

FALL 2023 |



DEAN'S NEWSLETTER

WESTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

Message from the Interim Dean

BY DR. KRISTIN LATHAM-SCOTT

This has been a wonderful first Fall term of my experience as Interim Dean. I have enjoyed meeting and reengaging with people, learning new skills, hearing about faculty & staff teaching and projects, and working with an expanded circle of great humans. Thank you!

My background in Biology teaching and research informs my work process of asking questions, gathering data, talking with colleagues, trying out solutions, assessing results, and using this iterative method for continual improvement. I have been working in the CLAS Dean's Office using this perspective which has been a great way to get to know our college and our colleagues more deeply.

My focus this term has been on three things: building community, examining quantitative and qualitative information, and enhancing sustainability of our positions, programs, and curriculum. In our college, we have 1,922 talented students with a wealth of experience and ideas. We also have 227 highly dedicated staff and faculty who work hard to serve our students by sharing the insights of their disciplines and love of our campus.



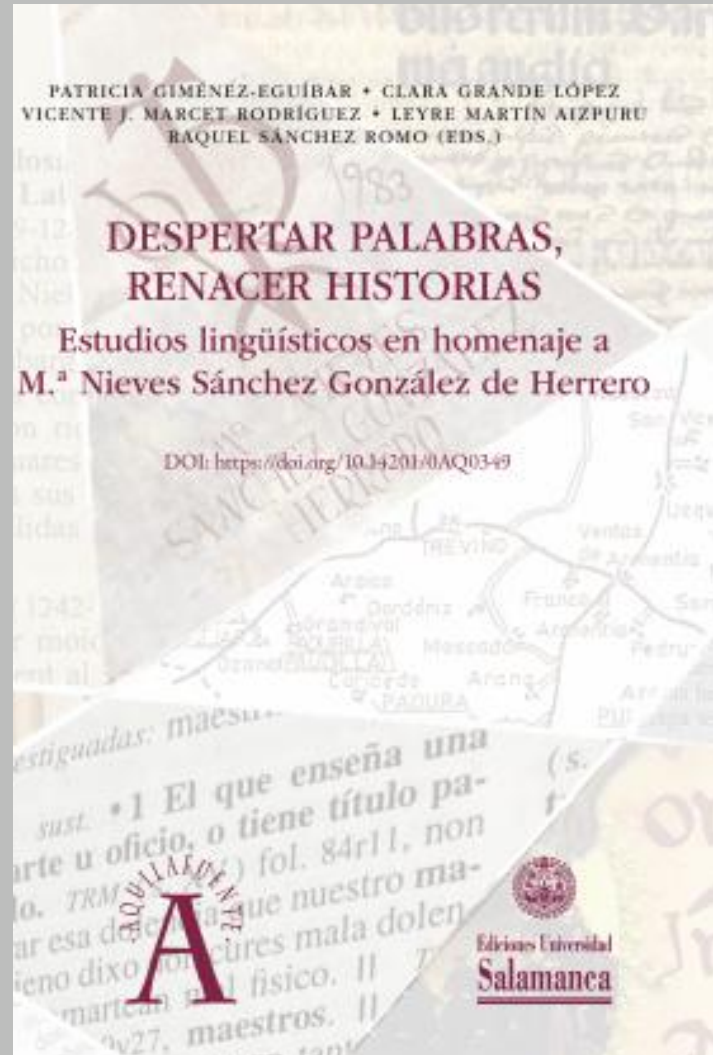
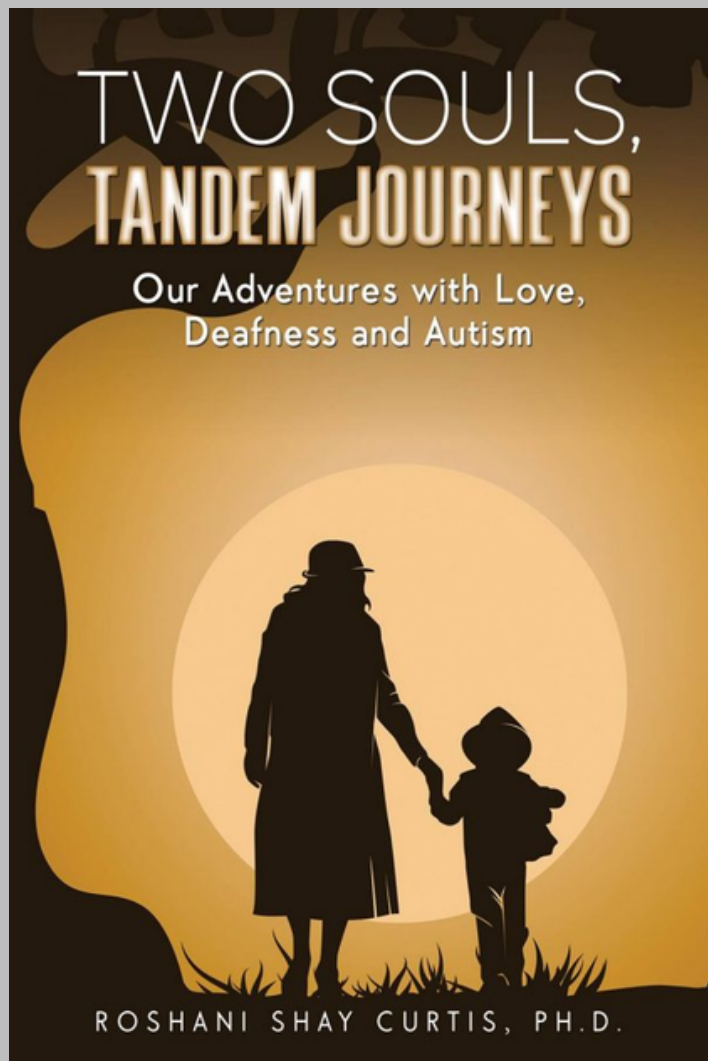
I am hearing that we are tired, despite our enthusiasm for our work, as the last several years have had unprecedented levels of change – in how we work, how we teach, how we consider our health, and how we support our students. My goal is to lead our college in a way that acknowledges the exhaustion *and* finds methods to continue our engagement with campus in ways that feel productive, intentional, and manageable long-term.

Collectively, we are a highly innovative community operating for student success and positive change locally and globally. I applaud the great work we do and I am looking forward to the future.

Best wishes, Kristin

Book Publications

A memoir by Professor Emeritus Roshani Shay Curtis. The book is entitled *Two Souls, Tandem Journeys: Our Adventures with Love, Deafness and Autism*.



Dr. Patricia Giménez Eguíbar and colleagues (2023). *Despertar palabras, renacer historias*. Salamanca: Ediciones Universidad de Salamanca & Hispanic Seminary of Medieval Studies.



NOTING SAYS LOVE LIKE ROADKILL IN THE FREEZER

WOU instructor shares fascination for forensic anthropology

Forensic Anthropology Instructor Jerielle Cartales has been doing great work in promoting Forensic Anthropology programs and courses. She led a 3-day PACK Welcome Connect event in July and a Welcome Week mini course in September. She was featured in a WOU Success Story video and was interviewed by the Polk County Itemizer-Observer (article image below).



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Jerielle Cartales excavates the skull of a raccoon during a practice archaeology activity with students. Cartales is a forensic anthropology instructor at Western Oregon University.

WELCOME NEW COLLEAGUES TO CLAS



ARA DUDDLESTEN, APA for Business

I am pleased to announce that Ara Duddleston has joined the Division of Business and Economics as our new APA. Ara will start with us on November 13th, and I am confident she will be an excellent addition to our team.

Ara brings a wealth of experience from her prior role as the Registrar Services Specialist. Her skills and knowledge of our systems and processes will be invaluable to our division as we strive to serve our students.

Please join me in welcoming Ara to the Business and Economics family. Ara's office will be located in West House 113.

We are thrilled to have Ara on board and look forward to her further contributions to our academic community.

submitted by Dr. Bojan Ilievski

AMY STEWARD, APA for OTD

I am pleased to introduce Amy Stewart, who has recently joined the Occupational Therapy program as our Administrative Program Assistant. Amy brings a wealth of experience from managing school offices at a local district, demonstrating a deep commitment to education. She is excited about the opportunities the new Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) program offers to WOU and is eager to collaborate with faculty and students. Beyond her professional endeavors, Amy enjoys spending quality time with her four children and seven grandchildren. We warmly welcome Amy to our team and look forward to the positive impact she will undoubtedly make in supporting our programs's mission.

Submitted by Dr. Sean Roush



Program Notes

Recent tidbits from some of our programs

Occupational Therapy

The WOU Occupational Therapy Doctorate program had an open house at their WOU:Salem location on Saturday November 4th, 2023. It was well attended and the program is enthused to welcome the first cohort of students in Fall 2024!

Computer Science

Dr. Becka Morgan and Dr. Tad Shannon from the Computer Science Division collaborated with Dr. Hillary Fouts and received an NSF EPIIC grant. The purpose of the grant is to establish a centralized structure to provide support and coordination for obtaining and maintaining industry partnerships that support faculty research/development and student experiential learning opportunities to strengthen regional workforce pipelines in emerging technology fields.

Art & Design

The Cannon Gallery of Art currently features the artwork of WOU's Art & Design department faculty and staff, across varied media including painting, printmaking, video, installation, sculpture, collage, and mixed media. The exhibition runs through December 8th 2023.

Gerontology

The WOU Gerontology Department hosted the 2023 AARP Oregon Age-Friendly Summit, a statewide gathering of leaders who are making their communities more livable for people of all ages, October 19th, 2023 on the WOU campus in Monmouth. The mayors of both Monmouth and Independence attended.

Math, Science, & FEM in STEM

FEM in STEM, a campus group focused on connection, mentoring, and support of all underrepresented genders in STEM fields on campus hosted a meet & greet on October 23rd as well as a WOU staff STEM careers panel November 16, 2023. FEM in STEM plus NSM faculty attended the Girl Scouts of Oregon & SW Washington STEM Day Nov 18th 2023. With more than 70 STEM experts and 1600+ people in attendance, it was a great day of science and math!



Sociology

Dr. Becky Phillips, faculty in Social Sciences, presented Socially Just Social Work: Stakeholder Voice and Participation in Research, Policy, and Practice at a division-hosted symposium for campus on November 15th, 2023. Topics covered included occupational stress, burnout, and associated turnover as severe issues within health and human service professions, particularly amongst child welfare (CW) workforces.

WORK BEYOND OREGON

CLAS FACULTY



UK & Paris

Dr. Ryan Topper, faculty in English Studies, traveled to the UK and Paris in summer 2023 to give a guest lecture for the Postcolonial Research Group at University of Leeds, and chair a panel on "Postcolonial Formalism" for the European Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies Conference at the Sorbonne Nouvelle.

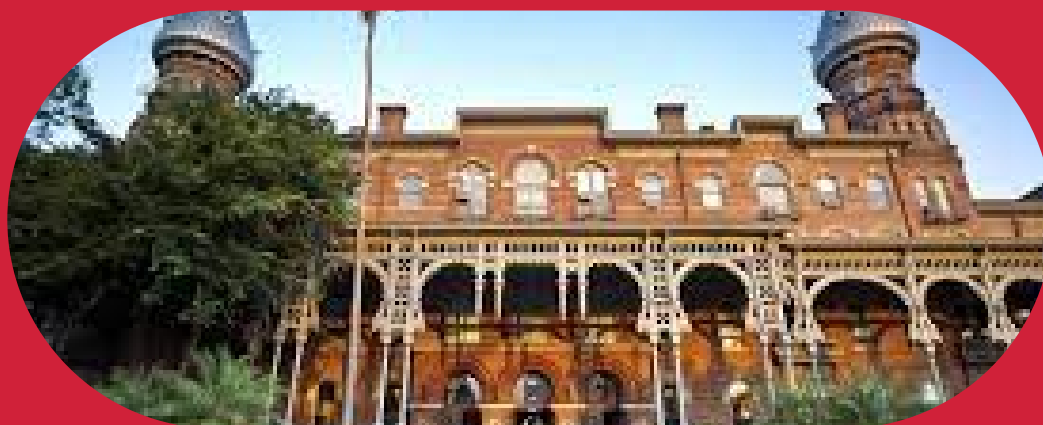
WORK BEYOND OREGON

CLAS Faculty



Stanford University

Dr. Jaime Marroquin, faculty in the Modern Languages department, was awarded the Stanford Humanities Center External Faculty Fellowship, with the opportunity to work on the Stanford California campus during the 2023 - 2024 academic year.



University of Tampa, Florida

Dr. Ricardo Pelégrin Taboada, faculty in History, accepted an invitation to the 2023 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute at the University of Tampa, Florida, to advance and share his work around Cuban communities.

COMMUNITY / INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARDS

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SCIENCES

The Criminal Justice Sciences Division held a very productive in-person Advisory Board meeting Sept. 29th, 2023 at WOU:Salem with folks from the Washington County Sheriff's Office, Oregon State Police, Oregon State Police Crime Laboratory, Salem Police, Oregon Youth Authority, Community Corrections, Oregon District Attorney's Association.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

The Computer Science Division hosted their Advisory Board meeting Nov. 15th, 2023 on campus in Monmouth, with leaders in computing, systems, information, and security from Phia Tech, Powell's Books, Dell EMC, Shiftwise, Fiserv, Kaiser Permanente, PH Tech, and Helion.