Leading the way in Deaf Studies and Professional Studies.
Read more on page six.
Dear alumni, friends and supporters,

These are interesting times indeed. As I write, the uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic is intense. Businesses, governments — and yes, universities — struggle to define a new reality with an unknown duration. As a team, we discussed what it would mean to continue to produce this magazine; is it prudent? Is it timely? We won’t know until you receive it (which between now to your doorstep can be more than two weeks).

But ultimately, what we could not deny was that we wanted to reach out. We want contact. We want you to know we care. We want our continued relationship with each of you to flourish, regardless of the isolation we find ourselves in.

So, here you are: 16 pages filled with hope, personal stories, successes, triumphs and dreams.

We want you to read with pride, share it with friends and brag about your Wolves. We know that with the rapid pace of change these days, something here may already be out of date; we are keeping our fingers crossed for the Olympic Trials and campus events (page nine). If not, that is OK, too. We have much to look forward to, much to brag about and much to learn from this experience because above all else, Together We Succeed.

Go Wolves!

Erin McDonough
Executive Director, Advancement & WOU Foundation

P.S. To find out what’s happening in real time (with WOU’s response to the pandemic and everything else around campus), please visit our new site Today.WOU.edu.

P.P.S. We would LOVE to hear from you. Send us a message at foundation@wou.edu.
Your monumental support of Western Oregon University’s 2020 Giving Day was absolutely amazing! Thanks to your belief in WOU students and programs, we all witnessed what happens when Wolves work together to make a dream become a reality.

Because of you, Giving Day raised a record-breaking $140,629, exceeding the goal of $100,000 and more than doubling last year’s total amount. The number of donors nearly tripled from 188 in 2019 to 484 this year. For Giving Day 2019, the WOU Foundation received 201 gifts. This year, you gave 569 gifts.

“On Giving Day, you showed our students and campus community that dreaming wasn’t enough,” Western Oregon University Annual Giving Coordinator Emily Swart said. “Your support of Giving Day revealed that WOU students and programs truly matter and that they matter in the amount of more than $140,000.”

Swart said it would be impossible to list every inspirational moment on Giving Day. She’s grateful to everyone who gave a gift, shared information about Giving Day on social media or answered their phone to talk with a student.

“One of the coolest moments was seeing everyone on campus work together to receive a donation from every state. We had people calling their friends and family from Hawaii to Maine asking them to donate to WOU. We succeeded in getting 48 out of 50 states plus donations from Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Washington, D.C.,” Swart said. “We are still seeking donations from North Dakota and Delaware, so if you know someone, ask them to donate.”

There were seven official challenges and eight matches, the most ever in Giving Day’s history. On-campus funds and programs benefiting from these challenges and matches include 25 scholarships and 13 athletic, 27 student and 14 academic programs.

“From the bottom of my heart, I thank WOU alumni, faculty, staff, cabinet members, students and our community members for your work to help us exceed our goal,” Swart said. “Together, we did it!”

GIVING DAY
GROW WOU
View the thank you video at wou.edu/givingday
THANKS TO THE BENEFITS ADDED WITH THE iPAD, I NO LONGER NEED TO SPEND MONEY ON NOTEBOOKS, PENCILS OR PENS, AND OTHER OBJECTS SUCH AS A CALCULATOR BECAUSE I COULD USE MY iPAD.”

Gabriela Enciso ’24

“WITHOUT IT, I WOULDN’T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO AS MUCH LEARNING AS I HAVE.”

Tyrell Beatty ’24

Pilot Program Propels Students to Strong Start

In fall 2019, Western Oregon University launched the iPad Classroom Pilot Program, an innovative educational approach that incorporates technology into classroom learning.

The initial project includes 40 employees and 20 students in the Strong Start program, a learning community where students complete foundational courses to prepare them for continued success in college. An additional 105 iPads were made available for students to use in designated classes, such as social media campaign writing, social psychology and the Bilingual Teacher Scholars program.

Dean of Library and Academic Innovation Chelle Batchelor estimates 30% of WOU students don’t own a personal computer, instead using their smartphone or a university computer to do their work. “I came to college without a computer. If I didn’t have the iPad, I wouldn’t have been able to get...”
my assignments done or keep up in my classes,” freshman Brianna Alvarez said. “The iPad allows me to download books and helps me stay organized. I can study for tests or do my homework anywhere.”

Sylvia Valdés-Fernández, a math instructor and the developmental math coordinator, teaches math courses in the Strong Start program.

“I have seen students who have to take five extra steps to do their work compared to students who have access to technology,” Valdés-Fernández said.

Associate Provost for Academic Effectiveness Sue Monahan said students who were provided iPads were excited to have technology to do their work.

“I saw how hard the students were working in their classes,” Monahan said. “If they didn’t have access to technology, they would be working even harder to keep up.”

Provided by the university as part of the pilot program, the estimated cost of an Apple iPad is about $600 per student, which includes the Apple Pencil, Apple Care, keypad and programs. Both Monahan and Valdés-Fernández said several functions save students money, including the iPad’s graphing calculator, which would otherwise cost about $150.

“There is a sense of excitement with the students and the faculty about how technology can be used to enhance students’ learning,” Batchelor said.

The long-term goal is for first-year WOU students to be assigned a tablet upon enrollment to use during their time at WOU. In the meantime, employees will continue to evaluate the effect of technology in the classroom and its impact on student success.
Students Parker Riser ’20 and Emma Young ’20 hang a display of Alfred Maurice’s artwork at the Cannon Gallery for the Art and Wine Walk on March 11.
The late Alfred “Fred” Maurice’s curiosity and desire to see students succeed inspired him to establish a challenge for Western Oregon University students.

A WOU benefactor and honorary faculty member (pictured below), he created the J. Dolores and Alfred P. Maurice Initiative, a challenge for undergraduates who complete a year-long project in quest for a $5,000 prize.

Since the first prize was awarded in 2011, dozens of students have challenged themselves to define a problem, then create and find a solution. The 14 winning students’ projects have included finding solutions to problems like transportation, housing and food waste.

WOU Foundation Business and Finance Director Cara Groshong said Maurice left thousands of art pieces to WOU to be sold to fund the prize competition. He died in February 2019, a few weeks before his 98th birthday.

“He was a professor to the last day of his life, and he continues to inspire students even after his passing,” Groshong said. “Fred emphasized he didn’t care if students failed trying to find a solution to a problem. He encouraged students to get out of their comfort zone to learn something.”

Assistant Professor Paula Booth is the director of the Cannon Gallery of Art and oversees the exhibits in the Hamersly Library, Rice Auditorium lobby and the Werner University Center. Booth is organizing the sale of Maurice’s art.

She has worked with students to catalog Maurice’s collection, dividing it into his sketches, paintings and personal art collection. “Fred was a master at having a keen observation of life,” Booth said. “His sketches are playful and colorful. His paintings are more methodical landscapes.”

The overall beauty of Maurice’s work, Booth said, is that everyone will find something they like. Booth said Maurice created the prize to give students an opportunity to make a difference in the world.

“Purchasing a piece of his artwork is helping him fund his dream to continue challenging students to make life better for others,” she said.

On March 11 in honor of Maurice’s birthday, Booth said people gathered for an art and wine walk where Maurice’s art was sold at the Cannon Gallery of Art, Hamersly Library and various downtown businesses.

To learn more about Alfred Maurice and the Maurice Initiative, visit wou.edu/mauriceprize.
WOU’s Division of Deaf Studies and Professional Studies (DDSPS) is nationally known to be consistently at the cutting edge of innovation and excellence in its academic programs.

Mark Girod ’94, dean of the College of Education, attributes the programs’ success to a dedicated faculty who are committed to access, equity and inclusion for all individuals and who deliver programs and courses rooted in these core values.

“The faculty are deeply caring. They push students to meet high standards and align their courses to meet national standards,” Girod said.

DDSPS offers a range of well-known graduate and undergraduate programs supported by a strong foundation of American Sign Language preparation. WOU offers three years of ASL programs; most colleges offer only two years.

WOU trains professionals for jobs as vocational and mental health counselors, interpreters, teachers and more. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the employment of interpreters and translators of all languages is projected to grow 19% from 2018 to 2028, much faster than the average for all occupations.

A 2019 article in The Chronicle of Higher Education states that WOU produces the second-most ASL degrees in the United States. William Woods University in Missouri was first, and the University of North Florida was third.

Girod said WOU’s programs are aligned to standards and professional expectations in their related fields and require that students demonstrate their expertise in the real world through work experiences.

“Western Oregon University employs more faculty and staff who are deaf than any other campus on the West Coast,” Girod said. “The experiences and expertise that this adds to our campus and community make WOU a very special place in which individuals can achieve their dreams.”

Amanda Smith, chair of the DDSPS and a nationally certified interpreter, said WOU’s faculty are the reason its programs have achieved national recognition.

“Our faculty are forward thinkers, engaged meaningfully in the work of our disciplines and actively involved in recruiting students,” Smith said. “Most of our faculty are involved with, if not founders of national conferences in their fields, work closely with professionals on boards and other active groups serving the profession. Our faculty present and publish frequently in national and international publications and seek out grant funding to recruit and support students here at WOU.”

Part of the Division of Deaf Studies and Professional Studies, WOU’s Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling (RMHC) graduate program is divided into a generalist and a deaf
RRCD has been supporting students in fields such as interpreter training, deaf and hard of hearing education and rehabilitation counseling for more than 50 years (learn more on page 8). The RRCD will receive $200,000 annually for the RSA grant, which supports RMHC students, who are committed to a career as a state vocational rehabilitation counselor. The grant helps deaf track students with their tuition, training and professional development, including spending two weeks to attend classes at WOU this summer.

Dr. Denise Thew Hackett, an associate professor of Deaf Studies and Professional Studies, is the RMHC program coordinator and principal investigator for the grant.

“Our program has a long history of receiving this grant, and that is due to our nationally and federally well-known reputation,” Thew Hackett said.

Thew Hackett said one of the unique qualities of WOU’s deaf track within the RMHC program is students are required to be proficient in ASL before being admitted into the deaf track that uses the bilingual pedagogy.

“We did this so the students would be able to focus on the coursework rather than trying to learn a new language and the coursework at the same time,” she said.

Thew Hackett said RMHC’s rehabilitation counselor with deaf track is one of three in the country, and the RMHC program overall is one of only four in the Region (Alaska, Washington, Oregon and Idaho). The program was started to help address a significant national shortage of counselors with this specialty.

Florida resident Cara DiGiovanni, 28, is a deaf track student in WOU’s RMHC master’s degree program.

“The WOU faculty have been incredibly wonderful to provide course materials related to the deaf population as it pertains to my professional career,” DiGiovanni said. “The
WOU faculty have been supportive for students like myself, and we are able to communicate through American Sign Language with the professors as well as my classmates to engage in discussions related to the assignments.”

A vocational rehabilitation consultant with the Florida Department of Education/Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, DiGiovanni plans to use the knowledge and tools from the graduate program to take the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) examination.

“With the deaf, deaf and blind, and hard of hearing community being the largest unemployed and underemployed population, it is truly my desire and ambition that we find a place in the workforce and lower the national unemployment rate for the deaf, deaf and blind and hard of hearing population,” she said.

Thew Hackett said the RMHC program was established on the belief that individuals with disabilities have the right to lead fulfilling, independent and productive lives.

“Thoroughly trained and competent rehabilitation professionals play an essential role in the realization of this right,” she said.

Growing up, Thew Hackett experienced many barriers as a member of Deaf community. Along with her colleagues, they are dedicated to making a difference for future generations.

“We want to do whatever is possible to break down barriers people are encountering,” she said. “We appreciate being able to train professionals who will be able to do that.”

I love you emoji began at WOU

For anyone who has texted the “I love you” handshape emoji, please thank CM Hall and Chad Ludwig. Hall, the co-project director of deafblind interpreting, and Ludwig, the director of RRCD, petitioned Unicode Consortium, a nonprofit that regulates the coding standards for written computer text that includes emojis to have the “I Love You” handshape available in text application. “I love you” is one sign expressed in American Sign Language, and it has made its way to a wider universal understanding and acceptance for those who sign and those who don’t.

It took two years for their petition to be approved. And now, thanks to their work, it’s a little easier to convey three important words with one emoji.
Cheer on Athletes

David Ribich ‘18 has qualified in the men’s 1,500-meter run for the 2020 Olympic track and field trials, taking place June 25 at Hayward Field in Eugene. As a WOU athlete, Ribich set three records in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II.

WOU’s Valley Shakespeare Company will present Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare on July 23-26, July 30-31 and Aug. 1 at the outdoor stage by Rice Auditorium. All performances will begin at 8 p.m. and are free to the public. The Friday performances will be interpreted.

Stay CONNECTED to WOU THIS SUMMER

Listen to music

Oregon City native Hailey Verhaalen ‘15 has opened for Deana Carter, Love and Theft, James Otto, Craig Wayne Boyd, The Moonshine Bandits and more. She recently made it to the top 60 on this season of American Idol. Visit her website for updates on her concerts and listen to her songs at haileyverhaalen.com.

Listen with a book

DJ Adamson ’75, Lillian Dove Mystery series and Outré

Emily Lloyd-Jones ’10, The Bone Houses

Kacey McAllister ‘12 When Life Gets You Down, Rise Up.

Rosiee Thor ‘14, Tarnished Are the Stars

Together we SUCCEED
When he was eight years old, Blake Davis ‘23 knew he wanted to follow in his great grandfather’s, great uncles’, grandfather’s and father’s footsteps to play football at Western Oregon University.

Erik Davis ’99 remembers the day Blake received his offer to play at his alma mater.

“I told him although he’s a Davis, he needs to work hard to make a name for himself,” Erik said.

The Davis legacy began with brothers Gale ‘50, Don and Darrel “Mouse” Davis ’55; they were followed by Gale’s son Kurt ’72 and Kurt’s son, Erik.

A freshman, Blake is the fourth generation to play for Western Oregon University’s football team.

“It’s unbelievable to be able to carry on my family’s legacy,” Blake said. “I remember when I was younger and watching my dad coach here.”

Kurt said four generations playing football for the same university is quite unique.

“It’s something we are proud of, and it shows our loyalty to the university and the football program,” Kurt said.

WOU Football Coach Arne Ferguson ’92 appreciates the contributions all five men have made to the game of football.

BEGINNING AS FOOTBALL PLAYERS

The late Gale Davis established his family’s role of playing offense for the Wolves. Gale, Don and Kurt were all offensive linemen; Mouse was a quarterback and halfback; Erik was a quarterback; and Blake is a wide receiver.

Gale, Kurt and Erik all earned All-American honors.

Mouse played on three straight championship teams from 1952-54 under late Coach Bill McArthur. Mouse also played on the university’s basketball and baseball teams.
MOVING TO COACHING

Having a father who was also a coach was often a challenge for the men in each generation.

“My dad coached me, and I coached my sons Kris and Erik, and Blake was coached by his dad,” Kurt said. “It’s a tough thing to do for both the athlete and the coach.”

Blake said he learned to play with a chip on his shoulder to deal with the people who thought his success was because he was the coach’s son.

“My dad told me to let that fuel me and to focus on the game, not what others said,” Blake said.

Ferguson ’92 said Gale was a tremendous teacher and mentor to many people when he coached the offense during McArthur’s era at WOU. Gale also coached the university’s wrestling team.

“Gale was the coach that players knew they could talk to about anything and that he was there for them,” Ferguson said.

When Mouse realized his dream to be a professional athlete would never happen, he drafted a new game plan.

“I was only 4-foot-11 as a freshman in high school. I knew I would be too small to play professionally, so I decided I wanted to be a coach,” he said.

An Oregon icon, Mouse 87, coached high school, college and professional football teams, including Hillsboro High School where he won the state championship and Portland State University where he coached Neil Lomax and June Jones.

Kurt has spent most of his career as a coach, including winning a football state championship at Culver High School.
Erik is the football coach at Pendleton High School, and he has coached at WOU.

“For our family, coaching is a way to give back what we have received,” Kurt said. “We believe it’s our responsibility to teach students to be good athletes and great human beings.”

Kurt said the athletic field is the greatest classroom in the world.

“The lessons you learn athletically will help you in all phases of life,” he said.

Ferguson finds it interesting how brothers Gale and Mouse took different approaches to offense with Gale’s teams running the ball and Mouse’s teams throwing it. They both made history with their specialty approaches.

“My dad was known for revolutionizing the veer offense that was used for several years under McArthur,” Kurt said.

Mouse is known as the godfather of modern-day run and shoot offense. He’s quick to point out he didn’t invent the offense, explaining that was Tiger Ellison.

Continued on page 13
1970s

Jim Healy '75, '82, retired last July after 39 years in education as a high school teacher, counselor and administrator, most recently at Southridge High School in Beaverton. He lives in Hillsboro with his wife, Mary.

Jerry Moore '77 has retired after 43 years in law enforcement, the last 14 as chief of police in Salem.

1980s

Tony Crawford '80 is retired but works half the year in Egypt, where he serves as the academic dean for the Modern American School of Egypt in Cairo.

Steve Luby '87 continues to serve as the associate head coach for the Mohawk Valley (N.Y.) DiamondDawgs. The team won the Perfect Game Collegiate Baseball League Championship in 2015 and 2017.

1990s

Portland Police Bureau Lt. Jay Bates '93 graduated from the FBI National Academy in December.

Phil Wright '93 is now editor at The Observer newspaper in La Grande.

Ryan Young '93 has been named the assistant director of the Directorate of Intelligence at FBI headquarters in Washington, D.C. Young most recently served as the special agent in charge of the Counterterrorism Division in the Los Angeles field office.

Manchester University (Ind.) has named Ryon Kaopuiki '97 vice president for enrollment and marketing.

Stacy Collins '98, '01 coaches the secondary at Utah State University. Previously he had coached the running backs and served as special teams coordinator. Collins has been at Utah State since 2016.

William “Bill” McLaughlin '99 has been named fire chief in Ketchum, Colo. He is considered one of the nation's technical experts on wildland-urban interface issues concerning fires.

2000s

In September, Lisa Canaday '02 won the Extra Yard for Teachers award from the College Football Playoffs Foundation. The award came with a $10,000 prize.

Kriss Dammyer '03 is founder and executive director of Made to Thrive, a nonprofit organization in Hermiston. Founded in 2014, Made to Thrive helps vulnerable youths in the community by giving them opportunities to engage in sports, adventure activities, music and the arts.

Justin Olson '05 is the new CEO of USAgencies Credit Union in Portland.

Anthony Taylor-Weber '06 and Jamie Taylor-Weber '07 started their company Outdoor Office LLC, based in Sherwood. The company sells “she-sheds” and other custom outbuildings.

Joshua Riley '07 is the head baseball coach at Sheldon High School in Eugene.

2010s

Lesley Tamura '10 is a successful pear grower along with her family in Hood River, after teaching for 10 years.

Chris Rule '11 in January was sworn in as an officer for the Coos Bay Police Department.

Kelsey Castrey '12 was promoted from junior associate to associate at Vancouver (Wash.)-based Westby Associates, Inc., a regional fundraising consulting firm. Castrey has been with Westby for nearly six years.

Lindsey Johnson '12 has been hired as head softball coach at Scappoose High School.

Kelly Hartman '13 was the featured artist in an exhibition at the SinClair Gallery at Northwest College in Powell, Wyo. The exhibit was titled Moth to the Flame and featured a series of self-portraits. Hartman is a painter and printmaker who earned a bachelor’s in painting and now works as the curator at the Gallatin History Museum in Bozeman, Mont.

Anthony Preston '17 is a police officer with the McMinnville Police Department.

Greg Macias '18 has been promoted to branch manager of Oregon Coast Bank's location in Pacific City. He started at the bank as an intern and worked his way up through a variety of positions.

Lucas Sinclair '18 was hired as a police officer at the Philomath Police Department.
Western Oregon University alum Julie Rowell '02 is inspired everyday by her students at Gresham High School.

Her students know she’s a fierce advocate who empowers them to reach their goals.

For her dedication and effectiveness at educating high school students for whom English is a second language, Rowell was awarded a prestigious education award last fall.

Rowell is one of 40 Milken Foundation award recipients nationwide for the 2019-20 school year and the only Oregon educator to win the distinction. The award came with a $25,000 cash prize for Rowell, who is flattered, excited and humbled by the recognition. She earned her bachelor’s degree in Spanish in 2002 at WOU, then a master’s in bilingual education in 2005 at Portland State University.

The greatest award for any teacher is seeing their students succeed. Her goal as well as that of her fellow teachers is for students to have a positive educational experience.

“I want my students to know they are capable of achieving whatever they put their minds to,” she said.

In Memoriam

1950s
(Marilyn) Jane Gardner Crew

1970s
Alan Oscar Peterson
Kathleen Elizabeth (Gary) Roberge

Friends of WOU
Ron Swartzendruber
died Feb. 19. He was 45.
Swartzendruber worked in WOU’s University Computing Solutions (IT) for 21 years. He was described as “the glue between the systems team and the programmers” and was known for the many integral projects he worked on to further the success of WOU, its employees, and its students.

Majduddin Mohamed “Mo” Jaffer, died Feb. 8. He was 95 years old. Jaffer taught chemistry, general science and geology courses from 1959 to 1989. He was active in the local community, was chosen as Monmouth-Independence First Citizen, and was a longtime member of the International Lions Club.

FAMILY LEGACY
Continued from page 11

FAMILY CONNECTION
Loyalty to one another is what has drawn the Davis family to Monmouth over the years.

“My sister Kelli, was profoundly hard of hearing,” Kurt said. “My dad decided to move here from Portland to coach because of the college’s special education program and so my sister could receive the help she needed.”

When Erik learned his grandfather was dying of prostate cancer, he gave up his scholarship at Boise State University where he played for two years and transferred to Western Oregon State College so his grandfather could watch him play.

“Western Oregon has always felt like home,” Erik said.

WOU is where the older Davis men met their wives, beginning with Joan Youngquist marrying Gale Davis, Maureen Shaw to Kurt Davis, and Molly McEwen to Erik Davis.

“To be a coach’s wife is often a thankless job,” Erik said. “I am grateful for the Davis women understanding the time and commitment it takes to coach. My wife is my rock and my pillar. Our family recognizes the importance of supporting one another.”

Mouse enjoys the camaraderie of the game and looks forward to seeing Blake play in the fall.

“OCE was a great place for my brothers and I to go and now Western Oregon is a great place for the next generation,” Mouse said. “I have made good friends, had great experiences and fond memories of my time there.”

What Erik appreciates about his family’s legacy is hearing people tell stories about his grandfather, uncle and dad and how they changed their lives.

“I think Davis, football and Western have become synonymous,” Erik said. ✨
GROW WOU GIVING DAY
BY THE NUMBERS

484 donors
569 gifts
15 matches and challenges
48 states represented
$140,000+ raised