



DEAN'S NEWSLETTER

WESTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

Message from the Dean

BY DR. KATHLEEN CASSITY

It is with mixed emotions that I send this newsletter, since it is my last. After serving as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at WOU for the past six academic years, I will be taking advantage of our gradual faculty retirement program. I will be retired but teaching part-time in our English Studies Department for a little while. Although I will miss many things about serving in the role of Dean, I know I will enjoy being in the classroom once again and interacting directly with students--the reason I was drawn to higher education in the first place.

There is much to reflect on as I look back on my time in this office. We have, obviously, faced numerous challenges due to the pandemic, budget constraints, and more. Yet despite all these difficulties, I have seen so many positive changes take place during my time here. Most importantly, we continue to see our students achieve their goals, broaden their worldviews, develop themselves intellectually, socially and emotionally, graduate, and go on to make vital contributions to a world that is truly in need of their collective wisdom and energy. We've become a more flexible and more technologically astute institution, without losing the person-centered approach that defines our mission. We've brought innovative people on board, including (but not limited to) our new president, Dr. Jesse Peters. We've become more creative in how we conceptualize and deliver our courses.



I strongly believe that WOU has great days ahead, and I like to think that someday, the future students, staff, faculty and administrators who carry on our collective work will look back with appreciation on those of us who "kept the lights on" during times of metaphorical darkness. We are doing outstanding work here, and our students' many successes stand as testimony to that. I'm excited to continue contributing to WOU's mission, this time in the classroom, and I look forward to seeing what comes next for this resilient, life-changing institution.

Please enjoy reading this sampling of significant accomplishments and recent events in our College of Liberal Arts & Sciences--noting that this is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to all the exciting work happening in our College. As we move through spring, we have much to look forward to: sunnier weather, the Pastega Awards on May 24, the Academic Excellence Showcase on May 25, numerous celebrations, and of course the biggest celebration of them all on June 17: graduation. Congratulations to all our graduating seniors and Master's students! We look forward to seeing the rest of you back here on campus this fall, as you continue to work toward achieving your dreams. Though in a different role, I will still be here, cheering you on every step of the way.

Dr. Kathleen Cassity
Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

WOU FACULTY CONTRIBUTES TO NEW ONLINE BOOK SUPPORTING BILINGUAL LEARNERS

Submitted by Dr. Ricardo Pelegrin Taboada

Last academic year, Social Sciences library liaison Sue Kunda informed WOU faculty of a new online Spanish-language book in progress regarding Hispanic-American civilization, targeted toward middle-school bilingual students. Its author, Elizabeth Small, Associate Professor of Spanish at State University of New York in Oneonta, circulated her draft among scholars in Latin American studies for feedback on both language and content.

As a result, seven faculty members from universities across the U.S. volunteered to participate in this collaborative project. Recently the book finally became available online; it can be accessed by clicking [here](#). It includes sections on the Caribbean, Mexico and Central America, Northern South America, the Andean Region, and the Southern Cone.

Each section explores themes that are essential for understanding both the culture and history of that region, and of Latin



America as a whole. Each section also contains tools such as summary, key words, review questions, timeline, and glossary. WOU's NTT Assistant Professor of History Dr. Ricardo Pelegrin-Taboada collaborated on this project, and hopes that students in intermediate education will take advantage of this new resource. We are proud to see Western Oregon University listed in the acknowledgments. Thanks to Sue Kunda for including our faculty in this exciting project.





Generations over Dinner

Submitted by Dr. Ethan McMahan

Recently, Professor of Gerontology Dr. Margaret Manoogian presented a webinar for Northwest Senior and Disability Services as part of their "Aging Unbound" celebration of Older Americans Month. Her presentation was titled "Navigating Our Aging Pathways - Capability, Adaptability, and Aging."

Dr. Manoogian also partnered with Marilyn Daily, Director of Center 50+, and Barbara Cronin, Director of the Monmouth Senior and Community Center, along with students in WOU's course, GERO 455: Social Ties and Aging. This applied research project included free meals. Inspired by the

Generations over Dinner program, several WOU students (pictured here) were trained and acted as participants and facilitators, to engage a table of individuals of all ages in a meaningful conversation. Generations over Dinner intentionally asks participants to discuss important topics, through six conversations focused on "The Future." Too often, young and older adults do not have opportunities to discuss important issues together and learn from personal and generational contexts.

WOU students facilitated six different events at Center 50+ and Monmouth Senior and Community Center, on February 24, February 28, and March 1-2. Over 60 people participated,



Students Callia Berg and Madison Gabel



Students Titus Schulz, Hillary Hammond, and Justin Outland

and the response to the events was overwhelmingly positive. One couple was so inspired by the student facilitators that they contributed generously to funding future Gerontology student scholarships. Many of the students have asked to volunteer for future similar events. As one participant wrote, "I left that discussion so happy, so uplifted, and I would recommend this event to everyone! It gave me hope."

COMMUNICATIONS FACULTY MEMBER PUBLISHES BOOK

Submitted by Dr. Tiara Good

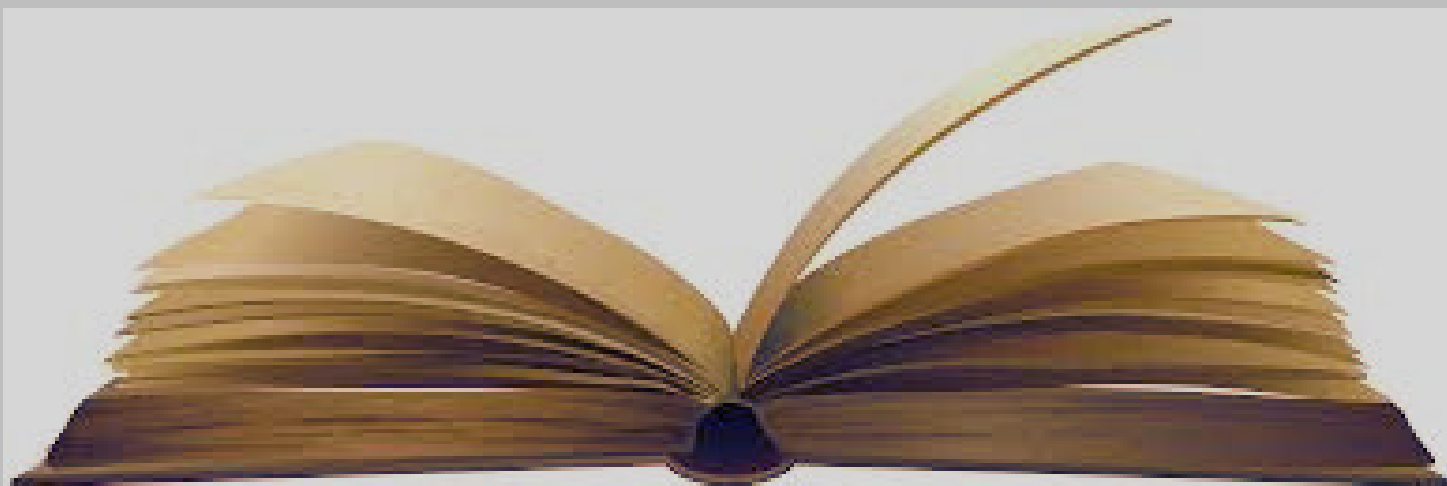
Congratulations to Dr. Tiara Good, NTT Assistant Professor of Communication Studies, on the publication of her book, *Rhetoric of Pain: Collective Healing and Hope*. Using rhetorical theories of witnessing and public memory, Dr. Good argues that sites of public memory and popular media enable the work of rhetorically mobilizing pain to effect positive change.

Dr. Good utilizes Nia DaCosta's 2021 film *Candyman* to examine how the pain of police violence inflicted on communities of color, particularly African American communities, is expressed through film. Other sources of pain that Good examines include gun violence and the opioid epidemic. The National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama, is a powerful site of public memory. The Sandy Hook Promise Foundation PSA Teenage Dream video expresses the pain of those who survive school shootings, crafting it as public pain, keeping the issue in the public eye, and encouraging specific change. The National Gun Violence memorial in Washington D.C. is analyzed to demonstrate the ways gun violence is memorialized in order to craft empathy and change.



The National Safety Council's Celebrate Lost Loved Ones and the Opioid Memorial Wall in Colorado represent the pain of the opioid epidemic. Before COVID-19, this was the biggest, most expensive public health crisis our nation had faced. The website and public memorial express the pain that the opioid epidemic has brought upon individuals and those who have survived losing a loved one to overdose. The series *Dopesick* demonstrates the popular media's power to garner attention to the human and economic cost of this epidemic.

Throughout the book, Dr. Good identifies themes in the ways pain is expressed, made public, and becomes actionable.



Zooming Back to History - Spring 2023



MARCH 9 (7:00PM)

Dr. Kimberly Jensen - featuring WOU History students **Natalie Joyce Montalvo, Ella Tenido, and Amanda Larios**

Beyond Bert the Turtle and "Duck and Cover:" Preserving and Exhibiting Western Oregon University's Cold War Fallout Shelter Materials



An online history speaker series!

ZOOMING BACK TO HISTORY: DR. KIMBERLY JENSEN AND WOU HISTORY STUDENTS FEATURED IN SERIES

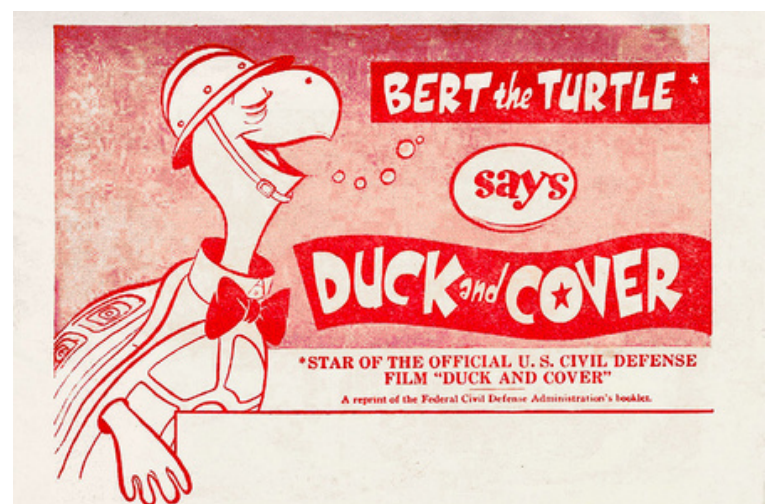
SUBMITTED BY DR. PAULA BALDWIN

"Zooming Back to History," an online history speaker series from Willamette Heritage Center, explores historical topics that have shaped the Willamette Valley and Oregon. On March 9, 2023, this series featured three WOU students and their Professor of History, Dr. Kimberly Jensen, who worked together in a practicum to create an exhibit of civil defense materials from the 1960s, found in the basement of the Old Education Building (now slated for demolition). The materials are now on display on the second floor of Bellamy Hall.

Along with Dr. Jensen, project participants interviewed for the series included students Natalie Joyce Montalvo, Ella Tenido, and Amanda Larios. Natalie is a History major at WOU with a minor in Social Science. She volunteers with the Hamersly Library Archives and the Independence Heritage Museum. Ella graduated from WOU with a Social Science major, with a focus in History and a minor in Public Policy and Administration. She will soon begin a Master's program in higher education at the University of Pittsburgh. Amanda is a senior History major and Linguistics minor in the WOU Honors Program. Amanda regularly volunteers at the Willamette Heritage Center, where she helps with WHC programming.

Dr. Jensen is the author of *Mobilizing Minerva: American Women in the First World War*, and *Oregon's Doctor to the World: Esther Pohl Lovejoy and a Life in Activism*. She is completing a book analyzing Oregon women, citizenship and civil liberties in the early 20th century. She is a board member of the Oregon Encyclopedia Project and the Oregon Women's History Consortium.

Congratulations to the whole team on their successful quest to create a historical exhibit right here in Bellamy Hall!



Division Corner

Recent tidbits from some of our LAS divisions

Humanities

Congratulations to Associate Professor of Spanish Dr. Jamie Marroquin, who recently was selected for two prestigious scholarly opportunities: a Summer Research Stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and a year-long fellowship with the Stanford Humanities Center. Dr. Marroquin will use these opportunities to develop his research project, a book that challenges Eurocentric and colonialist approaches to our understanding of scientific progress.

Congratulations to WOU student Trinity Herr, who not only gave a fabulous poetry reading but also once won the prize for the Best Work of Creative Writing for the second time, at the Northwest Undergraduate Conference on Literature at the University of Portland on Saturday, March 25th. Entries are read anonymously, and this is the first time that a writer has won this award twice. The schools with students in the competition included University of Portland, University of Oregon, Southern Oregon University, Portland State University, Reed College, Lewis & Clark College, Rice University, Gonzaga University, Seattle University, University at California-Davis, and University of California-Berkeley.

Recently the [Salem Statesman-Journal](#) published Dr. Henry Hughes' article about Mid-Valley artist Richard Bunse, who takes pride in "ink, fish, and citizen science." Bunse is a Monmouth resident, a former WOU student, an accomplished painter, photographer, and illustrator. Read more about him in the [Statesman-Journal](#) article, [here](#).

Creative Arts

Congratulations to WOU Director of Choral Activities Dr. James Reddan, on being nominated (along with co-editors Monika Herzig and Michael Kahr) for the Jazz Journalist Association Book Award in the category of History, Criticism and Culture, for [The Routledge Companion to Jazz and Gender](#). All jazz-related books published in 2022 were eligible and screened by the JJA's Book Committee. Final results will be announced in early May.

Social Science

Congratulations to Professor of Political Science Dr. Mark Henkels, on receiving well-deserved recognition as the Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year for 2023. As the award acknowledges, Dr. Henkels is an incredible teacher who greatly enriches our community and has helped to change the lives of countless students over the years.

Criminal Justice Sciences

Congratulations to Criminal Justice Sciences faculty, Dr. Taryn VanderPyl and Professor Jennifer Moreno, for leading a team of Oregon educators to create a much-needed open-access textbook, [Introduction to Criminology](#). This work was funded by a grant from the U.S.

Department of Education to "redesign high-enrollment courses in a discipline that leads to in-demand occupations, where high-quality, openly licensed course materials with an equity lens are not currently available."

The textbook is being piloted by instructors across Oregon who, along with their students, will provide feedback to the authors. Suggestions and recommendations will be incorporated into the text, and after the pilot phase, [Introduction to Criminology](#) will be made openly available to Criminology instructors across the United States.

Natural Sciences & Mathematics

Congratulations to Professor of Biology Dr. Bryan Dutton and his team, who have once again helped WOU retain its designation as a Tree Campus. The Arbor Day Foundation's Tree Campus Higher Education program honors colleges/universities and their leaders for promoting healthy trees, and for engaging students and staff in the spirit of conservation. To obtain this distinction, campuses must meet five core standards for sustainable campus forestry. Walking or driving through campus certainly confirms Western Oregon University's commitment to its ongoing Tree Campus designation.

On March 17, 2023, SafeZone hosted "WOU Presents: Celebrate Your True Self, GSA Day 2023," an annual event which brings LGBTQIA+ high school students and allies from around the state of Oregon to WOU's campus to showcase our inclusive campus programming. GSA Day includes panels discussing the student experience, interviews with LGBTQIA+ faculty and staff, campus tours, admissions programming, and social events, to highlight the many ways WOU strives to be an affirming and inclusive space for LGBTQIA+ students. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Kristin Latham-Scott, Professor of Biology and Chair of the Division of Natural Sciences & Mathematics.

This year brought 58 students from a dozen regional high schools, along with counselors, advisors, and other chaperones, assisted by WOU faculty, staff, and students. Funding for this event was provided from the WOU DEI Office, WOU Foundation, and Student Affairs. One of the high school educators said, "On the walk back to our bus, I heard a student say, 'I never wanted to go to college, but now I want to come to THIS college.' "

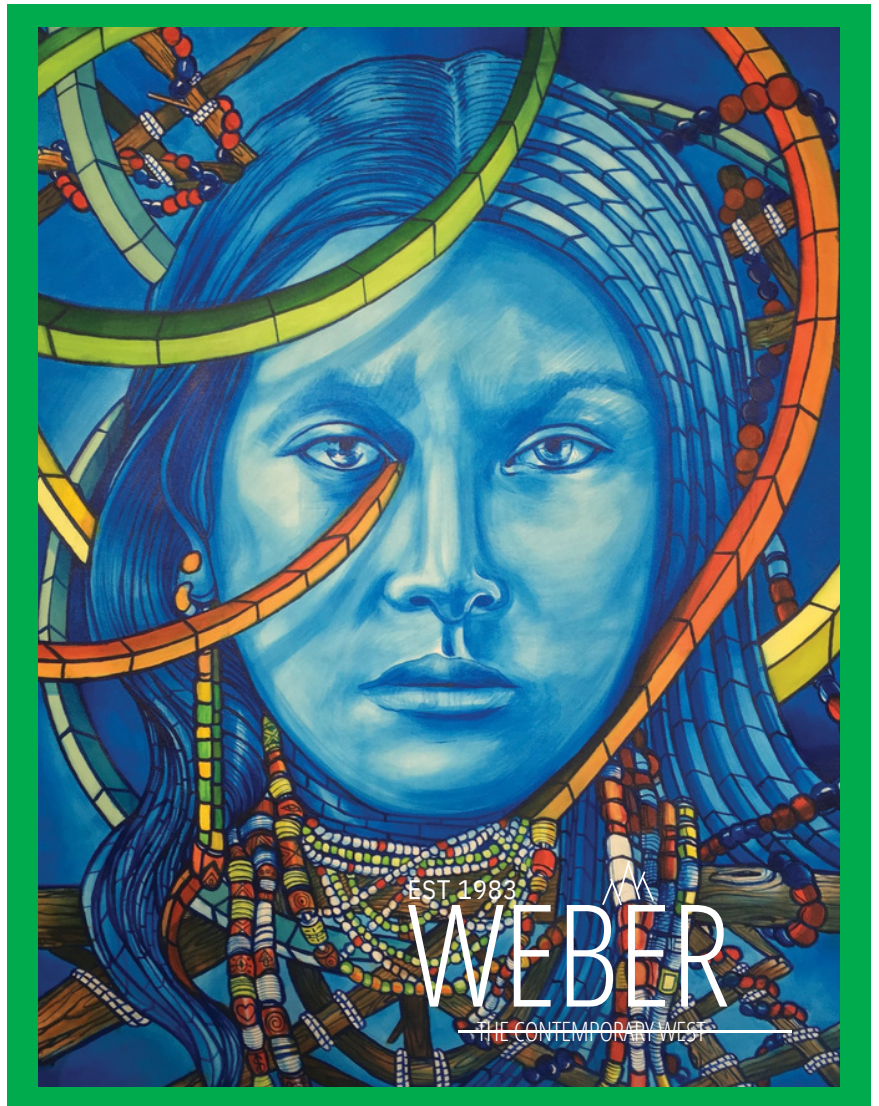
***Congratulations
to
Professor of English,
Dr. Henry Hughes
Winner of the 2023
Dr. Sherwin W. Howard
Poetry Award***

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**The Dr. Sherwin W. Howard Award
is presented annually
to the author of the best poetry published
in Weber—The Contemporary West
during the previous year.**

**You may read Dr. Henry Hughes' award-
winning poetry (pages 128-131) by clicking
[here](#).**

https://issuu.com/weberjournal/docs/spring_2022_book_for_web



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