



KATHLEEN CASSITY, PH.D. DEAN, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES



## Dean's Newsletter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE NO.1

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# Welcome to the new academic year!

Welcome to campus, Class of 2023! Welcome back to our classes of 2020, '21 and '22, along with our hard-working faculty and staff. Our magnificently sunny yet comfortable summer seemed to evaporate quickly with the sudden change in weather, but in addition to the expected Oregon rain we have also enjoyed some glorious fall days. Though fall means we are growing closer to the end of the calendar year, for those of us in the academic world this is also a time of new beginnings.

This academic year marks some especially exciting new changes at WOU. We're pleased to be rolling out our new General Education program, along with an appealing line-up of first-year seminars. As you'll see in this newsletter, we've recently welcomed many new faculty members to WOU. Collectively, they bring impressive, cutting-edge expertise. Here in the Dean's Office, we're also happy to welcome our new Office Coordinator, Veronica Bailey, who started at WOU on September 3. Read on to learn more about Veronica.

As I stated in my opening remarks to the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences faculty, one of the themes that will focus our work together this year is the concept of "generous thinking." I've pulled this idea from a recent book bearing that title, written

by University of Michigan English professor Kathleen Fitzpatrick. "Generous thinking" is defined as "a mode of engagement that emphasizes listening over speaking, community over individualism, and collaboration over competition." Embracing generous thinking as a guiding principle has numerous positive implications for all of us in higher education, no matter what role we play here. As a group of people who are committed to the pursuit of knowledge and to the ideal of education as serving the greater good, WOU is well positioned to be a positive beacon to the surrounding community as we continue to go through challenging times.

For the complete script of my address, see the link at our [LAS web site here](#). One initiative I plan to pursue this year is creation of a book discussion group, starting with *Generous Thinking* and, time permitting, moving on to some other thought-provoking books on issues facing higher education today. Stay tuned for further information, and contact me at [cassityk@wou.edu](mailto:cassityk@wou.edu) if you're interested in participating. I'm looking forward to an exciting and groundbreaking academic year.

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## WOU EVENTS

- ⇒ 10/14-11/01, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Campbell Hall: Two Water Ways: An exhibit of water paintings by Pam Serra-Wenz and Bill Shumway.
- ⇒ F-Sa, 10/18-10/19, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Western Oregon University: Homecoming & Wolves Reunion Weekend: Celebrating our Golden Wolves (class of 1969), Silver Wolves (class of 1994), and Bronze Wolves (class of 2009). All alumni and friends are welcome!
- ⇒ Th, 10/24, 11/07, 10:30 a.m., Bellamy Hall 333: EL Club DE ESPANOL. Meets every Thursday except 10/31.
- ⇒ Sa, 10/19, 1:05 p.m., McArthur Field: WOU Football vs. Central Washington. Homecoming! Cheer on the Wolves! Student tickets are free.
- ⇒ F, 10/25, 7:30 p.m., Smith Hall: Jazz Orchestra & Latin Jazz Ensemble. Directed by Dr. Keith Karns and featuring WOU student musicians.
- ⇒ MTW, 10/28-10/30: ALL DAY at Werner University Center, Dia de Los Muertos: Day of the Dead celebration. Brought to you by Multicultural Student Union.
- ⇒ Th, 11/21, 11:00 a.m., Smith Hall: Student Recital: WOU music students performing pieces they have studied this term.
- ⇒ F, 11/22, 7:30 p.m., Hamersly Library: Early Music Ensemble, directed by Dr. Dirk Freymuth and featuring WOU student, faculty and staff musicians.



- ⇒ S, 11/23, 2:00 p.m., Smith Hall: Drew Swatosh's Master's Recital, featuring his own compositions.
- ⇒ T, 11/26, 7:30 p.m., Smith Hall: Brass Ensemble & Guitar Ensemble. Directed by Christopher Woitach, featuring WOU student and faculty and faculty musicians.
- ⇒ M, 12/02, 7:30 p.m., Rice Auditorium: Spectrum & Percussion Ensemble. WOU music student composers' work, performed by WOU students and musicians and mentored by Dr. Kevin Walczyk and Dr. Carlos Velez.
- ⇒ T, 12/03, 7:30 p.m., Rice Auditorium: Concert Choir & Chamber Singers. Directed by Dr. James Reddan, featuring WOU music students and non-music students.
- ⇒ W, 12/04, 7:30 p.m., Smith Hall: String Chamber Ensemble. Directed by Obsidian Garber, featuring WOU music students along with faculty and musically inclined administrators.
- ⇒ Th, 12/05, 7:30 p.m., Rice Auditorium: Wind Ensemble, directed by Dr. Ike Nail and featuring WOU music students, faculty and community members.
- ⇒ F, 12/06, 7:30 p.m., Smith Hall: Western Oregon Voices. Directed by Dr. James Reddan, featuring jazz music performed by WOU students.
- ⇒ S, 12/07, 7:30 p.m., Rice Auditorium: Smith Fine Arts Presents Kiran Ahluwalia. Inspired by India, the repertoire includes desert blues and jazz.

## Dr. Keven Malkewitz Publishes Article



On March 1, 2019, Dr. Keven Malkewitz, Western Oregon University Associate Professor of Marketing, along with his co-author, Ian Parkman of the University of Portland, published an article entitled "Design-Driven New Product Development in the Journal of Design, Business, and Society." This study empirically examines the role of product design briefs within design-driven new product development (NPD). Contemporary NPD is increasingly seen as a design-driven and knowledge-based activity

where information sharing within team-based environments is critical to successful product design and development processes. The results provide insight into how organizations create, codify and communicate knowledge from different functional areas and support flows of knowledge.

Please congratulate Dr. Keven Malkewitz on his recent publication.

## Welcome, Veronica!

On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, we welcomed Veronica Bailey to our team. Veronica is new to Western Oregon University and will be working full-time at the front desk in the LAS Dean's Office. Her hours will be 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 a.m. Veronica will be assuming Mylisa Behling's prior duties as well as providing assistance to Debbie Braun and Dean Cassity.

Veronica is a second-generation Mexican-American. Her parents were migrant workers, so she has traveled up and down the Pacific Coast from Texas to Washington. Her family fell in love with Oregon, so much so that the majority of her childhood was spent, off and on, living in Oregon. When she became an adult she decided to make Oregon her permanent home.

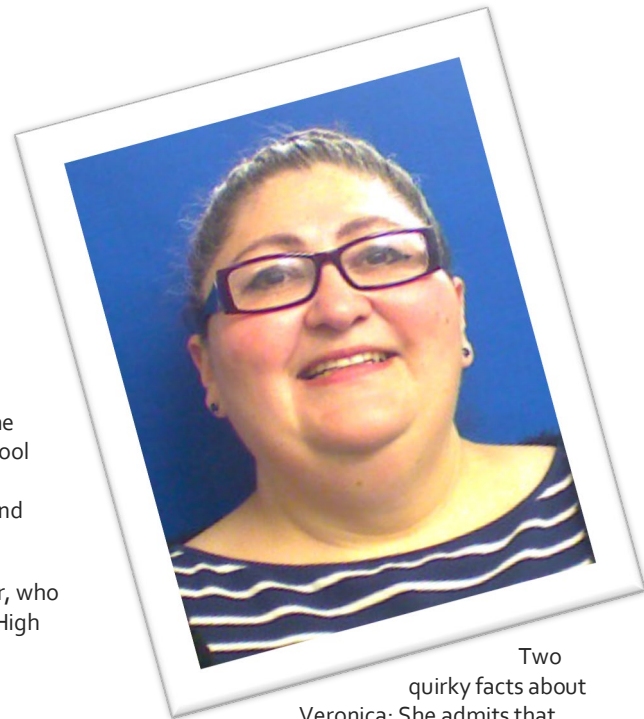
Veronica has worn many hats throughout her life thus far. She has worked in agriculture, as a line cook, dishwasher, waitress, retail associate, loan/collection manager, newspaper collection/accounting manager, medical office specialist, and secretary to the assistant superintendent for the Albany School district before joining us here at WOU. As such, she brings a rich set of skills to our office.

During her time as a medical office specialist, Veronica earned her Bachelor of Arts in history and her Master's degree in higher education. She is currently taking a break from college to spend more time with her daughter and take time for herself. She eventually has plans to go back to school and would love to pursue a Ph.D. that connects her interests in art, history and architecture.

Veronica is very proud of her daughter, who will be graduating from West Albany High School this coming spring.

Veronica is looking forward to getting married next Halloween to her childhood best friend (the kid next door), with the theme being Practical Magic (like the movie) under a night sky.

Veronica is a strong believer in positive energy and leads her life with an optimistic outlook. She is passionate about her family, her animals, art, music, history, traveling, road trips, food, experiencing new things and life in general. She enjoys being crafty and creative.



Two quirky facts about Veronica: She admits that she sometimes combines or reverses well-known catch phrases (such as "kill two stones with one bird"). Also, at times when she is really excited about something, her mind can be faster than her mouth; she often ends up using her hands a lot and making sound effects to explain things, like charades.

Please join the LAS Dean's Office in welcoming Veronica to WOU!

## Rainbow Dance Theatre at TEDx in Salem

On January 2018, Darryl Thomas, Professor of Dance at Western Oregon University, introduced illumiDance, a combination of dance and Illuminated lights, to TEDx in Salem.

Thomas states that the Rainbow Dance Theatre is a celebration of diversity through dance. He created illumiDance, a union of art and science, by combining EL wires, computer coding and body movement. The combination of art and science create a beautiful and colorful dance structure.

Thomas believes that "coding is the new literacy," one that students only have access to 2% of the time in K-12 schools. He developed illumiDance as a way to incorporate technology into learning to facilitate teaching code along with an appreciation for the arts. Thomas also believes we need to use technology to investigate new frontiers with dance, especially using coding.

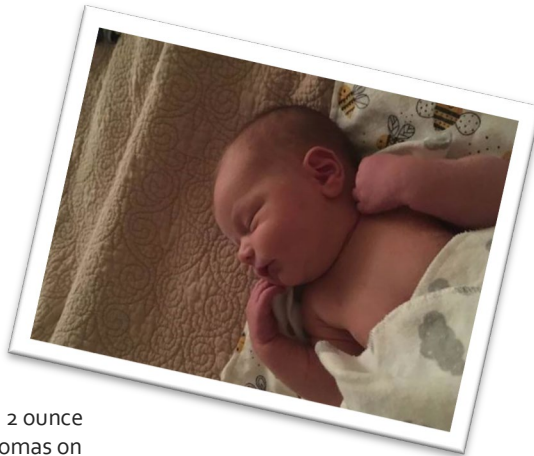


Found out how Darryl Thomas brings together art and science by clicking the link to his TEDx Talk in Salem, [HERE](#).

## Beautiful Fall Babies!

Congratulations to Kate Connolly and Samantha Morgan in our Humanities Division!

Kate Connolly gave birth to an 8 pound, 2 ounce baby boy named Benjamin Connolly Thomas on August 31, 2019, and Samantha Morgan gave birth to an 8 pound, 1 ounce baby boy named William Neal Morgan on September 24, 2019.



## Japanese-style Healing Garden at the Oregon State Penitentiary

WOU Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice Dr. Miyuki Arimoto has been instrumental in developing a Japanese-style healing garden at the Oregon State Penitentiary. Recently, Dr. Arimoto and her co-investigator conducted a pre-garden survey in June exploring inmates' well-being and opinions of the garden. An opening ceremony is scheduled for November. This will be the first Japanese-style healing garden built at a maximum-security prison in the United States.

This summer, Ehime University in Japan invited Dr. Arimoto to discuss differences between the U.S. and Japanese prison systems, along with the healing garden project. Transformative justice is a new idea to many students in Japan who still see the



primary goal of corrections as retribution, yet many are receptive and mentioned that their approach to corrections changed after Dr. Arimoto's presentation. This also helped Dr. Arimoto understand how the younger generation in Japan thinks about the *raison d'être* of prison.



In addition to delivering her talk, Dr. Arimoto visited prisons in Matsuyama (Ehime), Fuyu (Tokyo) and Onomichi (Hiroshima), along with Osaka Prefectural Police, to learn about operational similarities and differences between the U.S. and Japan.

## WOU ART PROFESSOR BRINGS CERAMICS TO RESIDENTS AT CAPITAL MANOR

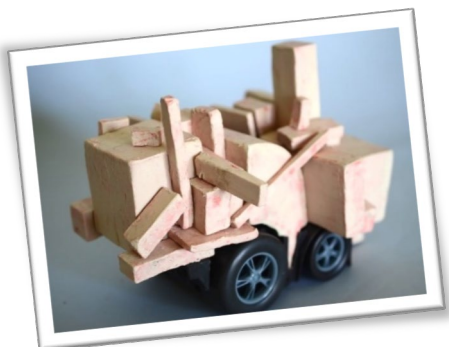
Since fall of 2019, Professor of Art Mary Harden has been conducting a monthly ceramics workshop for the residents of Capital Manor in West Salem. Capital Manor offers a ceramics studio where residents can work on their projects, and each month Professor Harden meets for about three hours with a group of these participants. Together they work to troubleshoot any glazing, firing or construction problems encountered between visits, followed by a

demo of new processes and techniques along with image presentations or hand-outs. The workshops finish with work time in which Professor Harden meets individually with participants to discuss their ideas, progress, and specific issues.

Last November, an enthusiastic group from Capital Manor took a "field trip" to WOU to meet our Art & Design students, the Dean of Liberal Arts & Sciences, and the Provost. They also toured our ceramics studios, the Art Department facilities in Campbell Hall, and the WOU campus. The visit ended at Valsetz Dining Hall, where the Capital Manor residents enjoyed lunch with a group of WOU art students.



This monthly collaboration continues to be a positive experience for the residents at Capital Manor as well as for WOU's Art Department. We plan to continue indefinitely with this monthly collaboration. Kudos to Professor Mary Harden for her excellent work with these talented community artists!



# Welcome, New Wolves!

## Behavioral Sciences



Dr. Kathy Espino-Perez

## Business & Economics



Dr. Rajeeb Poudel

## Computer Science



Lucas Cordova



Dr. Robert Surton

## Creative Arts



Tim Cowart



Peter Hoeffcker-Mejia

## Criminal Justice Sciences



Dr. Omar Melchor Ayala



Jennifer Moreno

## Criminal Justice



Dr. Taryn VanderPyl

## Humanities



Dr. Alex Curry



Dr. Tiara Good & Etta



Dr. Damian Koshnick

# Welcome, New Wolves!

## Humanities



Wesley Snyder



Dr. Ryan Topper

## Social Science



Dr. Michele Abee



Dr. Ricardo Pelegrin

## Social Science



Donna Sinclair

## COLLEGE : AN AGE-DEFYING EXPERIENCE

Wouldn't college be more fun without the tests, homework and tuition?

Oregon law allows residents 65 years and older to audit college courses tuition-free. That means they can attend class as a visitor to learn, but not for college credit. The Monmouth Senior Center now has a step-by-step guide on how to audit classes at Western Oregon University.

Stephanie Depascal, 79, started auditing classes at Western Oregon University in 2016. "To me, that just opened up the whole world," Depascal said. She has audited a variety of courses, from gerontology to early childhood development, and she is especially interested in behavioral neuroscience.

This is also an opportunity to engage with younger students, and to listen to others' observations. "I've made such good friends who are in their 20s," Depascal said. "We text all the time."

Depascal started auditing classes before the recently finished guide was completed. The lack of a guide didn't hold her back, but she appreciates the efforts to make the process clearer.

Hannah Wehr, a WOU student who completed her practicum at Monmouth

Senior Center, developed the manual. "On day one she came in with a game plan for each week of her practicum," said Barbara Hogan, Senior Center director. "She was impeccably organized." Hogan had spoken with Wehr's instructor, Assistant Professor Melissa Cannon, about the project beforehand.

The guide includes a brief summary about Cannon and states that, through her research, Wehr has worked to build a partnership between the campus and the senior center. "Overall, I was able to take the information I learned about aging and older adulthood at (WOU) and use it as a way to express the need for change on the campus," Wehr said. "I am a proud alumna of the college; however, there are many changes that need to occur on campus in order to make it more age-friendly."

