

Alumni News From All Over

2010s

Jeneva Anderson, PhD Biochemistry '15, researched bacterial molecular biology and biochemistry in Karen Guillemin's lab. After graduating, Anderson took an instructor and undergraduate academic advisor position in the microbiology department at Oregon State University for two years. She started her current position as the survey biology lead coordinator and faculty instructor at Lane Community College in fall of 2017. Anderson primarily teaches and oversees the curriculum/assessment for LCC's 100-level non-majors biology sequence. She is working toward incorporating course-based research into the curriculum, inspired by her time as an adjunct instructor at the UO. "I hope to strengthen connections and collaborations between the students here at LCC with research faculty at nearby institutions," Anderson says.

Brandi L. Baldock, PhD '16, studied nanomaterials and nanoparticle-DNA interactions in the lab of Jim Hutchison. During her postdoctoral fellowship with Thomas Greenbowe and Deborah Exton at the UO she studied interactive teaching strategies. Her current position is assistant professor of chemistry at Merrimack College in Massachusetts. Baldock was recently awarded the 2018 Davis Educational Foundation Grant at Merrimack.

Heather A. Bankowski, MS '12, worked with semiconductors for seven years at ATMI, an Entegris Company. She is currently working with fuel cells at Doosan Fuel Cell America.

Erik Burlingame, BS Biochemistry '16, MS Biology '17, focused on bioinformatics while at the UO. He is currently pursuing his PhD in neuroscience at Oregon Health and Science University, focusing on the structural biology of ion channels. As a biochemistry undergraduate he studied the molecular bases for synapse formation during development in the Washbourne lab. In 2018 Burlingame's recent publication includes "SHIFT: Speedy Histopathological-to-ImmunoFluorescent Translation of Whole Slide Images Using Conditional Generative Adversarial Networks" in Proc. SPIE 10581, (2018).

Dana Garves, BS '10, was recently featured in Volume 96, Issue 10 of *Chemical and Engineering News* for her work on brewing chemistry. As an undergraduate, Garves appreciated the principals of green chemistry that the department is known for. After graduating, she got a job as a QC chemist at a water quality lab, but didn't enjoy it. She took a job at Ninkasi, a local Eugene brewery. She built the brewery's chemistry and sensory labs for four years, then started her own company, Oregon BrewLab, in her garage. She now offers affordable and fast alcohol percentage testing for numerous clients.

Anthony McCloud, BS Biochemistry '13, BS Human Physiology '14, went on to receive his MS in medical sciences in 2018 from Western University of Health Sciences. In summer 2018 McCloud started medical school at WUHS College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific. While at the UO he studied inorganic chemistry with Cathy Page, working on standardization processes of inorganic thin films jointly with

OSU. From 2017 to the present he is performing neuroscience research with Michel Baudry at WUHS, working on further characterizing Calpain-2 and its physiological role in the brain. McCloud is president of Pomona Health Career Ladder, an organization that educates minority K-12 students in various health science topics in the hopes of increasing diversity within the health professions. Prior to re-entering academia, he worked for four years as a banker at Pentagon Federal Credit Union.

Keenan Woods, PhD '17, worked in the Cathy Page group developing aqueous solution routes to metal oxide thin films for electronic technologies. Woods published extensively in peer-reviewed academic journals and was heavily involved in STEM outreach, serving as an informal science education fellow for the UO, and as a science communication fellow for the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI). After graduating Woods joined Applied Materials' Chemistry Center of Excellence team in Santa Clara, California. He has enjoyed living within easy driving distance of his siblings and is thrilled to marry Jacklyn Whitehead in January 2019.

2000s

Gary Succaw, PhD '04, was awarded tenure and promotion to full professor of chemistry at Montana State University-Northern. Succaw recently worked with another department on campus to develop a reusable solid catalyst for oxidation of alcohols and alkenes based on results from research in China. The catalyst they obtained did not match the properties the researcher's recorded, but it still worked. He successfully used the catalyst in his undergraduate organic lab. "It has been a busy year!" he writes.

Derrick Thoma, BS '08, is currently the operations manager of Hop Valley Brewing Co. in Eugene. Since college,

he was a winemaker at King Estate and achieved level 1 certification in the Court of Master Sommeliers. He currently holds a seat as the No. 1 industry advocate on the Eugene Toxic Chemicals Community Right to Know board.

Brian Truong, BA Biochemistry '07, finished his residency in anesthesiology at the University of Washington in June 2018. In August 2018 he plans to return to Eugene as an anesthesiologist at Northwest Anesthesia Physicians. In his leisure time he enjoys food, tennis, travel, technology, and photography.

Jianfei (Jeffrey) Zhao, PhD '07, who studied under Diane Hawley, is now deputy editor of *NEJM Medical Frontier* (the Chinese edition of the *New England Journal of Medicine*), based in Beijing, China. He is responsible for editorial operation, outreach, and strategic planning. As the first biology editor of *Nature Research* working in China, he fostered close relationships with the Chinese life sciences community. While at the UO, his research interest was focused on the transcription regulation in budding yeast. His postdoctoral training in the US National Cancer Institute was centered on the epigenetic regulation of gene expression.

1990s

Brian Gu, BA '93, went on to earn a PhD from the University of Washington and an MBA from Yale. In March, Gu was appointed vice chairman and president of XPEND Motors, a leading Chinese electric vehicle company. Before that Gu joined J.P. Morgan in 2004 and served as chairman of Asia Pacific Investment Banking. From 1998 to 2004 Gu worked in the global M&A and global healthcare practice of Lehman Brothers in New York. Prior to his Wall Street career, Gu was a senior research scientist at the University of Washington Medical School.

1980s

Michael Comb, PhD '84, is the founder, president, and chief executive officer of Cell Signaling Technology. Earlier this year Comb was chosen to receive a CiteAb Lifetime Achievement Award. The award recognizes noteworthy dedication and significant contribution to the research reagent industry. CST is a leading provider of antibodies, kits, and services for researchers working to understand the molecular and cellular processes of disease.

Mary Dasso, BA '84, studied chemistry with Peter von Hippel, then went on to the PhD biochemistry program at the University of Cambridge. She became a senior staff fellow at the National

Institutes of Health in the Laboratory of Molecular Embryology and went on to become a tenured investigator and head of the Cell Cycle Regulation section in the Division of Molecular and Cellular Biology at NIH. Since 2015 she has been associate scientific director for administration and budget, Division of Intramural Research, at NIH.

Ruskin J. Gould, BA '85, now known as Reverend Hugh Gould, writes that since his 2015 update he has become the Buddhist chaplain for Newcastle University in northern England, about an hour's drive from the Throssel Hole Buddhist Abbey monastery where he has been living. He is a volunteer chaplain who offers spiritual guidance, meditation, and Buddhist teaching at the university for a full day every two weeks.



Professor Emeritus **Hayes Griffith** celebrated his 80th birthday with a climb of California's Mt. Whitney, the highest mountain in the contiguous states at 14,508 feet. Here he stands in front of the Smithsonian hut on the summit on August 7, 2018. He climbed solo with backup from his wife, Karen Griffith-Hedberg, who hiked to a high camp with him. Griffith plans to return to the UO in 2020–21 for the Inaugural Harden and Sophia McConnell Lecture in Chemistry. Hayes and Karen finished funding this endowment last year with some help from Sophia McConnell. Plans are for a biennial lectureship around the theme of broad applications of physical chemistry.

1970s

Dan Olson, PhD '72, studied organic electrochemistry with LeRoy H. Klemm. He did postdoctoral work on synthetic organic chemistry at The Ohio State University with Melvin S. Newman.

Olson joined General Electric's Research and Development Center in Schenectady, New York, after finishing his postdoc, intending to spend two years gaining experience before returning to Oregon. But GE's Research Center turned out to be such a fascinating place to work that two years turned into more than 30.

Olson spent 10 years managing research on high performance polymers and bioremediation research, but most of his time was spent doing research and development on organic coatings. Two big projects were for the development of glass replacements such as Margard Coated Sheet as well as the first viable plastic headlamp lenses, which appeared on 1984 Lincoln Continentals.

Olson retired from GE with more than 50 US patents and around 20 publications and now lives in Bend, Oregon. Three years ago he stepped out of retirement to work as a visiting senior scientist and consultant for Switch Materials in Vancouver, BC, to mentor and help develop photochromic/electrochromic coatings for automotive applications. He is a past member of the UO's CAS advisory board and currently serves as a board director and a regular volunteer at The Giving Plate, a food pantry in Bend. His daughter is a junior at the UO majoring in psychology.

James L. Roberts, PhD '77, studied with Ed Herbert. He was Chair of Neuroscience at the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in New York City for 16 years. He spent his last 10 years teaching at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, where he will retire in 2018. "It's been a great run but now I will go back to full time at the bench studying gut microbiome effects on the brain in males and females," Roberts writes. "I

am extremely grateful for the education I received at Oregon and I rate my four years in Eugene as four of the best years of my life! Thank you U of O!"

1960s

Catherine (Katie) Smith, BS '69, went to the University of Arizona College of Medicine for a PhD in biochemistry, finishing in 1976. She worked in research and development then clinical research for several biotech companies in Chicago, Boston, and San Diego, where she now lives. She started her own biotech consulting company about seven years ago and retired in 2017. She's now traveling and volunteering at the San Diego Zoo.

Celeste Roper, BA '62, has been enjoying retirement for 15 years. "But who is counting!" she writes.

Bob Solomon, PhD '60, studied under Terrell Hill during his PhD work and also as a postdoc. He taught at Temple University from 1960 to 2000 and chaired the department for several years. Solomon did some consulting for several agencies including the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Now, he says, he mostly "bums around" on a 49-foot boat. He takes care of his large house in Philadelphia near his children and grandchildren. He loves to hear about retired faculty and former students through the department's newsletter.

1950s

Gary Christian, BS '59, is emeritus professor of chemistry at the University of Washington. Last year he turned 80, and he and his wife of 56 years, Sue, became great grandparents. His twin brother, Jerry, also a 1959 chemistry alum (see below), celebrated their birthdays together. He was honored for his 80th birthday at the International Conference on Flow Injection Analysis in

St. Petersburg, Russia (icfia2017.org/80th-birthday-of-prof-g-christian1) as well as by a special issue of the journal *Talanta* (doi.org/10.1016/j.talanta.2017.10.047), which Christian continues to edit. He received the 2017 Santa Clara Valley Section of the ACS Shirley B. Radding Award.

Jerry Christian, BS '59, retired in 2001 from Idaho National Laboratory as a scientific fellow, where he specialized in nuclear fuel processing and high-level radioactive waste management. He was responsible for developing and implementing a process for recovery of enriched uranium from spent naval nuclear fuels. Christian is currently owner of Electrode Specialties Company, which manufactures electrodes for amperometric measurement of HF in acid solutions. Christian received the inaugural Distinguished Scientist/Engineer Award of the Idaho Academy of Science and an American Nuclear Society Annual Special Award. Favorite UO chemistry teachers were Don Swinehart, Richard Noyes, and Terrell Hill. His twin brother, Gary Christian, is also a 1959 UO graduate (see above).

Jochanan Stenesh, BS '53, followed up his UO education with studies at Cornell University and a PhD in biochemistry in 1958 from the University of California, Berkeley. He was a research associate from 1958 to 1960 at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel, where he studied carnosine-anserine synthetase of muscle. From 1960 to 1963 Stenesh was senior research associate at Purdue University, where he studied the stability of flagella from mesophilic and thermophilic bacteria. From 1963 to 1966 he was assistant professor of chemistry at Western Michigan University, studying DNA, RNA, and protein synthesis in mesophilic and thermophilic bacteria. He was promoted to associate professor of chemistry, then professor of chemistry, and as of 1990 he is professor of chemistry emeritus. Over his career he published many scientific papers, books, and book chapters. ■