



Staff Connection
Committee
Newsletter
Summer 2019

WESTERN OREGON
UNIVERSITY
FOUNDED 1858

WELCOME

The WOU Staff Connection Committee looks for ways to connect our staff and create a friendly and enjoyable work environment.

Through this newsletter we hope to create a resource where staff can share and gain information.

DEPARTMENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

This term we interviewed the Child Development Center & Abby's House.

FINISH READING ON PG. 2 & 3



HAVE YOU MET _____ ?

Meet Emily Swart and Rosario Peralta.

FINISH READING ON PG. 4



ANNOUNCEMENTS, TIPS & EVENTS

See what your fellow staff members have been up to, learn some tips that may help you at work, and see what's happening on campus this term.

FINISH READING ON PG. 5, 6, & 7



Department in the Spotlight

Western Oregon University CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER



What does the Child Development Center do?

The CDC provides high quality preschool education for the children of WOU students, employees, and the surrounding community. They work with children from 18 months to 12 years in morning, ¾ day, and full day options between 7:30-5:15 from September through June and a summer program.



Who works in the Child Development Center?

Tammy Gardner is the director of the Child Development Center. The main teachers are Ingrid Amerson, Emerita Rodarte, and James Quest. Student employees, students working on field experience practicums, and volunteers round out the adults working with children in the CDC.



Top 5 things you should know about the CDC:

1. Their new location behind Campus Public Safety is conveniently located next to Family Housing.
2. Willamette ESD staff work with CDC teachers to provide inclusive services to children with special needs.
3. The CDC partners with the College of Education for observation and supervised practicum experiences for early childhood education students.
4. The CDC employs WOU students and also has volunteer opportunities in the classroom and their SMART reading program.
5. The CDC has received tuition assistance funding through the Preschool Promise Grant, which subsidizes over 80% of child care tuition for 15 families who qualify during the academic year.



Department in the Spotlight



ABBY'S HOUSE

Center for Equity & Gender Justice

What does Abby's House do?

Abby's House is a resource and referral center for students that is designed to promote equity and non-violence. Abby's House

coordinates programming on campus in accordance with student interests. Recent programs have revolved around self-care. One of Dr. Aislinn Addington's, Director of Abby's House, favorite events is Palentine's Day. Palentine's Day is an event that celebrates friendship the day before Valentine's Day.

Confidential and peer advocates who work in Abby's House are available to help students navigate the student conduct system for gender based violence. They can also help connect students with community resources like the Stonewall Center. There are two important areas to note in regards to Abby's House services. First, Abby's House cannot assist respondents who are navigating the conduct system for gender based violence. Second, only Aislinn and Lisette Cervantes are confidential advocates, this means that any conversation with them can remain confidential. Peer advocates are responsible employees and are required to report any incident of sexual assault or harassment.

In the last year the Food Pantry has become a part of Abby's House. The Food Pantry is a resource for all students in need. Students can sometimes be averse to going to the Food Pantry because they don't feel they are as needy as others; however, this resource is available to whoever needs it. Should the Food Pantry not have enough food available, students can visit Lisette Cervantes in the Abby's House office to receive a voucher for campus dining or Waremart. Due to limited resources, the Food Pantry can only issue one voucher per student per term.

While the Food Pantry may not seem like it has a direct connection to Abby's House, Aislinn says she feels the addition of the Food Pantry made sense because housing and food insecurity can be a factor in sexual violence cases.

Who works at Abby's House?

Abby's House employs 12 students as peer advocates and has two full time employees, Aislinn and Lisette. Lisette's position, Bilingual Advocate Outreach Coordinator, is a new addition to Abby's House this year.

Top 5 things you should know about Abby's House:

1. Abby's House is a safe space for everyone.
2. Aislinn and Lisette are confidential advocates.
 - This means conversations with them can stay confidential.
3. If you are reading this you are a responsible employee and you have a reporting obligation.
 - The Anonymous Report can be accessed using the following [link](#).
4. Abby's House provides a scholarship to students annually and honors a Woman of the Year.
 - The 2019-2020 Abby's House Scholarship recipient is Susana Cerda Ortiz.
 - The 2019-2020 Woman of the Year is Dr. Breenn Flesch.
5. Abby's House is always open and available to give outreach presentations.



Have you met _____ ?

Emily Swart

If you have watched some of the wonderful [videos](#) that were circulated around campus for Giving Day, then you have already seen some Emily Swart's work. Emily is the Annual Fund Giving Coordinator and Operational Manager of the Historic Gentle House. Her main job responsibilities consist of raising unrestricted funds for the WOU Foundation and managing the day to day operations of Gentle House.

One of Emily's biggest projects is Giving Day. Giving Day occurs every year on the first Tuesday of March and seeks donations throughout the WOU community using social media, videos, e-mail, payroll deduction, and fundraising challenges posed by groups and donors. Since Emily's first Giving Day in 2016, donation totals have grown substantially. The Foundation raised \$25,000 in 2017, \$48,000 in 2018, and \$70,000 this year.

Emily's favorite part about working at WOU is our students. She says our students demonstrate tremendous drive to complete their education and the love they have for their experience here is infectious. As supervisor of the call center at the Foundation, Emily loves that she gets to watch students transform. Emily also enjoys the fact that working at WOU challenges her as a life long learner. She said that even through her day to day responsibilities she is able to learn something new.

When Emily isn't at work you might see her on campus at an Abby's House event or teaching spin on Fridays at the Health and Wellness Center (HWC). Emily is the board chair for Abby's House and just started teaching spin at the HWC last fall term. Emily also enjoys watching her two sons, Kellen and Jace, compete in a variety of sports all year long.



Rosario Peralta

You may have met Rosario Peralta if you have been to the Writing Center this academic year. Rosario is an English Writing Specialist, this means that she helps students with a broad experience in both Spanish and English. In her position at the Writing Center, Rosario tutors students in anything that has to do with writing. When she isn't tutoring, Rosario gives writing presentations on campus, leads spotlight workshops, and assists faculty with assignment design.

Rosario has recently started putting together workshops in our community. This fall she will be working with Dallas Charter to create workshops for home school parents and during the winter she puts on scholarship essay workshops at South Salem High School.

Rosario's favorite part about working at WOU is the Writing Center. She says she loves working with people in a tutoring atmosphere and helping students build skills over time. One of the best parts of Rosario's job is dispelling the myth that writing is scary.

When Rosario isn't at work she is pursuing her masters degree in rhetoric and composition at OSU. Her thesis will be about tutor training, equity, and access for Spanish speaking students. She anticipates graduating this summer.

In addition to her studies, Rosario enjoys spending time with her two nephews, reading, finding new restaurants, and wine tasting. Her favorite restaurants are Thai Country and The Sage in McMinnville and her favorite wine is rosé from Yamhill Valley Vineyards.





Announcements

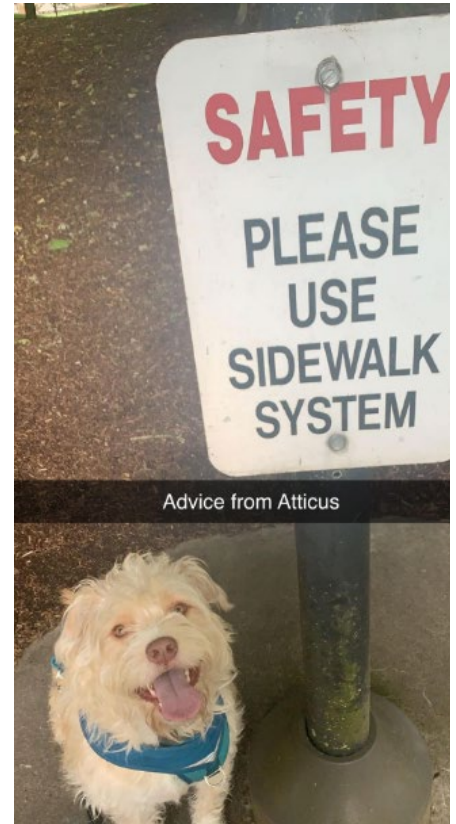


Sue Borst will be retiring this August after 15 years of service. She started at WOU as a helper during fee payment and has spent the last ten years in Cashier's Office. Sue's favorite holiday is Halloween. Wishing you an amazing retirement! We will miss your bright attitude and fabulous Halloween costumes!



Rip Horsey stepped down as Staff Senate President this past June.

Staff Senate would like to thank Rip for all of this hard work and dedication in the last year. Good job Rip!



Joe Hahn is finishing their second year in University Housing as the Resident Director for Landers and Barnum Halls. Next year they will be moving to Heritage Hall. This year Joe helped Launch the Wolf Pride Network with Laura Welch and the Western Oregon University of Color network. Joe also began advising the Black Student Union and is incredibly proud of the group. To make the year even better, they adopted a dog named Attitus this last November. Nice work Joe!



Did you know?



Staff Senate

Do you want to be a proactive leader in the WOU community?

Join Staff Senate!

Staff Senate's purpose is to provide a unified voice for all staff at Western Oregon University.

Staff Senate participation can take many forms.

- **Attend a meeting as a guest**
 - o Meeting dates, times, and locations are listed on our website wou.edu/staffsenate
- **Nominate yourself or another staff member for a Staff Senator position**
 - o Elections take place during Spring term each year
- **Become a part of one of our committees**
 - o **Student Success Committee**
 - Fundraises and awards Staff Senate Scholarship
 - o **Staff Connection Committee**
 - Writes this newsletter
 - Puts together events for staff
- **Represent Staff Senate on a university committee**
 - o University Budget Advisory Committee (UBAC)
 - o University Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee
 - o University Technology Advisory Committee
- **Represent Staff Senate on a trustee board**
 - o WOU Board of Trustees
 - o WOU Foundation Board of Trustees

Actions Staff Senate has taken in 2018-2019:

- Advocated for a campus climate survey
- Submitted a budget proposal to the UBAC to create a position to improve internal communication
- Initiated conversations with HR about the potential for 360 performance reviews

Troubleshooting Tips of the Term

Here are a couple tips we learned in Staff Senate that may help you in your department.

Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Promotion

- WOU has a suicide prevention and mental health promotion website that provides resources for improving mental health.
 - o This website is for anyone who is looking to improve their mental health.
 - o wou.edu/mental-health
- There is now a Distressed and Destructive Behavior folder available to all faculty and staff. The folder contains information about signs and symptoms of distress, tips about how to interact with someone in distress, and what course of action should be taken in certain circumstances.
 - o To get a folder contact Tim Glascock (glascockt@wou.edu)

Employee Performance Reviews

- An employee may request a performance review at any time.
- HR encourages employees to sign their performance reviews.
- If you disagree with your performance review, you can submit a written objection to HR to be added to your employee file.

Supervisory Trainings

- HR is willing to create specialized trainings upon request.
- Performance management resources are available on the HR website.
 - o wou.edu/hr



Events on Campus

Academic Events

- WOU Conference on Learning and Instruction for Paraprofessionals (WOU CLIP)
 - o August 22

Alumni Relation Events

- What's new at WOU – After Dark (in Portland)
 - o July 9
 - Columbia Sportswear Employee Store
 - 6-8pm
 - RSVP by July 6 to alumni@wou.edu

Athletic Events

- Summer camps are being hosted by multiple sports and Athletic Performance is holding a three week camp for youth
 - o Visit wouwolves.com and click on Camps for more information
- Wolves on the Green Golf Tournament
 - o August 1
 - 10:45am registration
 - 12pm shotgun start
 - \$105 individual golfer
 - \$400 for a team
 - Visit wouwolves.com for more information

Campus Recreation Events

- Swimming lessons
 - o July 8 – 19
 - o July 29 – August 9
 - Visit wou.edu/campusrec for more information
- Climbing lessons
 - o July 8 – 18
 - o July 29 – August 8
 - Visit wou.edu/campusrec for more information

Creative Arts Events

- Theater
 - o Valley Shakespeare perform Hamlet
 - July 25-28 & August 1-3
 - Admission is FREE
 - Location: Leinwand Stage in front of Rice Auditorium

Smith Fine Arts Events

- Smith Fine Arts Series Mid-Summer Dinner & Auction
 - o July 28
 - 4:30pm
 - Get more information at wou.edu/smith

Staff Events

- WOU Walking Group
 - o Thursday
 - 10am
 - Location: Werner University Center
- WOU Cornhole Group
 - E-mail wou-cornhole@mail.wou.edu for time and location information
- WOU Summer Heatwave Lunch Group
 - o Wednesdays (Jul. 3 – Aug. 7)
 - Listen to music, enjoy some lunch and get to know your co-workers
 - 12-1pm
 - Location: Todd Hall lawn



Natasha Gaspar, Co-chair



Laura Lyon, Co-chair

**Thank you for reading our
newsletter!**

Enjoy your summer!