



EASTERN OREGON
UNIVERSITY

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:
MONDAY MUSINGS

October 7, 2013

Colleagues,

Last week combined the excitement of the start of fall classes with Homecoming and all of its associated activities.

Over the course of the week, it was interesting to hear the thoughts of our new students as they became immersed in university culture. Many talked about the anxiety of being able to meet the expectations of their professors and living away from home for the first time. They also expressed gratitude for the number of faculty and staff who have gone out of their way to help make the transition as smooth as possible.

At the same time, it was a joy to welcome back our alumni and see them get carried away by their experiences as EOU students all over again – whether they studied on campus or through our online and onsite programs. They discussed the personal connections they made and how these relationships not only helped them as students, but also in their ventures after graduation.

For Dr. Laurie Marker, recipient of the distinguished alumna award, Homecoming marked the first time she has ever visited our campus. For those who do not know, Dr. Marker graduated from EOU in 1990 and went on to earn her doctorate from Oxford University in England. She established the Cheetah Conservation Fund and is considered one of the world's leading experts in cheetah biology, ecology and conservation.

Another individual we celebrated is Lee Insko, longtime coach and former dean of continuing education and regional programs. Nearly 175 former student-athletes, friends and colleagues acknowledged his significant and lasting impact on Eastern Saturdayevening during a dinner held in his honor.

While Lee and Laurie had never met until this past weekend, if it were not for Lee's work, Laurie's career and impact on the world may have never manifested fully. Her academic pursuits, which enlightened her passion for biology and the welfare of animals, were completed through our distance education programs.

This full circle of connections, knowingly or unknowingly, is what makes the Eastern experience wonderful and unique. Each of us in doing what we can to serve and advance the goals of students has a tremendous impact. We cannot always see the effect, or even determine when or how it occurs, but rest assured, it does – sometimes in our own neighborhood, or in Laurie's

case, rural Africa. Regardless, the impact is very real and evident.

Kudos:

Congratulations to the football team for their second victory in consecutive weeks over a top 20 ranked team. Our volleyball team has maintained its undefeated record in conference play with impressive wins over the weekend, with one over a top 20 team as well. Our soccer team also performed exceptionally well by splitting its two weekend matches, one with an impressive shutout win and the other a hard fight game to the fourth ranked team in the nation. Our men's and women's cross country teams were also in action, finishing second and sixth in their respective meets.

Two Oregon artists, Renee Couture and Carolyn Hopkins, are currently featured in Nightingale Gallery. I attended Renee's lecture last week and the exhibition opening on Friday. It is truly impressive that we are able to offer this caliber of talent for our students and community to enjoy. This is an excellent display and I encourage you to view it if you are able. The pieces demonstrate many of the conflicting dilemmas we face in our world regarding the balance of natural resources, and cultural and economic concerns.

Finally, it was great to see Dr. Greg Monahan return for Homecoming festivities and to witness his annual wearing of an "Eastern Oregon State College" sweatshirt.

I hope you all have a productive week.

Very respectfully,

Bob

Bob Davies
President