarily have the foresight to see where you’re going to be happiest or what opportunities are best for you.”

Transfer Ellie Mack says the new rules give players needed choice.
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Quizz Rodgers crosses
Football legend scores degree via OSU Ecampus

Story by Tyler Hansen  |  Photo by Dennis Wolverton

Oregon State Ecampus has an affectionate term for students like Jacquizz Rodgers, ’21, who put their education on hold for a year or more, but never let go of their intention to graduate. “Stop-outs.”

They’re not dropouts, because they haven’t quit on their dream of earning a degree. Life happens. Many students simply need to focus their attention elsewhere.

They take on demanding jobs.

They care for their children.

They battle health issues.

And sometimes they go play in the NFL for nearly a decade.

A three-time All-America running back for the Beavers from 2008 to 2010, Rodgers is one of the most beloved and accomplished sports figures in Oregon State history. Soon after he arrived on OSU’s Corvallis campus as an 18-year-old freshman in 2008, he started piling up accolades: three-time NCAA All-American, Pac-10 Offensive Player of the Year, workhorse NFL running back.

Now he can add “OSU alumnus.”

It was a long, on-again, off-again journey for him, as it is for a significant number of adult learners. In that way, even a world-class athlete like Rodgers is like many other students working on online degrees. In other ways, of course, he stands out.

He played for the Atlanta Falcons, Chicago Bears and Tampa Bay Buccaneers across eight seasons in the NFL.

He declared for the NFL draft after his junior season to capitalize on his elite talent and college success. His blend of speed, power, quickness and good hands made it a career opportunity he simply couldn’t let pass.

In that major life decision, he bet on himself twice — to live in the moment and pursue his dream of playing professional football, and to plan for a future that included academics.

His older brother James Rodgers, also a standout running back for Beaver football, graduated in 2012.

“When I left school early, it was a promise I made to my mom and my uncle that I would finish my degree. I have kids and I have nephews, so it’s not about that I played in the NFL and don’t need a degree. It’s more about showing them that having grit is important.”

— Jacquizz Rodgers, ’21

“I became more of a student-athlete instead of an athlete-student. When I was in school (from 2008-10), I was younger and I was playing football and trying to get by,” he said. “Now that I’m a little older, I try to take what I’ve learned in my classes and apply them as life skills. That’s the biggest difference.”

The other notable change, he said, is that Ecampus courses are much more hands-on than they were when he took a few online classes as an on-campus student.
Jacquizz Rodgers, ’21, burst onto the national scene and became an instant OSU legend as a freshman when, on the night of Sept. 25, 2008, he ran around and over the USC Trojans for 186 yards and two touchdowns, leading the Beavers to their first defeat of a top-ranked opponent in 41 years. (Photo by Dennis Wolverton)

“It’s more of a feeling like you’re in the class,” he said. “You’re giving presentations and interacting with your classmates. I really liked that.”

Rodgers followed a path set by iconic running back Steven Jackson, ’20, who played for the Beavers for three years ending in 2003 before becoming one of the top rushers in NFL history, with three Pro Bowl selections. Jackson, an artist and investor who directs a marketing firm, completed his HDFS degree through Ecampus and serves on the OSU Foundation Board of Trustees. He was featured in a 2019 profile in the Stater.

Degree in hand, Rodgers is focusing much of his post-NFL energy on coaching.

His goal is to help guide younger generations at either the high school level or in college as a running backs coach. He runs summer camps in his native Texas and in Oregon each year for youth players through his community-based Jacquizz Rodgers Foundation. Serving as a mentor suits him well.

Still, one task remains in his college career. He plans to attend Oregon State’s next in-person, formal Commencement ceremony at Reser Stadium in Corvallis. There he will accept his OSU diploma on the same field where he became a local legend and a national star.

“That’s crazy, I never even thought about it like that,” Rodgers said at the sudden realization of life coming full circle. “Wow, that will be special. That’s the place where I had success and really started my life and career in a big way.

“To be able to have this type of ending at Reser, that’s going to be great.”

Tyler Hansen is the senior writer and communications manager for OSU Ecampus.
When basketball returns to Gill Coliseum in November, Oregon State’s men’s and women’s teams will be looking to pick up where they left off in March. The rousing finish to both seasons grew big ambitions.

“On the women’s side, they’ve been one of the best programs in the country year-in and year-out, so I’m sure their expectations every year are the Final Four,” said Jarod Lucas, a sophomore guard on OSU’s men’s team. “For somebody like us, obviously the expectation (this year) is the Final Four. ... We definitely exceeded our expectations this past year on the men’s side.”

After slow starts beset by pandemic-related pauses, both Beaver squads took fans on a thrilling ride through the latter part of the 2020-21 season.

The women, 6-6 in mid-February, won their final three games of the regular season, including wins at No. 8 UCLA and No. 14 Oregon. In the Pac-12 tournament, they beat California and knocked off the Ducks again to reach the semifinals and secure a spot in the NCAA tournament. There they shellacked Florida State 83-59 before falling to No. 1 seed South Carolina.

“Everything came together,” OSU women’s basketball head coach Scott Rueck said. “The only teams that beat us down the stretch were Final Four teams, that was it: Arizona, Stanford and South Carolina. I was really pleased with the way we finished.

“It was fun. We ended the season with a lot of momentum.”
The Beaver men rallied similarly, winning three of their last four regular season games after an 11-11 start. In a storybook run through the Pac-12 Tournament, they beat UCLA, Oregon and No. 23 Colorado to earn the title and an NCAA berth. The No. 12 seed in their region, OSU then beat No. 5 seed Tennessee, No. 4 seed Oklahoma State and No. 8 seed Loyola Chicago to reach the Elite Eight, before falling to No. 2 seed Houston in an underdog run that captured the nation’s attention.

“It was a heck of a run amid some unbelievable circumstances, in a year in which we were all really having a tough time, and it just seemed like it was a great shot in the arm to a lot of folks, whether they were Beaver fans or not,” OSU men’s basketball head coach Wayne Tinkle said. “There were some friends of mine who are loyal to other schools who jumped on the bandwagon for a little bit and it was pretty cool to see all of that.”

Now, to build on those finishes.

“I think obviously with the team we have, the new guys are excited to be a part of that and try to get back there, the vets as well. There’s going to be some different goals and expectations,” Tinkle said.

Lucas mentioned the Final Four, and he said the tournament success last season shows that isn’t a pipe dream — he’s been on a team that was perhaps a few minutes from getting there.

“So it definitely hits you,” Lucas said. “It makes me realize ... ‘Hey, I just made it to the Elite Eight, I know what it takes to get there, so why not win one more game and get to the Final Four?’”

Tinkle agrees that experience will help but he knows OSU has to guard against complacency: Making the trip once doesn’t mean a return is guaranteed.

“We were a break or two ... from not having any of that happen,” said Tinkle, whose team rallied from double-digit deficits in some postseason games. “We always talk about the small things and the small details and why they’re so important. Sometimes when you do things the right way, luck tends to fall in your favor.”

“But there were some games we almost gave away that really could have cost us, so we’ll be sure to show them the appropriate amount of that, find a way to keep them grounded and hungry and thirsty for more.”

Rueck said even a rough finish to last season would have driven his team to get ready for 2021-22. March made it a more positive motivation.

“That momentum does provide the hope and the vision; it’s like, ‘OK, yes we can. We can be a great team.’ So the spring workouts were absolutely outstanding — I mean, a high level of focus and skill improvement.”

Ellie Mack, a senior forward on the OSU women’s team, feels the same anticipation.

“Definitely,” Mack said. “I know there’s a lot of new pieces that have come in, but that’s honestly kind of exciting because we have the opportunity to build something super unique and it’s just really fun getting to know everyone, getting to know their playing styles, just seeing this team come together.”
Gloire, pronounced ‘glory’

Top national soccer award goes to OSU forward
“The success to me is not a surprise but a by-product of consistently outworking and consistently trying to prove he’s the best.”
— OSU men’s soccer head coach Terry Boss

Gloire Amanda’s first name is pronounced “glory” — which couldn’t be more appropriate.

The Oregon State forward capped a terrific men’s soccer season with a number of honors, including the highest one possible: the MAC Hermann Trophy, awarded to the nation’s player of the year in the sport.

Amanda, a junior, led the nation in points (37) and goals (15); the points set a new OSU record and the goals tied the school mark as he scored in 10 of the Beavers’ 14 matches this spring. Amanda earned All-America, All-Far West Region and All-Pac-12 honors for the season.

“The success to me is not a surprise but a by-product of consistently outworking and consistently trying to prove he’s the best,” OSU head coach Terry Boss told The Oregonian in May.

Amanda took a roundabout route to Corvallis. His parents left the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1996 because of civil war in that country. Amanda was born in a refugee camp in Tanzania. His family moved to Canada when he was 10; Amanda’s soccer talent eventually led to a place in the Vancouver Whitecaps Academy when he was 14, and then to Oregon State.

Amanda was named the Hermann Trophy winner at a Missouri Athletic Club banquet May 27 in St. Louis.

“I just want to take the time to thank my coach who’s here, Terry Boss, who’s helped me a lot for the past three years,” Amanda told the gathering. “I want to thank my family, who are in Canada. Obviously, when you’re away from home things tend to get a bit difficult, and I’m just thankful for them for making my job here easier.

“I also want to thank my teammates for being my brothers away from home and making sure that I’m settled in and get accustomed to the environment. Lastly, I want to thank my god, Jesus Christ, for giving me strength and courage to endure every obstacle that’s come into my life.”

Amanda was also one of four finalists for an ESPN ESPY Award for Best College Athlete, Men’s Sport, along with Iowa basketball player Luke Garza, Clemson football player Trevor Lawrence and Alabama football player Devonta Smith.

Amanda, who was progressing toward a degree in sociology, has set that aside for now. In June, he signed a professional contract with AK Austria Klagenfurt in Austria’s top-level league.

“A new challenge,” he wrote on social media. “God, guide me! Dankel! Dankel! Dankel!”

Amanda finished his Oregon State career sixth in both career points (61) and career goals (25).

As a national player of the year, he joined some select company at Oregon State: Terry Baker won the 1962 Heisman Trophy for football, Gary Payton was the Sports Illustrated men’s basketball player of the year in 1990, Les Gutches won the 1996 Dan Hodge Trophy in wrestling and Adley Rutschman earned the 2019 Golden Spikes Award in baseball.
LIFE MEMBERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The new OSUAA life members listed below have made a lifetime commitment to help students and alumni of all ages connect to a network of more than 230,000 alumni and friends, where they’ll have fun, find career help, get and give crucial advice, gain life skills, share experiences and give back to Beaver Nation. Will you join the nearly 7,000 life members? Find yourself on the list in the next Oregon Stater by joining or upgrading at ForOregonState.org/Join.

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That’s a commitment to be proud of.

Want to see your name among these loyal Beavers?
Now’s the time to show your support, commitment, connection, community, pride, passion and expertise as an OSU Alumni Association life member.

OSUAA memberships make a difference by:
- Supporting students through scholarships and the Student Alumni Ambassadors program.
- Offering transformative events.
- Engaging members, students and alumni in career networking opportunities.
- Sending encouraging messages to first-term students.
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Plus, each new life member will receive an OSU yard sign! Already a life member and want this gift? Contact us at osualum@osualum.com.
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Maria K. Majar, ’86
Lawrence A. Martin, ’66
Steven Martin
Karen Kristin McAlhany, ’92
Elise F. McClure, ’81
Barbara Maidment, ’68
Katelyn Nichole McDaniel, ’21
Emily Marie McKillip
Holly McKinney, ’91
Todd A. Mc Kinney, ’91
Judy Ellen McReynolds, ’67
Richard Everett McReynolds, ’67
Angel Anthony Medrano
Leah M. Mehlberg, ’21
Douglas E. Nelson, ’94
Donna Louise Meier, ’63
Paul A. Meier, ’62
Grant E. Michelson, ’85
Jessica Danielle Miller, ’16
Antonio Ignacio Modica, ’21
Shaun Jason Moore, ’01
Eric Eduardo Morales, ’21
James H. Mosley, ’74
Maureen Mosley
Jane Elizabeth Myrick, ’20
Nathan Nagy, ’97
Lloyd David Neal, ’82
Susan Neal
Douglas E. Nelson, ’94
Naomi Ewurabena Nyarko
Amber C. Nyssen, ’04
Benjamin Jacob Nyssen, ’05
Heidi Faith Oldenkamp, ’17
Nathan Ryan Parker, ’20
Zech Peiffer, ’21
Kyle Patrick Petersen, ’04
Margaret J. Phillips, ’91
Christian Edward Plue, ’21
Austin John Ratcliffe, ’15
Erik Ratcliffe, ’16
Chandler Douglas Rea, ’21
Jane Johnson Roath, ’64
Stephen D. Roath, ’63
Larry Robinson, ’64
Dan Ruder, ’91
Thanithar P. Ruder, ’84
Roger Douglas Sampair, ’78
Jeffrey Ryan Schachtsick, ’17
David E. Schwartz, ’82
Dennis Dean Scott
Christopher J. Shonnard, ’76
Lynnette M. Shonnard, ’79
Douglas Lee Sittner, ‘20
Andrew Michael Smith, ’78
Elaine Baron Smith, ’78
Edith Louise Sperling, ’03
Sydney Michelle Stanton, ’20
Ryan Sullivan, ’11
Ann Neville Teal, ’65
Liam Matthew Thornton, ’21
Taylor Kesterson Townes, ’20
Janette Jaye Townsend, ’97
Scott Townsend
Lou Ann Trabue
Michael E. Trabue, ’78
Rohan Sinha Varma, ’21
Clara Noel Veelman, ’21
Andrew McDuffe Vincent III, ’80
Taegan Scott Warren, ’21
Holly Hellman Welty, ’80
Dr. Stephen E. Welty, ’79
John P. Whitaker, ’63
Jody L. White, ’96
Toby White
Bradford E. Williams, ’21
Gillian Reay Williams, ’21
Carolyn Knapp Witters
Robert E. Witters
Lise Ebmeyer Wolf, ’78
Thomas Scott Wolf, ’76
Stephen L. Wolfe, ’90
Craig S. Yano, ’84
Diana Alvarado Yano, ’85
Aric Zandhuisen
Heather Kathleen Zandhuisen, ’18
Samantha Lee Zeigler, ’21

PUBLISHED

Roger W. Avrit, ’64, has published Dormant No More, a novel about the slippage of the Cascadia Subduction Fault off the Pacific Northwest coast from British Columbia to Northern California. The fault slippage results in the strongest earthquake ever recorded in human history. Survivors on the coast face enormous tsunami waves along the coastline that wipe out whole towns. Not envisioned in any disaster planning are dual eruptions of two iconic volcanic mountains in the Cascades that spawn giant debris flows to add to the chaos.

Ben Crow, ’16, has published Trials of Power, a young adult fantasy novel about a world where everyone has powers based on the forces of nature, and where 18-year-old Dane Willows embarks on a perilous quest to find his true calling and stop a power-hungry renegade from destroying all Dane holds dear.

Gary L. Gustafson, ’67, has published Sales at the Top Floor, about succeeding at the top level in a sales career. Written in a general conversational style, the content comes from the author’s experiences and “nothing is held back.” Gustafson has held many positions in sales and in sales management and consulting.

David Hedges, ’58, has published his first novel, The Changer, a novel about an end-of-world scenario in which climate change — in the form of a flood initiated by a Chinook wind melting a record late-spring Pacific Northwest snowpack, causing the Columbia River’s three Canadian back-up dams to collapse — triggers a massive earthquake behind Grand Coulee Dam along shear zones connected to the “Crack Across America.”

Mark D. Owen, ’77, has published Impact, the first book in a science fiction series about a group of leaders trained to solve intractable world problems. After an accident at the International Space Station triggers an expanding debris field, Tamarind Chase must rescue the scientists trapped at Moonbase Verity and empower the secret they have discovered.

Editor’s note: To be considered for publication in this section, books must be proposed for inclusion within six months of their publication date. Only email submissions will be accepted. Please send them to stater@osualum.com.
Eugene W. Harwood ’40, Moses Lake, WA
Frances Jones Tibbutt ’40, Virginia Beach, VA Gamma Phi Beta
Robert L. Harris ’41, Roseburg Sigma Phi Epsilon
Elmer M. Werth ’42, Grand Ronde Alpha Gamma Rho
Rupert E. Fixott ’43, Stockton, CA Phi Gamma Delta
Louise Hickey Hamilton ’43, Madison, WI Pi Beta Phi
A. J. Petty ’43, Walla Walla, WA
Jean McFarlane Andrews 48, Keizer Alpha Xi Delta
Joan Mead Azzarelli ’47, McMinnville Sigma Kappa
Jeanne Leonard Dickow ’45, Lake Wisconsin Alpha Xi Delta
Virginia Thomas Grubb 47, Lake Wisconsin Sigma Kappa
Margery Evenson Andrews ’47, Walnut Creek, CA Delta Delta Delta
Margaret Badgley Vernon ’46, Boise, ID Delta Delta Delta
Glee Clark Heikes ’45, Apple Valley, CA Gamma Phi Beta
Whilma Thomas Michels ’45, Stockton, CA Delta Delta Delta
Margaret Badgley Vernon ’46, Boise, ID Delta Delta Delta
Jean Mead Azzarelli ’47, Minneville Kappa Alpha Theta
Mary Spencer Everist ’47, Portland Sigma Kappa
Virginia Thomas Grubb ’47, Lake Oswego Sigma Kappa
Marjorie Sutherland Hausmann ’47, East Palo Alto, CA Kappa Kappa Gamma
Elizabeth Cantley Kasari ’47, Tucson, AZ Kappa Kappa Gamma
Constance Stephenson McConnell ’47, Bellevue, WA Gamma Phi Beta
Neil Rutherglen Pue ’47, Clackamas Chi Omega
Jean McFarlane Andrews ’48, Keizer Kappa Alpha Theta
Ruth Raz Bienz ’48, Scottsdale, AZ Alpha Xi Delta
Helen Randall Dickson ’48, Corvallis Alpha Xi Delta
Margie McCanse Kaufman ’48, Williams Lake, BC, Canada Delta Zeta
Betty Adams Schaffel ’48, Ontario Kappa Delta
Ramona Jeffs Stover ’49, Phoenix, AZ Kappa Delta
Doris Bottemiller Coleman ’49, Corvallis Kappa Delta
Lillian Groce Federighi ’49, Portland Alpha Chi Omega
Ruth Mellbye Barbour Meskel ’49, Portland Chi Omega
Matlock M. Mims ’49 ’50, Long Beach, CA Pi Kappa Phi
Margaret Gwin Murray ’49, Ione Kappa Alpha Theta
Marjorie Matthews Peckham ’49, Eugene Kappa Alpha Theta
Maryanne Kennedy Stanton ’49 ’50, Corvallis Delta Delta Delta
Mariann Croisan Allen ’50, Eugene Kappa Alpha Theta
David A. Carroll ’50 ’56, Meridian, ID Delta Kappa Delta
Ralph B. Cleveland ’50, McAllen, TX Delta Kappa Delta
William A. Eimstad ’50, Eugene Kappa Delta Rho
Everett N. MacDaniels ’50, Oregon City Kappa Delta Rho
Lilly Namba Ogawa ’50, Fresno, CA Epsilon Kappa Delta
Donald L. Olson ’50, Portland Alpha Chi Omega
Helen A. Ossiander ’50, Corvallis Gamma Phi Beta
Raymond L. Rofini ’50, Newtown Square, PA Delta Kappa Delta
Patricia Nickens Schroeder ’50, Portland Gamma Phi Beta
Gilbert A. Ward ’50, Union City, CA Phi Kappa Tau
Richard M. Bixler ’51, Portland Phi Gamma Delta
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Lolita Kovaly Carter ’51 ’53, Hillsboro Alpha Omicron Pi
Harry N. Crim ’51, Sublimity Delta Kappa Delta
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Fred Hagelstein ’51, Vancouver, WA Alpha Gamma Rho
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Stanley A. Shottz ’51, Salem Alpha Kappa Delta
Jacqueline E. Swint ’51, Tigard Alpha Kappa Delta
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Edward D. Geer ’52, Sherwood Sigma Pi Omega
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Robert J. Snell ’52, Daytona Beach, FL Kappa Kappa Gamma
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John D. Armstrong ’53, Portland Sigma Kappa
Robert A. Christy ’53, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA Delta Tau Delta
Donald E. Cole ’53, Jefferson Alpha Gamma Rho
Thais Cranial Conklin ’53, Carmel Valley, CA Sigma Kappa
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Jill Hoppes Siegrist ’53, Tumwater, WA Delta Kappa Delta
Barbara Brown Stathos ’53, Bend Sigma Kappa
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Joan Countryman Suit ’53, Weston, MA Delta Kappa Delta
Roland E. Andrews ’54, Sequim, WA Sigma Kappa
Darlene Highsmith Bleakney ’54, Redmond Kappa Kappa Delta
Melvin Clair ’54, Eugene Kappa Kappa Delta
Stanley H. De Buse ’54, Oro Valley, AZ Delta Sigma Phi
Francis Sono Gale ’54, Hood River Delta Sigma Phi
John D. Hensla ’54, Lake Oswego Sigma Kappa
Robert A. Hutchison ’54, Shoreline, WA Delta Sigma Phi
Raymond A. LeRose ’54, Trail, Canada Sigma Kappa
Richard C. Montag ’54, Portland Delta Sigma Phi
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Donald J. Robertson ’54 ’62, Portland Sigma Kappa
Donald L. Shrader ’54, Corvallis Delta Kappa Delta
Owen E. Ticknor ’54, Bonney Lake, WA Sigma Kappa
Kathleen Johnston Wendt ’54, La Mesa, CA Chi Omega
Lela Beach Jackson ’55 ’73, Salem Kappa Delta
Norman E. Johnson ’55 ’57, Tucson, AZ Kappa Kappa Gamma
Thomas J. Kuehlwein ’55 ’59, Waldport Sigma Kappa
Kenneth R. Lyttle ’55, Portland Delta Kappa Delta
Suzanne Knudsen Marshall ’55, Hines Delta Kappa Delta
James W. Ruggles ’55, Portland Delta Kappa Delta
Wallace K. Bingham ’56, Cathlamet, WA Delta Kappa Delta
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James G. Fisher '56, Sisters 
Robert D. Frost '56, Portland 
Bob W. Gregory '56 '62, La Grande 
Steve J. Grillos '56, Modesto, CA 
Ronald C. Miller '56, Seattle, WA 
Robert J. Scofield '56, Medford 
Hester Hill Turner '56, New York, NY 
John P. Carstensen '57, Livermore, CA 
Laura Wynkoop Dundas '57, Beaverton
Phi KappaSigma Phi
William C. Hoffman '57, Newport, CA 
John L. DeZell '56, Portland Phi Kappa Sigma Phi
William C. Hoffman '57, Newport, CA 
John L. DeZell '56, Portland Phi Kappa Sigma Phi

Robert C. Benson '60, Wenatchee, WA
Pi Kappa Alpha
Judith Laird Brown '60, Keizer 
Gail Gardner Carswell '60, Cincinnati, OH Delta Gamma, Kappa Delta Pi
Gerald K. Chong '60, Kaneohe, HI 
Martin B. Clark '60, Grants Pass 
Roy F. Critser '60, Vernonia Phi Sigma Kappa
Rodney P. Dowling '60, Anchorage, AK
Ronald F. Hall '60, Albany 
Ralph P. Hanson '60, Des Moines, WA 
Shizue Oseki Hikida '60, Oakland, CA
Diane Hock Kinsler '60, Lafayette, CA 
Gamma Phi Beta
Raymond C. Lunde '60, Spokane, WA
Phi Delta Theta
Kenneth J. Miller '60, Manson, WA 
Alpha Sigma Phi
Margaret Tunnell Pastor '60, Ridgefield, WA
Alpha Chi Omega
Mary Adams Pedersen '60, Milwaukee
Kappa Kappa Gamma
Lee N. Torland '60, Portland 
Jo Smith Brizee '61, Bend Kappa Kappa Gamma
Robert D. Campbell '61, Kirkland, WA
Theta Chi
Stanley A. Chong '61, Ewa Beach, HI
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Kathleen H. Kuehn '61, Prineville
Gwen Grotte Saari '61, Corvallis
Jack W. Thurber '61, Portland Sigma Phi Epsilon
Lowell E. Austin '62, Bellevue, WA
Beta Theta Pi
George L. Bradley '62, Milton, WA
William N. Brooks '62 '64, Sheridan, WY
William L. Clayton '62, Hope Hull, AL
Henry D. Crowhurst '62, Chico, CA 
Delta Chi
Kerwin L. Doughton '62, Roseburg Delta Tau Delta
Gloria Manipon Funston '62, Yakima, WA
Betty B. Garrison '62, Kensington, CA 
Joseph M. Greendorfer '62, San Mateo, CA
Phyllis Parks Harwood '62, Lake Oswego Kappa Kappa Gamma
Yvonne Mendonca Higer '62, Boise, ID
Stuart O. Kendall '62 '66, West Linn Sigma Chi
Richard H. Klippert '62, Mesquite, NV
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Gaylon McIntire '62, Littleton, CO 
Gamma Delta
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Phi Delta Theta
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John J. Tobin Sr. '62, Cathlamet, WA
Timothy L. Campbell '63, Sylva, NC Beta Theta Pi
Neal E. Craig '63, Albany Theta Chi
Michael E. Greenwood '63 '67, Vancouver, WA Alpha Tau Omega
Carolyn Yamada Hiura '63, San Jose, CA
Ronald Lilienthal '63, Woodburn
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Cornelia O. O'Keefe '63, Boise, ID
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Merritt J. Tuttles '63, Oceanside Chi Phi
Douglas G. Elliot '64, Houston, TX Theta Chi
Kenneth H. Henry '64, Idaho Falls, ID
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James W. McWilliams '64, Bend 
Sharon K. Parker '64, Portland Delta Gamma
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Thomas A. Pranger '64, Gervais Alpha Gamma Rho
Sharon Casey Richards '64, Albany Kappa Kappa Gamma
Alan C. Smith '64, Livingston, TX Pi Kappa Phi
Albert R. Brazell '65, Yelm, WA
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Nicole L. Kephart '65, Portland
Charles B. Lane '65, Blodgett
Dwight E. Macy '65, Culver Phi Sigma Kappa
Gerald A. McElroy '65, La Quinta, CA Delta Upsilon
Gary R. Pederson '65, Sandy Sigma Alpha Epsilon
Sherman K. Sallee '65 '89, Lebanon
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Heather C. Wilson '65, Eugene Delta Gamma
Gerald L. Greene '66, North Newton, KS
Michael A. Guerber '66, Lakewood, WA
Donald W. Jeske '66, Santa Barbara, CA
Lynn D. Kuenzi '66, Salem
Herbert A. Pruett '66 '68, Medford
Bonnie K. Wallace '66, Kent, WA
Harvey Dean Williams '66 '69, Burien, WA
Thomas E. Barker '67, Edmonds, WA
James E. Ellis '67, Avondale, PA
Merle H. Hart '67, Aumsville
Dorthye Conner Kloehn '67, Veneta
Kay Langston Knapp '67, Los Gatos, CA
Loretta Ann Kriens '67, Lake Bluff, IL
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Alice Torgerson Lindsay '67, Jacksonville, FL
Ronald J. Lucas '67, Steilacoom, WA
Ruby Sakoda Nakahara '67, Fullerton, CA
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Kenneth W. Caldwell '68, McKinney, TX
Payson P. Cha '68, San Francisco CA
Robert J. Hocken '68 '69, Concord, NC
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Elizabeth Ashcraft McBride '68, Ontario
Roger Miyasaki '68, Concord, CA
Daniel R. Riley '68, Hereford, AZ
Toni Rater Ritter '68, Winchester
Malcolm T. Trupp '68, Eugene Tau Kappa Epsilon
Pamela Giles Wood '68, Capitola, CA
William R. Woodard '68, Vancouver, WA
John R. Howard Jr. '69, Chesapeake, VA
Elia Dianne Johnson '69, Salem Alpha Phi
Bonnie R. Kriens '69, Gresham Delta Gamma
Terry B. Lofsvold '69, Eagle, ID
Theodore G. Morrison '69, WoodINVille, WA
Gerald W. Slind '69 '74, Adrian
Carol Orth Wesley '69 '70, Goldsboro, NC
Patricia Kidney Haak '70, Gresham
Stephen J. Kleinschuster '70, Logan, UT
Ronald F. Konopka '70, Wyandotte, MI
James A. Newton '70, Wilsonville
Moti Pinjani '70, Campbell Hall, NY
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Freda Rowton Swander '70, Albany
Lois Eastlund Thompson '70, Virginia Beach, VA
Walter G. Weber '70, Longview, WA
Steven A. Wilson '70, Seattle, WA
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John R. Gustafson '71, Eagle, ID
Don H. Hullman '71, Olathe, KS
Jed H. Langley '71, Bend
Stanley A. Ludwig '71, Red Bluff, CA
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Kim B. Snider '71 '76, Salem
Dale Wilson '71, Plano, TX

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Jean E. Colwell ’72, Lodi, CA
Gale A. Gingrich ’72 ’79, Salem
Kenneth G. Kraus ’72, Edgewood, NM
Hai-Hwa E. Ma ’72, Westlake Village, CA
Sally Hammond Bastian ’73, Portland

Alpha Gamma Delta

Steven E. Carpenter ’73, Philomath
Kappa Delta Rho

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James Rinkenberger ’73, Bluffton, IN
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Jeffrey G. Sharp ’73, Corvallis
Troy A. Strawn ’73, Fayetteville, AR
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Roger C. Zumwalt ’73, Stayton

Phi Delta Theta

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Melinda J. Burrill ’74, Salem
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Verne M. Melberg ’74, Saint Paul, MN
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Charles F. Erekson ’75, Lake Oswego
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Kurt F. Hansen ’75, Sherwood
Gary L. Hubler ’75, Eagle, ID
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Roger P. Shaw ’75, Red Bank, NJ
Maralee Murray Trotter ’75, Springfield
Daniel B. Wheeler ’75, Portland
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Donald L. Fick ’76, Winona, MN
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Charles L. McElheny ’77, Klamath Falls
Acacia
Barbara Park Peterson ’77, Vancouver, WA
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Judith McCartin Kirk ’78, Henderson, NV
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Raymond U. Roberts ’78, Norman, OK
Dale R. Zobell ’78, Post Falls, ID
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Jin Choo ’85, Beaverton
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Michele Hurst Raby ’85, Cleburne, TX
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Shirley Nyman Papé ’86, Portland

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Marjorie C. Knittel ’90, Corvallis
Carl A. Rath ’90 ’08, Philomath
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Lenora Mulkey Hanna ’91, Lebanon
Jerome H. Wells ’91, Redding, CA
Lyle B. Bosket ’92, Tualatin
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Mark D. Young ’92, Scio
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Ethan L. Daley ’00, Philadelphia, PA
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Stephanie M. Hine ’01, Junction City
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Jessica W. Henderson ’02, Kokomo, IN
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Vincent S. Wells ’02, Lebanon
Peggy Massey Butler ’04, Ithaca
Christopher B. Supalla ’12, Portland
Omar J. Burkhart ’19, Happy Valley
Jeffrey A. Spraker ’20, Corvallis
Hunter J. Jaffe, Corvallis
Kendal H. Kobayashi, Pearl City, HI
Alexa Kownacki, Carlsbad, CA
Brian A. Rhinefrank, Monmouth
Anita M. Aaron, McMinnville
Eugene Abraham, Adair Village
John S. Alin, McMinnville
Robert Almond, Portland
Kathryn L. Altorfer, Eagle, ID
Kenneth J. Amend, Salem
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Lorna J. Arnot, Camarillo, CA
Mary M. Atkinson, Aumsville
Pauline Atteberry, Arroyo Grande, CA
Cheri M. Bailey, Prineville
Robert L. Bailey, Carmichael, CA
Kenneth W. Barrand, Philomath
Aurora D. Baxter, Sandy, UT
Harvey L. Baynes, Denver, CO
Mary L. Beasley, Albany
William C. Bennett, Issaquah, WA
Judy Bishop, Ontario
Robert D. Boak, Sutherlin
George W. Boger, Corvallis
Dennis Boots, Albany
Chester A. Bowers, Idaho Falls, ID
Wayman G. Bradley, Lebanon
Linda C. Bricker, Albany
Ingrid Brown, Portland
Dorothy S. Buck, Portland
Kathryn Bunn, Vancouver, WA
Robert C. Burgess, Owasso, OK
Eileen Burkhart, Riverside, CA
Don Butzner, Albany
Christine D. Calkins, Beaverton
Wallace S. Campbell, Edmonds, WA
Robert W. Cavanaugh, San Juan Capistrano, CA
Beverly B. Cleary, Carmel, CA
Percy L. Clifton, Franklin, LA
Pennie Coe, Albany
Jill H. Colbath, Flagstaff, AZ
John A. Costa, Henrico, VA
Virgil Cramblett, Corvallis
Dale E. Cripps, Alsea
Ralph G. Cutler, Brooklyn, NY
Judd DeBoer, Boise, ID
Donald P. Derrickson, Albany
Ladelle Dieterle, Albany
Sherman G. Ditgen, Eugene
Richard T. Donald, Brookings
James C. Dorr, Indio, CA
Clifford Dotson, Montesano, WA
William Drinkhouse, Downingtown, PA
Dennis Duffy, Albany
Marquita Dumas, Camano Island, WA
Dayton Durley, Bend
Marie Dwyer, Great Falls, MT
Marvin E. Eakman, Portland
James R. Ekstrom, San Clemente, CA
Gerald E. Elliott, Monroe
Keith C. Ellis, Corvallis
Robert Emerson, Portland
Judith K. Engelstad, Gresham Chi Omega
Berniece Lois Etchevers, Chiloquin
Sara J. Fisk, Philomath
Melvin Flansberg, Salem
Brian R. Flay, Corvallis
Carolyn E. Foleen, Beaverton
R. J. Ford, Boise, ID
Dirk Fournier, Portland
Eunice M. Fox, Sherwood
Della L. Freuer, Carmichael, CA
Dale H. Friedemann, Canby
Denny Frommelt, Gresham
George Fuhr, Anacortes, WA
John H. Fulton, Corvallis
Marilyn F. Gabel, Greenup, IL
Marie T. Gallo, Modesto, CA

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Reunions | Football | Awards

Oct. 20 to 23

Welcome back the classes of ’20 and ’21.
Larry D. Gaskin, Springfield
Ted Gay, Lebanon
Frances B. Geer, Sherwood
Joy B. George, Pendleton
Harvey Gibson, Star, ID
Nancy H. Godfrey, Salem
Melvin Goff, Corvallis
Larry L. Goodman, Roseville, CA
John Graham, Dallas
Marion C. Green, Pendleton
Saltie Green, Lincoln City
Doris Greig, Lake Oswego
Laurine Grossen, Hillsboro
Jack Haaland, Roseville, CA
Loren Hale, Independence, KS
Keith F. Harcourt, Newberg
John E. Harkness, Starkville, MS
Erwin Harvey, Corvallis
Mary F. Haunold, Corvallis
Jim D. Hayden, Redmond
Marilyn Helling, Edgewood, WA
Valentine M. Hellman, Albany
Ed U. Hemmingson, Albany
Richard L. Herbes, Haines
Joyce Hildebrand, Alsea
Kanta Hirway, Providence, RI
Robert Hodgson, Discovery Bay, CA
Duncan Hoke, Everett, WA
Bobbie R. Holsberry, Corvallis
Bruce Hosford, Beaverton
Edward H. Hosley, Dayton
Wilma L. Hull, Corvallis
Michael Huycke, Albany
Thomas L. Isom, Astoria
E. D. Iverson, Beaverton
David Jackson, Winchester
Gwen Jackson, Albany
Robin L. Jacobson, Newport
Jonathan J. Jalali, Medford
Diane Johnson, Indian Wells, CA
George T. Jordan, White Salmon, WA
Jean Kamenicky, Vale
Lloyd C. Kasten, Corvallis
Elwyn G. Kinney, Portland
June W. Kinney, Portland
Lester R. Kirkendorfer, Lynnwood, WA
Shirley F. Kirkendorfer, Lynnwood, WA
Kay Kisner, Corvallis
Dan A. Kistner, Gresham
Marlene Klein, Hemmingsen, Germany
Marian Klemm, Salem
Patricia Kling, Jefferson
David W. Knapp, Los Gatos, CA
Chris M. Konzelman, Albany
Joseph B. Kuhns, Kennewick, WA
Edgar A. Kupilas, Mulino
David P. Kutschara, Winchester
Wayne Laird, Scio
Paul G. Lancaster, Albany
Willy Latimer, Lebanon
Evelyn Lee, Portland
Linda L. Leggett, Hemet, CA
Janice Peach Leno, Vienna, VA
Grace Lenz, Astoria
Evan Lewis, Mesa, AZ
Jessie M. Lewis, Canyon City
Donald A. Linnenberger, Albany
Dean London, Corvallis
Lois Long, Eugene
Douglas W. Lowell, Tumwater, WA
Richard Lukins, Portland
Bernard G. Maddox, Catonsville, MD
James W. Madsen, Woodburn
Donald Malcolm, Corvallis
Lloyd W. Martin, Shawnee, OK
F. H. Mayo, Portland
Irene A. McCorkle, Monmouth
William H. McKee, Portland
Richard T. Meister, Chesterland, OH
Larry Melero, Salem
Ellen Melton, Sacramento, CA
Lawrence A. Meneghin, Hillsboro
Theresa M. Meury, Forest Grove
Jerry Miller, Pasco, WA
Susan J. Miller, Waverly, IA
Stockton Miller-Jones, Cave Creek, AZ
Rosemary Mills, Corvallis
Harry M. Mock, Corvallis
Ronald R. Mohler, Sisters
Harry T. Morley, Chesterfield, MO
Laura Morse, Corvallis
Katherine S. Moss, Forest Grove
Kent Mueller, Tangent
Anne J. Munro, Portland
Jean Rampton Nelson, West Richland, WA
Alan T. Nettleton, Portland
Carole H. Norton, Palo Alto, CA
Elizabeth A. Peterson, Corvallis
Marcia L. Pickens, Salem
Mary R. Poppino, Antioch, CA
John M. Prince, Wilsonville
Merry Rath, Philomath
Janice K. Reeder, Portland
Ralph H. Reiley, Seattle, WA
Virginia M. Reynolds, Dufur
Grace L. Riesland, Corvallis
Frances S. Rogers, Dufur
Sylvia N. Rose, Grants Pass
Robert J. Rossi, San Rafael, CA
Jerry F. Ruff, Fairview
Nellie Saito, Ontario
Michael A. Scaife, Shedd
Duane W. Schultz, Grants Pass
Helen Schweinsberg, Kalama, WA
Nada D. Scofield, Medford
Richard M. Shanno, Nipomo, CA
John D. Sigurdson, Fruitland, ID
Craig L. Simmons, Salem
Geraldine Anderson Smith, Springfield
Nancy H. Smith, Klamath Falls
Alice Steiner, Salem
Teddy L. Stephens, Philomath
Ray L. Stephenson, Libby, MT
Alan P. Stewart, Portland
Ray Stewart, Redwood City, CA
John M. Stone, Damascus
Carolyn Suckow, Corvallis
Albin W. Sundsten Jr., Concord, CA
Margaret E. Swanson, Portland
John C. Terhaar, Albany
Maxine M. Thompson, Corvallis
Edna H. Thornton, West Linn
Ray L. Tompkins, Salem
Chen Tsai, Wilsonville
Richard N. Updegraff, Fairview
Carlos M. Van Vleet, Corvallis
Joseph R. Vancisin, Naples, FL
Joseph A. Vargas, Chandler, AZ
John Volden, Salem
Veril V. Volk, Corvallis
Anne Waddington, Roseburg
Gary Wagner, Roseburg
Cynthia Wardles, Corvallis
Eleanor S. Watkins, Spokane, WA
Robert J. Webb, Pendleton
Ella Wegdahl, Corvallis
Ernest R. Whitaker, Novato, CA
James R. White, Rexford, MT
Ruby P. Whitman, Tracy, CA
Barbara N. Whitney, Corvallis
Millard J. Willis, Lebanon
Ginger Withers, Paisley
Bernard J. Wohlwend, Corvallis
Barbara Nesting Young, Portland
Dory Younger, Fort Collins, CO
Rudolph Younger, Fort Collins, CO
Eric Feldhusen, ’02, director of agronomy at Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club, has been named superintendent of the year by the Oregon Golf Course Superintendents Association.

“Superintendents rose to the challenges we faced this past year, and your hard work, dedication and commitment to the profession stood tall,” wrote Shane Hadwick, president of the OGSCA. “The Awards Committee had several excellent candidates to choose from and being considered for this award is among the highest honors one’s colleagues can bestow on a superintendent. You should be very proud of this recognition.”

Pumpkin Ridge is a championship course located in North Plains, northwest of Portland. Feldhusen is a graduate of the internationally recognized turf management program in OSU’s College of Agricultural Sciences. He also serves on the board of the OSU Alumni Association.

Oregon National Guard Maj. Heather Robinson, ’08, Maj. Andrew Bisset, ’09, active-duty Army, and U.S. Army Reserve Lt. Col. Vance Trenkel, ’04, graduated in May from the Army’s premier planning training institution, the School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS), with a master of military art and science. They were a rare concentration of Beavers in a SAMS class, making OSU second only to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in universities represented. Just over 100 of the Army’s top majors and lieutenant colonels are selected annually to attend. They go through a rigorous one-year period of instruction focusing on history, theory and doctrine.

Graduates of the school at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, are colloquially known as “Jedi knights” for their expertise in planning complex missions. Lt. Gen. (ret.) Sean McFarland, former commandant of Command General Staff College, said, “In a crisis, the president always asks, ‘Where are the aircraft carriers?’ In the Army, the leaders ask, ‘Where are the SAMS grads?’”

All three of the OSU graduates were commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Corps, housed at McAlexander Field House on OSU’s main campus. To be accepted at SAMS they had to be top performers in their previous positions, scholastics, and physical fitness.

Gilbert Seid, ’70, was named the Oregon State Pharmacy Association’s 2020 Pharmacist of the Year. He retired in May 2020, after working in Bi-Mart pharmacies in Albany and Corvallis for 50 years. For 47 of those years he was a licensed pharmacy preceptor, providing guidance to many pharmacy interns.

Editor’s note: To be considered for publication in this section, the honor must have been granted by an organization other than the person’s employer. Only email submissions will be accepted. Please send them to stater@osualum.com.
“After eight years and two deployments with the Marine Corps Reserve, Oregon State made my transition from the military to school simple. The university has also helped connect me to a community of fellow veterans even though we were in the middle of a pandemic.”

— Alexander Wiese
A U.S. Marine Corps combat engineering veteran and a junior studying construction engineering management

Oregon State University is proud to be ranked in the top 5% nationally for veterans and active-duty military and No. 3 for best online bachelor’s programs for veterans. Learn more about how you can support veteran and military-connected student success at beav.es/veterans.
Don’t just face the future of business

MASTER IT

Now is the time to accelerate your career and accomplish your goals by pursuing a graduate degree in business.

You already know the Oregon State MBA as Oregon’s top-ranked part-time MBA, with flexible modalities to accommodate the leadership ambitions of working professionals. Now get to know our distinctive specialized master’s programs too. Our specialized master’s programs are designed to develop analytical expertise that can open bold and exciting career opportunities.

All OSU alumni receive our BEAVER FOR LIFE scholarship.

Rachel Salazar ’14
MBA Graduate

beav.es/stater
Tax Savvy Giving

QCDs: a smart way to support OSU and save

For Sue McGrath, ’70, co-founder of Vision Capital Management, a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from an IRA is “the Holy Grail of donating.” That’s why she and her husband Bernie, ’70, used this giving strategy to support the Completing Reser Stadium project.

Through a QCD, a person age 70.5 or older can transfer funds from an IRA directly to a charity, free of tax — up to $100,000 per year. The gift counts toward any required minimum distribution.

For many seniors, this is the optimal and easiest way to make an immediate difference for OSU.

Is a QCD right for you? Contact us to learn more.

JENNIFER MILBURN, Office of Gift Planning
541-231-7247 | Gift.Planning@osufoundation.org
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