

FEBRUARY 2019 | VOLUME 1. ISSUE NO. 2

WOU's College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

A NEWSLETTER



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This month from the Dean's Office: Why art matters

WRITTEN BY DEAN KATHLEEN CASSITY

It's February in Oregon, and I think we're all ready for the gray skies to end. While we endure these blustery days, we welcome you to lift your spirits by stopping into the Dean's Office to view our two newly acquired paintings. These works of art were recently donated to WOU by the estate of the late New York-based artist Mari Lyons, thanks to the connection of our own Professor of English, Henry Hughes, with the Lyons family.

While these are beautiful paintings, there is much more to them than meets the eye: There's a story here. When Henry approached me to ask if we would like to display these paintings, we discovered in the course of conversation that we share a connection to the Lyons family. Mari Lyons' son, the late Paul Lyons--also a friend of Henry's--was an esteemed professor in the English Department at my alma mater, the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, and his life partner is one of my good friends. Sadly, Paul passed away last April from cancer, far too soon. Until we received the generous donation of his mother's artwork, neither Henry nor I had any idea that we shared this common bond of having a mutual friend.

The days may still be gray, but each morning I'm greeted by two bright and colorful paintings that both lift the spirits and remind us of why art matters: It lives on after us, and it connects us, across distances, across differences, even across time. It reminds us, during divisive and troubling times, how much we share. It reminds us that we are all connected. Thank you to the Lyons estate and to Henry Hughes for making this special donation possible.





February, March, & Beyond

photos courtesy of the WOU
Theatre Department

EXPLORE THE WOU'RLD

EVENTS OF INTEREST

- 02/23: 9:45-3:00pm at Werner University Center: Sonia Kovalevsky Mathematics Day
- 02/26: 6:00-9:00pm at WUC Columbia Room: Model UN International Awareness Event & Silent Auction, \$20 Entry Fee
- 3/01: All Day at Werner University Center: César E. Chávez Leadership Conference
- 03/04: 7:30pm at Smith Music Hall: Percussion & Piano
- 03/05: 7:30pm at Smith Music Hall: Chamber Ensembles & Guitar Ensemble
- 03/06: 11:00am at Werner University Center: 32nd Annual Criminal Justice Career Day
- 03/08: 7:30pm at Hamersly: Early Music Ensemble with Kimary Fick
- 03/11: 7:30pm at Rice Auditorium: Jazz Orchestra & Latin Jazz Ensemble
- 03/12: 7:30pm at Rice Auditorium: Concert Choir & Chamber Singers
- 03/15: 7:30pm at Smith Music Hall: Western Oregon Voices
- 03/16: 7:30pm at Rice Auditorium: Spectrum! & Percussion Ensemble
- 04/09: 6:00pm at Werner University Center: Ayad Akhtar, presented by the Jensen Lecture Series
- 04/24: "Creating a Sustainable Future": Dean's Lecture Series featuring Rob Dietz of Post Carbon Institute



04/09: 6:00-7:00pm, Location TBA: An evening with Ayad Akhtar as part of the Jensen Lecture Series

Western Oregon
UNIVERSITY
Together we SUCCEED

An evening with
Ayad Akhtar

Pulitzer Prize-winning
Playwright, Screenwriter and Novelist

Tuesday, April 9

6 p.m. Reception | 7 p.m. Lecture
Free and open to the public | Easy parking
wou.edu/jensenlecture

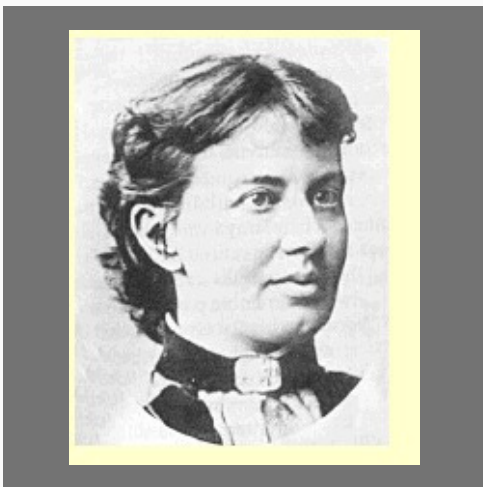
Fifteenth Annual Sonia Kovalevsky Day

Shared by Dr. Cheryl Beaver

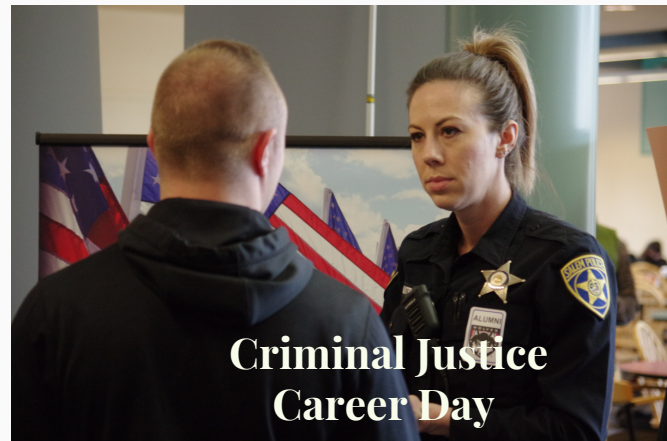
The Mathematics Department will hold its 15th Annual Sonia Kovalevsky Math Day on Saturday, February 23rd.

Sonia Kovalevsky Day is a program of hands-on workshops and talks for high school girls and their teachers. In honor of Sonia Kovalevsky, the a prominent female mathematician, this day's events are designed to encourage young women to continue their study of mathematics and to assist those who teach of women in mathematics.

Participants will engage in three fun hands-on workshops, and we will have a pizza lunch and a game fair at the end of the day. There is no cost to attend this event. Click on the link below for more information about the amazing mathematician, Sonia Kovalevsky.



For more information
see <http://www.wou.edu/math/sk/>

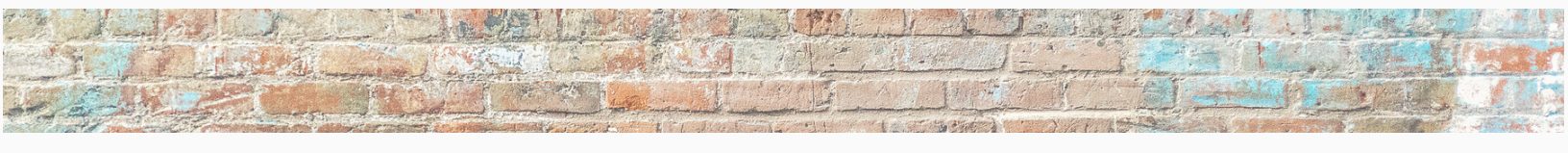


On March 6, 2019, Criminal Justice will host its 32nd annual Careers Day and Jobs Fair, an event that recruits high school students and brings multiple agencies (many of them represented by WOU Criminal Justice alumni) to campus to recruit our students for jobs and internships. Last year we hosted almost 400 high school and community college students interested in pursuing criminal justice at WOU, as well as numerous agencies from across the state and outside Oregon.

While Careers Day is one of the largest recruitment events on campus each year and showcases some of our alumni, the simultaneous Jobs Fair benefits Criminal Justice majors of diverse interests as well as non-Criminal Justice majors.

Geography focused? We have the Bureau of Land Management. Nursing focused? We have agencies looking for prison nurses. Child focused? We have child protection agencies. Committed to social justice? We have agencies working with vulnerable populations. Love working with young people? We have juvenile justice and diversionary agencies. The list goes on. Yes, law enforcement and corrections agencies will be here representing their finest, and we are very proud of them. But that is just a little sliver of what we have to offer. Invite your students to this Jobs Fair. You may be pleasantly surprised at the diversity of opportunities available to your students.

Shared by Dr. Vivian Djokotoe





THE GERONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Over the past year, Dr. Melissa Cannon's team of undergraduate research assistants--Hannah Wehr, Mandie Kondash, Renata Kerwood, and Raelynn Johnston (alum; not pictured)--participated in data collection and analysis, presenting their research at WOU's Academic Excellence Showcase last spring and at the Gerontological Society of America conference in Boston, Massachusetts, last November.

According to the students: "These were opportunities that made us enthusiastic about research and ready to take on the next step. Dr. Cannon mentioned submitting our abstract to the Gerontological Society of America's conference, and when we were accepted to present, she encouraged us to come along with her. The choice to travel to the East Coast was the best choice we have made in our college career thus far, aside from choosing Gerontology as our major. The professionals we met, relationships we made, concepts we learned, and practice with presenting we had were all pivotal steps we made to feel like professionals in this field. Throughout this experience we were overwhelmed with gratitude. Being a student at Western Oregon University means being surrounded by faculty who want to see you succeed and who want to provide you with once in a lifetime opportunities such as the one we were given. The conference has not only furthered our personal career development, but it has provided us with insights we can use to better the Western Oregon Community, and for that we are so grateful."

Shared by Dr. Melissa Cannon

With the help of student research assistants from WOU - Taylar Boyer, Kaylee DeBolt, Jacob Dougherty, and Cody Welty - my colleague, Carin Perilloux (Southwestern University) and I published research in the journal, *Evolutionary Psychological Science*.

The purpose of the study was to evaluate the relative importance men and women place on a potential mate's facial versus bodily attractiveness in a forced choice situation. Men and women were randomly assigned to imagine themselves seeking their ideal romantic partner as either a short-term mate or long-term mate and were provided with a set "budget" with which to create their ideal mate.

Participants were then randomly assigned to either a large budget condition (70 points) or a small budget condition (30 points). They used their allotted points to improve 10 of their imagined partner's physical features: five face traits and five body traits.

As expected, men in the short-term mating context allocated more points to bodily traits, but only when in the low-budget condition. In the high-budget condition, men showed more interest in facial traits. Women, also as expected--and in contrast to men--showed a general trend toward favoring facial traits regardless of budget and condition.

Overall, the results are consistent with the hypothesis that women's bodies provide better information regarding immediate fertility and are thus more important for men to assess in short-term mating contexts.

The article is not yet available in print, but can be viewed here: <https://rdcu.be/bij3>.

Mate-by-Numbers: Budget, Mating Context, and Sex Predict Preferences for Facial and Bodily Traits

Shared by
Dr. Jaime Cloud



WOU Faculty Engagement: Advisory Council for OADP Moderated Discussion



Photo courtesy of Caren Ann Jackson and OADP

Dr. Emily Plec of our Communications Studies faculty has been a member of the Advisory Council of OADP (Oregonians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty) for more than a decade and publishes scholarship related to capital punishment and prison reform. In January, she moderated a discussion featuring former Governor John Kitzhaber, former Oregon Supreme Court Chief Justice Paul DeMuniz, former Oregon State Penitentiary Superintendent Frank Thompson, and leading Capital Defense Attorney Jeff Ellis.

The discussion followed the Oregon debut of the documentary film, *In the Executioner's Shadow*. There will be a viewing of this film on the Western Oregon University campus in late February. Please check the WOU calendar for more information!

CATCH UP ON Older News

Computer Science Change Leaders: Grant Supports Women in Tech

As a Change Leader Team, Chris Brooks, Breeann Flesch, Becka Morgan and Scot Morse were awarded a \$10,000 grant from the National Council of Women in Technology to pursue the recruitment and retention of women in computer science at Western Oregon University, to be used "to offset expenses associated with start-up implementation of strategies to recruit and retain women in computing departments. Each ES-UP Change Leader Team will work with their Extension Services Consultant (ESC) to determine the best approach and process to implement research-based strategies that support the ES-UP goals."

Congratulations, Computer Science faculty!

Unique Fundraiser: The OSP Healing Garden

The Criminal Justice Department sponsored a fundraiser to raise money for a healing garden at the Oregon State Penitentiary in May of 2018.

Oregon State Penitentiary (OSP) is a maximum security facility that houses inmates serving 10-15 years to life. The purpose of the garden is to heal and restore a sense a peace within the facility. Those who live in the facility, the facility itself, as well as society will tremendously benefit from the restorative purpose behind the garden.

Hoichi Kurisu, designer of the Portland Japanese Garden, has been working with the inmates to build a healing garden on the prison premises. This unique project was the vision of the OSP Asian Pacific Family Club and was initiated by the inmates, for the inmates. This will be the only Japanese Healing Garden in any United States maximum security prison.



Announcing our new LAS Speaker Series: Creating a Sustainable Future



New Speaker Series!

By Dean Kathleen Cassity

**First Speaker:
Rob Dietz of the
Post Carbon
Institute**

**April 24, 2019
12:00pm
Werner University
Center,
Willamette Room**

The LAS Dean's Office is excited to announce that April 24, 2019, will mark the kickoff event for our new speaker series, "Creating a Sustainable Future." We plan to host four to six speakers per year to deliver engaging presentations on various aspects of sustainability, from a variety of disciplinary perspectives.

Our series kickoff speaker, Rob Dietz of the Post Carbon Institute, will deliver the first presentation in our series at noon on Wednesday, April 24, 2019, in the Willamette Room. Rob Dietz is the author of the well-reviewed book *Enough is Enough: Building a Sustainable Economy in a World of Finite Resources*.

We are also in the process of inviting a dynamic speaker to come to campus in May, as well as developing our lineup for the 2019-20 academic year. Stay tuned for further information and updates.