POETRY AND ART SUBMISSIONS

“The Bench” by Carlos

At the bench we sat,
We laughed and told stories,
Of moments past.
Serious discussions had,
About, how best,
To fix--
The System.
Scholars--we are not.
Pushed forward, Yes we did.
Knowing much of nothing,
Only our lived experiences.
Together, we dreamed,
Of our distant release.
My numbers coming up,
I wonder if I’ll be missed?
The past is gone all just a memory.
The future is clay and ready to play
I wonder,
Who will continue on this road to redemption?
For, whatever was,
And may still one day be,
I hope the bench inspires
Others--like me.

Deep Love by Francisco
Airbrush

“New Growth” by Casey,
selected section

I feel these rays of light
being absorbed into my heart
I begin to run through this
This withered desolate path
Filled with pain and loneliness
And stomp all over the Decayed
The deadly, poisonous
The invasive, darkness
The ideals that lead me
to this ruinous land.
And as I take that first step
that first step into the light
Now I finally understand
I understand my soul.

“Save the Girls” by Brian
Colored Pencil

MISSION STATEMENT
The UO Prison Education Program exists in order to improve educational opportunities in Oregon prisons through for-credit college courses, workshops, lectures, and more.

General Updates:
As a community, we are incredibly eager to be back together in person to engage in educational content and discussion. We are hopeful that we will be able to hold in person courses Fall 2021, but this is contingent on the Department of Corrections and State of Oregon Covid 19 precautions. In the meantime, we are offering “packets” courses through the mailrooms, creating new programs (see PEP TV, LEAP, and Business School updates), and recruiting and training new interns and faculty. When it is safe to be back, we will be back!

Summer 2021 courses
ALL COURSES OFFERED AS READINGS COURSES
• Contemporary Food Systems
  (Leslie McLees) OSP and OSCI
• Democracy and Power in Contemporary American Politics
  (Gerry Berk) OSP
• End of Life Care in the US
  (Nicole Ngo) OSCI
• Intercultural Communication
  (Katie Dwyer) CCCF
Fall term courses will be announced in late August

2021 DUCKS GIVE FUNDRAISER
Thanks to the generosity of 53 alumni and friends, we raised more than $17,000 during Ducks Give - a UO annual online fundraising event. This was our first time participating, and we are thrilled to have the support.

Our program was part of an enormous effort across the UO to support programs for our campus and community. The best part of the day for us was seeing some familiar names on our donors list – we received support from Inside-Out alumni, family members, faculty members, and campus officials who have attended past events. We have heard from so many people that they care about and want to help us continue our work. It is wonderful to see proof of that in action.

Donations like these help us continue to innovate and sustain our work. Thank you to everyone who supported us on Ducks Give!

GRATITUDE FOR THE ARTISTS
Deep thanks to all creatives who donated their art to the program and/or wrote for this newsletter. Your talent is greatly appreciated.
BUSINESS SCHOOL COLLABORATION

We are excited to announce that we have started a collaboration with the UO Lundquist College of Business. For now, they are helping with DVD processing for PEP TV. In the future, they hope to hold workshops, support reentry efforts, and (hopefully) offer in-person classes someday. We are glad to have them - inside folks have requested business classes for years!

MESSAGES TO PEERS ON THE “OTHER SIDE”

...your words, stories, and faces haven't been forgotten.” –Sydney

“For the rest of my life I will remember these students and teachers and to feel honored they changed my life and I changed theirs. All stereotypes go out the window and you meet true people.” –Tod

“I would say sorry that we didn’t get to have our closing ceremony. The timing of the pandemic was really unfortunate and I wish everyday that we would have gotten the chance to all say goodbye in person. I wish you all well and hope you are all doing okay” –Nick

“I do not know if you will remember me in a decade, but I do know the impact you had on me, as a human being, will never be forgotten. You reminded me what it is like to feel normal, to feel and be treated as a human and I thank you.” –Joey

“...I hope that you’re as well as you can be — you all are definitely in my thoughts. I had so much fun in our class and I miss it a lot!” –Anjali

“COVID can’t take away the great memories and can’t stop new ones in the future. We’ll be ready when you are!” –Kyle

LEAP

LEAP (Learning, Engagement, and Activities Packets) provides learning and correspondence opportunities for people in segregated housing units. LEAP packets are designed to serve people who cannot attend classes, workshops, or book discussions in person. Our curriculum offers resources for readers to actualize the abilities they possess and explore new areas of healing and growth, and to respond to prompts and receive feedback from a PEP faculty member. This idea was first discussed in our ACE leadership group at OSP several years ago, and it wasn’t until the pandemic that we had the time to make it happen.

This program is in pilot phase at OSP as of Summer 2021, with plans to expand. The feedback from our first group of 50 participants has been extremely positive, with requests for more. We hope to send it to others statewide, and to use the participant feedback as we create the second volume.

PEP TV

PEP TV brings educational video content inside. We select talks from events and speakers on the UO campus and create 2 hour blocks of educational, informational, and entertaining material. When we first approached the DOC with the idea, we hoped to be approved to send content to OSP and OSCI -- the two institutions where we are most involved. They requested that the program be expanded statewide to be played on each correctional facility’s institution channel. Everyone who is incarcerated in the Oregon DOC system who has access to a television will hopefully be able to view our programming on the education channel.

The content is curated from recorded lectures hosted by the UO’s Oregon Humanities Center, Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, and Wayne Morse Center. PEP TV is still in a pilot phase and we plan to expand and deepen the program and get feedback from inside folks to meet interests and needs.

The PEP TV Content Curator is Josh Cain. We are lucky to have his leadership now, as we did on ACE.