



Emerald Media

FEB. 14, 2022

*Monday Edition*

# CHANGING SEASONS, CHANGING ART

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changing how they make art.**

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**ON THE COVER**  
*Milaan Moses is a dancer, musician and dance instructor. (Photo courtesy of Gordan Mindoro)*

everything you need to know  
**EVERYTHING UO**

**FROM YOU**

# VOICES OF UO:

## OREGON INDOOR MASK MANDATE TO END



(Isaac Wasserman/ Emerald)

On Feb. 7, the Oregon Health Authority announced that it will lift the indoor mask mandate no later than March 31. OHA's bulletin says health scientists expect that 400 or fewer Oregonians would be hospitalized with COVID-19 by late March. According to the CDC, "Preliminary data suggest that Omicron may cause more mild disease, although some people may still have severe disease, need hospitalization, and could die from the infection with this variant."

In "Opinion: Oregon to call off mask mandate prematurely," Emerald opinion columnist Emma J Nelson urges readers to "reach out to the OHA and Governor Kate Brown and ask them to hold onto the mandate" until U.S. COVID-19 cases drop significantly. "It's rather upsetting to have Oregonians' efforts to prevent the spread of the virus both acknowledged yet quickly nullified by the actions of state officials," she writes. "All

of our progress – two years worth of it – could go down the drain beginning in April, and we shouldn't let that happen silently."

**Letter to the editor re "Opinion: Oregon to call off mask mandate prematurely" by Emma J Nelson:**

*My opinion on face masks differs from Emma J Nelson's. I am almost 70, and I was very worried about Covid in 2020. I quit going to the gym, and I gained 15 pounds. So after I got my initial vaxx last April, I followed all the rules and I went back to the gym. No one was wearing masks beyond the front staff! I haven't been sick. Also, I believe information I am getting that Omicron causes cold-like symptoms, but bestows powerful immunity against worse COVID. Come and get me Omicron!*

*Deborah Kennedy  
Keizer, Oregon*

## Reader Recommends

BY TREVER BOLTON



### PROGRAM RECOMMENDATION: Ducks Feeding Ducks

**Summary:** This program aims to help students who are struggling with food insecurity while dealing with other difficulties of being a student. The service can be found on the Erb Memorial Union website by clicking Duck Bucks under ID services. Once in the Ducks Feeding Ducks page, you can request to be supported; this will send \$10 for food to your Duck Bucks account for on campus food and will be available for three days on your card. Other food assistance programs are also available on the site.

**Recommended by:** Milli Hopkinson, freshman studying business

"It's literally two or three free meals, and I don't know why people don't know about it," Hopkinson said. "I know a lot of friends who have food insecurity, and they just don't know about all these free programs that they've paid for with their tuition."

## LOOK ONLINE

**Instagram poll:**

*Have you ever dined at Agate Alley Bistro?*

**Yes: 50%**

**No: 50%**

**Related A&C story:**

*"Agate Alley Bistro shines in Eugene with Northwest, Latin and Asian flavors"*

by Lauren Leone



(Maddie Stellingwerf/ Emerald)

**Top read new story in the past week:**

*"Opinion: Oregon to call off mask mandate prematurely"*

by Emma J Nelson



(Mary Grosswendt/ Emerald)

### Voices of UO

Scan here or visit the Emerald's social media to participate in our next Voices of UO. What do you think of job options and conditions for student employees at UO?



**We want to hear from you:**

Email [editor@dailyemerald.com](mailto:editor@dailyemerald.com) to submit a tip or a letter to the editor. The ideal length for a letter is 200-500 words, but we publish letters of various lengths online.



(Maisie Plew/ Emerald)



Starbucks employees fulfill the constant stream of orders during the day. The Starbucks in the Erb Memorial Union on campus is working towards unionizing their workforce. (Will Geschke/Emerald)



# EMU STARBUCKS FILES TO UNIONIZE

Starbucks workers at the Erb Memorial Union location filed to unionize on Jan. 4 and will vote on unionization in the coming weeks. **BY** ABBY SOURWINE

The Erb Memorial Union Starbucks have joined the national wave of unionization, bringing the total number of unionized Eugene Starbucks locations to six. EMU Starbucks employees sent signed union cards to the National Labor Relations Board on Jan. 4.

Private sector employees, like Starbucks “partners,” sign union cards to indicate interest in being represented by a union. A workplace must collect cards from at least 30% of employees and send them to the NLRB. Once the cards are processed, which can take six to eight weeks, employees hold a vote to determine if they will be represented by a union. That vote is decided by a simple majority.

Union supporters hope to bargain for better working conditions and higher wages.

“The working conditions are pretty horrific,” Kenny Park, a partner since May, said.

At the crux of these poor conditions is the volume of orders. Park said the store pulls in more orders than anywhere else in the district. To compensate, 12-15 partners are on the clock during peak times and 10 are behind the counter in a very narrow space, Park said.

This makes it impossible to maintain a COVID-safe distance between employees but also poses threats to physical safety.

Owen Wach, a supervisor at the EMU location, said some partners have gotten concussions from hitting their heads on oven doors.

“There’s a lot of unsafe elements of the store where even the fire marshal said, ‘This isn’t acceptable, but

there’s nothing better you can do,” Wach said.

For instance, the breaker box is covered by a trash can, which is a fire hazard, but there is physically no other place to put the trash can, so it stays in this unsafe spot, Wach said.

Employees hope to improve conditions through a store remodel. Wach said managers have discussed a potential remodel to add space and address safety concerns for years, but nothing has come of it.

“I’m hoping that the unionization will fast track that, so we can have a safe space to work in,” Trinity Smith, a partner since June, said. “If we just had a few more feet of space in our building, we would have more space just to breathe and calm down because it’s already so stressful.”

The nature of a Starbucks location in the EMU means the majority of customers are University of Oregon students. This can contribute to more friendly customer interactions, but can also mean tips are “humiliating,” Park said.

Wach worked at the Oakway Starbucks location before coming to the EMU. They said at Oakway they could expect to make about \$2 per hour in tips. At the EMU location, he can expect seven to 14 cents.

“We don’t make any tips just because it’s students,” Smith said. “While that’s completely understandable – it’s up to the customer completely – we all feel like our pay should reflect the work that we’re putting into the company.”

All Starbucks employees received \$15/hour at the

start of the COVID-19 pandemic, which increased wages for many, but those wage increases have been reversed.

Now that they’ve filed, employees have faced some intimidation tactics from bosses. Higher-ups from Starbucks locations outside of the district have shown up to say “we’re here for you” and discourage voting for a union, Wach said. Partners have also been called into two-on-one conversations between a partner, a district manager and another manager.

“These meetings aren’t mandatory, but they’re framed as being mandatory,” Wach said. “It’s really hard to say, ‘Oh, my boss and her boss. I don’t really want to talk to you two.’”

In these meetings, partners are told forming a union could take away employee benefits.

“The partners leading the union are very knowledgeable and won’t fall for the fear mongering Starbucks is currently trying to throw our way,” Park said.

Wach is one of the partners highly invested in the union-forming process. They said they feel invested in their working conditions and hope others will, too.

“There’s a lot more investment and a sense of being part of something larger,” he said. “I feel like it really is becoming a movement not just with us, but also hopefully with other public sector jobs. So much customer service stuff is so hard and so unfair to the people that work it. It’s just very exciting being a big part of that and, optimistically, I really hope that this spreads.”



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# SAD: THE STRAW THAT BROKE THE ARTIST'S BACK

Musicians, writers and artists persevere through the winter gloom, using art to cope or struggling with motivation and mental health.

BY KRISTA KROISS • TWITTER @KRISTAKROISS

In a typical Eugene October, you hear the crunch of red and orange tinged leaves under your feet as you wade through a layer of them on the sidewalk. You'll look up at the gray colored sky and feel the first drop of rain hit your nose and slide down your face. As the drizzle turns to a downpour, you'll pull your raincoat closer around you in a vain attempt to keep warm as you march to class. You may even feel dread creep through your body, realizing that this cold, rainy gloom will continue until March.

During these winter months is when seasonal depression, otherwise known as seasonal affective disorder, starts to hit 5% of U.S. adults, according to TimelyMD – with about 15% experiencing mild symptoms such as changes in mood or energy, according to Yale Medicine. A condition more common among women and people further from the equator, SAD comes from a lack of natural sunlight and shorter days from the winter, resulting in a change of brain chemistry.

For artists and creatives who have seasonal depression, or are simply affected by the change in seasons, they not only see a change in themselves – but in the way they create.

## Reflecting the environment

Artists are often inspired by the world around them, attempting to mirror their environment and experiences. For UO professor and poet Daniel Anderson, the gloominess of winter months combines with the influential experiences he had during the season – which comes out in his writing.

Anderson teaches poetry at UO and has been expressing himself through writing since high school. He now has several published poems under his belt.

After facing the loss of a friend in high school, writing and music became emotional outlets for Anderson.

“One of the things that I believe all early writers want to do is express themselves,” Anderson said, adding that a key part of writing is being able to use one’s personal experiences in a way that allows readers to relate.

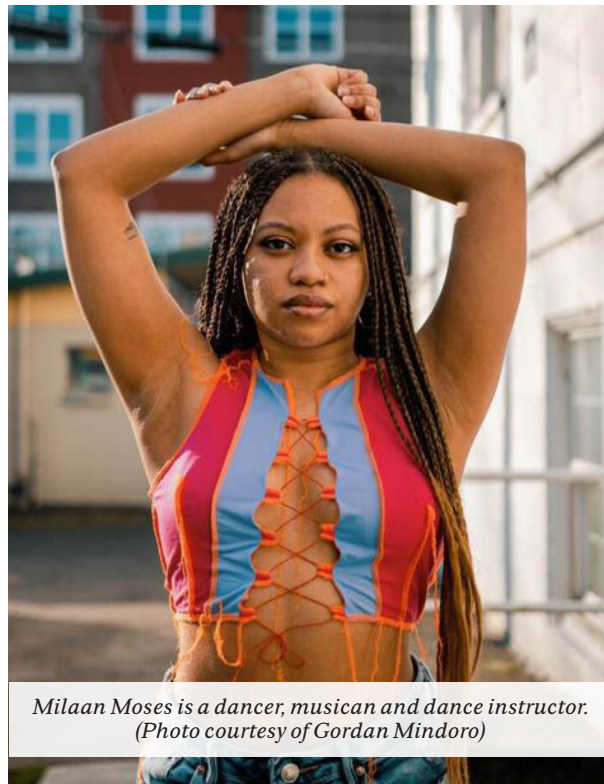
Anderson works to teach these skills of expressing and evoking emotions to his creative writing students. Although he hasn’t noticed a difference in the work students produce during different seasons, Anderson is confident about one thing – writers often try to reflect the world they live in.

“When one writes, there’s a real desire to replicate time and place,” Anderson said, noting the strong influence a dreary environment can have. “One of the more powerful draws as writers, a draw to the imagination, is a period of gloominess.”

Recreating one’s dark, gloomy environment is a common occurrence in literature, Anderson said. An example can be found in the poem “Stopping by



(Photo courtesy of Daniel Anderson)



Milaan Moses is a dancer, musician and dance instructor.  
(Photo courtesy of Gordan Mindoro)

Woods on a Snowy Evening” by Robert Frost – one of Anderson’s favorite poems.

“My little horse must think it queer, to stop without a farmhouse near,” Frost writes. “Between the woods and frozen lake, the darkest evening of the year.”

The images of darkness and winter cold are reflected in the poem. The imagery implies a snowy night on the winter solstice, capturing the freeze and isolation one feels in the woods at nightfall.

Anderson said that the changing seasons – moving from the summer sunshine to the onset of early twilights – used to inspire his work.

“As a younger person, I was seasonally moved a lot more than I am now,” Anderson said, noting his simultaneous love and hatred of the end of daylight savings in the fall. “I loved the early darkness – so beautiful, so incongruous.”

Anderson said this phenomenon has to do with the strong connection between our formative experiences and the time of year in which they occur – whether that be the memory of falling in love for the first time or a traumatic event, we will remember the time of year it happened, and artists may try to commemorate it.

## Art and identity

Being a member of a marginalized community means dealing with discrimination and societal ignorance, but these weights can become even heavier during the winter, with the onset of seasonal depression.

For UO alumni and local dance instructor Milaan Moses, seasonal depression combines with her identity as a Black woman to influence her well being and her craft.

After struggling with her Black identity for much of her childhood, Moses was able to truly connect with it after finding others that relate to her experience as a Black woman in college. Her senior year of dance at UO is when her Black identity really connected with her and her art.

“I used my identity as a platform to speak for other people like me, creating dances that were not for the majority,” Moses said, adding that she takes pride and comfort in this.

Moses’s senior dance piece, “On This Street,” is one of the only senior hip-hop pieces to come out of UO’s modern dance-focused school of dance and was made to represent the few POC in the program. The piece was based on her experiences and emotions being a Black woman, looking over her shoulder in fear of racism while dancing in her own neighborhood.

Seasonal depression adds another weight to traumas like these, something that Moses jokes with herself about.

“I always like to say this is the time of year



when my normal depression meets my seasonal depression,” Moses said.

Moses explained her struggle with depression and seasonal depression, expressing that because she has been successful in creating during the low points of her life it has led to a desire to have those low points again.

“For a long time, I felt that my best work came out of a time when I was at my lowest, and I always got the most done,” Moses said. “I was constantly craving that low.”

Over the last year, Moses has been able to do a lot of self-reflection and healing and is in a much better position to cope with depression and seasonal depression than she used to be. But her dance students – kids going through similar issues – don’t always have those resources, both because they are young and because the COVID-19 pandemic has blocked off much of the outside world.

“Students are affected the way I’m affected,” Moses said, adding that this is especially true at Xcape Dance academy, which is more geared towards BIPOC and low income students. “You really see how trauma affects them, and it comes out in their dancing.”

Moses teaches at three different dance studios – Eugene Ballet Academy, Xcape Dance Academy and Flex Studios – and notices a stark difference in the demographics of each. She has also noticed differences in how kids from different backgrounds handle the impacts of winter on their mental health.

For kids already facing racism or poverty, the “dark days become even darker,” she said.

With a dreary winter adding another layer of challenges to already difficult times – from discrimination to the COVID-19 pandemic – it can be hard to find a way to be optimistic this time of year.

Yet freshman Max Spears, who plays trombone, finds a way.

Spears is dual enrolled at UO and Lane Community College and hopes to be fully enrolled at UO as a music education major next year. Like Moses, Spears found that the change in climate during fall and winter impacts his mental health, adding to the struggles already present during the pandemic and political turmoil of the last few years.

On top of the environmental contexts in the last couple years, Spears is a gay man who has been forced to deal with homophobia. Even if Eugene is more accepting than parts of rural Oregon, there are times when he still fears that something as small as his clothes could lead to homophobic comments on the streets, he said.

But when the difficulty of the pandemic, winter and general anxiety sinks in, Spears’s focus is on finding inspiration through gratitude.

“I just think it makes music and art that much more special,” Spears said. “I try to treasure that more.”

### Sapping motivation

For many artists, their work is their passion – something they want to do all the time. However, during the hardships winter months can bring, some struggle to find motivation and productivity for their craft.

For Spears, the effects of seasonal depression start in the fall, making him feel more drowsy and less motivated, especially with the pandemic making him more isolated.

“It adds more anxiety to what you already might have,” Spears said, speaking on the way the pandemic and seasonal changes impact his mental health. “I think 2020 really took a toll on my musicianship and motivation.”

Kyle Bulcao-Moore, a UO art and technology major, said she finds herself much less motivated to create during the winter months – not because of seasonal depression alone, but because it is like another burden on the pile with mental illness.

“Instead of coping, I’m more wallow,” Bulcao-Moore said, adding that she creates a lot less when she is cooped up in the winter months. “I’m not going outside enough; I’m not being inspired by anything; I’m not excited to create.”

Lack of motivation is a common feeling for Moses, Spears and Bulcao-Moore during the fall and winter. Marigold Stenger, a local musician, also found that her productivity takes the biggest hit during the season.

“It’s sometimes harder to focus on the music and be 100% involved in the winter months,” Stenger said. “I’m balancing a lot of different things, along with any mental struggles that are going on.”

Stenger is a musician with her own band, but she does a lot more than that – she’s a full time student, a model and has a job. It is hard to manage these responsibilities in general, but even more so during the winter.

“I notice that burnout and mental health in general become a major struggle for me in the winter,” Stenger said, noting that in her mind productivity defines her value, causing her to have unrealistic standards for herself.

Moses also faces difficulty with productivity in the winter, especially because she is from Southern California – where the winters are not as cold or dark as those in Oregon. Being unadjusted to the constant hazy rain, Moses said it is challenging for her to be creative without sunshine.

“Here, it’s always dark, and always cold,” Moses said, adding that the lack of sunlight makes it more difficult to be productive creatively. “I get so frustrated because I constantly want to create, and I feel like I can’t.”

### Darker times, brighter colors

Coping with difficult and challenging times is a common purpose for art during the winter. Many find comfort in strumming sad songs on a guitar or writing a story around the gloominess outside.

However, Bulcao-Moore has a different method of handling the impact of seasonal depression.

“In a way, I think I try to combat seasonal depression with an overcorrection,” Bulcao-Moore said. “My art gets more colorful, more vibrant, whenever I’m going through more.”

Bulcao-Moore said this strategy is a way to cheer herself up when she needs it and to cope with her negative emotions.

“If I’m ever feeling genuinely gross or something, instead of writing in a journal I will just draw until I feel like all my emotions have gotten out onto the page,” Bulcao-Moore said. “I try to turn my bad feelings into this very vibrant fun looking thing, even if the concept isn’t so much the same.”

An example of this is a piece Bulcao-Moore made last December, captioned “NINE TO FIVE” with a note about feeling burnt out on her social media post. The piece features bright orange and calm, dark blues with a sunny sky in the background. We see people – hunched over in a way suggesting they are drained or unhappy – going through an office building and coming out with a cloud over their heads. In the same building another person cries in the bathroom, and another sits on the front steps with a blue face, demonstrating the sadness they carry.

At a glance the work has fun colors on an interesting and seemingly energetic backdrop, but a closer look reveals a message on the standard 9-to-5 expectations of society, arguing it leaves people drained and unhappy with their life. In this way, Bulcao-Moore is able to express her emotions on societal expectations and burnout with happy-feeling colors.

As a whole, seasonal depression can dampen the spirits and motivation of creatives trying to further their craft – especially in the context of the pandemic. With all the challenges in mood and productivity on top of general life stresses, Anderson does have some advice for struggling students: “Be good to yourself.”

*Max Spears is a dual University of Oregon and Lane Community College student with a passion for the arts.  
(Ali Watson/Emerald)*



## MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

One of the best ways to cope with seasonal affective disorder is by talking to a counselor or therapist. UO’s Counseling Services offers short-term therapy services such as single-session intervention, wellness workshops, group therapy and short-term focused individual therapy (one to six sessions per academic year) and can help find longer term therapists. Call **541-346-3227** to schedule a consultation or learn more. Counseling Services also offers Let’s Talk, a service that provides free, informal and confidential individual consultations with a counseling staff member on a drop-in basis. Visit <https://counseling.uoregon.edu/letstalk> to see the schedule.



# POTHOLES AREN'T THE PROBLEM; YOUR ATTITUDE IS

**Iverson:** Sure, they're an acquired taste, but people need to grow up and learn to enjoy the intricacies of neglected infrastructure.

BY BRAYDON IVERSON



The white graffiti on the roundabout of 17th and Patterson alley echoes the sentiment of many Eugene locals. (Liam Sherry/Emerald)

I passed through East 17th Avenue toward Patterson recently on my way to class, and while carefully watching the ground I spotted something. It was a half-empty pack of Marlboro menthols: That was strange. Then, next to the pack, I noticed crude red lettering staining the fragmented pavement. It read: "Too many potholes." I furiously stormed off, tripped and fell in the road, got back up and stormed off again.

It's time I break my silence. I actually think there aren't enough potholes in Eugene. I like potholes. I think they're nice.

I also want to address the author of the crudely left message. Vandalism is illegal, and you're a horrible person who should go to jail. How does it feel, criminal?

People love to vilify potholes, even in pop culture. Small artist Tyler, the Creator went as far as to dedicate a slander tape to them in his song "Pothole." Consider the impact Tyler, the Creator has had on your life. Now, consider how involved potholes have been in your living experience. Exactly, he and the mysterious vandal should consider this before beginning their next smear campaign.

Quite honestly, those complaining about potholes need to examine the real holes in their life: the ones in their family relationships. You haven't called home in weeks, and you're worried about these whimsical little gaps in the ground? That's interesting; maybe examine the gaps in your family's quality time. They miss you. They talk about you to me all the time.

Complaints about potholes damaging vehicles are so played out. If you don't have the money to replace tires or fix your alignment invariably and repeatedly, consider getting your money up. It's the holes in your pockets you need to worry about.

Reluctantly, I admit it's important to understand the misconceptions and bias Eugene residents have toward potholes. So, I boldly interrogated residents near particularly pothole-blessed roads.

Joe Naughton, a third-year student living near Patterson street, said, "The roads around here are uneven, to say the least. I've been in Eugene for a few years so I know where not to drive to avoid potholes, but I'm sure it's rough on people that are new to here." First of all, that was rude. If you don't have anything nice to say about the roads in Eugene don't say anything. That's verbatim how the saying goes, I'm told. Second, you say you've been around a few years? So have the potholes, buddy. They've cemented themselves into the grains of this neighborhood. What gives you

the authority to want them gone? I fear colonialism rears its ugly head once again.

Surely the local skaters would have more agreeable ideals and maybe even compromise with the concrete. "I've tried to longboard through here, 17th, and just decided to pick up my board and walk instead. The road's that bad," second-year Dennis Pottratz said. Why must the blame always be directed at the potholes of the road? We must consider the possibility this person is just bad at boarding. Perhaps he is even jealous of the potholes.

"I think people wanting the potholes to be cleaned up [are] playing right into the hands of 'big pavement,'" third-year Joseph Klym said. "Keep your eyes open and on the road." With the information I've gathered before me, and shackled by powers above my station, I cannot at this time soundly endorse or refute this claim. I present it as a mere proposition to engage in thinking outside of the box for this topic.

Pavement propaganda has become increasingly problematic, and residents in the area took notice. "They sent out flyers in the neighborhood last spring saying they would pave over roads – like 15th to 17th – but when I came back in September nothing had changed," third-year Patrick Evans said. "Following up on promises to pave roads should be a priority in my opinion." Frankly, I'm glad you were lied to. You never even gave the potholes a chance.

The city is not responsible for claims the city made. It would be disastrous if those living in Eugene more actively filed online reports of potholes in their residential area. Using the phone number 541-682-4800 (available from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday through Friday) as another means to request road repairs would be incredibly unjust to the voiceless potholes.

There's nothing worse for a community than people within the community voicing their perspectives on how to better their everyday surroundings.



**Braydon Iverson** is a columnist for the Daily Emerald opinion desk. A third-year journalism student and lifelong Duck fan, he feels a strong connection to the Eugene community and a responsibility to represent it justly through writing.

## HOT OR NOT



### NINTENDO SWITCH SPORTS

The Wii Sports sequel is sure to bring back memories of failed attempts at bowling and beating your siblings at tennis. With new sports, customizable Miis and an online play option, it's sure to be a hit. — *Caitlin Tapia*

### PEACEMAKER IS AWESOME

Peacemaker is basically all I've ever wanted from a superhero show. He's absolutely insane. It feels like a buddy cop show with him and his partner Eagly, but just really stupid in a good way. — *Ian Proctor*



### VALENTINE'S DAY

While wearing pink, baking and wallowing in my emotions are like my top three favorite activities, I get that the corporate mushy-gushiness isn't for everyone. Wishing love and healing to the Valentine's haters. <3 — *Cale Crueger*

### OSCAR NOMINATIONS

While there are many astounding and brilliant films nominated for Oscars this year, I would like to know where the appreciation for the film "Sing 2" is. It may have been unhinged, but that just added to its magnificence. — *Beatrice Byrd*



### WAR WITH RUSSIA?

Folks, there's a lot of saber rattling in Eastern Europe right now, and I, for one, am sick of it. Presidents Biden and Putin, if you're reading this, I only have one message: Cut it out! There. That ought to solve it. — *C. Francis O'Leary*

### MASK MANDATE LIFTING

On one hand, it's incredibly irresponsible and dangerous. On the other hand, we finally get to see everyone's wet mouths again. — *Porter Wheeler*



# SHIFTING GEAR: UO LIBRARIES

BY AUDREY KALMAN

*Shifting Gear is the Daily Emerald's gear review column. Audrey Kalman recommends everything you could ever need on a biweekly basis.*

A library is, by definition, a collection of materials which people can refer to and borrow. The University of Oregon's libraries, however, are much more than this. Across the UO's six library locations, there is something for everyone. In fact, I'm willing to bet there are several things for most people.

Let's start with the Knight Library. Located on campus' western edge, this is the flagship location of the UO library network. Knight Library has four floors and is chalk full of resources to help students, faculty, staff, community members and public patrons investigate any number of subjects. This main location houses the bulk of the UO Library's physical collection. There are thousands of books, and that is just one realm of items in the collection. There are also CDs, DVDs, vinyl LPs, government documents, maps, microforms, music and newspapers, to name just a few of the many categories Knight Library contains.

I often find myself on the second floor, browsing the popular reading collection or looking through recent magazine issues. Recently, I've also been eyeing the library's physical music collection, which conveniently includes much of Joni Mitchell and Neil Young's respective catalogs.

The brick and mortar collections are just the beginning of what the UO Libraries grant access to. There is also the Interlibrary Loan system, which allows UO students to check out books hosted at other schools, the Endnote Web citation manager and the librarian curated Research Guides, which are especially useful for specific classwork. There are thousands of resources available through the libraries here at UO, even while those resources exist online or at other sites.

The Knight Library is the meat and potatoes of the collection, though the other library locations are not to be overlooked. The Design Library, with its entrance on the second floor of Lawrence Hall, is nothing short of a serene oasis of information on all

things art and architecture. I enjoy sitting in the Design Library's periodical room, just off the main space.

The John E. Jaqua Law Library, in the law school building on Agate Street, is the hidden gem of the Eugene campus libraries. It is significantly quieter than the other locations and has a very East-Coast-academic feel. On the first floor of the Law Library, the second floor of the building, there are long tables flanked by Aeron chairs – the ergonomically divine corporate world standard. There are also absolutely voluptuous leather armchairs along the perimeter of the space, which are just plain incredible. Or, if you want to work while standing, the rows of low shelves of law volumes on the north end of the work nicely, as they're at a good height to rest your laptop on.

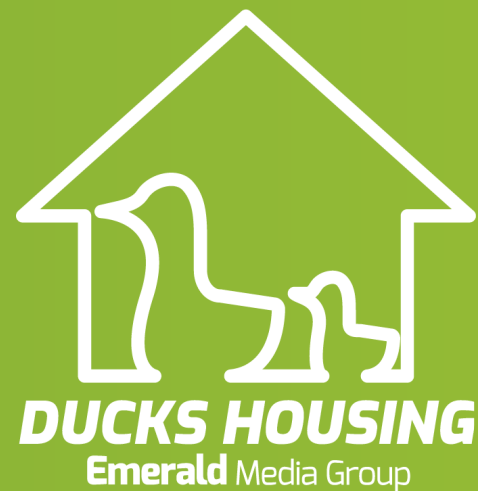
In regards to STEM-specific libraries, there are the Mathematics Library and the Price Science Commons and Research Library. The former is on the second floor of Fenton Hall, and the latter is beneath Willamette, Klamath, Cascade and Onyx Halls. It might be helpful to note the Math Library offers homework help both in person and on Zoom – hours can be found on the UO Libraries website. The Science Library also has the DeArmond MakerSpace, which the UO Libraries website describes as "a DIY space for use by University of Oregon students, staff and faculty from any department." There are a few steps – an orientation and safety procedure – one must complete before being able to access the numerous state-of-the-art tools, including a laser cutter, laser scanners, 3D printers and routers, among many others.

The sixth location is the Portland Library and Learning Commons in the historical White Stag Block building on Couch Street. Even though this location is two hours north, it can be quite convenient for UO students who need to get some work done while in Portland for the weekend, for instance. After all, with a system of libraries this beneficent, the learning truly never stops.



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# COMMITTING TO A PITCHING STAFF

BY AARON HEISEN



Oregon Ducks pitcher Jordan Dail (2) pitches the ball. Oregon softball takes on Portland State at Jane Sanders Stadium in Eugene, Ore. on April 23, 2019. (Devin Roux/Emerald)

Ducks head coach Melyssa Lombardi intends to turn the pitching staff from a liability into a strength.

Brooke Yanez sat helpless on the mound as Arizona State's Kindra Hackbarth towered a home run over the center field wall. Yanez was stuck in the middle of a long third inning during a four-game stretch from April 30 to May 2, 2021 when the Ducks dropped three games.

She had pitched a total of 8 1/3 innings over the previous three days. While Yanez led the Pac-12 with 22 wins last season, the Sun Devils had no problem exploiting the Ducks' ace.

Whether it was a crux of continuity or a result of Yanez's fatigue, the Ducks' lack of a deep pitching staff contributed to the three-game skid.

Heading into the 2022 season, Oregon head coach Melyssa Lombardi stressed the importance of building a strong pitching staff around Yanez, who made an appearance in 37 of the Ducks' 57 games last year and pitched a total of 182 1/3 innings.

"We need a pitching staff," Lombardi said. "This year our pitching staff is much more experienced, so [Yanez] doesn't have to take on the number of innings she did last year."

Alongside Yanez, the Ducks return junior Makenna Kliethermes and fifth-year Jordan Dail. They also added freshmen Stevie Hansen and Allison Benning.

A deep pitching staff will help keep each pitcher fresh and catch Oregon's opponents off guard. Yanez, Dail and Hansen tend to throw the ball with more spin, while Benning and Kliethermes enforce their will with speed and power.

"Every game, we're going to have a lot of

options," Yanez said. "We all specialize in different pitches, which will be good for our team and scary for our opponents."

With the addition of two freshman pitchers and the emphasis to take the stress off of Yanez's shoulders comes a new challenge for catcher Terra McGowan. McGowan earned a spot on the Second Team All-Pac-12 last season. She finished the season second in the conference with 12 runners caught stealing while hitting .308.

McGowan is committed to Lombardi's vision. She's spent most of her practice time in the bullpen working with each of the new pitchers to build chemistry, making for a smooth transition.

"The bullpen sessions are about understanding what each pitcher needs when they're on the mound," McGowan said. "It's been fun to see them on the mound and see our defense grow comfortable working with them through each individual inning."

It will take a complete buy-in from all three phases of coaching, pitching and catching to ensure the efficiency of the Ducks' pitching staff. Lombardi, Yanez and McGowan are committed to making it work.

"I think all the pitchers understand that we don't need one of them to take the reins," Lombardi said. "It's important we give them all opportunities."

The Ducks' softball season started Thursday, Feb. 10, as they traveled to Fullerton, California, to take on Ole Miss before competing in the UCLA tournament from Feb. 11-19.



Head coach Melyssa Lombardi walks away from home plate after talking to the umpire. Oregon Ducks softball takes on Portland State University at Jane Sanders Stadium in Eugene, Ore. on April 23, 2019. (Ben Green/Emerald)





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