

THE LEADING EDGE

Liberal Arts in Action • Spring 2018

FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL

CLA'S REACH
IS WORLDWIDE



Oregon State
University

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Photo by Chris Becerra

THE LEADING EDGE

Liberal Arts in Action

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FRONT COVER

CLA's students and faculty play an essential role on campus and around the world. Photo by Jan Sonnenmair.

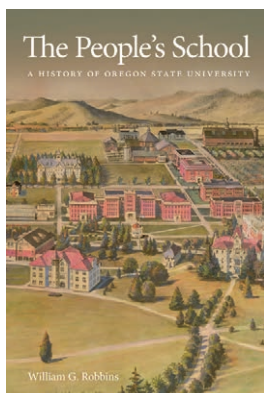
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Oregon State University
College of Liberal Arts

Inside CLA



THE PEOPLE'S HISTORIAN

In 2017, in advance of OSU's sesquicentennial celebration, Emeritus Professor of History William Robbins published "The People's School," a comprehensive history of Oregon State University. Robbins places OSU's story in the context of state, regional, national and international history and examines the broader context of events, such as wars and economic depressions, that affected life on the Corvallis campus.

NON-PROLIFERATION IN A DANGEROUS WORLD

This January, Associate Professor of Political Science David Bernell invited Ambassador Thomas Graham to campus for a standing-room only talk on his book "The Alternate Route" (OSU Press), which is about ridding the world of nuclear weapons. Bernell, an expert in energy policy and international relations, has taught an arms control and non-proliferation course at OSU with Graham, a former Acting Director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency under President Clinton.

CLA FACULTY REPRESENT AT OREGON BOOK AWARDS

Congratulations to School of Writing, Literature and Film faculty Elena Passarello, Wayne Harrison and Tracy Daugherty for their 2018 Oregon Book Awards nominations. Daugherty and creative writing professor Marjorie Sandor have also been honored with The Stewart H. Holbrook Literary Legacy Award "in recognition of significant contributions that have enriched Oregon's literary community."

NEW CONCERT HALL TO HONOR PORTLAND-AREA ARTS ADVOCATE

Lynn Detrick ('68) was always passionate about the arts. Now a new concert hall at OSU will honor Detrick, who passed away in December 2016. This winter, Detrick's family made a \$2 million gift commitment to build Lynn Detrick Hall, which will be part of a new \$60 million arts and education complex at OSU. To learn more about Lynn Detrick Hall, see page 16 of this issue of the Stater.

ADDICTION RESEARCHER WINS AWARD

Assistant Professor of Psychology Sarah Dermody was recently awarded the "Increasing Diversity in Research for Nicotine and Tobacco Research Travel Scholarship" from the Society for Nicotine and Tobacco Research. Dermody's research focuses on evaluating risk factors and treatment for drug use and addiction in adolescents and adults.



HISTORY BENEATH THE SEA

Anthropology professor Loren Davis' research may help change everything we know about how humans came to North America. Davis studies submerged areas along the Pacific Coast that were once part of ancient coastal landscapes. The evidence he and others find could imply that humans populated North America far earlier than we originally thought. Davis' work is featured in a new documentary, "Breakthrough: The Earliest Americans," which is available on curiositystream.com



We Asked ... You Answered

This January, we sent our first college-wide survey to more than 10,000 CLA alumni. More than 1,500 of you responded, answering questions about your time at OSU, what you learned here and what stayed with you after graduation.

Many of you responded with personal stories, fond memories, and also ways we can do better.

We're listening.

Our survey gave us a chance to get to know you better, to hear what you think about CLA and what

you're looking for from us and to let potential students know what our alumni do after they graduate.

It also lets us know how we can make CLA an even better, stronger college for our current students and future generations of Beavers.

Thank you to all who responded. We always want to hear from you! You can get in touch with us any time at cladean@oregonstate.edu.

Here's just a few things we learned about CLA alumni from our respondents:

NUMBER OF SURVEY
RESPONDENTS: **1,559**

Largest percentages of respondents live in:

Corvallis 18% & **Portland** 19%

Other countries people responded from:

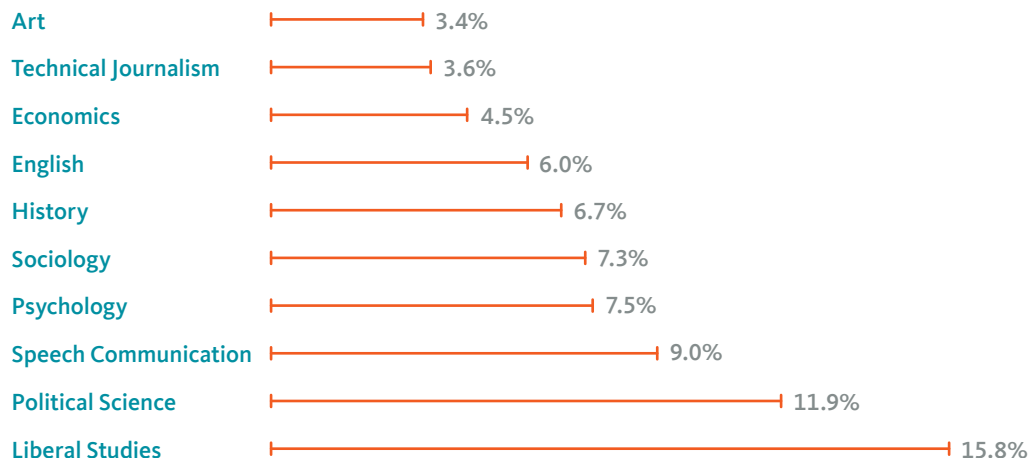
- » Australia
- » Canada
- » France
- » Germany
- » Hong Kong, China
- » Japan
- » Malaysia
- » Philippines



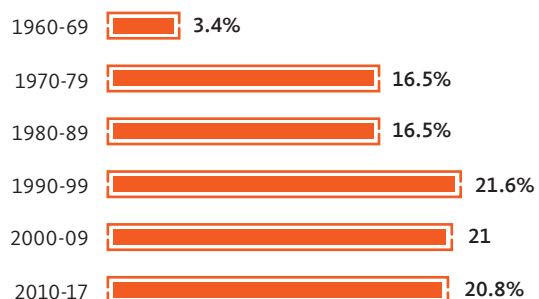


WHAT YOU STUDIED

The Top 10 Primary Degrees Earned

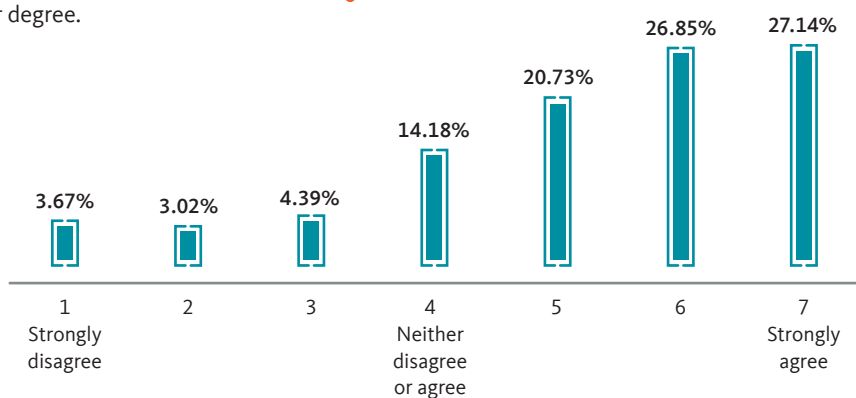


WHEN YOU GRADUATED




HAPPY WITH YOUR DEGREE?


75% of you expressed satisfaction with your degree.

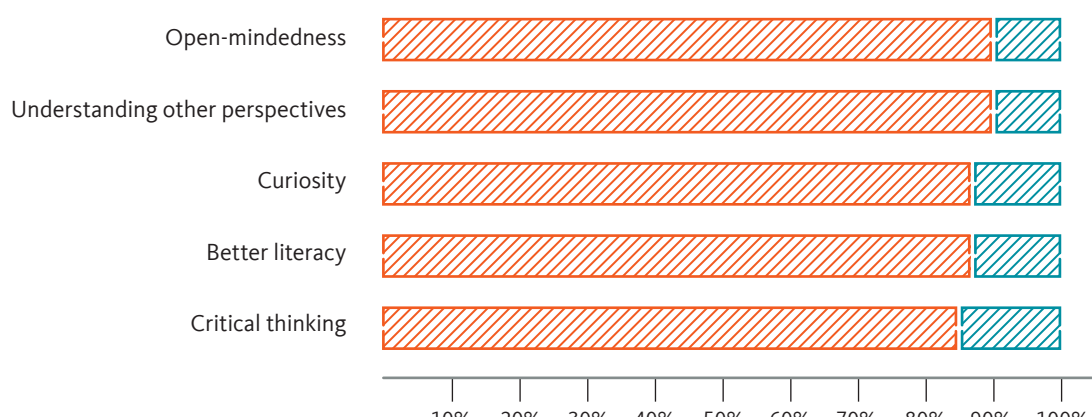


TOP 5 CLA SUPPORTED SKILLS

You said CLA helped you to become more open-minded, understanding and curious. You also told us CLA made you a better reader and thinker.

 CLA helped me develop this skill

 I wish CLA had (better) helped me develop this skill



YOUR PATH AFTER GRADUATION

We want to be able to tell our prospective students they can make their own way, whether their path is straight or winding.

 **33.58%**

A WINDING ROAD

I have had a number of jobs in different industries over a number of years.

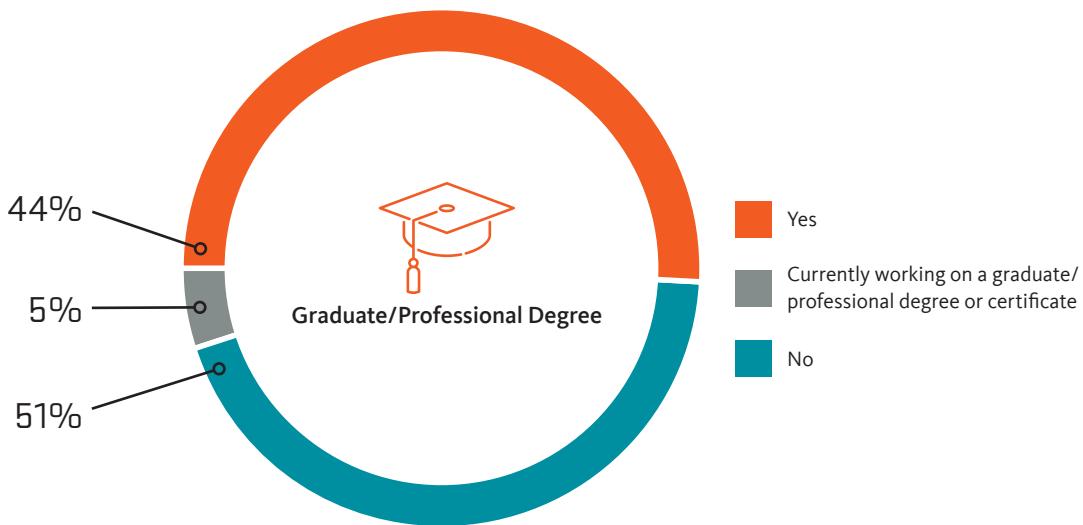
 **27.49%**

A STRAIGHT PATH

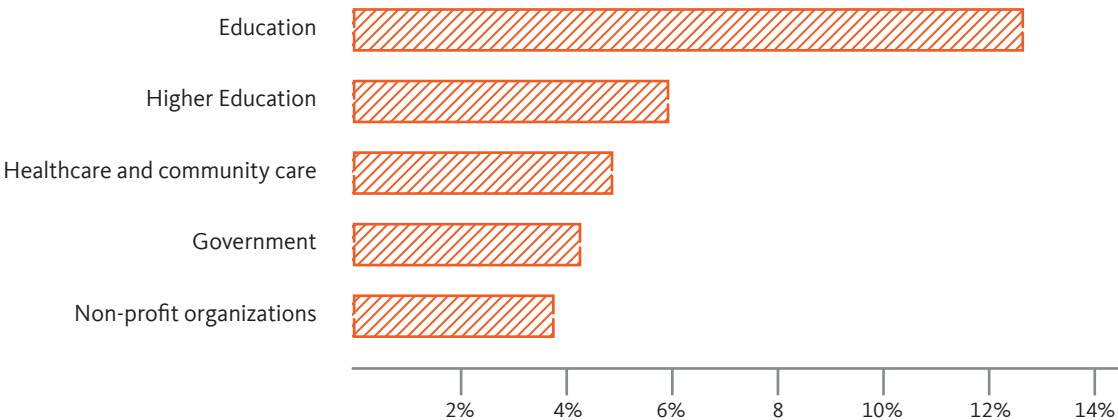
I have been in the same industry since graduation. It is the industry in which I studied, and each of my jobs has built upon the previous one.

YOUR EDUCATION POST-CLA

Almost half of you have or will have a graduate/professional degree.



WHERE YOU WORK



ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

34%

would like to hear more from CLA

30%

would love to get in touch with former professors

We want to stay connected to you!
Contact cladean@oregonstate.edu

A BY STEVEN CHRISTIAN DIVERSE PATH

Hello. I'm Steven Christian, CLA alum and future medical student. Oh I'm also an athlete and professional animator and illustrator, too. How did I get to be all of these? It's a good story...

It all started when I left California on a football scholarship.

But Don't get me wrong, it was a grind.

6 a.m. workouts and meetings,

Practice,

500/600 level classes,



More workouts and meetings,

Then finishing the day studying and fine tuning my creative skills in the studio.

I usually didn't go to sleep until 1 or 2 a.m.

I was always collaborating with professors and staff to achieve my end goals, though ...

And graduated!

My interests began molding my identity.

Start paying rent or get out!

But I trusted my skills and experience. I went from couch surfing,

I knew with my different skills I wouldn't have a straight path. I'm not sure any of us do anymore.



But that was short lived, though...



Two injuries and surgeries in two years. I thought, "If only 1.6% of players make it to the NFL..."

So, I got my B.A. in Psychology and really dove into my creative side ...

And went on a journey of self-revelation.

GO BEAVS!

SKETCHPAD



And got to study my three passions: Art, Psychology and Exercise and Sport Science.

I was the first in my family to have a chance to get a master's degree and play Division 1 football...

That eventually led me to OSU's Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies Program and back to the field.

To selling art on the street,

GET IT WHILE IT'S HOT!!!

ART 4 SALE



To publishing my own series of books,

AND ACTION!

To watching my own work on the big screen,



To taking the MCAT and exploring the field of graphic medicine.

It's one of those things where you're wandering a dark path with no lights on, trying not to fall off.

Almost there!

You just gotta take it one step at a time, and trust what you have done in the past.

I'm fortunate because all the adversity I overcame defined me as a creator, academic and athlete.

My next steps: educating, entertaining and empowering others!





CLA Research Grows ... Worldwide



CLA'S GOAL:

TO BUILD OUR RESEARCH PROFILE BOTH NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

Why? So our faculty and students can keep asking challenging questions about the world's issues and develop complex, creative and fruitful solutions.

A big piece of that puzzle is more grant funding for CLA faculty. Think NSF, NEH, NOAA, CLA itself and more.

Enter Research Program Manager Eric Dickey, who began working with CLA in 2014. Dickey's mission is to help faculty with grant proposals, research collaboration and fund management. He provides them with support and the tools to get their projects going.

"Grants allow faculty and their students to travel, research, question, create and publish solutions that have an impact on the world. A strong research profile begets success: it attracts faculty and students, even

more grant funding, drives the economy, and gives a boost to a college's — and university's — reputation," Dickey says.

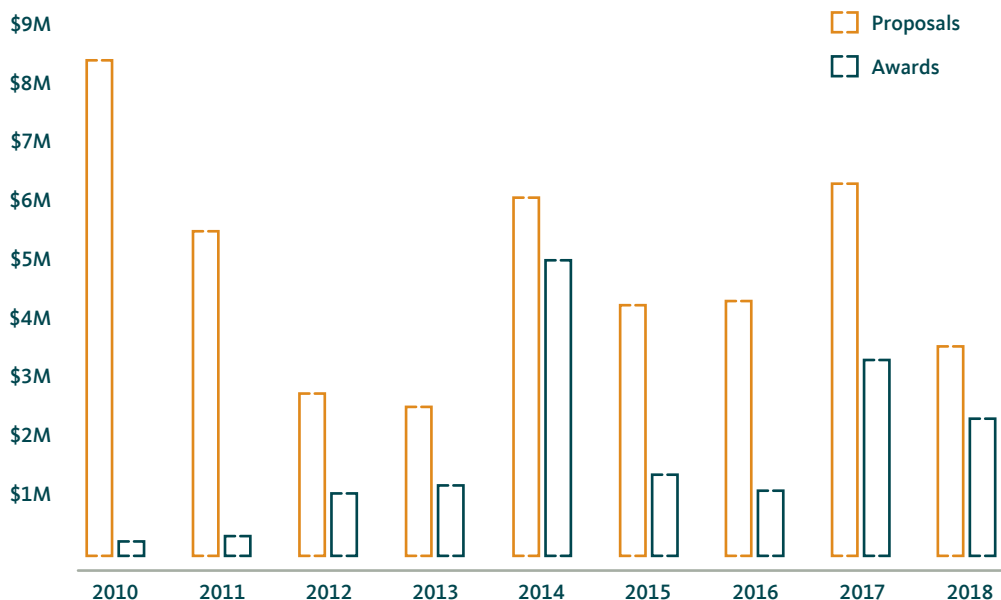
And it's working.

In 2017, proposals submitted for externally-funded grants increased by 56 percent over the average from 2001-2014, before Dickey came to CLA. 2017 also saw a 200 percent increase over the annual \$1.1 million average for awarded grants from 2004-2014.

What's more, CLA's own fund for internal research and creativity awards, managed by Dickey, distributed \$40,000 to 14 faculty in 2017, the average award being \$4,000.

Here are just a few examples of what we've done, and where we've been, in the past year.

CLA PROPOSAL AND AWARD ACTIVITY





DRS. LORI CRAMER AND FLAXEN CONWAY OF THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY received \$250,000 from NOAA for “The Old(er) Men of the Sea.” The project examines aging commercial fishermen in Newport and Port Orford who are adapting to climate change, increasing coastal hazards and a dwindling fishery. In places where community identity is so wedded to the fishing industry, how can a town – and decision makers – develop good strategies for sustaining economic, social and ecological systems? Cramer and Conway’s work helps answer those questions.

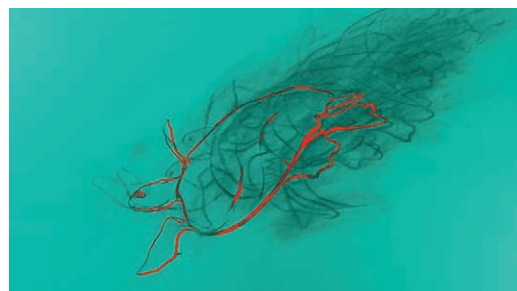


ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY HILARY BOUDET received \$1 million from the NSF’s Smart and Connected Families program to expand her work on household energy conservation interventions. The goal of the three-year grant is to teach children, young adults and their families the value and importance of reducing their energy use and to use technology and data visualization techniques from engineering to better track and understand individuals’ energy use and conservation efforts.

DRS. NABIL BOUDRAA AND JOSEPH OHMANN-KRAUSE OF THE SCHOOL OF LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND SOCIETY completed their third NEH-funded Summer Institute on North African studies. Boudraa and Krause brought leading North Africa scholars to the Corvallis campus and provided funding for 25 college and university faculty to live and learn in the intensive, three-week course.



ENVIRONMENTAL ARTS AND HUMANITIES DIRECTOR AND PROFESSOR OF HISTORY JACOB HAMBLIN received \$300,000 from the NSF for a three-year project on the Hanford Downwinders case, which saw more than 2,000 people bring charges against the contractors who ran the Hanford nuclear site. One of the project’s highlights will be convening workshops for historians, scientists and other stakeholders on the history of radiation exposure.



SCHOOL OF ARTS AND COMMUNICATION FACULTY SHELLEY JORDON AND KERRY SKARBAKKA both received CLA Research Awards last year. Jordon traveled to Fordham University in New York City to create a site-specific installation piece called “Still Streaming.” Skarbakka’s award supported his effort to create art about the socio-political phenomenon of the “angry white male.”

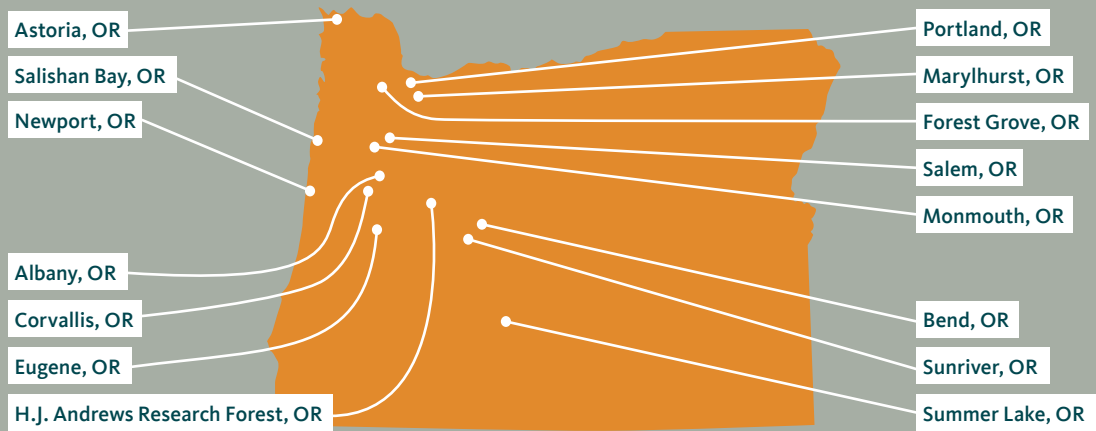
UNITED STATES

AL Birmingham	Santa Barbara	LA New Orleans	MT Missoula	PA Philadelphia	VT Burlington
AK Fairbanks	Long Beach	MA Boston	NE Omaha	RI Providence	Washington, D.C.
AZ Tempe	CO Denver	Cambridge	NC Asheville	SC Conway	WA Bellevue
Tucson	CT Hartford	Concord	Chapel Hill	TN Memphis	Bellingham
Phoenix	New Haven	ME Portland	Cullowhee	TX Austin	Long Beach
CA Claremont	FL Fort Lauderdale	MD Baltimore	Durham	Dallas	Richland
Los Angeles	Jacksonville	MI Ann Arbor	NJ Princeton	Fort Worth	Seattle
Northridge	Miami	Detroit	NM Albuquerque	Houston	Tacoma
Oakland	GA Atlanta	East Lansing	Santa Fe	Richardson	Grays Harbor
Pasadena	Savannah	Grand Rapids	NV Las Vegas	San Antonio	Olympia
Sacramento	IA Iowa City	Marquette	NY Brooklyn	UT Orem	WI Madison
San Diego	IL Chicago	MO Kansas City	Hempstead	Park City	
San Francisco	IN Bloomington	St. Louis	New York City	Salt Lake City	
San Marino	KY Morehead	MN Minneapolis	OK Tulsa	VA Vienna	
San Quentin					



Out There: CLA Research

This map illustrates just some of the places our faculty have traveled in the past year, whether it's to conduct research, present at a conference, exhibit or perform. To learn more about research in the College of Liberal Arts visit: liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/cla-research



What's in a (Building) Name?

OSU'S BUILDING RENAMING PROCESS COULD HAVE BEEN CONTENTIOUS, BUT A NEW MODEL ENCOURAGED CIVIL CONVERSATION.

How do people with wildly different ideas on a controversial subject come to agree? The truth is they often don't. But at least they can learn to listen to each other.

That was the lesson Scott Vgnos, director of strategic initiatives in the Office of Institutional Diversity, gleaned after a March 2017 public forum on renaming five of Oregon State's buildings.

The question was whether the namesakes of Benton Hall, Benton Annex, Avery Lodge, Arnold Dining Center and the iconic Gill Coliseum embodied the university's current values.

OSU called the forum on the heels of a nationwide movement to scrutinize the names of buildings and the placement of statues honoring historical figures who have been linked to slavery and the Confederacy. Some students at Oregon State had begun a similar line of questioning, specifically focused on issues around Benton, Avery and Arnold.

Vgnos facilitated that forum, which revolved around the criteria the university would use to review the legacies of the buildings' namesakes.

What were their beliefs in life, for example, and more importantly, did they act on them? Did they advance racist viewpoints, and did they do it publicly? Did they ever change? And how do people feel about it now?

"There was some yelling," Vgnos says. "We hadn't been communicating consistently about the criteria we were working on to evaluate buildings' names. The forum told us we needed to be much more intentional about the process, provide venues for community members to offer perspective and prepare them to have real conversations."

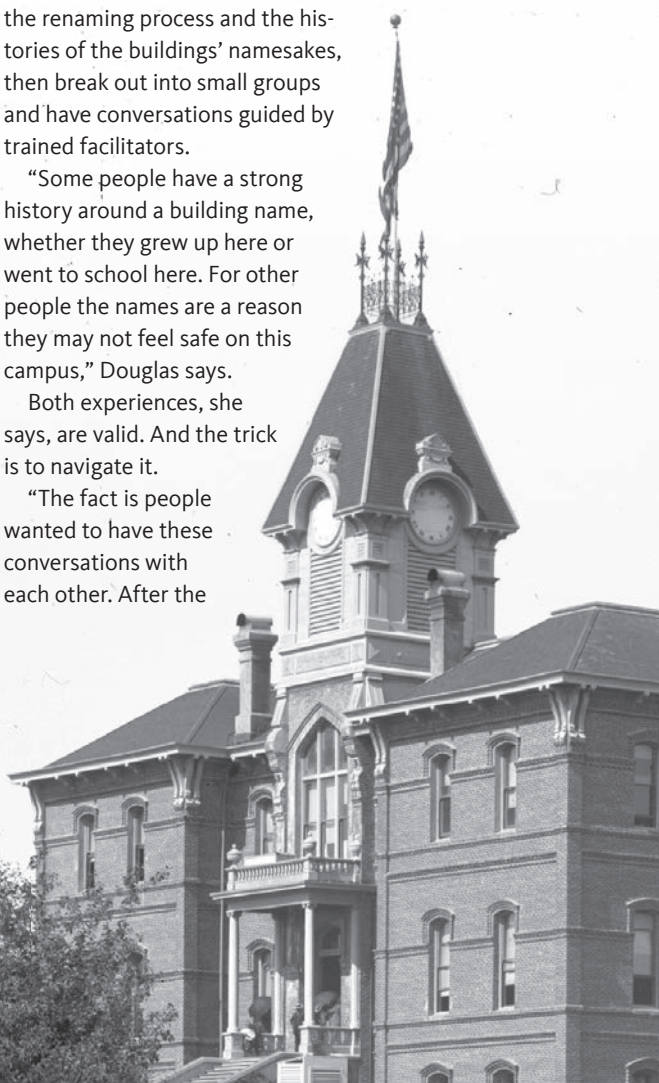
This is where Vgnos and his colleagues got inventive. After the forum, Vgnos, along with Brandi Douglas, assistant director of outreach in OID, and Natalia Fernández, curator and archivist of the Oregon Multicultural Archives and OSU Queer Archives, devised a way to get people talking — not just about their own viewpoints on what buildings meant to them, but to each other.

They held six public conversation sessions — two to describe the building renaming process and criteria, and the remaining four to discuss each building in question. Participants — which included alumni, students, faculty and Corvallis community members — would watch a presentation about the renaming process and the histories of the buildings' namesakes, then break out into small groups and have conversations guided by trained facilitators.

"Some people have a strong history around a building name, whether they grew up here or went to school here. For other people the names are a reason they may not feel safe on this campus," Douglas says.

Both experiences, she says, are valid. And the trick is to navigate it.

"The fact is people wanted to have these conversations with each other. After the



sessions were done even those who disagreed with each other continued talking. Care and empathy can show up if it's done right. Many participants even came to multiple sessions," Douglas says.

Those who came to the sessions looking for a platform to air grievances were surprised and, in some cases, disappointed. Even the media covering the sessions were caught off guard.

"The first reporter who came to cover the sessions said, 'This is not what I thought it would be. There was hard conversation, but not yelling,'" Vignos says.

Participants were not only equipped with renaming criteria, but also the history of the buildings' namesakes — which were uncovered in large part by CLA faculty on OSU's Building Historical Research Team.

For example, Joseph C. Avery was instrumental in Corvallis' founding, but was also a driving force behind "The Occidental Messenger," a pro-slavery publication published in the 1850s.

The questions the facilitators asked participants were also based on renaming criteria. The resulting dialogue, Douglas says, was recorded and used for qualitative analysis. OSU's building renaming committee created a report and recommendations, which were passed to President Ray for a final decision.

"If there's a takeaway it's to explore this concept of dialogue and how it can be used in new and novel ways, especially because it gives students a voice," Douglas says. "We weren't trying to reduce conflict or avoid it, but to allow it to occur in a place where it would be productive. It also helps to see the person you're in conflict with. When you're in a small conversation at a table you can't run away. You think about what they say."

This March, Vignos will talk about OSU's unique approach to dialogue at the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education.



For a full report on the building renaming process, including historical analysis of each building, see: leadership.oregonstate.edu/building-and-place-names

Administration Building, ca. 1895, later to be named Benton Hall. President Ray, with input from the community as well as OSU's building renaming committee determined that Benton Hall and Benton Annex will be renamed in 2018 to reflect Oregon State University's current values. Photo courtesy of Special Collection and Archives at Oregon State University.

ON NOVEMBER 27, 2017, President Ray announced that the names of Gill Coliseum and Arnold Dining Center would be retained, and that Avery Lodge, Benton Hall and Benton Annex would be renamed.

President Ray called upon OSU's Architectural Naming Committee beginning in winter 2018 to:

- Undertake a process that engages the overall Oregon State University community to consider and to recommend to him new names for these three buildings;
- Develop and share with the OSU public education information about the history of the five buildings and their namesakes reviewed;
- Lead the university in gathering the history of all OSU buildings and their namesakes; and
- Create website information, mobile app information and permanent history displays for all university buildings.



Introducing American Strings

A NEW MUSIC SERIES COMES TO OSU

Banjo, guitar, harp, mandolin. Pedal steel, double bass, zither, lyre.

Chances are you've heard them, and loved them, too.

Stringed instruments are a quintessential part of the American soundscape and culture. Which is why OSU's director of performing arts, Bob Santelli, created the American Strings series, a celebration of America's longstanding love for strings and roots music.

The series, which kicked off last fall with appearances by banjo great Tony Trischka and Woodstock legend Country Joe McDonald, brings artists to Corvallis for intimate performances and question-and-answer sessions. The idea is for event-goers to get a dose of great music and an education about the historical context for it from the point of view of the artist.

This February brought Bill Frisell to campus. Frisell, who has been described as the "Miles Davis" of the guitar, appeared in front of a packed house, which isn't unusual for American Strings so far. Trischka and McDonald sold out, too.

Just as Americans have long loved stringed instruments, Santelli plans on the series having longevity for OSU, with recorded appearances being archived for music history lovers in decades to come.

Our next American Strings show is May 9, 2018, with blues musician Guy Davis.

Don't miss out!

liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/american-strings-series



Oregon State
University