



MARCH 2022 | VOLUME 2 (WINTER TERM '22)

DEAN'S NEWSLETTER

WESTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

Message from the Dean

BY DR. KATHLEEN CASSITY

I'd like to express my gratitude to all our students for hanging in there with us during yet another challenging, unpredictable term--and to the faculty and staff who continue to show up and do excellent work despite it all. Everyone, whatever their role here at the university, has experienced stress and fatigue for the past weeks, months, even years. It's not been an easy time, and moving forward often feels slow, at times even impossible. Yet we are still here--still learning, still teaching, still doing what we can to spark positive change in our world.

I also believe hope is on the horizon. This quarter's newsletter is short, but rich with inspiring stories that are only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the many great things happening in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. Read on to learn about our new Industry Advisory Board in the Computer Science Division; the award just received by Professor of History Dr. Kimberly Jensen; upcoming performances in our Creative Arts Division; and several impressive faculty accomplishments throughout our College.



As I stated in my September address to the College and in our Fall term newsletter, history teaches us that pandemics do end, though they typically last much longer than originally anticipated. We are still in an era of uncertainty, but one thing remains certain: Whether you are a student or an employee, and regardless of your rank or role, the work you are doing here at WOU matters immensely, even in ways that we cannot immediately see. I continue to be grateful for all that you do, and continue to believe that education is one of the greatest hopes for our individual and collective futures.

Dr. Kathleen Cassity

Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

COMPUTER SCIENCE DIVISION WORKS WITH INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARD

By *Dr. Breeann Flesch*

WOU's Computer Science Division is continuing its impactful collaboration with the Industry Advisory Board (IAB). In the last year, the IAB has provided feedback on WOU's upcoming new Data Analytics major, given insight on workflow tools that are gaining popularity in the pandemic, and helped the division to develop an upcoming Information Technology certificate. The thoughtful engagement by the members of the IAB has been invaluable to the Computer Science Division. Contact Dean Cassity if you'd like more information about how to form an advisory board in your discipline.



DR. KIMBERLY JENSEN WINS 2019-20 CHARLES DEBENEDETTI PRIZE IN PEACE HISTORY

By *Sharyne Ryals*

Dr. Kimberly Jensen received the Peace History Society's 2019-2020 Charles DeBenedetti Prize in Peace History for an English-language journal article, book chapter, or book introduction on peace history published in 2019 or 2020. Her article, "A 'Disloyal' and 'Immoral' Woman 'In Such a Responsible Place': M. Louise Hunt's Refusal to Purchase a Liberty Bond, Civil Liberties, and Female Citizenship in the First World War," was published in Volume 44, issue 2 of the journal *Peace & Change*.

You can read Dr. Jensen's prize-winning article by clicking on [Wiley Online Library](#). Learn more about the 2019-20 Charles DeBenedetti Prize in Peace History by clicking [here](#).



Creative Arts corner

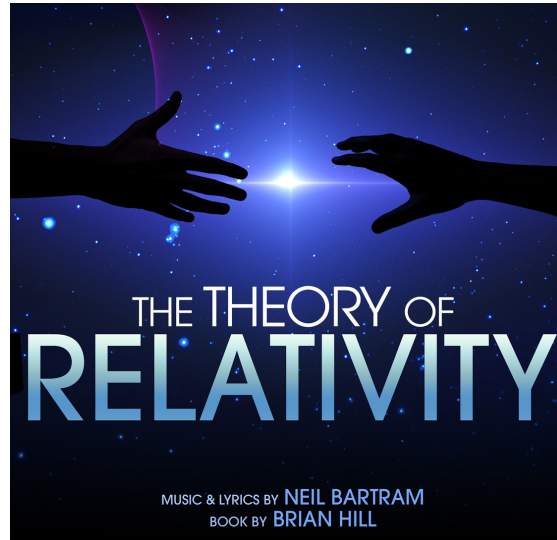


BY DAVID JANOWIAK

The Valley Shakespeare Company has currently begun casting and hiring a group of exciting guest professionals and designers for its upcoming summer production of *A Winter's Tale*. This year's shows will take place on July 21-23 and July 28-30, at 7:00 p.m. each night. Save the dates and plan to join us on the lawn outside Rice Theatre this July for an exciting evening of outdoor theatre!

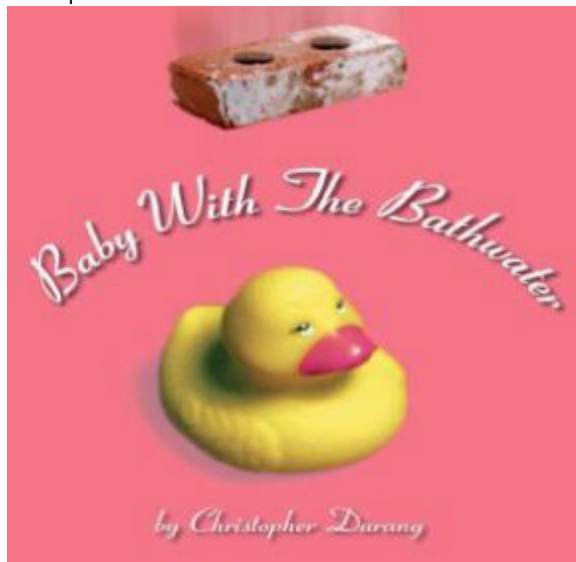
WINTER TERM 2022

The Theatre Department at WOU just produced its musical production, *The Theory of Relativity*, under the direction of faculty member Michael Phillips, with musical direction from James Reddan and choreography from Darryl Thomas. *The Theory of Relativity* is a musical with music and lyrics by Neil Bartram, and a book by Brian Hill. The show explores how young adults deal with their personal feelings and situations as well as how they develop communities based on their shared experiences. It was wonderful to once again experience musical theatre return to the WOU campus!



SPRING TERM 2022

In Spring Term 2022, guest director Raissa Fleming will join the WOU Theatre faculty and students to direct Christopher Durang's uproarious comedy, *Baby With The Bathwater*. Raissa is an experienced professional actress and stage director from the Pacific Northwest with a contagious passion for culture. A long-term manager with the Oregon Cultural Trust, her performance resume includes national theater, television and movies. The play will take place nightly from May 23-28, with an additional matinee on May 28.



Liberal Arts & Sciences Accomplishments



Behavioral Sciences Division

- Dr. Melissa Cannon is beginning a term as President of the Oregon Gerontological Association (OGA) for 2022. The OGA is a statewide network of professionals in the field of Aging Studies. Congratulations to Dr. Cannon on this important appointment!

Creative Arts Division

- Dr. Dirk Freymuth was honored as K & K Sound's featured Artist of the Month in December 2021.



- In February 2022, Dr. Freymuth taught a 5-week Studio Recording workshop at The New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music in New York while on sabbatical.

Humanities Division

- Dr. Patricia Giménez-Eguíbar was invited to participate in the prestigious project DHLE (Diccionario Histórico de la Lengua Española) undertaken by the Royal Spanish Academy, the institution responsible for overseeing the Spanish language since 1713. The RAE is affiliated with national language academies in 22 other Spanish-speaking nations through the Association of Spanish Language Academies. The RAE and ASALE promote pan-Hispanic linguistic unity and integrity within and among their respective territories to ensure a common language standard while acknowledging polycentric koinés. To achieve this goal, RAE regularly publishes dictionaries, grammars, orthographies and classical literary works. This is an honor and clearly recognizes Dr. Giménez-Eguíbar's expertise in her field.



- Congratulations to Communications NTT Assistant Professor Dr. Tiara Good on the publication of her new book, *Rhetoric of the Opioid Epidemic: Deaths of Despair in America*. This work argues for framing the opioid epidemic as a medical issue rather than a moral failing, drawing upon historical frameworks of criminality and immorality that characterized much discussion of the crack epidemic and AIDS crisis. Congratulations to Dr. Good on this important and timely publication.

Social Science Division

- Dr. Mark Henkels has been invited to participate on the keynote panel on the Rural-Urban Divide in Oregon Politics on April 5, 2022 at Linfield University. This panel is part of an annual spring summit organized by Linfield University's Learning Across Borders (LAB) program.



AWARD AND PUBLICATION BY DR. DANA SCHOWALTER

By Dr. Paula Baldwin

Congratulations to Dr Dana Schowalter, Associate Professor of Communication Studies, for receiving the Communication Association Convention's award for Top Panel in the Media Studies division of the Central States Communication Association, one of four regional conferences in the field of Communication Studies. Dr. Schowalter's paper is an extension of her recent book publication, *The Misogynistic Backlash Against Women-Strong Films*, co-authored with Shannon Stevens and Daniel L. Horvath.

According to Humanities Division Chair Dr. Paula Baldwin, "Dr. Schowalter and her co-authors explore the political struggle for visibility engendered by the growing number of women-centered popular films, along with critical analysis of the intensifying misogynistic backlash that has accompanied advances in the depiction of women on screen."



THE MISOGYNISTIC BACKLASH AGAINST WOMEN-STRONG FILMS

Dana Schowalter, Shannon Stevens
and Daniel L. Horvath



The book includes case studies on *Mad Max: Fury Road*, *Wonder Woman*, *Atomic Blonde*, *Star Wars*, and *Ghostbusters*, analyzing critical responses, "men's-rights" boycotting campaigns, online harassment, and the political economy that preceded and accompanied the creation and presentation of these films. This is an accessible and timely analysis of the rise of feminist-friendly and women-led films and the inevitable counter-response of misogyny. Kudos to Dr. Schowalter and her colleagues on the publication of this important study.