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DEAN'S NEWSLETTER

WESTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES



Message from the Dean

BY DR. KATHLEEN CASSITY

Welcome back!

While we are not quite where we would like to be with regard to the pandemic, things are somewhat better than they were last year at this time. During the past few weeks, I have heard both faculty and students express to me numerous times, "I'm so happy to be back in the classroom and interacting with people!" Our campus has been working hard to make that face-to-face interaction as safe as possible.

Meanwhile, those who prefer online teaching and learning, for whatever reason, are becoming more comfortable teaching and learning with technology. Even those of us who are primarily back on campus appreciate the convenience and flexibility that today's technology it has to offer. We're all getting better at that. (Once in a while, I even manage to get through a large Zoom meeting without somebody having to tell a colleague, "I think you're muted!")

While many of us are mourning losses of various kinds as challenges persist, I am also encouraged and inspired each day by the perseverance and dedication of each person I encounter at WOU. Despite everything, we are thriving, not merely surviving.

You'll see that for yourself as you read this newsletter, which contains links to many good reads such as

our journal of first-year writing, *Unbound*; two YouTube talks in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month by Professor of Spanish Dr. Patricia Gimenez-Equibar; an award-winning poem by Dr. Henry Hughes; and an important and timely editorial on the importance of addressing hatred toward Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, authored by Assistant Professor of Psychological Sciences Dr. Alicia Ibaraki. You'll also learn about recent honors earned by Professor of Gerontology Dr. Margaret Manoogian, and Assistant Professor of Math Dr. Leanne Merrill. Finally, you'll find a recap of the recent Humanities Halloween party on October 28, which featured a spooky reading of Edgar Allen Poe's poem "The Raven" ("*nevermore!*"). We hope this will become an annual event, so please plan to join the Humanities folks next year.

As I stated in my fall address to the College last September, when we examine pandemics in historical context, two things become apparent: (1) Pandemics always end. (2) Pandemics always last longer than originally anticipated. While #2 is certainly proving to be the case, I continue to believe that with time, #1 will be proven true once again. Meanwhile, I am grateful to all of our faculty, staff and students for continuing to do the important work of teaching, learning, and changing lives for the better. Thanks for continuing to keep on going, and hang in there!

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

Read the Latest Issue of Our First-Year Writing Student Journal!

SUBMITTED BY DR. LEIGH GRAZIANO

On behalf of the First-Year Writing Program, we are delighted to share the second volume of our digital anthology *Unbound: A First-Year Writing Anthology*. Each year, this anthology highlights the exemplary work of our first-year writing students, celebrating the creative thinking, sophisticated prose, and impressive inquiry projects taken on by our students as they explore the complexity of writing. Each volume also contains an essay from a WR 121 or 122 high school student who completed our Willamette Promise program, showcasing the rigorous work being done in our K-12 partner schools. Although we published only a few pieces, we received well over 50 submissions, making the selection process competitive. This volume highlights:

- The way language and writing practices are racialized
- Genre analysis of multiple online and workplace discourse communities
- Cultural practices of Indigenous and Latinx communities
- Arguments about the promise and peril of restrictive writing constructs

WR 121 and 122 introduce students to the writing discipline, teaching students that writing is not only something people do but is also something people study. These courses create opportunities for students to understand their own writing as situated within a variety of contexts—personal, professional, academic, and civic—and invite students to consider the identities and practices they adopt within those contexts. By reading and writing about the nature of writing itself, students build a more in-depth understanding of writing, rhetoric, language and literacy, and are prepared to develop more advanced discipline-specific writing practices as they move through their majors.

Please join us in congratulating these published writers and celebrating the important work of First-Year Writing on our campus.



unbound

a first-year writing anthology



"Celebrating the creative thinking, sophisticate prose, and impressive inquiry projects taken on by our students as they explore the complexity of writing."

- Dr. Leigh Graziano





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"A few students nominated me in Gero (which was a lovely surprise!) and that was really what mattered to me."

- Dr. Margaret Manoogian

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DR. MARGARET MANOOGIAN WINS NACADA AWARD

Written by Veronica Bailey

Congratulations to Dr. Margaret Manoogian! She was awarded the Certificate of Merit for Outstanding Advising by NACADA, the Global Community for Academic Advising, which honors individuals and institutions who are making a significant impact on academic advising. Dr. Manoogian has received past awards as WOU Advisor of the Year and Regional Faculty Advisor of the Year, prior to receiving her Certificate of Merit at the global level. Dr. Manoogian was wonderfully surprised when several of her Gerontology students nominated her for these honors. If you see Dr. Manoogian walking around campus, be sure to congratulate her for a job well done!





POET HENRY HUGHES NOMINATED FOR 2021 "BEST OF THE NET"

Written by Veronica Bailey

Congratulations to Dr. Henry Hughes for being nominated by *Ruminate* Magazine for "Best of the Net 2021." His poem, "Two Minds, Cooking, Friday Night," originally published in *The Waking* in June 2021, has been nominated for inclusion in Sundress Publications' Best of the Net Anthology, a collection of exceptional digital work "designed to grant a platform to a diverse and growing collection of writers and publishers who are building an online literary landscape that seeks to break free of traditional publishing." In addition, Henry has recently published two poems in *Queen's Quarterly*, Canada's leading literary journal: "Fishing Report: East Timor" and "We Were Admiring Our New Wood Floors." Dr. Hughes' poem has been reprinted here with his permission. Enjoy!

Two Minds, Cooking, Friday Night By Dr. Henry Hughes

"Women's minds are like spaghetti", you say. "Lots of connections. Men's minds are boxes. You want everything to fit inside."

I lift the hard blue Ronzoni box and smile. "Really," I say. "You wanna compare your brain to Bolognese?" "That's a sauce," you laugh. "You can't even get that right."

So much right that summer in Italy, remember? Sipping wine over salami and stracchino cheese, eyeing big bronze Neptune high on his squirting nymphs, always changing his mind about a storm or somebody's life. You pointed out that his calm, sunny wife, Salacia, sends sailboats safely home. God, we had a good time.

"Blood, then," I stir the sauce. "Your blood's like Bolognese." You look away, rinsing the sink's blue belly.

"I'm sorry," I say, turning down the stove. "We're different. I'm trying."

You look at me, setting glasses on the counter. "Then let's really try, okay?"

"Okay," I nod, pouring big splashes of your favorite cab, letting the dog into the fenced yard she loves to leap, while the cat climbs into a grocery bag dropped like a holiday on the sticky floor.



"We love this piece and have come back to it often in the time since we initially read it."

**- Cheri Nelson, Editor of
*Ruminate***



WOU PUBLISHES OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE: "LOS ORÍGENES HISPANOS DE OREGÓN" (OREGON HISPANIC ORIGINS)

Submitted by Dr. Jaime Marroquin

Dr. Jaime Marroquín, Professor of Spanish, is the editor of an upcoming book, *Los orígenes hispanos de Oregón (Oregon Hispanic Origins)*, written by historian Olga Gutiérrez. The book will be published this fall by WOU's College of Liberal Arts, the Instituto de Cultura Oregoniana, and Open Oregon Educational Resources. One of the first academic works about the colonial history of Oregon to be published in Spanish, this resource documents the little-known Hispanic explorations of the Pacific Northwest coasts from the 16th to the 18th centuries. This project will also be part of a University of Oregon and Oregon State University Joint initiative to develop a bilingual course on Latino history in the United States. Many thanks to WOU librarian Sue Kunda for her help with publishing and overseeing this project.



DR. ALICIA IBARAKI WRITES INVITED EDITORIAL IN THE WAKE OF ANTI-ASIAN VIOLENCE

Submitted by Dr. Alicia Ibaraki

In Spring 2021, Dr. Alicia Ibaraki, Assistant Professor of Psychological Sciences in the Behavioral Sciences Department, was asked by the Psi Chi Journal of Psychological Research to write an editorial about rising rates of anti-Asian violence, why it matters, and what can be done about it. In her piece, Dr. Ibaraki uses historical contexts to frame recent data on rates of discrimination and violence, as well as the impact of this violence on Asian American and Pacific Islander mental health. She offers suggestions for how the field of psychology can be helpful in responding to anti-Asian hate. The article concludes with a message to AAPI students about caring for themselves and finding community. You can read the article [here](#).



WOU math professor Dr. Leanne Merrill wins "Educator of the Year"

WRITTEN BY VERONICA BAILEY

Late last spring, Dr. Leanne Merrill, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, was one of the two co-recipients of the Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce award for "Educator of the Year." Read about it in the *Western Howl*, [here](#).

Here's one of our favorite quotes by Dr. Merrill in the linked article: "Mathematics gets a bad rap a lot of the time. But I strongly believe that everyone can be a successful practitioner of mathematics, and that mathematical empowerment is a human right."

Congratulations to Dr. Merrill for this outstanding honor!



"Every single day I am energized and inspired by (Western) students' work ethic, humility, bravery and accomplishments."

- Dr. Leanne Merrill



Congratulations Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce 2021 Community Awards Honorees!

<i>First Citizen</i> Kate Schwarzler	<i>Best Non-Profit Organization</i> Partnerships In Community Living
<i>Distinguished Service</i> Josh Hjelmberg	<i>Best Food & Beverage Services</i> Crush Wine Bar
<i>Junior Citizen</i> Jillian Layton	<i>Best Personal Services Provider</i> MaMere's Guest House
<i>Educator of the Year</i> Dr. Leanne Merrill and Jenessa Brehm	<i>Best Professional Services Provider</i> Indy Commons
<i>Education Support Staff</i> Ale Cantu	<i>Best Financial Services Provider</i> MAPS Credit Union
<i>Innovator of the Year</i> John Bracken/Crush Wine Bar	<i>Outstanding New Chamber Member</i> Starduster Café
	<i>Best Retail Services</i> Roth's Fresh Markets-Monmouth

**BEST BUSINESS OF THE YEAR
STARDUSTER CAFÉ**

Hispanic Heritage Month: Dr. Patricia Gimenez-Equibar Delivers Invited Talks on the Influences of Arabic on the Spanish Language

SUBMITTED BY DR. PATRICIA GIMENEZ-EQUIBAR

Dr. Patricia Gimenez-Equibar, Professor of Spanish, was recently a featured speaker at multiple events celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. The first was at Oregon State Capitol and may be found on the YouTube channel for "Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month," proclaimed by Governor Kate Brown and organized by the Instituto de Cultura Oregoniana. Her talk is linked [here](#) and may be found at 23:14.

The second presentation took place at the Chehalem Cultural Center and may be found [here](#). Dr. Gimenez-Equibar provided the following English-language summary of her presentations:

In AD 711 the course of Spanish history underwent a major change that was to leave its imprint on all facets of life in the Iberian Peninsula— political, social cultural, intellectual, religious, and linguistic. On the linguistic side, the result of this cataclysmic event, viewed by many local Christians as some form of divine punishment, was a period of constant language contact which was to last more than seven centuries, between local varieties of Romance and different varieties of colloquial Arabic that were brought into the Peninsula by successive waves of Arabs from the Middle East and which would form the base of colloquial Hispano-Arabic or Andalusian Arabic. Due to major structural and typological differences between the two languages in contact, it is not surprising that Arabic failed to leave its mark on the phonology and morphosyntax of Hispano-Romance.



Nevertheless, its impact on the Spanish lexicon has been significant. Arabisms represent the second-largest component of the lexicon after Latinisms (words derived from Latin).

Toward the end of the medieval period, with the territorial reconquest by the Christian kingdoms of Muslim Spain, the prestige of Arabic began to wane; it became the language of a faith perceived to be heretical and was associated with the social and cultural Other. Its use as a spoken language was severely limited and even repressed or forbidden by legal statute.

Dr. Gimenez-Equibar's talk compared the lexicon of the Spanish language from Spain to Latin American (primarily Mexican) Spanish, to explain why some of the lexical Arabisms still common in Latin American Spanish have disappeared from the Iberian Peninsula. As she explains, even though Spanish from Spain replaced some Arabisms with European-derived words, Latin American Spanish has preserved them. When you speak Spanish today, you not only speak a variety of oral Latin but a little bit of Arabic along with it.

The LAS Dean's Office would like to congratulate Dr. Gimenez-Equibar on these outstanding and thought-provoking presentations.

HUMANITIES DIVISION AND DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STUDIES HOST LITERARY-THEMED HALLOWEEN PARTY

Submitted by Dr. Lars Soderlund



On Thursday, October 28, the English Studies Department and the Humanities Division hosted what we hope will become an annual Halloween tradition, at Gentle House. Attendees made the most of our campus mask mandates by holding a mask-decorating contest. They also enjoyed literary-themed costumes, delicious food, and some welcome in-person conversation. Not pictured is the first-place winner of the mask decorating contest, a creative rendering of Vincent Van Gogh's painting "Starry Night."

The event concluded with a reading of Poe's seasonally appropriate poem "The Raven," with the last stanza read in a synchronized whisper--described by the party's hosts as "legitimately terrifying." Since this party was planned by English Studies majors, of course the reading was followed by a brief analytical discussion of the poem.

Another high point was a student reading of an original poem, an elegant mashup of themes that included Halloween and body dysmorphia.



We plan for this to be an annual celebration, so mark your calendars for next year and start planning the literary-themed costume you'd like to wear. Thanks to everyone who helped with planning and implementation. During times like these, festivity and community are even more important than ever!