UO’s *PathwayOregon* scholarship program gives students access to college and the support they need to succeed.

**AYASHA THURMAN**
North Bend, Oregon
Senior, Journalism: Advertising
As a shy high school freshman, Julia Reihs, BA ‘15, fell in love with storytelling. Journalism class interviews were her way to get to know people. So she started volunteering for the school paper, then the local public access channel.

After all, why should youth and zero experience keep you from lighting, shooting, editing, and producing your own TV shows?

At the UO’s School of Journalism and Communication, she took her skills to new heights, and used them in totally new ways. Her ways.

Telling stories about climate change in Alaska, school children in Oaxaca, and whales migrating off the coast of Uruguay, to name a few. She pushed the boundaries even further as multimedia editor of Flux magazine, betting that the future of storytelling—her bliss—lies somewhere beyond the beaten path.

That bet paid off. She landed a gig at SideXSide Studios, a Washington, DC, firm that does video storytelling for clients like the New York Times and Apple. Not bad for a shy kid from Oregon.

**Why Settle for Less?**

If it weren’t for a presidential scholarship, this valedictorian, award-winning filmmaker, and editor of the Bruin Banner wouldn’t have become a Duck. At least not right away. Donor-funded scholarships make it possible for exceptional Oregonians like Julia to get the full UO experience instead of starting at a community college.

And, thanks to a prestigious Snowden Internship, Reihs also gained practical experience in newspaper multimedia right after graduation. Of course, Julia did all the hard work. But we’d like to think that—thanks to donors—we started her off on the right foot.

—Ed Dorsch, BA ’94, MA ’99

Go to giving.uoregon.edu/excellence to discover more UO students and faculty members driven by curiosity.
**PHILANTHROPY FILES**
News about donors, gift announcements, and stories about the difference donors make.

**ALL SYSTEMS GO**
The UO is a world leader in systems biology—research that looks beyond individual cells and neurons to explore complex networks and find out what makes us healthy or sick.

**COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS**
In their lab tucked inside Pacific Hall, UO researchers Chris Holzapfel and Bill Bradshaw study mosquitoes and give undergraduates a taste of real research. Their endowed gift will support a rotating professorship for several different disciplines.

**PATH TO SUCCESS**
PathwayOregon welcomed more than 700 freshmen this fall—it’s largest cohort ever. Increasing state support and private gifts—including a $25 million endowment funded by Connie ’84 and Steve Ballmer—have helped us give more deserving students a shot at a college degree.

**SISTERS FOREVER**
In the fall of 1968, Claudia Lacey McNeill, BA ’72, and Gretchen Anderson Pilip, BS ’73, started a friendship at the UO that would last nearly 50 years. After McNeil was diagnosed with ALS, Pilip endowed a scholarship fund named in her honor.

**TEN WAYS TO GIVE**
Highlighting opportunities for donors to help the UO and transform lives.

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**Fundraising Factoid**
At a 2002 groundbreaking ceremony, members of the UO community signed two yellow steel beams for the Lillis Business Complex—a sort of time capsule for what was then the largest privately-funded academic building in UO history. Donors contributed more than $36 million for the project, and the building was open for business in 2003.
Your Gifts Make the Difference

As a loyal and generous supporter of the University of Oregon, you deserve to know how your gift will make a difference in the lives of students and amplify the UO’s impact on our community, state, and world.

This edition of Inside Oregon features stories of how your generosity makes amazing things happen. You will learn about the potential of breakthrough research in the field of biological networks; the inspiring dedication to teaching of Chris Holzapfel and Bill Bradshaw; the growth in student success thanks to PathwayOregon; and the moving story of sorority sisters Claudia Lacey McNeil, BA ’72, and Gretchen Anderson Pilip, BS ’73, who share a lifelong connection that arose from a shared experience on campus.

My vision is for the UO to take its place among the preeminent public research universities. We will reach this goal by investing in the fundamentals of excellence: expanding our research and academic enterprise; improving student access and success; and enhancing the campus experience.

To fund our aspirations, we must seek more state resources and turn to philanthropy. With our $2 billion fundraising campaign at its midpoint, we will ask our loyal supporters (and those who do not yet financially support us) to dig deeper, to help us expand our impact and become outstanding.

At the same time, I will ensure that we fulfill our obligation to spend every dollar wisely. This, too, is a prerequisite for excellence.

I take seriously the responsibility of carrying our school’s legacy forward—and improving upon it. I am grateful for your support, as we invest together in the future of our students, state, and world.

Go Ducks!

Warmly,

Michael H. Schill
President and Professor of Law

“I am grateful for your support, as we invest together in the future of our students, state, and world.”

—Michael Schill
Members of the UO’s President’s Society and Arnold Bennett Hall Legacy Society gathered on December 5 for a festive holiday evening with President Schill and the University of Oregon Choirs. The gathering was part of Inside Oregon: Live, Learn, Play—a series of events that give donors opportunities to learn more about what’s happening on campus and hear from UO leadership, faculty, and students.
THE BARD’S BOOK

The exhibition *First Folio! The Book That Gave Us Shakespeare*, on tour from the Folger Shakespeare Library, stopped at the *Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art* (JSMA) this winter. The exhibition marked the 400th anniversary of the bard’s death and featured the only source of 18 of Shakespeare’s 39 plays, as well as additional programs. Having a museum of the caliber of JSMA—renovated in 2005 thanks to donors—helped make it possible for the UO to bring the exhibit to campus, and private gifts helped fund the events and programming.

CROWDFUNDING SETS SAIL

*Duckfunder*, an online fundraising effort similar to the popular Kickstarter site, raised $35,000 to support Summer Academy to Inspire Learning (SAIL)—an academic enrichment camp for students in grades 8–12 who qualify for free or reduced price school lunches. UO faculty members volunteer to lead classes, which are specifically designed to inspire a love of learning and encourage students to pursue a college education. Following this successful pilot, Duckfunder is now poised to help several academic programs in the College of Arts and Sciences gain financial support. Want to help? Visit https://duckfunder.uoregon.edu.

DRIVING CHANGE

A generous gift from *Aisha Almana, BS ’70*, will soon provide UO scholarships for Saudi women studying global health and support internships in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for UO students. Almana, CEO of a major hospital group in the kingdom’s Eastern Province, is perhaps best known for leading the historic 1990 protest against her country’s ban on women driving. She is considered the “Mother of Saudi Feminism.” In 2014, *Forbes Middle East* named her among the 10 most influential Arab women leading family-owned businesses.
FLYING HIGH

Brian and Anita Brown have made a leadership gift of $25,000 to Women in Flight, a program that offers financial support to female student athletes. “We felt there was a very clear need on the part of this new program, and it made a lot of sense to us to contribute to a program whereby young ladies could better focus on their athletic prowess and academic progress with our support,” says Brian Brown. The program helps students competing in 11 sports to meet their academic and athletic goals.

ALL HAIL HAYWARD

Historic Hayward Field will receive a major renovation this summer, with expanded seating for major meets planned for the track-and-field mecca. Out of sight but top of mind for university officials will be greatly expanded facilities for the human physiology department, which will be built under the grandstand. The project will be complete in time for the 2017 NCAA Championships. The legendary venue will host its largest event yet, the International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) World Championship in track and field, in 2021.

A NEW VOICE FOR KWAX

Peter Van de Graaff, a nationally known radio host, has joined KWAX, the UO’s donor-supported classical music station, as music director and host of its morning program. Best known as a host for the Beethoven Network, the Chicago native will continue in that role. Van de Graaff also performs as a bass-baritone, appearing with opera companies and orchestras worldwide. He was recently awarded the Karl Haas Prize for Music Education. “We are so excited for this opportunity,” says Van de Graaff. “My national show has aired on KWAX for many years, and I’ve been very impressed by the station and its listeners. This is an audience that really appreciates classical music and is interested in learning more. That is a big part of what attracted me to the job.”
BIOLOGY SYSTEMS CLUSTER HIRE

In the UO’s underground Larry I. Lokey Laboratories, Associate Professor Bill Cresko explains how instruments like the Illumina HiSeq 2500 DNA sequencer generate massive amounts of data that could help scientists prevent or cure disease.

ALL SYSTEMS

With donor support, a new faculty cluster hire will boost UO research in systems biology—an area where we’re already a global leader.
Even as a kid growing up in Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania, geneticist Bill Cresko seemed destined to become a Duck. He was an avid runner, and track is big in the small hometown of legendary hurdler Walter Tewksbury, who won five medals at the 1900 Summer Olympics.

“I had this picture of Steve Prefontaine on my wall and these pictures of Eugene, even though I’d never been west of Pennsylvania,” he says. “I just had this place in my mind as this mythical town.”

Cresko continued running at the University of Pennsylvania (Tewksbury’s alma mater) where he discovered another lifelong passion—biology.

“I started off in physics,” he recalls. “In high school, I was very interested in mathematics and science. But I also had a real love of being outside. I started taking some biology courses, and I was lucky enough to end up finding the field of genetics.”

“For Cresko, genetics was a captivating symbiosis of mathematics and biology.

“I found it really beautiful,” he says. “I’m fascinated by how the diversity of life evolves.”

His passion for genetics, running, and collaborative research eventually (perhaps inevitably) led him to the UO, where he’s still a regular with the noon runners club on campus—when he’s not busy serving as an associate professor of biology, associate vice president for research and innovation, and a member of the UO’s Institute of Ecology and Evolution.

As if all that weren’t enough, Cresko is also promoting an initiative to hire five new faculty members. With donor funding, this cluster hire will accelerate research in systems biology—an area where the UO is already a global leader.

“Systems biology is an approach to understanding organisms (including ourselves) that focuses not merely on individual cells or neurons, but on how they interact together,” says Cresko. To understand these interactions, scientists from different disciplines use powerful computers to analyze colossal amounts of data. They look at dynamic systems—complex networks of neurons, genes, and microbes—to discover how they work together in different environmental conditions. Mathematical analysis is a key part of systems biology, perhaps even more than genetics.

“When it comes to this approach, Oregon is in the same league as the University of Washington, Harvard, and Stanford,” Cresko says.

In 2012, our reputation—and our research—got a big boost when the largest funder of science in the world, the National Institutes of Health, awarded the UO a $10.3 million grant to launch a systems biology research and education center focused on organisms and their microbial companions. Competitors for the grant included institutions such as Duke, Princeton, and the University of Chicago.
Revolutions
Start Here

UO researchers helped spark the central scientific revolution of the last half of the 20th century: Understanding the molecular basis of inheritance and its central role in development, neurobiology, evolution, and ecology.

- The UO established the world’s first institute of molecular biology, bringing scientists from chemistry, biology, and physics together in a common space to work in a new field.
- The zebrafish was developed as a model research organism at the UO.
- George Streisinger, UO professor emeritus and the founding father of zebrafish research, was the first person to clone a vertebrate.
- UO researchers performed the first-ever large-scale production of genetically uniform clones of a vertebrate organism.
- The UO is a world leader in systems biology.

“Years ago, the gear to do this would take up the entire floor of a building. Now they’re the size of a soda machine.”

What makes the UO so attractive to pioneers in this emerging field? Flexible curiosity, says Cresko. Donor-funded facilities and instruments that support this work. A culture that encourages risk-taking. And, above all, collaboration.

“We have to be nimble. That’s one of the benefits of being in such a collaborative environment. We support one another. When we decide to pivot, we can beat the bigger universities to the punch on the next big idea.

“Every place says they do collaborative research. And places do it to varying degrees. I think if you asked most of my colleagues why they stay here, they’d say it’s because we do it very well.”

Scientists have only recently discovered how biological systems can go beyond what you’d normally think of as “you,” says Cresko. In fact, for every human cell in your body, there are generally 10 more bacterial cells.

“So you have these microbes in and on your body, and if you have the wrong combination, you get sick. But the right combination keeps us healthy. More than a decade ago, we didn’t even know about their existence.”

When James Watson and Francis Crick completed the first model of a DNA double helix in 1953, they claimed they’d discovered the “secret to life.” After more than 60 years—and mind-boggling technical advances—scientists have generated mountains of data. But they haven’t fully tapped the potential of this data to prevent and cure disease.

“The focus of the 20th century was ‘Let’s take it apart and see what’s there,’” says Cresko. “Think of it like a radio. We’ve been taking it apart and creating our parts list. That’s been the approach of biologists so far.

DNA Sequencing Technology > Moore’s Law
The cost of DNA sequencing is decreasing at a rate that exceeds Moore’s Law (a tenet that reflects improvements in the processing power of computers over time).

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Moore’s Law

SOURCE: NATIONAL HUMAN GENOME RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Take Your Probiotics

For every human cell in your body, there are generally 10 more bacterial cells. The balance of this microscopic network can mean the difference between sickness and health.

“The defining feature of biology in the 21st century is putting the proverbial radio back together to see how it functions. Today we want to ask, ‘What does this part do?’—but, even more than that, ‘How do these parts work together to actually make the sound that comes out of the radio?’”

For instance, how do neurons work together so that consciousness emerges from those interactions? How do the genes function together to make a healthy skin cell? Why do these genetic interactions sometimes go wrong and create a melanoma instead?

In the UO’s underground Lorry I. Lokey Laboratories, Cresko demonstrates the Illumina Hiseq 2500, a $1 million DNA sequencer that looks like a dorm fridge converted into a desktop PC. He lifts the hood to reveal pipettes extracting fluid from vials holding DNA samples.

“Years ago, the gear to do this would take up the entire floor of a building,” says Cresko. “Now they’re the size of a soda machine.”

This machine takes about a week to sequence a human genome—providing as much data as the Human Genome Project produced in 15 years. And (like your laptop) there’s always a newer, faster model.

UO researchers are making important discoveries with all this data. But they could do even more with some help. By hiring faculty members in strategic areas, Cresko and his colleagues hope to attract scientists who would serve as catalysts, building bridges to unite research efforts in new ways. They would also help us make the most of all the big data—and the talent that’s already here.

“The people who’d come in would be some of the best computer scientists and mathematicians in the world,” says Cresko. “That would allow us to more efficiently utilize these data in ways that we can’t do now, and build upon UO’s deep strength in the biological sciences.

“We have a center of excellence that’s the envy of our peers. The possibility of doing something like this cluster is a big reason I stay here. I don’t think that I could accomplish—or we as a group could accomplish—things like that anywhere else.”

“This is what fascinates me about the world. I became a biologist because I love figuring out why things exist the way they are. I really want to take those parts of the radio and put them back together. But to do that, we need these new faculty members to join us and make us even stronger. This wouldn’t just be additive; it would be a multiplier in so many different ways.”

—Ed Dorsch, BA ’94, MA ’99

Boyles Boost Systems Biology

A recent $10 million commitment from Tim Boyle ’71 and his wife, Mary, will help advance the research of Bill Cresko and other UO scientists. Their investment will accelerate systems biology research and increase the potential of this proposed cluster hire.

“Because of the very generous support of genomics capabilities, building a biological imaging core, and sustaining the zebrafish facility, the Boyle gift will be transformative for my lab’s research because we use all of these resources intensely,” said Cresko. “The same goes for numerous other laboratories at the UO.

“In addition, all of these are key research cores for people doing work in the area of systems biology, and will form a rock solid foundation for the biological networks cluster. The gift will allow the UO to take a huge leap forward in generating big biological data that can support studies of biological networks. Our next challenge will be to continue to enhance our high performance computing capabilities to be able to handle all of these data.”
In a large, computer-driven room on the UO campus, genetics researchers Bill Bradshaw and Chris Holzapfel can replicate the temperature, humidity, and day-night cycle of any place on the planet. “This is New Jersey in the summer,” Holzapfel says, walking into the humid, windowless room.

Tucked inside Pacific Hall at the Bradshaw-Holzapfel laboratory are three more controlled-environment rooms, each programmed to simulate a natural environment—from the tropics to the polar regions—and to give UO researchers an opportunity to understand how genetics actually works in the real world.

This is where researchers at the UO’s Institute of Ecology and Evolution raise mosquitoes and tend to the fascinating plants that house them. For more than 30 years, educators, researchers, colleagues, and life partners—Bradshaw and Holzapfel—have used advanced genetic and genomic tools to study a single organism known as Wyeomyia smithii. This small, black mosquito develops within the water-filled leaves of the predatory carnivorous purple pitcher plant, Sarracenia purpurea, which thrives in wet bogs and swamps in the eastern part of the US and in Canada.

With the mosquito at the epicenter of their research, scholars at the Bradshaw-Holzapfel lab have made a number of landmark discoveries, including isolating the genes that control biting in mosquitoes. This discovery is an essential step in the eradication of all blood-borne diseases carried by mosquitoes, including malaria, dengue, yellow fever, and West Nile virus. Theirs was the first lab to make the groundbreaking discovery that recent rapid climate change has penetrated to the level of the gene. And they have also recently determined the genetic connections between the seasonal timer that orchestrates how the world looks around us and the daily circadian clock that integrates metabolism and behavior in all organisms.

Passionate about their research, devoted to helping future students achieve their life goals, and committed to building what they’ve called “a community of scholars” at the University of Oregon, Holzapfel and Bradshaw are giving back to the institution that has supported the greater part of their life’s work, research they began decades ago while they were postdoctoral fellows at Harvard University.
In their larval stage, these mosquitoes live submerged in the aqueous reservoirs of their host, the carnivorous, prey-trapping purple pitcher plant, found in wet areas in North American bogs, seeps, or wet pine savannahs.

The larvae feed on bacteria, rotifers, protozoans, and pieces of deteriorating insects caught by the pitcher plant’s leaves.

Only adult female mosquitoes of any species take a blood meal (bite). These mosquitoes bite in southern North America, but never bite in the North.

It takes about six weeks to complete their life cycle, which allows them to evolve rapidly and to keep pace with changing environmental conditions.

Airborne adults may travel, but generally remain near the plants where they emerged.

They use the length of daylight, or photoperiodism, to determine the optimal time to enter hibernation.

In direct response to climate change, animals are developing earlier and hibernating later in the year.

Their gift will create the Bradshaw and Holzapfel Research Professorship in Transformational Science and Mathematics. This endowed professorship will rotate across the biology, chemistry and biochemistry, physics, mathematics, and computer and information science departments.

“Each department gets to nominate one person and the department heads vote on it,” Bradshaw says. “Each department has a vested interest in who gets that award, which means they will read those applications very carefully. This is something for which departments will compete.”
During their tenure at UO, Holzapfel and Bradshaw have helped train more than 500 students in their lab through a multitiered mentoring program in which postdocs and graduate students join them, working with undergraduates one-on-one. The lab’s goal is to involve students in original independent research that results in at least part of a paper in a refereed journal. The thrill of discovery is amazing, but research, students quickly learn, isn’t all glitz, glamour, accolades, and breakthroughs—or even getting to wear a cool lab coat and goggles. UO senior Loren Goemaat came to the lab as a freshman.

“In one of my first days in the lab, Bill Bradshaw said to me, ‘Either you’re going to find that you love research or you hate research, but either way you’re going to find out.’”

Indeed, at any given time, students work with the pitcher plants, assist in the care and feeding of some 200,000 mosquito juveniles from as many as 25 geographically distinct localities, all while pursuing their own independent projects. This unique mosquito, which spends its larval stage submerged in the aqueous reservoirs of the plant, feeds on bacteria, rotifers, protozoans, and pieces of deteriorating insects caught by the pitcher plant’s leaves.

“In our lab, before students can run experiments, they must first know how to grow mosquitoes from tiny wrigglers through the adult stage, to prepare food, to handle carnivorous plants in which the preadult stages live, and how to recognize aberrant behaviors,” Holzapfel says. “It’s like taking care of thousands of pets!”

“And not only that, but you have to grow the pet food!” adds Bradshaw.

Goematt’s favorite part about working in the lab has been the hands-on experience. “It isn’t just sitting at a computer—it’s working with the animals and getting experience in experimental design, data analysis, and the presentation of formal talks. Having that lab experience is important for any undergrad considering research because you have to know what research is like before committing to it.”

What is a Carnivorous Purple Pitcher Plant?

• *Sarracenia purpurea* obtains most of its nutrients, including nitrogen and phosphorus, through insects that become trapped inside its leaves.

• The leaves secrete sweet-smelling nectar that attracts insects.

• The hood of the pitcher-like leaf is lined with downward-pointing hairs that trap unwary insects, which drown in the rainwater that collects in the base of each leaf.

• The larvae of the mosquito, a midge, and a meat-eating fly complete their life cycles in the pitchers of the plant, in spite of the fact that the plants are themselves carnivorous.

• The plant is found in eastern North America from the Gulf Coast of Florida to Newfoundland, and across Canada to British Columbia.
To ensure the continued excellence of the University of Oregon as a flagship research and teaching institution, fellow faculty members may choose to explore creative ways to pool their resources to create tax-deductible endowments at the departmental level.

“If each department on campus endowed a single award, be it a graduate fellowship in that department’s name or perhaps an undergraduate scholarship, all willing members adding a modest sum, could create immense opportunity on campus,” Holzapfel says. “If several departments joined together, they could endow a rotating award,” adds Bradshaw.

—Sharleen Nelson, BS ’06

For more information about setting up an endowment, contact David Welch, executive director of development (College of Arts and Sciences), 541-346-3951 or dtwelch@uoregon.edu.
Leading the Way

Now in its eighth year, PathwayOregon welcomed more than 700 freshmen this fall—about a third more than last year, and its largest cohort ever. More than just a scholarship, PathwayOregon is a promise—a commitment of financial and academic support, and a chance for a brighter future.

It’s also one of the most effective tools we have to achieve two of President Schill’s key goals—increasing access for lower-income Oregonians and four-year graduation rates. From the 415 students who started when Pathway began in 2008, the program has grown to serve more than 2,000 currently. About 60 percent of PathwayOregon students are first-generation collegegoers.

A combination of efforts has enabled this growth. Through the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships, the university has dedicated millions of dollars to support the program. Pathway has also benefitted from increased funding from the Oregon state government this year, and the program helps the UO leverage Federal Pell Grant funding, combining these resources to make the most of each.

Private gifts—including a $25 million endowment funded by Connie, BS ’84, and Steve Ballmer last November—have also helped increase the number of students served. The largest contribution for scholarships in UO history, the Ballmers’ gift enabled us to welcome an additional 200 PathwayOregon students to campus this fall.

As enrollment continues to grow, PathwayOregon is also earning top marks for retention and graduation rates. The university hopes to maintain this upward trajectory, improving the odds for larger numbers of lower-income Oregonians. We’re counting on donors to help us continue this momentum.

“\[quote\]
It just melted away so many worries.\['quote\]

EMI PURICE
Portland, Oregon
Junior, marketing and advertising

Thanks to donors, PathwayOregon puts dreams within reach for more Oregonians than ever
It Simply Works

PathwayOregon students are defying the odds—and national statistics. In September 2015, the Education Trust, a nonprofit advocacy organization, released its report on six-year graduation rates from more than 1,000 colleges and universities, following a 2007 cohort.

They found a 14-point gap in six-year graduation rates between Pell and non-Pell students nationally. In other words, the percent of lower-income college students graduating in six years was 14 percentage points lower than their higher-income counterparts who don’t qualify for the Pell grant. At the UO, the gap was 13 percent.

But PathwayOregon is helping the UO beat those odds. For freshmen starting just a year later in 2008 (when the program launched) the graduation rate gap between PathwayOregon residents and all non-Pell resident students shrank to less than 2 percent.

Why is PathwayOregon so effective? It’s simple (but by no means easy). We give students the tools they need to succeed. This support helps them navigate college life, stay on the degree track, and overcome barriers to success.

Unlike typical scholarships with a set dollar amount, PathwayOregon funding varies according to each student’s needs after other scholarships are taken into account. This flexible model benefits the university, because we can leverage external sources of funding. As long as they stay on target to earn a degree, PathwayOregon students are guaranteed that tuition and fees will be covered for four years.

MAKING COLLEGE AFFORDABLE FOR MORE OREGONIANS

Rural students. Students of color. Students who are the first in their families to attend college. Oregon students who will thrive at a top-tier research university with an innovative program of financial, academic, and social support: PathwayOregon students.
Call to Action
Excerpts from President Schill’s November 10, 2015, speech to the campus community

Today we are here to celebrate the accomplishments of PathwayOregon. We are here to celebrate—but also to say that it is not enough. Too many students are still left on the education sidelines. We must do much more to open our doors to more students from every walk of life, keep those doors open, and create paths to on-time graduation and successful careers.

For the past few months, I’ve been all across this campus, state, and nation—meeting with our faculty, students, alumni, and friends—talking about my three objectives for this university. They are fundamental to our mission as Oregon’s preeminent research university and our aspirations to become one of the nation’s greatest public research universities.

• We must ensure student access and affordability.
• We must build our academic programs through aggressive faculty hiring and investments in research.
• We must deliver a rich and diverse experience for students both inside and outside the classroom.

As I’ve spoken to hundreds of people with an interest in the UO about these goals—from new freshmen to longtime advocates—one consistent theme has emerged: transformation. People have told me, everywhere I go, that earning a degree here transformed their lives. Attending college, for so many people, is the turning point that creates opportunity, prosperity, and lifelong fulfillment.

I can say with certainty that I personally was transformed by higher education. When I was a little boy growing up in Schenectady, New York, my father would put me on his knee and tell me I would attend a great university. That was a bold vision for a man whose own father died when he was five years old and who had to go to work to support his widowed mother and younger sister. With my folks’ support, a little luck, some loans, and a lot of scholarship assistance, I became a first-generation college student. But I have to admit, I felt like a duck out of water at Princeton University. It was initially quite difficult and felt foreign to me as I struggled to fit in. But in time I found my place, and attending college lifted a curtain for me, and helped me see the world in a whole new way. College gave me the framework, the knowledge and curiosity, to pursue my Yale law degree, become an attorney, professor and dean, and ultimately your president.

The personal and societal benefits of college are well documented, but many Oregonians who wish to attend college do not. Less than one third of Oregon’s adults have earned a college degree. The proportion is even smaller among low-income, first-generation, and minority Oregonians. When first-generation students do attend college, less than one-quarter nationally earn their way to a bachelor’s degree, compared to 68 percent of their non-first-generation college peers. That must change.

MINDING THE GAP
PathwayOregon is a promise that tuition and fees will be covered for four years, as long as students remain eligible and meet academic requirements. However, the amount the UO provides varies according to each student’s needs, enabling us to leverage state and federal funds.

TOTAL TUITION AND FEES: $10,287

Example 1: Expected family contribution of $0

Example 2: Expected family contribution of $2,500

Example 3: Expected family contribution of $5,100

Expected family contribution is determined by the federal government when students apply for financial aid. It is calculated with a formula that uses income, assets, benefits, and family size.
**DONORS STEP UP**

**FISCAL YEAR 2014–15**

Total raised for PathwayOregon: $27,441,097.33

455 donors

**BOOSTING FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION RATES**

41.7 percent increase

*Note: There were 10 percent more Pell Grant-eligible students in the 2008 cohort than the 2007 cohort

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BEFORE PATHWAYOREGON

From fall 2007, four-year graduation rates of Pell Grant-eligible residents

PATHWAYOREGON

Average four-year graduation rates of first three PathwayOregon cohorts
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“It gave me the opportunity to focus on school rather than focusing on how I would pay for my bills and tuition.”

**KATIE LOR**

Boring, Oregon

Sophomore, planning, public policy and management

“It brought me to the level—financially, mentally, emotionally—that I needed to be to come here.”

**CALEB SCHUPE**

North Bend, Oregon

Sophomore, English

**Make Your Oregon Commitment**

In the face of decreasing state support and rising student debt, future Ducks depend on us to help bridge the gap and keep education affordable. Your gift to PathwayOregon is a vote of confidence—in future generations and the University of Oregon.

Give online at giving.uoregon.edu/scholarships.

To learn more about giving to PathwayOregon, contact Jen Parker at 541-346-8018 or jeparker@uoregon.edu.
Claudia Lacey McNeil, BA '72, and Gretchen Anderson Pilip, BS '73, met on pledge day in the fall of 1968. Both young women were away from home for the first time, excited to start classes at the University of Oregon. The world was wide open—full of opportunity, adventure, and new people.

Little did they know that day marked the start of a friendship that has lasted nearly 50 years. Through births of children, deaths of parents, career changes, and the normal ebb and flow of life, the two have stayed connected with each other and a tight-knit group of Alpha Phi sorority sisters.

When together, McNeil and Pilip have an ease that comes with knowing someone most of your life. They reminisce about how the sisters danced to Mama Cass Elliot's "It's Getting Better" in the sleeping porch of the sorority, having so much fun they expected the floor to bust through to the dining room below. They talk about grandkids and finish each other's thoughts.

There is also a hint of sadness. McNeil was diagnosed five years ago with ALS. Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly referred to as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects the brain and spinal cord.

It has no cure.

So often it is after death that people talk about the impact and character of the departed. Pilip didn't want to wait. She wanted McNeil to see that her life has made a difference and feel the love of those around her. In a tribute to her friend, Pilip has endowed the Claudia Lacey McNeil Scholarship Fund at the UO.

"My time at the UO was magical," said McNeil, who graduated with a degree in Romance languages. "It shaped my future way better than I anticipated."

McNeil grew up in Portland and fell in love with the UO during a campus tour. Besides joining Alpha Phi, she worked at the campus bookstore.

"It was the best job for me," she said. "I got to see everyone as they came back to school. The UO always brings a smile to my face."

Pilip was an only child who surprised her parents when she selected the UO. Her dad, H. E. "Bud" Anderson, had been a longtime supporter of Pacific Lutheran University and the University of Washington.

"The UO was a really good fit for me. I liked the size of the school and campus," said Pilip, who graduated with a degree in recreation and park management.

Through the sorority, the two met a bonded group of lifelong friends—a group of women who have stayed connected since college. Even though the women came from a variety of backgrounds, they treated each other as equals.

"After college, we stayed together and supported each other through many different things," Pilip said.

McNeil built a real estate business in Portland that is now run by her two daughters, Christy MacColl and Carrie Gross. She has five grandchildren between the ages of one and seven. Pilip worked as community organizer for Clackamas Community College. She and her husband, Brent, have a son, Patrick; a daughter, Amy Brooke; and three grandchildren.
But through the hectic child-rearing years and moves to and from the state, the women continued their friendship.

“We were connected, if not always physically. We knew it took work. Everyone had to work to keep it going,” McNeil said. “We were able to talk about pretty deep topics. We lived through trying and traumatic periods. But we also celebrated weddings, births, and careers. And we always had fun.”

Pilip, through the H. E. Anderson Family Foundation, came up with the idea to fund an endowment in her friend’s name. She asked McNeil to help define its use.

“I was in a state of shock. Good shock. It came so out of the blue,” said McNeil. “I went to bed and couldn’t really sleep. I decided I wanted it to be a focused scholarship that would support minority communities.”

The undergraduate scholarship will provide tuition support to graduates of Portland’s De La Salle High School or residents of Portland’s north or eastside neighborhoods.

“Scholarships are the only way many people are able to go to college,” Pilip said. “I want students in the future to say, ‘I am at the UO and college is possible because of Claudia Lacey McNeil.’”

But at its core the scholarship fund is a tribute to friendship.

“I’ve been able to experience lifelong friendships firsthand. I feel that is a gift. Not everyone gets that gift,” McNeil said. “I’ve shed a tear over it. It’s a beautiful thing. It is through adversity that you become especially close. But sometimes we will just get laughing so hard our sides split.”

“This is to honor Claudia . . . her life and her commitment and connection to the University of Oregon,” Pilip said.

—Heidi Hiaasen

To contribute to the Claudia Lacey McNeil Scholarship, contact Candace Horter at 503-412-0470 or shortere@uoregon.edu.
10 ways to give

1 Fossils Hit the Road
The Museum of Natural and Cultural History brings interactive lessons to schools and libraries across the state, having reached more than 4,000 students in 2015. Your gift to the Patricia Krier Education Endowment helps ensure children’s access to inspiring programs on Oregon’s geology, archaeology, and natural history.

Contact Erin Hart, 541-346-2467 erinhart@uoregon.edu

2 Get on Board
Nonprofit organizations often rely on volunteers and dedicated leadership to drive their missions. The Nonprofit Clinic with the School of Law trains interdisciplinary teams of graduate students to provide tailored governance assessments to nonprofit organizations. Your gift will help educate the next generation of nonprofit professionals, board members, leaders, and volunteers.

Contact Jessica Merkner, 541-346-1558 jmerkner@uoregon.edu

3 Clear a Path
Affording college is daunting, if not impossible, for many high school students in Oregon. The PathwayOregon program provides academically qualified, low-income students the chance to go to the UO tuition-free—and provides the support they need to succeed. Your gift to PathwayOregon makes dreams of college a reality for deserving Oregonians.

Contact Jennifer Parker, 541-346-8018 jeparker@uoregon.edu

4 Explore the Middle East
From Islamist movements and global oil supplies to architecture and theater, the politics, culture, and economy of the Middle East have a big impact on the Western world. Your gift to the Rutherford Middle East Initiative would help establish a new minor in Middle Eastern studies, in which students would study the region through courses in anthropology, geography, history, international studies, political science, and religious studies.

Contact: College of Arts and Sciences, 541-346-3950, sarahb@uoregon.edu

5 Molecular Breakthroughs
What if fluorescent molecules could be used to help prevent overfertilization and thus mitigate algae blooms in lakes and dead zones in oceans? Research from a team in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry shows it might be possible in the future. Your gift to laboratories not only trains future scientists, but also helps develop innovative research.

Contact: College of Arts and Sciences, 541-346-3950, sarahb@uoregon.edu
6 Telling the Sri Lanka Stories
When journalism students head to Sri Lanka next December, they will have the chance to document continuing recovery efforts related to the 2004 tsunami and the 25-year civil war that ended in 2009. Your gift to the Global Stories excursion in the School of Journalism and Communication will provide practical learning in the field to journalism students. Past trips were to Cuba and Nepal.

Contact: Katie Underwood, 541-346-3819 krc@uoregon.edu

7 Fill Up the Bus
Students miss out when budget-strapped schools cut field trips. The Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art provides scholarships to K–12 classrooms that cover bus transportation to the museum and the fees and expenses for activities and tours. Your gift to “fill up the bus” ensures that students continue to have access to the world-class museum.

Contact: Tom Jackson, 541-346-7476 tomjack@uoregon.edu

8 Up, Up, and Away!
Once considered trash, comics today are celebrated as a powerful art form—not to mention one of the most effective forms of communication ever devised. The UO’s undergraduate minor in comics and cartoon studies, the first of its kind in the country, allows students to study comics from a global and historical perspective. Your gift to the program enables students to explore a world of artistic, intellectual, and cultural experiences going back centuries, and helps us prepare them for careers in a vast and lucrative industry.

Contact: College of Arts and Sciences, 541-346-3950, sarahb@uoregon.edu

9 Give Them a Break
Some of the best lessons in life come through experiences. Breaks challenge students to immerse themselves in distant communities, work collaboratively with their peers, and expand their horizons as well as their comfort zones. Students build self-awareness and apply critical thinking skills as they become engaged in solving real-world problems. Your gift to Alternative Breaks helps students gain practical experience about global issues and problems they’ve studied in the classroom and, perhaps more important, what they can do about them.

Contact: Will Williams, 541-346-0044 wwilliam@uoregon.edu

10 Preserving Tribal History
Thanks to collaborations with the Klamath Tribes, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, four publications documenting Native American news, views, and history have recently been added to Historic Oregon Newspapers online. Also included among the new titles are papers published by students of the Chemawa Indian School from 1901 to 1915. Your gift to the UO Libraries’ Oregon Digital Newspaper Program helps make the collection inclusive of the many diverse voices contributing to Oregon’s history.

Contact: Keri Aronson, 541-346-1890 keria@uoregon.edu
**Gift Furthers Research Leadership**

**INVESTMENT FROM MARY AND TIM BOYLE WILL BOOST LIFE SCIENCES**

UO scientists like developmental biologist Judith Eisen, an internationally recognized leader in the use of zebrafish in basic biomedical research, are celebrating a gift that will ensure long-term leadership in the life sciences. Tim Boyle ’71, Columbia Sportswear CEO, and his wife, Mary, have made a $10 million commitment to endow funding for the UO’s aquatic animal care facility, fund the acquisition of state-of-the-art instruments, and expand facilities dedicated to genomics research. The Boyles’ gift will speed research progress and will foster opportunities for collaboration with the state’s other research universities. For more on this transformative gift, see giving.uoregon.edu.

*Right: Biology Professor Judith Eisen is a recognized leader in the use of zebrafish in biomedical research.*

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