

A warm hearth

FORMER SINGAPORE STUDENTS
HONOR HOST FAMILY WITH
SCHOLARSHIP

Chuck and Jackie Swenson of Eugene didn't really know what they were getting into in the late 1970s when a neighbor who was moving away asked them to fulfill his commitment to be a "host family" to two University of Oregon students from Singapore.

They didn't know that they would serve as temporary parents to more than fifteen Singaporean students over ten years, that they and their two sons would develop lifelong friendships with some of the students and their families, and that they would travel to Singapore twice.

And they certainly didn't anticipate that almost thirty years later, one of those students would express his gratitude by establishing a UO scholarship in their names. Richard Seow, a 1983 UO economics graduate, spearheaded a successful drive to raise \$500,000 to fund the Charles A. and Jackie Swenson Endowed

Scholarship for students from Singapore and Hong Kong.

"I'm humbled, and my wife is, too," said Chuck Swenson, retired owner of

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"The fact that they would do this for us in our name—we just can't believe it."

Chuck Swenson



PHOTO BY MICHAEL MCDERMOTT

Chuck Swenson and his wife, Jackie, say they are humbled and grateful that former UO students they hosted from Singapore in the 1970s and '80s have established a scholarship in their name for future students from the region. Jackie, disabled by Parkinson's disease, now lives at Farmington Square assisted-living facility in northeast Eugene.



To see a slideshow of the new building, go to giving.uoregon.edu/coe.htm.

A new era for education

TOP-RANKED COLLEGE OF EDUCATION FINALLY HAS FACILITIES TO MATCH

"We have done it!" UO President Dave Frohnmyer exclaimed to some 400 alumni, donors, faculty members, and students attending the June 11 dedication of the College of Education's stunning new facilities.

"This new education complex is a splendid statement about our priorities," Frohnmyer said. "Nothing is more important than the education of our children."

The \$50.5 million project involved construction of the new HEDCO Education Building and renovation of the college's older buildings. Private donors funded 60 percent of the cost, helping to secure the Oregon legislature's authorization for most of the rest.

"Gone are the 'temporary' trailers that lasted

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Warm hearth Continued from page 1

Chuck and Jackie Swenson (far right and third from right) enjoyed a reunion with some of their international "children" in Singapore in the early 1980s. The alumni from Singapore are, left to right, Willy Teo, Penny Gan, Raymond Moses, Jimmy Tay, and Richard Seow.



Automotive Paint and Industrial Supply. "The fact that they would do this for us in our name—we just can't believe it."

Seow, now chairman of the health-care group Parkway Holdings in Singapore, says the Swensons made a huge difference in his experience as an international student far

from home. "They were always around when you needed them with a hot, home-cooked meal, care packages during finals, and most importantly, some old-fashioned, sensible advice whenever we had any problems," he remembers.

Steve Durrant, UO vice provost for international affairs, says the new scholarship will help boost the university's contingent of students from Singapore, which has declined in recent years. And that will lead to more rewarding experiences for local host families like the Swensons.

"What they gave us was much more than what we gave them," said Chuck of the students he and Jackie befriended. "They gave us an understanding of their culture and the knowledge that kids in Singapore are no different than ours—they all just need a little love when they're away from home."



Donors Lorry Lokey, left, and Dody Dornsife Jernstedt pull the ribbon to open the new HEDCO Education Building to touring visitors after the June 11 building dedication.

PHOTO BY JACK LIU

A new era for education Continued from page 1

forty years, the tennis courts, the dark offices, and the classrooms left over from the old University High School, which closed in the 1950s," said Michael Bullis, dean of the College of Education. "At long last, we have facilities fitting the excellence of our academic programs, research units, faculty, staff, and students."

Attendees at the celebration got some more good news when Frohnmayer announced "an exciting new partnership" with Microsoft to incorporate new technology into the college's programs. The new facilities already include the most advanced technology at the university for teaching and learning.

At four stories counting the basement parking structure, the HEDCO building increases the college's space within the complex by two-thirds and brings its five clinical training programs under one roof. The building is named for California's HEDCO Foundation, whose president, Dody Dornsife Jernstedt, is a 1969 UO graduate who holds bachelor's and master's degrees in communication disorders

and sciences. The foundation's \$10 million lead gift launched the fundraising drive for the building in 2004.

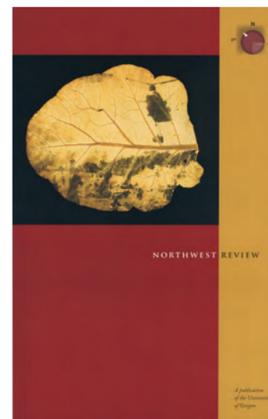
The new complex also includes the college's original historic brick quad, named for donor Lorry I. Lokey in appreciation of his \$12.5 million investment in the project; the Clinical Services Building; and the Education Annex, known informally as "the little red schoolhouse."

What began as a plan to expand and modernize facilities overwhelmed by a tripling of enrollment has resulted in the transformation of the entire 9.8-acre site. Gardens, courtyards, and walkways extend gathering opportunities into natural surroundings. The main "Walk of Fame" linking the new building with the three newly renovated buildings features pavers purchased by alumni and friends to honor their mentors.

Speakers at the event included George Pernsteiner, chancellor of the Oregon University System, and Susan Castillo, state superintendent of public instruction.

A new direction

REDESIGNED *NORTHWEST REVIEW* ROLLS OUT FIRST ISSUE



With a compass as its logo, *Northwest Review* embarks on a new era. Cover art by Vietnamese-American photographer Binh Danh, Spring 2009

One of your best summer reads could be the newly redesigned *Northwest Review*.

Pulitzer Prize-winning poets Yusef Komunyakaa (1994 for *Neon Vernacular*) and Charles Wright (1998 for *Black Zodiac*) join more than thirty prominent and emerging authors with new stories and poems in the first issue edited by a team of UO creative writing professors.

Poet Geri Doran, the general editor, says the UO's fifty-two-year-old literary journal gives voice to ideas that get drowned out in the mainstream's Twitter-culture.

"We will preserve this journal's tradition of publishing regional writers while further opening it to diverse voices from across the nation and around the world," she said. "*Northwest Review* is now a literary journal for all points on the compass, a journal of chance and transformation."

Doran and her coeditors, Ehud Havazelet (fiction) and Garrett Hongo (poetry), have the luxury of building on strong foundations laid by poet John Witte, a member of the English faculty, during his twenty-nine years as editor.

They aspire to raise *Northwest Review's* profile to that of top publications such as *The Kenyon Review*, *New England Review*, and *TriQuarterly*.

The presence of a flourishing literary journal signals the strength and vitality of a university's writing and literature programs. *Northwest Review* receives financial backing from the UO's Creative Writing Program, the Department of English, the Office of the President, and the College of Arts and Sciences. Additional support comes from subscriptions and private donors.

However, four years from now Doran hopes the journal will be financially independent, ideally with a fully funded endowment.

"We're already gaining momentum," she said. "We are reducing costs, increasing subscriptions, and raising our presence in the literary community."

A few copies of the current issue are available at \$8 each through nwr.uoregon.edu. To celebrate the journal's reinvention, through September the editors are offering UO alumni a special two-year subscription for \$35, a savings of \$5.



"This is our beginning. . . . If we are to be in the midst of the life of a region, we should be aware of that life, not only to reflect it, but to be critical of it, and to make comment upon it through all of the voices at our command."

From the Editor's Note (Robert Paul), inaugural issue, Spring 1957

A Ken Kesey exclusive
Twentieth anniversary issue, Spring 1977

"This is what's different: / my prayer there'll be a summer to survive, / that our deaths will not be the last."

From "Late Spring in the Nuclear Age," by Andrew Hudgins, Winter/Spring 1984

"*Northwest Review* remains as spry and sassy, as committed to originality, and as devoted to the upcoming young writer as ever."

From the Editor's Preface (John Witte), thirtieth anniversary issue, Fall 1987

Fiftieth anniversary issue, Fall 2007

"*Northwest Review* is now a literary journal for all points on the compass, a journal of chance and transformation."

Gerri Doran, General Editor

Myesha Abdulrahman was one of 416 lower-income students who entered the UO last fall thanks to PathwayOregon. This new program covers tuition and fees for twelve terms within five years. Selected students also receive housing. PathwayOregon also provides critical support to help students succeed.

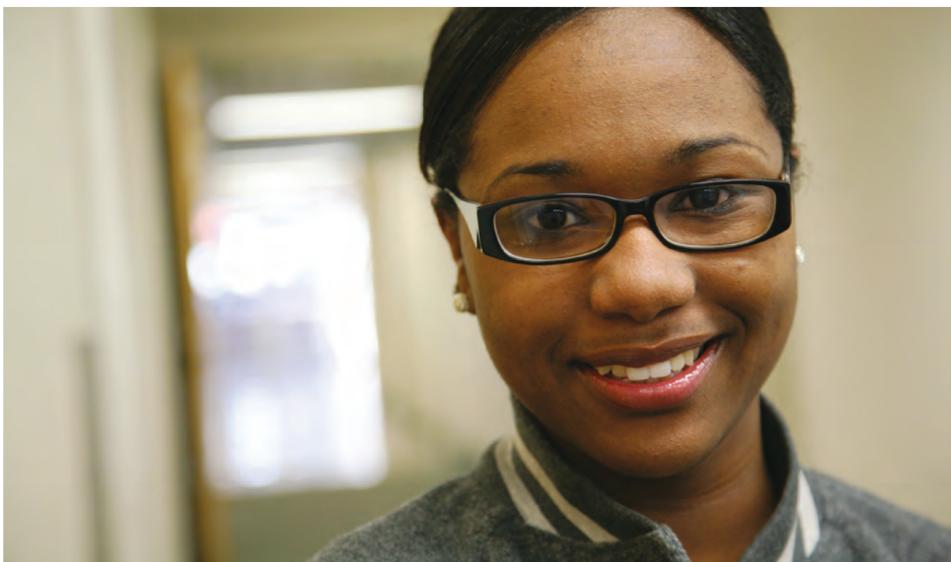


PHOTO BY MICHAEL MCNERMOTT

On the right course

PATHWAYOREGON MAKES COLLEGE A REALITY FOR LOWER-INCOME STUDENTS

“This is the opportunity of a lifetime. Education is the key to success and freedom.”

**Myesha Abdulrahman
PathwayOregon Scholar**

It was a day Myesha Abdulrahman will never forget. “My mom and I were in my counselor’s office at Jefferson High School,” the UO freshman recalls. Then he told her about the envelope, PathwayOregon, and how her dream of college had just become real.

“My mom cried. It was a lot of pressure off of her. We were both just really happy, because I could go to school now.”

Last fall, Abdulrahman and 415 other lower-income students became members of the inaugural class for PathwayOregon. The program covers the difference between other sources of financial aid and the total cost of tuition and fees for twelve terms within a five-year period. To qualify, students must be Oregonians eligible for the Federal Pell Grant.

PathwayOregon also provides comprehensive support to help make sure students have the tools for success in college and after they graduate. More than one-third are first-generation college students.

“This is an opportunity of a lifetime,” says Abdulrahman. “Education is the key to success and freedom.” Growing up in northeast Portland, Abdulrahman overcame obstacles that send many young people down a different path.

Her father moved out when she was a baby. There were days without enough food to go around. Days without power or water because the bills were overdue. And homeless stints, moving from house to house, staying with friends, family, or in shelters.

But college was a dream worth the work. “I knew that being involved was going to open the door to scholarships,” she says. In high school, Abdulrahman was a cheerleader, honor student, and junior class president. She was president of the National Honor Society and volunteered for an organization working on African American health issues.

“Mom made ends meet by herself with three kids,” says Abdulrahman. “She was a strong woman. Mom would say, ‘You have to do this so you don’t have to live the life that I’ve had to live.’”

PathwayOregon provides counseling and tutoring and requires students to check in regularly and meet benchmarks designed to help them earn a degree in twelve terms. “Money isn’t enough,” says PathwayOregon coordinator Carla Bowers. “PathwayOregon also provides them with the personal support that they need to actually be successful while they’re here.”

“My first term was so hard,” Abdulrahman says. “I felt out of place. I took too many credits.” Bowers helped her manage her course load. At the end of her freshman year, she’s well on her way to completing a degree.

Abdulrahman has declared a major in psychology, and this summer she’ll be getting professional experience while interning at Legacy Emmanuel Hospital and Health Center in Portland.

“I don’t want to go through the mental and financial hardships my family has experienced,” she says. “I want to be the one who makes a difference.”

—Ed Dorsch

Way to go, Mom!

Friends and supporters of Lynn Frohnmayer (left) attending the University of Oregon Pioneer Award dinner learned that her youngest daughter, Amy (right), is one of her biggest fans. Amy, who graduated from Stanford University this year, was one of the speakers at the event. A committee of UO alumni and friends who plan the annual award event selected Lynn for the 2009 award because of her lifelong dedication to improving the lives of children. About 300 people attended the May 1 event, held at the Nines Hotel in Portland.



PHOTO BY JACK LIU

Carla Blumberg, right, has made a bequest to the UO to honor her friend Sally Miller Gearhart, left, by establishing the Sally Miller Gearhart chair and lectureship in lesbian studies.



PHOTO BY JACK LIU

Honoring diversity and courage

DONOR ENDOWS CHAIR IN LESBIAN STUDIES

When Carla Blumberg and Sally Miller Gearhart first met in 1963, they shared a secret they couldn’t talk about.

Blumberg was a drama student and Gearhart her teacher at a small private religious school near San Antonio, Texas. They would later become lifelong friends but, at the time, neither knew the other was a lesbian.

“We never mentioned the one big thing we had in common because Texas closets were very deep and dangerous,” remembers Gearhart. “I was terrified, as was every lesbian I knew, of being accused of being what we really were.”

Gearhart came out of the closet in the 1970s. She was the first open lesbian to obtain a tenure-track faculty position when she was hired in 1973 by San Francisco State University, where she helped establish one of the first women and gender study programs in the country. She later became a nationally known gay-rights activist.

To increase knowledge about lesbian history and issues and to honor Gearhart for her courage and service, Blumberg has made a \$1.2 million bequest to the University of Oregon to establish the Sally Miller Gearhart Chair in Lesbian Studies. It will be one of the country’s first endowed chairs in the field. Blumberg, who owns a restaurant in Duluth, Minnesota, has also made a matching gift of up to \$25,000 for contributions to the Sally Miller Gearhart Lectureship in Lesbian Studies, which started this year.

“I wanted to honor Sally because she is one of the bravest women with the most integrity of anyone I have ever met,” says Blumberg. Also, she hopes the enhanced research and teaching in lesbian studies at the UO “will continue to shine light upon all the issues connected to human sexuality in general, and gay-lesbian-bisexual-transgender sexualities in particular.”

Neither Blumberg nor Gearhart is a UO alum. They chose the UO for the chair and lectureship partly because Gearhart had already donated her papers to UO Libraries Special Collections and because she knew some faculty members here.

Also, both were impressed with the national reputation of the UO Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, where the chair and lectureship will be housed.

“I was delighted” about Blumberg’s gifts, department head Ellen Scott told the *Oregon Daily Emerald*. “It’s not often that small programs find people saying ‘I’d like to establish an endowed chair here.’ Having that kind of focus on your program and that kind of appreciation . . . it’s an honor.

“It is important to acknowledge how unusual an endowment in lesbian studies is. This constitutes a radical act, even in 2009. Carla Blumberg should be congratulated for the statement she makes in creating this endowment.”

Gearhart, who now lives in northern California, is an author of science fiction and feminist utopian novels, including *Wanderground: Stories of Hill Women* (1978), which Blumberg describes as “a kind of Bible” for lesbians and feminists of the time. Gearhart fought alongside the late Harvey Milk, the nation’s first openly gay politician, to defeat the Briggs Initiative, a 1978 California ballot measure that would have banned gays from working in public schools. She appeared in the 1984 Academy Award-winning documentary *The Times of Harvey Milk*.

Blumberg and Gearhart hope the UO chair and lectureship will not only preserve the history of lesbians’ struggle for civil rights but also help ensure that people of all sexual orientations can be who they are without fear of losing their jobs, families, and personal safety.

“The closet was an awful place to be,” says Gearhart. “I want to do anything I can to help free all people from such limitations.”

What a ride



THE MAN WHO BRINGS WELLS FARGO'S ICONIC BRAND TO LIFE FUNDS AN ENDOWMENT FOR ECONOMICS

Not many people get to live out their childhood fantasies, but Doug Murphey '64 hit the jackpot when he switched from suit-and-tie-banker to Wells Fargo stagecoach driver in 1972.

The company's red Concord coaches became the nation's first rapid transit in 1852 when Wells Fargo and Company established an express operation between New York and California's gold country. Today the Wells Fargo stagecoach is one of the most enduring corporate symbols.

Murphey supervises stagecoaches, teams of horses, and drivers for everything from commercial shoots to special events, including major parades. It's safe to say the job is unique, and Murphey says he owes his success to his University of Oregon liberal arts degree.

Growing up on horseback in ranching country near Santa Rosa, California, Murphey dreamed of going to a beautiful campus with ivy-covered buildings. "When I saw photos of the UO, they matched the picture in my mind," he said.

Murphey lived in the old Vet's Dorm, joined Sigma Chi, and chose economics as his major. Degree in hand, he headed back home and reported for management training at a then small local bank called Wells Fargo.

He started out in credit card sales and eventually headed the team that handled merger applications when the company acquired several independent banks.

As the company expanded to cover southern California, Murphey became involved in

marketing. His new job included sending stagecoaches to special events. When the hired driver didn't work out, Murphey found himself literally holding the reins in a local parade. He was hooked. He bought four quarter horses and the requisite tack, and never looked back.

Murphey worked as a banker on weekdays and stagecoach driver on weekends for two years. When he became assistant vice president in 1974, he continued to manage the rapidly growing stagecoach appearance program. Four years later he gave up the banking part of his job to concentrate on stagecoaches full time.

Since retiring in 1997 after thirty-three years with Wells Fargo, Murphey has continued as a consultant. He even helped build a stagecoach. "It was a labor of love," he said. "I liked learning what it took to keep the same shape and functionality while making improvements to meet the demands of the twenty-first century."

Murphey anticipates that this year's merger with Wachovia will make him and his twenty-one drivers busier than ever as the Wells Fargo brand spreads to more than 3,500 additional locations—most in the eastern U.S.

Now Murphey is planning for the future success of UO grads by creating an endowment through his will to support a professorship and student scholarships in economics.

"My UO education eventually translated into what I'm doing now," he said. "I hope my contribution will help others be able to say the same."

Elaine Little coaches fellow graduate student Sujitra Boonyong of Thailand through an experiment aimed at revealing why some people are plagued with unexplained falls as they age. A 1937 graduate's bequest helped Little present her findings in Italy.



PHOTO BY JOHN BAUGLLESS

When a little means everything

\$450 GRANT HELPS STUDENT SHARE FINDINGS ON FALL PREVENTION WITH THE WORLD

What is going on in the brains of older people who suddenly fall down—hard—for no apparent reason?

UO doctoral student Elaine Little is making inroads on answering that question. Her early findings have turned the heads of leading researchers in fall prevention.

Little looks at how brain waves change as people attempt to keep their balance while concentrating on a visual task. The idea hit her when she took a UO psychology course as part of her doctoral program in human physiology.

"My psychology professor used a visual task

to predict our working memory capacity," she said. "I thought, why not use that to sort out the cognitive functions involved in controlling posture?"

Her early findings indicate that if we perform mental gymnastics while we're in motion, some of our brain's resources get rerouted to help maintain posture.

"We hope this will help to uncover exactly what is changing in people who experience unexplained falls as they grow older," Little said. "I love this project. It's certainly broadened my perspective on how the brain works."

However, if not for a gift, the former physical therapist from Canada could not have presented her findings in person this June at the meeting of the International Society for Posture and Gait Research in Bologna, Italy.

As with many of today's students, Little and her family have made sacrifices so she could pursue her doctorate. She gave up her job as a physical therapist. Her husband continues to work in Calgary, Alberta, to make ends meet. Spending \$450 toward the conference registration fee wasn't in the cards.

That's when a bequest from the late Ursula "Sue" Moshberger came to the rescue. The 1937 alumna earned her bachelor's degree in physical education. When she drew up her will, her gift to the UO took the form of a living trust to help support her siblings. After their lifetimes, the trust passed into the endowment that helped send Little to Italy.

"I am very thankful for this gift," Little said. "It made all the difference."

Moshberger grants have helped send nineteen promising UO students, including undergraduates, to key professional meetings since the endowment was activated in 2007.

UO human physiology professor Marjorie Woollacott says this type of support greatly benefits students—and, ultimately, society.

"My students often form new collaborations with other scientists that blossom into exciting research projects across disciplines and across national boundaries," she said. "Gifts like the Moshberger bequest are very important."

—Melody Ward Leslie

UO Foundation hires new CEO

The University of Oregon Foundation has hired Eugene insurance executive Paul Weinhold as its new president and CEO.

Weinhold, a 1986 UO political science graduate, started his new position July 1. He comes to the Foundation from Wells Fargo Insurance Services, where he has been managing director since fall 2006. Before that, he served in various capacities at Willis of Oregon Inc. starting in 1986 and culminating in his appointment as president and CEO in 2000.

Weinhold was a member of the UO golf team and was named an honorable mention All-American in collegiate golf in 1983. The university honored him with its Leo Harris Award in 2007. The award is given to an alumnus letterman who

has been out of college at least twenty years and has demonstrated continued service and leadership to the university.

Weinhold has been active with numerous nonprofit boards in Eugene over the years. These include the PeaceHealth Foundation, Kidsports Foundation, Oregon Trail Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Urology Research and Education Foundation, and the Children's Miracle Network. He is married and has three children.

"I am honored to be joining the University of Oregon Foundation and look forward to being a part of supporting the outstanding work and mission of the University of Oregon," Weinhold said.



UO donor Doug Murphey of Murrieta, California, started driving a Wells Fargo stagecoach on weekends early in his career, above. Today, above right, he continues to manage the company's stagecoach promotional events.

KNIGHTS, LOKEY AWARDED 2009 PRESIDENTIAL MEDALS

Top University of Oregon benefactors and innovative business founders Lorry Lokey and Phil and Penny Knight were honored with the University of Oregon's highest award—the Presidential Medal—during Commencement in June.

In 2007 the Knights made the largest gift in UO history—a \$100 million pledge to help make it possible for the athletic department to remain financially self-sufficient and move forward with a new 12,500-seat basketball arena. The arena and a student scholarship are named after their late son Matthew.

The Knights have made many other gifts benefitting both athletics and academics at the UO. Their generosity has supported more than thirty endowed faculty positions; renovation and expansion of Knight Library, the James F. Miller Theatre Complex, and Autzen Stadium;

and construction of the William W. Knight Law Center and the Ed Moshofsky Sports Center.

Phil Knight '59 was cofounder with legendary UO track coach Bill Bowerman of Nike, the world's largest sports and fitness company.

Lorry Lokey founded Business Wire, the San Francisco-based business news service that is now one of the largest in the world. Lokey grew up in Portland and graduated from Stanford University.

A major international benefactor of education and science, Lokey is the UO's largest academic donor, contributing more than \$132 million since 2005. His gifts have helped fund science research and teaching, new buildings for the sciences, renovation and expansion projects for the College of Education and the School of Music and Dance, and the School of Journalism and Communication's new Portland program.



University of Oregon Foundation President and CEO Paul Weinhold



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OREGON OUTLOOK



Editor
Ann Baker Mack
Director
Development Communications
(541) 346-2127
abmack@uoregon.edu

Writers
Ed Dorsch
Senior Associate Director
Development Communications

Melody Ward Leslie
Associate Director—Writer
Development Communications

Designer
Colin Miller
Design and Editing Services

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Lorry's Science Exchange

Philanthropist Lorry Lokey (seated at left) brought together scientists from two of his favorite universities—the University of Oregon and Technion-Israel Institute of Technology—during a campus visit in early March. Lokey has made major contributions to science research and teaching at both institutions. Technion visitors talking with Lokey and UO scientists are Aaron Ciechanover, 2004 Nobel Prize-winner in chemistry, center, and Technion president Yitzhak Apeloig, to Ciechanover's right. During the visit, officials of the two institutions signed an agreement for student and faculty exchanges.



PHOTO BY JACK LIU