the
empty
Nest

Oregon TECH
SPRING
E-NEWSLETTER
2020

Firstly, all of us at Oregon Tech hope that you and your families, friends and colleagues are healthy and safe, and managing well through the last several weeks of the pandemic. This extraordinary time has brought challenges and hardships to so many Oregonians, and to millions across the U.S. and globally, at a pace that has never been seen in modern history. While past periods of recession and economic impact came on more slowly and built over many months or years, the COVID-19 outbreak was a swift, simultaneous knockout punch to many segments of our economy. It will not be easy, but I have no doubt that our state and country will shake off the punch and rise again, as long as we stick together in our resolve to stop the spread of the virus.

Swift and Steady Resolve Meets the Challenge

At Oregon Tech, planning and deployment of strategies to deliver high-quality teaching and learning to our students were done with resolve and speed. First and foremost in all of Oregon Tech's decision making has been the safety and health of the university communities at our two campuses and other teaching sites. Some of the key adjustments and activities at Oregon Tech since mid-March have included:

- A shift to remote teaching for all courses and labs through summer term, with the transition completed in about two weeks, including sharing of WiFi resources with students from other schools;
- Planning underway for a creative, virtual commencement ceremony in June, with graduates able to participate in-person at the June 2021 ceremony;
- New scholarship and other financial aid programs for students, reduction in several fees and development of additional aid beginning in Fall 2020 to help mitigate the loss of student and family income due to the virus; and a special note of gratitude to all our alumni, friends and employees who contributed to an emergency fund—the Give A Hoot Day fundraiser—within a matter of days so we could help our students right now in Spring term;
- Swift action by our students, faculty and programs in helping meet the healthcare challenges of the virus, with donations of ventilators and PPE to hospitals in Oregon and out of state (see stories below);
- Cancellation of all on-campus events, including competitions; and in-person recruitment of new students, with a shift to virtual connections with prospective students;

- Reduction of spring term students living in the residence halls by 80% as students returned to their homes for remote learning;
- Cancellation of all spring sports, including an abrupt end to the NAIA basketball finals, in the middle of the tournament (see story below);
- A shift to telecommuting for almost all of Oregon Tech's employees except for essential staff;
- Establishing tele-counseling and health appointments, and other new procedures for students, to consult with the Integrated Student Health Center on our campuses;
- Many more adaptive changes that ensure a clean, safe campus environment for essential employees, including physical distancing, to continue to advance our educational mission.

Our Extraordinary Destiny

Many decades ago the writer C.S. Lewis said, "Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny." While we cannot predict what the future holds—and when Oregon Tech, the state and the nation will be "back to normal"—I know with certainty that our engaged community will be able to achieve the "extraordinary destiny" of which Lewis referred. How? With the same intellect, vibrancy, determination and tenacity we've always deployed to do far more than anyone ever expected of us. That's the Oregon Tech way: do more and be more, and do it collaboratively. I'm so proud of our students for adapting so quickly to remote learning; of our faculty for switching gears with speed and adapting the curriculum to remote learning practically overnight; and of our staff who have been managing operations across the board, collaborating with our communities, and doing whatever is needed to move us forward.

Dr. Nagi

OREGON INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

Housing and Residence Life

The daffodils are blooming, the plum tree outside of the Residence Hall is showing its beautiful spring flowers and alas there are just a few students here with us on campus this term to enjoy this beauty. Residential students were granted the option to move to their permanent residences for spring term if they chose to shelter in place at home. But for a little over 100 residents, on campus housing is home and they are here with us. The internet is working well for remote learning and our residents are being thoughtful when passing each other in the hall, waiting to pick up a package or enjoy a meal to go from Sodexo.

Due to COVID-19, Housing and Residence Life suspended the annual Easter Egg Scramble and is working on activities for our residents to participate in a virtual way to uphold our annual Spring Fling week of activities in May.

And coming soon, residents who contracted to live on campus for the 2020-2021 academic year will get their chance to Choose My Room. Anyone who is a current Oregon Tech student signed up to live on campus for the 2020-2021 academic year can sign up and choose the space they would like to live in for the upcoming year! For our incoming students, their turn to choose a room will be opening June! We are optimistically preparing to welcome a robust and excited community of students to join us in the fall of 2020 for the next academic year, and are so excited to see all the students who have chosen to live on campus with us for the next academic year.

As there are still students on campus, the full complement of Housing professional staff are hard at work to upkeep the buildings and maintain our high standards of cleanliness. We are also focusing on all common areas and common touchpoints, disinfecting these spaces at least once if not two or three times daily to help keep our community safe. And we are working hard on cleaning and preparing our space for summer as well as fall!

Spring term also marks the end of our academic year in June, and the time when we say "Aloha" to our residents who are graduating or just heading to other places for the summer. Mark your calendars now for June 13, 2020 as this is the final day of the 2019-2020 housing contract. Only students who have a summer contract are allowed to stay with us after 4:00 pm on June 13, 2020. Summer housing is an option on campus, and the contract will be available soon. Just visit www.oit.edu/housing and click on apply. The summer 2020 housing application is located in the housing portal. If your student has a housing contract with us now, they don't need to pay the deposit again, it is taken care of! It is never too early to make plans with your student for move out and summer term! If you have any questions about closing or any other activities going on in Housing Spring term, please call our office at 541-885-1094 or email us at housing@oit.edu.

Oregon TECH

Integrated Student Health Center

College Health Amidst COVID-19: A Brave New (Virtual) World

As a parent of a college student myself, I can imagine the concern that you must be experiencing during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. I wanted to assure you that the Integrated Student Health Center (ISHC) has worked closely with our local Public Health Division and the Oregon Health Authority to develop procedures that allow our staff to remain safe while continuing to meet the needs of our students. We have taken precautions to keep our healthy students healthy and to work with our struggling or ill students to get them on a better track. In addition, we have adjusted our mental health services in order to be able to provide support to students who may no longer be physically in the area or are opting to not come in person. Here's what we have done:

- **Scheduling Adjustments** – We continue to meet with medical patients in person. With the start of Spring term, we will be making medical appointments in the morning for healthy students (including blood draws, immunizations, medication management, and so on) and appointments in the afternoon for ill students. This lowers the risk of being exposed to COVID-19 or other illnesses for our healthy students, and allows the facility to be cleaned sufficiently to prepare for the following day.
- **Increased Sanitizing** – Since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, we have increased the frequency and intensity with which we clean and sanitize the clinic. After each patient, the examination rooms, lobby, reception area, door handles and any other space that the patient inhibited during their visit is cleaned with CDC COVID-19-effective products. We contract with a medical custodial service company which has increased their daily sanitization efforts, as well.
- **Personal Protective Equipment** – Students are being asked to wear surgical masks upon entering the building, and the medical staff are in full protective equipment mode (face shields, gowns, masks, and of course gloves).
- **Medical Screening for On-campus Students** – The medical staff completed a thorough medical screening interview with each student who will be staying on campus in the Residence Hall or the Village as well as with any student worker who will be on campus for the Spring term. The screenings were meant to identify any student who should self-isolate (i.e. if they have returned to campus from a "hot spot"), not return to campus (i.e. if they have symptoms or have been exposed to someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19), or if they should simply engage in the social distancing that we are all encouraged to do.
- **Social Distancing** – Changes have also been made with regards to scheduling in order to reduce the number of students who are waiting for appointments. Appointments are being spread out throughout the day in order to minimize traffic and interaction in the lobby. Any students waiting in the lobby are monitored to ensure appropriate social distancing. The glass divider at reception is only opened enough to allow interaction with students.
- **Telehealth Support** – Although we continue to meet with students in person, the ISHC counseling staff is available to conduct sessions through both telephone and video conferencing (using HIPAA-compliant Zoom). The medical staff are exploring virtual visit options, as well.

Please know that we continue to offer the same quality mental health and medical support that we have always provided. We are shifting to this brave, new virtual world along with everyone else – our students, being as tech-savvy as they are, are actually adjusting quite well. So, we are listening to what they have to say and trying to meet their needs in new and different ways. If you have questions, do not hesitate to call at 541-885-1800.

You
ARE
NOT
alone
WE'RE
in
WITH
YOU
love
Oregon TECH
Integrated Student Health Center
Student Health
Staff

Plan

Academic Calendar

Spring Term 2020 COVID-19 Adjusted Dates

Date	Event
May 20	Registration for Fall Term begins
May 22	Last day(5:00 pm) to Withdraw from an individual course with a "W"*
May 25	Campus closed for Memorial Day Holiday
Jun 5	Last day(5:00 pm) to Completely Withdraw*
Jun 8-12	Final exam week
Jun 12	Spring Term ends
Jun 13	Virtual Commencements

Cashier's Calendar

Spring Term 2020

DATE	Event
5/15/20	Statements Generated (available on CASHNet May 18)
6/12/20	Final Payment Plan payment due (ANY remaining balance)
6/15/20	Final Spring Statements generated (available on CASHNet June 16)

The Oregon Tech Bookstore is closed for Spring Term. They will open up at the Bookstore Window during finals week (June 8th-12th) ALL SPRING TERM TEXTBOOK RENTALS ARE DUE IN THE BOOKSTORE JUNE 12th!

Succeed

Remote resources for students
Oregon TECH

Remote Resources for Students

This page is designed to help students navigate spring term remotely. There are many campus tools, information, and resources to help keep them connected to make spring term a success for all.

Tools & Resources

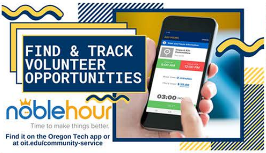
Oregon TECH ASOIT Associated Students of Oregon Institute of Technology BE HEARD

Elections Time!

Students can run for ASOIT and be an advocate for their education! Find Out More: Go to ASOIT's Election's page for more information.

ASOIT Elections

Volunteer Owls Serve Wherever We Are!


FIND & TRACK VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
noblehour
Time to make things better.
Find it on the Oregon Tech app or at oit.edu/community-service

Oregon Tech will be joining with local community organizations in a Give-Back-Week from May 16- 23rd. Students can join the activities and track their hours with the NobleHour App.

Anyone who is interested in seeing what is available can go to https://www.noblehour.com/oregontech. The platform is available for any local organizations to contribute events and opportunities for students to find.

Students will also be able to use this tool to track community service hours for clubs and scholarships.

Peer Consulting Services

Peer Consulting Services (PCS) offers FREE remote academic support to all students of Oregon Tech.

PCS aims to improve student success by providing a welcoming environment where students can work toward their academic goals with peer support. Peer tutors help your student develop effective learning strategies and provide guidance in understanding concepts and solving problems. The consultants who work at Peer Consulting are your student's peers, have taken the same classes your student has, and have earned a 3.0 or greater.

While we'll miss seeing students in person this term, PCS can offer individual and group tutoring through Zoom. Students can access our online scheduler through their TECHweb account or by visiting the PCS website at: https://www.oit.edu/academics/ssc/peer-consulting-services .

In addition to remote tutoring access, PCS also offers:

- The Online Writing Lab (OWL): OWL consultants assist students writing in any discipline and at any stage of the writing process—from brainstorming and researching to revising and citations. Writing consultants work with you to improve your writing skills; they do not provide last minute proofreading and editing services. Students can submit an assignment to the OWL through TECHweb or the PCS website.
- Group Study Sessions: Students can stay connected with their classmates through Zoom study sessions. A list of open study sessions is available on the PCS website.
- "How to" videos and study guides. Electronic study guide PDF's and "how to" videos are available on the PCS website.

Peer Consulting Services is proud to support students' remote courses and be a part of their online learning experience. If you have any questions, please email peerconsulting@oit.edu or call us direct at 541-851-5226.

The ROCK Advising Center

Our campus is very quiet, as is the community of Klamath Falls but the safety of our students as well as the entire Oregon Tech community is a top priority. To practice social distancing and support student success, The ROCK Advising Center has adapted to serve the needs of our students.

What's new?

Remote learning is new to many and at The ROCK we are meeting this challenge. Academic advisors have worked very hard to adapt quickly to support the needed changes.

One way is by offering virtual advising sessions via email, telephone, texts or video chat. This gives both student and advisor a variety of opportunities for meaningful conversations. This connection is important to us; to meet students, get to know them and guide them along their academic career.

Though from home, each of us have set up private office areas and adhere to privacy regulations.

As Oregon Tech's professional advising center, we work with students individually to address a wide range of topics – and offer resource information and referrals.

With students living in a variety of remote locations and experiencing a wide range of issues unique to their situation, our focus is to connect them to the support and resource needed; including financial aid, technology and IT, academic, or personal.

In addition, we expanded our support to include regular check-in's with all students, referral and follow-up regarding issues and concern and compiling online resources and tips.

To schedule an appointment, please visit The ROCK website or contact us via the Oregon Tech app.

ROCK academic advisors are available Monday – Friday, 8 AM – 5 PM.

Alumni Spotlight

Our network of Oregon Tech alumni and students amaze us every day, and we are so proud to share when their accomplishments are recognized by others.

Recently, we learned of a family of Oregon Tech Alumni Association members directly involved in the COVID-19 crisis. Parents Jeff and Mary Campbell graduated in the early 1980s, and their daughter, Mackenzie, graduated just 6 years ago and is a CT and Rad Tech at St. Charles Medical Center – Bend.

This is a story about Mary...Mary is the Director of the Providence St. Joseph Health Molecular Genomics Laboratory, which is part of the Providence Core Laboratory, located in Portland. Mary's lab has helped make a significant impact on the state's COVID-19 testing capacity. The work of Mary and her team will make a dramatic difference statewide.

Click here to read more about Mary's work.

VIRTUAL HUGS
EXIT
THANK YOU
♥LAB TEAM
STOP THE BUGS

Oregon Tech" Hopeful Hands" Hand Sanitizer Dispensing Machine

One member of the current "Hopeful Hands" team was working on a personal project to build and rent a robotic bartender. When the COVID-19 crisis came along, of course, there were no parties or anyone to use it. Then the idea came up to repurpose some of that equipment into a smart hand sanitizer dispenser. That is how the Oregon Tech "Hopeful Hands" project was conceived.

Now, a group of Oregon Tech students is working with the Multicultural Affairs Department to build a smart, internet-connected, hand sanitizer dispenser. The machine will dispense and provide free high-quality hand sanitizer bottles to students, staff, and community members to automatically and without having to be in contact with other people. The machine will have a magnetic reader where students or staff will swipe their Oregon Tech ID or enter a code and be allowed to fill up a 100ml bottle provided by the machine. The mechanism will enable refilling the bottle only after two weeks, portioning its use to maximize inventory. To achieve this task, students are doing most of the work from home to follow social distancing guidelines. Once completed and tested, the machine will be placed in the College Union building.

Structure Engineer: Mariano Segura, Mechanical Engineering Student

Structure Engineer: Moises Cobian, Mechanical Engineering Student

Software Engineer: Matt Volpe, Software Technology and Embedded Systems Engineering student

Logistical Support: Jessica Fletcher, Psychology and Communications Student

Team Advisor: Gianlugi Benvenutto, Director of Multicultural Affairs

---

Students, faculty use Spring Break to start producing face shields, respirator adaptors, provide to hospitals in Oregon

Oregon Tech mechanical engineering students Davia Fleming and Jacob Allemann were not spending their spring break taking a breather. Instead, they were improving safety for healthcare workers by using 3D print technology to create protective shields for frontline medical workers. With some help from faculty members, thus far 40 face shields have been made, with another 90 in production. The students are also making valves through a 3D printing process that will be able to adapt/convert CPAP/BiPAP machines—commonly used to treat sleep apnea—into ventilators.

“We're an engineering school, so I thought that there's got to be something that we can do to help,” Davia said, who is a senior at Oregon Tech's Portland-Metro campus in Wilsonville. “I went online and researched what there were shortages of and found some Open Source software for making face shield visors using 3D printers.”

With fellow Oregon Tech student Jacob Allemann, also a senior, Davia had two of the campus' 3D printers from the prototype lab delivered to her home since she couldn't work on campus due to the stay-at-home directive. At first using her personal supply of printer materials, Davia and Jacob got busy taking shifts to continuously print the visor component of the face shields. Aided by faculty members Dr. Mike Myers in Mechanical Engineering, Dr. Chitra Venugopal in Renewable Energy Engineering and Dr. Greg Pak in Natural Sciences, the students have produced about 40 visors so far and are working with Dr. Venugopal and staff lab technician and electrical engineering student Richard Ellis to laser cut the acetate shields for attachment to the visors; the first shipment will go out this week. This team is also preparing 3D printed ventilator adapters. The students and faculty estimate that another 70 will be done by next week. Once the first shipment goes out, the production team will focus on digital manufacturing of ventilator adaptors/converters and their distribution to the local healthcare community.

Dr. Pak has been reaching out to regional hospitals and clinics including Salem Hospital (Salem, OR) to help support their need of the PPE demand to protect their doctors, nurses and other medical staff. The team is also sending some of the shields to Sky Lakes Medical Center in Klamath Falls, Oregon, where the university's main campus is located, right across the street from the hospital. Oregon Tech also recently lent Sky Lakes several ventilators from its Respiratory Care bachelor's degree program in order to help it meet growing demand as positive cases increase in Klamath County. Director of Laboratory Services at Sky Lakes Medical Center, Meredith Case, who is an alumna of Oregon Tech, requested face shields from Oregon Tech. Dr. Pak said, “Meredith is one of our Medical Lab Science graduates, and it truly means a lot for us to extend our commitment to an Owl, and to our already close partner, Sky Lakes.”

Oregon Tech, Sky Lakes & Asante Work Together to Meet Critical Demand for Ventilators

Oregon Tech, Sky Lakes Medical Center and Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center today announced a joint partnership to deploy additional ventilators as we cope with the evolving COVID-19 public health crisis.

As a highly focused university that uses state-of-the-art machinery and equipment within its degree programs, Oregon Tech has a unique opportunity to partner with neighboring medical facilities by providing them life-saving equipment as patient demand rises.

Sky Lakes and Asante are in ongoing efforts to develop additional medical capacity as the COVID-19 pandemic expands. As is being seen nationally, access to ventilators is a key bottleneck to saving lives as patients with COVID-19 display respiratory problems. At this time, Sky Lakes and Asante have enough ventilators to meet demand, and both are preparing for what could happen if the number of people with COVID-19 continues to rise.

Jeff Pardy, department chair of Oregon Tech's Respiratory Care program, and Jason Tucker, Oregon Tech medical equipment technologist, identified 26 ventilators at Oregon Tech available for loan. "Oregon Tech prides itself on training our students on the same equipment they will use in their future workplaces," said Pardy. "Oregon Tech's focus on keeping state-of-the-art technology in the classroom is helping us meet the anticipated needs at these medical facilities as the ventilators we train on are the same ones they currently use. We will continue the educational mission of the university – and keep a steady pipeline of highly trained respiratory technicians into hospitals."

Tucker shared: "Many of our current students and alumni are technicians at Sky Lakes and Asante's hospitals, in addition to faculty who work there. We are glad to once again work together during this time."

Tucker also added that Sky Lakes and Asante have welcomed faculty to their sites to deliver online training to students on the machines. "We will be able to present some of our classes remotely from the hospital, providing our students with an even more realistic learning environment," he said. This ensures that students continue to receive the device-specific education they need, while still allowing the ventilators to be readily available at Sky Lakes and Asante.

2019-2020 Winter Term President's and Dean's List

The students listed have been named to the 2019-2020 Winter Term President's and Dean's list at Oregon Institute of Technology.

Oregon TECH
President's Honor List
Recipient
>3.70 GPA

Oregon TECH
Dean's Honor List
Recipient
3.30 - 3.69 GPA

Oregon Tech Board of Trustees emphasizes increased financial aid to students in setting tuition and fees

The Oregon Tech Board of Trustees met April 2, both remotely and with a few members meeting at the university's Klamath Falls campus, practicing social distancing. Oregon Tech Board chair, Jessica Gomez, as well as other board members and President Nagi Naganathan, acknowledged the extraordinary times in which the university is now operating and the forward looking efforts underway. Board discussions and votes during the meeting were done within the context of how the unfolding pandemic will affect all stakeholders within the Oregon Tech community, and the importance of certainty in tuition and fees to allow families and the university to plan for next year.

The Board voted to decrease 2020 spring term fees for students due to changes in operations due to COVID-19, to provide relief to those impacted students. In consultation with student government leadership, the university proposed reducing mandatory fees by about 12 percent and 15 percent for the Klamath Falls and Portland-Metro students, respectively. The university administration provided updates on new financial aid and emergency loan programs available to students as they navigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Trustees also discussed at length the effect of any future tuition increase on students during the current environment of student and family finances being affected by COVID-19. The board also expressed concern about keeping the university financially viable through a period where there is a high likelihood of budget cuts at the state level, as well as the potential of enrollment drops, both immediately and in the fall.

SmartAsset Lists Oregon Tech as Best Value College in Oregon

Personal finance company *SmartAsset* has released its 2020 report of the Best Value Colleges in the U.S., with a degree from Oregon Institute of Technology, "Oregon Tech," noted as the highest value for your dollar of any college or university in the state of Oregon.

Oregon Tech ranked No. 1 in Oregon according to *SmartAsset's* fourth annual Best Value Colleges study. The study lists the University's College Education Value Index at 55.89, over 8 points higher than the second Oregon school in the rankings. Oregon Tech graduates also earn higher average starting salaries than their peers from other state colleges and universities, according to the analysis.

According to the study, Oregon Tech graduates receive an average starting salary of $61,200, which is the highest in the Oregon rankings. The average starting salary for all Oregon higher education graduates is $51,866

As we get closer to the end of the 2019-20 Academic Year we have the opportunity to celebrate many of our amazing students, one of those opportunities is with Student Awards. Below is a list of those students nominated for Awards.

Oregon TECH
STUDENT
Awards
2020

University Wide Awards

HIRAM M. HUNT AWARD

Marie May (PM)
Bio-Health Science Student Research Group (K)
Strix Engineering (K)
Priscilla Medina (K)

MOST DEDICATED STUDENT

Tanner Karp (K)
Nicholas Fox (K)
Kate Florez (K)
Brittney Ayles (K)
Nate Swenson (K)
Rowan Parker (K)

GRADUATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Noah Nieman (K)

OUTSTANDING STUDENT VETERAN

Michael Yilek (K)
Sean Lucas (K)

OREGON TECH PRIDE

Megan Schrock (K)
Jaime Evers (K)
Business Competition Team (K)
Rowan Parker (K)
2018-19 & 2019-20 Steel Bridge Team (K)

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE

Megan Ross (K)
Bio-Health Sciences Club (K)
Clark Anderson (K)

OUTSTANDING NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT

Sally Sutton (K)
Gabrielle Garrett (K)
Brie Landis (K)
Jackie Reyes (K)

OWENS CITIZENSHIP

Brittney Ayles (K)
Walker York (K)

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Marie May (PM)
Mason Cluff (K)
Satomi Kiriakedis (K)
Rowan Parker (K)
Quinn Damitio (K)
Lena Cleveland (K)

Portland-Metro Awards

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Jeremy Cummings
Wesam Shanneb
Marie May

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE

Davia Fleming
Stephen Metsig
Jacob Alleman

OUTSTANDING STUDENT INVOLVEMENT AWARD

Nashmy Luna
Mohammed Alqafshat
Icek Warnecke
Peter Wantuck
ASOIT-PM
Davia Fleming

Outstanding Scholars

This award is appointed by the department chair or program director who, in the opinion of the faculty, has demonstrated academic excellence in their major. Only one student may be appointed for a given degree program.

Health, Arts and Sciences

Junmin Yee – Applied Mathematics
Tyla Edwards – Applied Psychology, Klamath Falls
Tayler Dahl – Applied Psychology, Online
Satomi Kiriakedis – Biology-Health Sciences
David Fleming-Jones – Communication Studies
Melanie Fournet – Dental Hygiene, Klamath Falls
Brittany Eggers – Dental Hygiene, Chemeketa
Alexis Biddington – Diagnostic Medical Sonography
Hailee Abraham – Echocardiography
Shannon Keane – Environmental Sciences
Brooke Higgins – Health Informatics
Doug Molzahn – Medical Laboratory Science
Nicolas Maxwell – Nuclear Medical Molecular Imaging
Cindy Reed – Population Health Management
Gracie Lyon – Radiologic Science
Ashley Miller – Respiratory Care
Jonathan Case – Vascular Technology

Engineering, Technology and Management

Jared McBride – Business with Management Option
Tanner Karp – Business with Marketing Option
Karah McCulley – Civil Engineering
Alexander Castro – Computer Engineering
Olga Skyberg – Electrical Engineering, Portland-Metro
Annika Kallstrom – Electrical Engineering, Klamath Falls
Kyle Wengenroth – Electrical Engineering Technology
Marie May - Embedded Systems Engineering Technology, Portland-Metro
Dana Londen – Geomatics with Option in Surveying
Brittanna Monroe – Health Care Management – Clinical Management
Jarred Bott – Manufacturing Engineering Technology
Kynan Nordal – Mechanical Engineering, Klamath Falls
Liam Kearney – Mechanical Engineering, Portland-Metro
Scott Robertson – Mechanical Engineering, Seattle
Matthew Hodge – Mechanical Engineering Technology
Quinn Damitio – Operations Management
Mohamed Bawazeer – Renewable Energy Engineering, Klamath Falls
Jessica Noseff - Renewable Energy Engineering, Portland-Metro
Junmin Yee – Software Engineering Technology, Klamath Falls
Cobe Greene - Software Engineering Technology, Portland-Metro
Henry Verey – Technology Management, Portland-Metro
Jaycob Hardin – Technology Management, Online

President's Senior Cup Nominees

Each year, one Outstanding Scholar from the college of Engineering, Technology and Management and one Outstanding Scholar from the college of Health, Arts and Sciences, who has demonstrated superior academic excellence, are nominated for this prestigious award by the Department Chair or Program Director. President Nagi makes the final selection of recipients.

College of Health, Arts and Sciences

Ashley Miller – Respiratory Care
Cindy Reed – Population Health Management
David Fleming-Jones – Communication Studies
Junmin Yee – Applied Mathematics
Satomi Kiriakedis – Biology-Health Sciences

College of Engineering, Technology and Management

Annika Kallstrom – Electrical Engineering, Klamath Falls
Jessica Noseff - Renewable Energy Engineering, Portland-Metro
Marie May - Embedded Systems Engineering Technology, Portland-Metro
Tanner Karp – Business with Marketing Option
Liam Kearney – Mechanical Engineering, Portland-Metro

OWLS' WORTH
Oregon Tech's Financial Literacy Program

Owls Worth - Financial Literacy

Keep your financial education going during remote learning! Go to the Owls' Worth page for updates on available financial literacy classes.

Financial Aid

We started awarding for the 2021 school year early spring. If you filed your FAFSA and have not heard from us, please let us know. dollars@oit.edu

The Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement

The Department of Education has now released their latest tool for students and borrowers. The Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement is now live on StudentAid.gov. Student and parent borrowers are able to view how much they currently owe in federal loans, see their progress toward their aggregate loan and grant limits (if applicable), receive tips on smart borrowing, and acknowledge that they have reviewed their information. This will not required for loans disbursed for the 2020–21 award year as previously reported by the Department of Education.

Helping Owls and CARES Act funds-COVID 19

Helping Owls-The Oregon Tech Foundation and Oregon Tech together were able to award and disburse $150,000 the first two weeks of spring term for students impacted by Corvid 19. While these funds went quickly , the University was able to access additional funds and the Financial Aid office has been reviewing those applications. These Funds have been received under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) act to be used directly in compensating current Oregon Tech students. These funds have strict guidelines and unfortunately, loss of income due to COVID-19 is not a qualifying expense. These emergency funds are for expenses related to food, housing, technology, transportation healthcare and or childcare that have arisen as a result of the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19

Oregon Tech Foundation Scholarships

The Oregon Tech Foundation is proudly awarding $985,000 in over 390 scholarships for the 2019-2020 academic year, thanks in part to the success of the Helping Owls Scholarship fundraising during Give A Hoot day.

The winter application for the 2020-2021 year scholarship awards is complete, with nearly $400,000 new scholarships awarded to deserving students. The summer scholarship application will be available in early July, with a submission deadline of approximately mid-July. Emails will be sent to all students by Oregon Tech Financial Aid notifying them of the process. Please encourage your student to watch for the opportunity and apply.

First Give A Hoot Day a Success

YOU!
For
giving
A
Be Kind
#OregonTechTogether

Our amazing network of alumni and friends, along with faculty and staff, made the inaugural Give A Hoot Day fundraising campaign a resounding success. Supporters surpassed the $25,000 matching opportunity, then flew by the 250 donations milestone unlocking an additional $10,000 in matching funds, and finally generously soared together giving more than **$79,000** for Oregon Tech students.

Owls everywhere joined together in support of the people, projects and programs that they care about at Oregon Tech. The Give A Hoot Day campaign featured funds that provide immediate support for students:

- Helping Owls Scholarship, a new scholarship in response to the COVID-19 pandemic for students to use this Spring Term
- The Bird Feeder student pantry to provide students with snacks and meals who need assistance
- The Finish Line Fund, which gives students within 45 credits of graduating, with limited financial resources, funding to bring them across the finish line with a diploma in hand.

You are encouraged to take a look at the spotlight stories to see how these donations have immediately made a difference in the lives of students.

We want students studying remotely to know that they are not alone. We are Oregon Tech Together.

The University Development Team – Thank you for giving a hoot! #OregonTechTogether

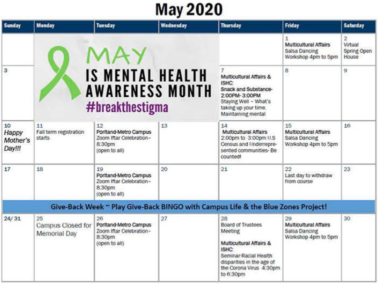
Just Because We're Apart, Doesn't Mean the Fun Stops!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE APP EASTER EGG HUNT WINNERS!
I heard... Carol Baskins fed her husband to the tigers.
Shout Out to all the Peer Consultants!

Campus Life is engaging with students remotely through the Oregon Tech App through weekly activities, contests, and virtual events. We had over 100 students join in a Virtual Easter Egg Hunt. Students were invited to be sustainable through Earth Week activities. The Treehouse will be hosting weekly activities on Thursday nights. There will be resources and support links to support our mental health during Mental Health Awareness Month.

Parents and family members can check out what we're up to on our Remote Learning Support Page.

Stay connected!



May 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH #breakthestigma				1 **Multicultural Affairs** Salsa Dancing Workshop 4pm to 5pm	2 Virtual Spring Open House
3				7 **Multicultural Affairs & ISHC:** **Snack and Substance- 2:00PM- 3:00PM** Staying Well – What's taking up your time. Maintaining mental	8	9
10 *Happy Mother's Day!!!*	11 Fall term registration starts	12 **Portland-Metro Campus** Zoom Iftar Celebration– 8:30pm (open to all)	13	14 **Multicultural Affairs** 2:00pm to 3:00pm U.S Census and Underrepresented communities- Be counted!	15 **Multicultural Affairs** Salsa Dancing Workshop 4pm to 5pm	16
17	18	19 **Portland-Metro Campus** Zoom Iftar Celebration– 8:30pm (open to all)	20	21	22 Last day to withdraw from course	23
Give-Back Week ~ Play Give-Back BINGO with Campus Life & the Blue Zones Project!						
24/ 31	25 Campus Closed for Memorial Day	26 **Portland-Metro Campus** Zoom Iftar Celebration– 8:30pm (open to all)	27	28 Board of Trustees Meeting **Multicultural Affairs & ISHC:** Seminar-Racial Health disparities in the age of the Corona Virus 4:30pm to 6:30pm	29 **Multicultural Affairs** Salsa Dancing Workshop 4pm to 5pm	30

CASCADE
CCC
COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE
SCHOLAR ATHLETES
ANNOUNCED
@OREGONTECHOWLS

55 Owls earn Academic CCC Honors for Spring Sports

A total of 55 Oregon Tech student-athletes in the spring sports of men's and women's golf men's and women's track & field, baseball and softball have earned U.S. Bank Academic All-CCC honors for their performances in the classroom, the conference office announced.

To earn recognition as a CCC scholar-athlete, a student must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.2 and sophomore standing.

Sarah Abramson	Jr.	Softball	Nursing
McKenna Armantrout	Sr.	Softball	Environmental Sciences
Cameron Barnhardt	So.	Baseball	Renewable Energy Engineering
Kade Beer	Jr.	Baseball	Pre-Medical Imaging
McKinnon Bennett	Jr.	Baseball	Communication Studies
Payton Canon	So.	Golf	Health Care Mgmt - Admin Mgmt
Nishi Chase	Jr.	Track	Nursing
Emmett Covello	Sr.	Baseball	Biology-Health Sciences
Josh Davis	Sr.	Baseball	Renewable Energy/Electrical Engineering
Danielle De Castro	Sr.	Track	Mechanical Engineering
Delani Dietrich	So.	Track	Biology-Health Sciences
Thomas Dodgen	Sr.	Track	Civil Engineering
Cody Dubray	Jr.	Baseball	Mechanical Engineering
Brandon Erickson	Sr.	Golf	Renewable Energy/Electrical Engineering
Mark French	Sr.	Track	Mechanical Engineering
Brianna Griffiths	Jr.	Softball	Applied Psychology
Mark Hodge	So.	Track	Biology-Health Sciences
Shelby Hotchkiss	Sr.	Softball	Applied Psychology
Grace Hull	Jr.	Golf	Pre-Nursing
Jasmine James	Sr.	Track	Civil Engineering
Micah Jio	Jr.	Baseball	Civil Engineering
Stephanie Koza	Sr.	Golf	Biology-Health Sciences
Lily Lavine	So.	Track	Pre-Medical Imaging
Cole Little	So.	Baseball	Mechanical Engineering
Preston Luckman	Jr.	Golf	Operations Management
Alex Malcolm	Jr.	Baseball	Pre-Respiratory Care
Zach Malina	Jr.	Golf	Mechanical Engineering
Hannah Mason	So.	Track	Pre-Dental Hygiene

Jared McBride	Sr.	Golf	Business Management Option
Nick McMillen	So.	Track	Biology-Health Sciences
Amber Miller	So.	Track	Biology-Health Sciences
Halleigh Noga	Jr.	Softball	Pre-Medical Imaging
Jarid Norberg	Jr.	Baseball	Communication Studies
David Palmer	Sr.	Baseball	Civil Engineering
Neenah Pangilinan	Jr.	Softball	Applied Psychology
Donnie Pate	Sr.	Track	Civil Engineering
Ian Peters	So.	Baseball	Mechanical Engineering
Chris Ramirez	Jr.	Track	Mechanical Engineering
Cindy Reed	Sr.	Track	Biology-Health Sciences
Kirsten Reed	So.	Golf	Biology-Health Sciences
Madison Rice	Jr.	Track	Nursing
Victor Rios	Sr.	Track	Operations Management
Neal Rose	Sr.	Baseball	Civil Engineering
Mariano Segura	Jr.	Track	Mechanical/Manufacturing Engineering
Aerin Song	So.	Golf	Radiologic Science
Trask Telesmanich	Sr.	Baseball	Renewable Energy Engineering
Finausulieti Tuifua	Jr.	Track	Respiratory Care
Alexander Turkins	So.	Track	Nursing
Darby Twight	Sr.	Golf	Mechanical Engineering
Angel Valdez	Sr.	Track	Applied Psychology
Nevan Watanabe	Sr.	Baseball	Respiratory Care & Polysomnography
Faith Widman	So.	Track	Applied Psychology
Zach Williams	Sr.	Track	Applied Mathematics
Baylee Wyscaver	Sr.	Softball	Applied Psychology
Ashley Zhu	So.	Golf	Electrical/Renewable Energy Engineering

New Coach Hires

CASEY TATE
WOMEN'S SOCCER HEAD COACH

Casey Tate - New Head Coach of Women's Soccer

The Oregon Tech Athletic Department is proud to announce the hiring of Casey Tate as the new head coach of the Oregon Tech Women's Soccer program, the current reigning champions of the Cascade Collegiate Conference, fresh off an appearance in the NAIA National Tournament and an unprecedented NAIA top 25 ranking in 2019.

"I am excited to welcome Coach Tate to the Hustlin' Owl family," said Oregon Tech Director of Athletics John Van Dyke. "I am confident the women's soccer program is in great hands, and will continue the trajectory of success that Coach Brandon Porter has begun. It was very clear in the interview process that Coach Tate is not only a great fit for the soccer program and our athletic department, but for the entire university as well. Welcome, Casey!"

Tate has a variety of experience in the coaching ranks, most recently serving as an assistant coach for Reno 1868 FC, a men's professional club competing in the USL. Under Head Coach Ian Russell, Tate has helped Reno FC to an impressive record in its relatively short history beginning back in 2017. Tate helped the club to three consecutive USL playoff appearances, including a 16 game unbeaten streak in 2018. Prior to Reno FC, he served as an assistant coach and interim co-head coach at University of Nevada-Reno from 2010-2016, helping lead the NCAA Division I Women's program in the Mountain West Conference.

"I am excited and grateful to be named the next head coach of women's soccer at Oregon Tech," said Coach Tate. "I would like to thank Director of Athletics *John Van Dyke* and Director of Soccer Operations *Brandon Porter*, as well as the entire search committee, for their belief in me and for providing me this opportunity. During the process I was very impressed by the community and culture within the athletics department and amongst the student-athletes at Oregon Tech. I have high expectations set for myself and for this program. We will continue to build on the solid foundation established under Coach Porter, and continue to reach for the goals set for the women's soccer program based on a family environment and a relentless work ethic on the field and in the classroom! I would also like to thank Reno 1868 FC Head Coach Ian Russell and President Eric Edelstein, as well as San Jose Earthquakes Technical Director Chris Leitch for the last three years and their contribution in my coaching career."

In addition to his experience in the pro ranks and NCAA Division I level, Tate also has extensive club experience in Nevada, California, as well as Arizona. Most recently he served as a director for Players North Soccer Club in Nevada, and also has experience as an Olympic Development Program Region IV staff coach. Additionally, Tate was also a coach at Chandler Gilbert Community College from 2002-2010 where he helped the team to a NJCAA Junior College National Semifinalist appearance.

"I couldn't be more excited about working with Casey," said Director of Soccer Operations *Brandon Porter*. "With the success that our women's program has had in recent years, we felt that the next leader needed to be someone who has the ability to elevate them to the next level in their evolution as a group, and Casey certainly is capable of that. I also feel that with his experience on the men's professional side, he will help us continue to strengthen Oregon Tech Soccer as a singular brand here in southern Oregon."

Prior to Nevada, Tate coached at Seton Catholic Preparatory High School in Arizona where he was the girls' soccer coach and physical education teacher. During his tenure at Seton Catholic they won two Arizona high school state titles in 2006 and 2007. He was named Arizona State Coach of the Year in 2007 and 2008, along with Region Coach of the Year in 2007, 2008, and 2010. Tate was the National Soccer Coaches Association of America Coach of the Year in 2006 and 2007.

Coach Tate is also highly involved as in coaching education and development, and currently holds a United States Soccer Federation "A" License, a La Liga Level 3 credential, and NSCAA Futsal Diploma, and NSCAA Goalkeeping Diploma. He is also a certified US Soccer Licensing Instructor.

Tate played at the collegiate level at Chandler-Gilbert Community College, Indiana Institute of Technology, and Arizona State University. He received his degree from Ottawa University in History.

Tate and his wife, Kristina, have three daughters, Ava, Maleah, Makenzie, and a son, Chandler.

Coach Tate will begin April 1st with the team and their defense of the conference title.

DR. KEN MURCZEK
VOLLEYBALL HEAD COACH

Dr. Ken Murczek - Head Coach of Volleyball

Veteran head coach Dr. Ken Murczek has been hired to lead the Oregon Tech volleyball program Director of Athletics *John Van Dyke* announced Wednesday, March 18.

Dr. Murczek comes to Oregon Tech after three seasons as an assistant coach with the San Diego State volleyball program. A former Aztec men's volleyball player, Murczek brings a wealth of coaching experience to the Owls, including nine years as a head coach at the NCAA level. He was the head coach of the men's volleyball program at the University of Charleston in West Virginia during the spring of 2017, following a three-year stint as head coach of the women's team at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

"It is my honor to welcome Coach Murczek to the Hustlin' Owl family," said Van Dyke. "I am looking forward to watching our volleyball program flourish under his leadership. With Dr. Murczek's assortment of experience and expertise, I know he will be a tremendous asset to not only the volleyball team but the entire athletic department. Welcome Ken!"

Prior to his arrival at Charleston, Murczek guided the women's volleyball program at Wake Forest from 2013-15, leading the Demon Deacons to the best start in team history at 12-0 during his first season at the helm. In all, he coached 19 Atlantic Coast Conference all-academic honor roll selections, while his squad earned the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Team Academic Award for maintaining a collective 3.4 GPA.

"I am incredibly thankful for the opportunity to lead the Lady Owls women's volleyball team and to work at one of the leading academic institutions on the west coast," said Murczek. "I appreciate *John Van Dyke* and the entire search committee's time and effort throughout the hiring process."

Murczek received his Bachelor of Science degree in kinesiology from San Diego State in 1998 before earning a master's degree in teaching and teacher education from Arizona in 2000. He also holds a secondary education teaching credential in physical education and science from the state of Indiana, and a master's in sport management from Western Michigan University (2007).

In 2019, Murczek completed his doctor of education in kinesiology at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro.

Before his move to Wake Forest, Murczek spent three seasons as head coach at the University of North Texas, where he led the program to 63 victories and a pair of Sun Belt Conference West Division championships in 2010 and 2012. The latter squad tied a school-record 26 wins and reached the finals of the conference tournament for the first time in program history.

Murczek enjoys spending time with his wife hiking, biking, and camping in their 1987 Volkswagen Vanagon with their Belgian Malinois "Truus." He still plays both indoor and beach volleyball competitively. "My wife and I are looking forward to immersing ourselves in the culture of Oregon Tech and Klamath Falls," said Murczek who currently holds his CBVA AAA rating on the beach and has won back to back gold medals (2018-2019) at the USA Volleyball adult nationals with Team Pineapple.

Murczek concluded, "I am ecstatic to start working with the team to create our goals and expectations for future success both on and off the court."

Welcome and GO OWLS!

To find the latest news, sports schedules, updates and scores visit and follow us at:

On the web at OregonTechOwls.com

On Facebook facebook.com/OregonTechOwls

On Twitter at Oregon Tech Athletics @OregonTechOwls

On Instagram at Oregon Tech Athletics @OregonTechOwls

©2020 Oregon Institute of Technology