

Provost Winningham's Faculty Senate Report January 26, 2021

1. Please consider nominating a colleague for a Pastega Award.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSedqPehZaZG5-GMcn70DtReNmpf79-NtbmFmtUNavFFVzFPkw/viewform>

From: **Annika Thompson** thompsona@wou.edu
Subject: [IC-Action-Requested] Call for 2020-2021 Pastega Award Nominees
Date: January 19, 2021 at 3:17 PM
To: intcomm-action-requested@wou.edu

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[You are invited to submit nominations for the Mario & Alma Pastega Awards for 2020-2021](#)

[Deadline-February 19th, 2021](#)

These awards recognize faculty members that embody the pillars of scholarship, teaching and service.

To nominate a faculty member, use the google form below. Any nominations sent through an email or through word of mouth will not be recorded. Please note- this is not the Pastega Award for Staff, that is a separate committee.

[Click here to nominate a faculty member.](#)

Below is a short summary of the spirit of each award, for more selection criteria, please read 'selection criteria' in the nomination form.

[Pastega Award for Excellence in Scholarship](#)

This award recognizes faculty achievement in scholarship, honoring creative or scholarly work that has left, or will leave, a considerable legacy to the profession, discipline, or field. Scholarship is defined broadly to include research, writing and publication, and creative activity including artistic exhibitions or performances.

[Pastega Award for Excellence in Teaching](#)

This award is intended to provide recognition for faculty accomplishments in teaching, honoring work that engages and inspires students and increases their knowledge and interest in the profession, discipline or field.

[Pastega Award for Excellence in Service](#)

This award is intended to provide recognition for those faculty who provide service to WOU, as well as the surrounding community.

2. **New *PURE Insights* Volume.** The 9th volume of *PURE Insights* was published in December, 2020. The journal had eleven submissions from students. *PURE Insights* articles have been downloaded over 27,143 times in the past year. The successful publication of *PURE Insights* was overseen by Maren Anderson, as Managing Editor.

Here is a link to the 9th volume:

<https://digitalcommons.wou.edu/pure/>

3. Here are a sample of recent faculty accomplishments, submitted by the college deans. The following will be included in my Academic and Student Affairs Committee report and my report to President Fuller, before the next Board of Trustees Committee (thanks to both college deans for sharing these impressive updates).

College of Education

Tutoring Children in Math during the Pandemic. Rachel Harrington and Courtney Fortenberry from the Division of Education and Leadership have been working with their undergraduate math education students to provide free, online mathematics tutoring for children. To date, they have worked with more than 300 students and have drawn kids from as far away as Alaska seeking support during the pandemic. This innovative project gives university students a chance to work with real children struggling to learn mathematics. Expansion into writing tutoring is currently underway utilizing language arts teacher education students.

Contact Tracing and Community Health. Dr. Megan Patton-Lopez and Dr. Emily Vala-Haynes from the Division of Health and Exercise Science continue to collaborate with the Polk County COVID-19 Project and Community Health students to prevent the spread of the virus. The faculty and student team perform all contact tracing in the county and is actively involved in outreach and community health education. They were recently awarded additional dollars from Oregon Health Authority to extend services in Latinx communities and for older adults in the region. Just a few by the numbers:

- Western students working on the project - 24
- Western student contact tracers - 12 (7 bilingual)
- Average daily contacts monitored during December – 247
- Number of newsletters and safety support kits delivered in December - 750

Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. Dr. Jaclyn Caires-Hurley, Director of College of Education Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion efforts has been

hosting virtual affinity group spaces (2x/weekly) where diverse Western students are coming together to talk about their feelings and experiences on our campus and within our programs. We are learning important things by listening carefully to our students and will develop change ideas as we seek to become more inclusive in all work we do in the College of Education.

Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling Grant Success. Research and Resource Center on Deaf Communities, housed in the College of Education received a \$1 million grant in the fall to support Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling students in the Division of Deaf Studies and Professional Studies. Dr. Denise Thew Hackett is the program coordinator and 100% of program graduates have been hired within six months of completing their degree over the last three years!

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

American Council of Education's Learner Success Lab. Dean Kathy Cassity is co-chairing, along with Adry Clark, our work on the American Council of Education's Learner Success Lab. WOU is one of ten institutions selected for this national project, which is designed to develop definitions and measurements for "student success" that go beyond the metric of student graduation to examine and enhance the student experience. Our ACE facilitator, Dr. Mary Churchill of Boston University, will make a virtual visit to campus in early February, and the joint faculty-staff task force working on this project is about to convene. The purpose of this work is largely to maximize student retention and on time graduation.

Unbound: A First-Year Writing Anthology. We are also pleased to announce that a new student publication by our First-Year Writing program, *Unbound: A First-Year Writing Anthology*, a digital collection of exemplary work produced by students enrolled in WR 121 and WR 122. This anthology celebrates the creative thinking, sophisticated prose, and impressive inquiry projects taken on by our students. Of particular note is a piece written by an international student immersed in a section with native English speakers, as well as an essay written by one of our Willamette Promise students, highlighting the rigorous and college-level work coming out of our high school partnerships. A new volume will be published annually and will continue to feature the excellent work produced by our first-year WOU students as well as the wonderful work being done in our high schools through Willamette Promise.

Faculty Accomplishments. Faculty in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (and the College of Education) have received notable accolades. Dr. Cornelia Paraskevas has published a book, *Exploring Grammar through Texts*. Dr. Lucas Cordova, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, received a three-year, Tier 2

grant from the National Science Foundation entitled "Collaborative Research: Testing Tutor - An Inquiry-Based Pedagogy and Supporting Tool to Improve Student Learning of Software Testing Concepts." Drs. Alicia Ibaraki and Kathy Espino-Perez, Assistant Professors in Psychology, were awarded a National Science Foundation grant, "Broaden and Build: Promoting Access to Graduate Education in Social Sciences." They will be studying current admissions practices in doctoral psychology programs and looking at how using holistic admissions could help to diversify future cohorts of doctoral students. As part of this work, they are collaborating with the chair of the Psychology Department at OSU to establish a partnership to provide summer research opportunities for WOU students who are from underrepresented groups in psychology doctoral programs.

In addition, numerous faculty members have been vigorously engaged in scholarly activity during this time of COVID 19. The following have recently had articles accepted for publication and/or presented in virtual national conferences: Michele Abee, Evan Shenkin, Patricia Goldsworthy, Donna Sinclair, Kim Jensen, Earlene Camarillo, Mark Henkels (Social Science); Jaime Cloud, Debi Brannan, Ethan McMahan (Behavioral Sciences); Paula Baldwin, Dana Schowalter, Emily Plec, Alex Curry, Ryan Topper, Cornelia Paraskevas, Marjory Lange, Tom Rand, Henry Hughes, Damian Koshnick, Leigh Graziano, Casie Moreland, Lars Soderlund, and Dean Kathy Cassity (Humanities).

Community engagement, both within and beyond the campus community, has been vigorous even during this time of pandemic. Dr. Kim Jensen, Professor of History, was featured as an on-screen commentator for the Oregon Experience film "In the Shadow of Fairview" <https://www.opb.org/article/2020/11/16/oregon-history-in-the-shadow-of-fairview-documentary/>. In conjunction with the election, Dr. Mark Henkels, Professor of Political Science, moderated the Monmouth-Independence Candidates forum sponsored by the M-I Chamber of Commerce; spoke to the Academy of Lifelong Learning in Corvallis on "Oregon's Rural Divide: Not as Simple as it Seems"; and participated in a post-election public panel sponsored by the Oregon League of Voters with five faculty from OSU in November. He and Dr. Earlene Camarillo, Assistant Professor of Public Policy, held a Q&A on the election on November 6. Dr. Alex Curry, Assistant Professor of Communication, moderated a staff-faculty panel, "Where do we go from here? Inclusive political advocacy in a divisive political climate" on November 19, with numerous participants from across campus.

Art Program. This fall, the Cannon Gallery of Art, with accessibility at the forefront, forged ahead with an exciting slate of hybrid exhibit experiences for students and the WOU Community. The Gallery began the term with a hybrid student exhibit for the Spring 2020 BFA graduates (originally scheduled for June 2020). This exhibit was a physical gallery exhibit, which will remain up in the gallery throughout the year. The exhibit was video-taped and made available to students online via the WOU website and various social media outlets. The

Cannon Gallery also worked on a major exhibit of five Black Portland Artists. This timely show has been in the works for over a year and has been postponed multiple times. Intisar Abioto, the show's curator agreed to write an essay and provide images for a catalog (digital and print). Winter term will be an extension of fall term as the projects outlined above are still in progress. Additionally, the Gallery is planning a mini online film festival that will feature three films and opportunity for students to interact with the filmmakers over Zoom.

Dance Program. In fall term the dance department was quite active. Faculty member Cynthia Garner produced WOU's first Dance-Out-Day event. Members of the department chose picturesque locations around campus that framed their movement and presented several original choreographed dance pieces. This event framed the way CAD plays a significant role in the cultural life on this campus. We had about 50 people following the performance tour and another 25 joined us via zoom. Footage of the event appeared on WOU-TV and on COIN News.

The dance department also presented Virtual Fall Dance Concert here at WOU in December. Students successfully navigated challenging circumstances during this time and will producing more exciting projects in winter and spring.

Music Program. The WOU Concert Choir & Chamber Choir, Small Ensembles, Instrumental and Vocal Jazz groups worked together and produced multiple online and live streamed concerts during fall term and plans many additional events in winter term. Additionally, some of the vocal ensembles will participate in a "live" virtual conference and performance with other choirs from across the country, and a "side-by-side"

Guest Musical Artists continued to teach workshops and teach our students in virtual formats in Theatre.

Theatre Program. In order to provide theatrical opportunities for students while still complying with social distancing guidelines on campus, the WOU Department of Theatre created an original film project entitled *Stopping Somewhere*, written by WOU alumni Nathaniel Dunaway and Burke De Boer, and directed by Ted deChatelet.

The film is a series of short vignette scenes requiring no more than four actors at one time. Each of the short films take place in a rundown hotel on the outskirts of Bend, Oregon. A sound stage and set was constructed by WOU students and nearly 30 students participated in the project.

WOU Theatre Visiting Guest Professor, Jessica Wallenfels, is producing four short plays by playwrights from the Pacific Northwest. The plays were commissioned by Portland Center Stage as part of a national initiative called Play at Home, headed by a number of influential regional theaters such as the Public

Theatre, Woolly Mammoth, Baltimore Center Stage and others. Play at Home is a “series of short plays commissioned specifically for this moment of unprecedented isolation to inspire joy and connection for all.” (From playathome.org)

Major theatres around the country have participated, yielding plays from some of the most innovative and popular contemporary playwrights. We encourage you to read through these plays at playathome.org, as well as any of the other (nearly 100) short (around 10 page) plays for context and enjoyment.

Despite facing great challenges on multiple fronts this academic year, this is but a small sampling of the many accomplishments and accolades that the College of LAS has achieved recently, with many more in the works.