



# Running with the Lions

Alumnus Jace Billingsley  
on life in the NFL

THE  
**MOUNTAINEER**  
EASTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

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**EOU President**

Thomas A. Insko, '94  
president@eou.edu

**Vice President for University Advancement**

Timothy J. Seydel, '89  
tseydel@eou.edu

**Executive Director of Philanthropy and the EOU Foundation**

Patrick J. Regan  
pregan@eou.edu

**Major Gifts Officer**

Tyler Dubsky, '03  
tdubsky@eou.edu

**Alumni Coordinator**

Jessie Bowman, '14  
jabowman@eou.edu

**Development Associate**

Sam Flett, '12, '14  
sflett@eou.edu

**Managing Editor**

Victoria Hart  
vhart@eou.edu

**Graphic Designer**

Karyl Kramer, '96  
kkramer@eou.edu

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**Direct any correspondence to:**

The Mountaineer  
University Advancement  
One University Blvd.  
La Grande, OR 97850-2807

541-962-3740

ua@eou.edu

eou.edu

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Friends and Fellow Alumni of Eastern Oregon University,

As we approach graduation, I am thrilled to reflect on another incredible year at Eastern Oregon University. The achievements and distinctions that we have chronicled in this issue of The Mountaineer are a few of the ways our students, faculty, partners and alumni embody our values and principles as we make progress toward strategic goals.

Meaningful civic engagement is at the core of student success at EOU. On University Lobby Day, I was proud that we had the largest contingent of student volunteers who met with lawmakers in Salem to promote higher education. Our students' engagement demonstrated EOU's importance to the region and rural Oregon.

During the February legislative session, EOU was officially designated as Oregon's Rural University. Importantly, this illustrates our deep connection to rural places. It represents our commitment to strengthening our role as engaged partners with community organizations, school districts, businesses and government agencies. This designation gives us a competitive advantage in seeking additional federal and private resources to provide transformational education while serving as an economic engine for rural places.

EOU's identity emanates through actions consistent with our values and principles, mission and strategic plan. I hope you enjoy examples of this in these Mountaineer stories.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Insko, '94  
President

For more information about EOU's strategy, mission, and values and principles, visit [eou.edu/about](http://eou.edu/about).



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**On the cover:** Jace Billingsley, '16, shakes off a tackle during a pre-season game in 2017. Photo courtesy of Detroit Lions.

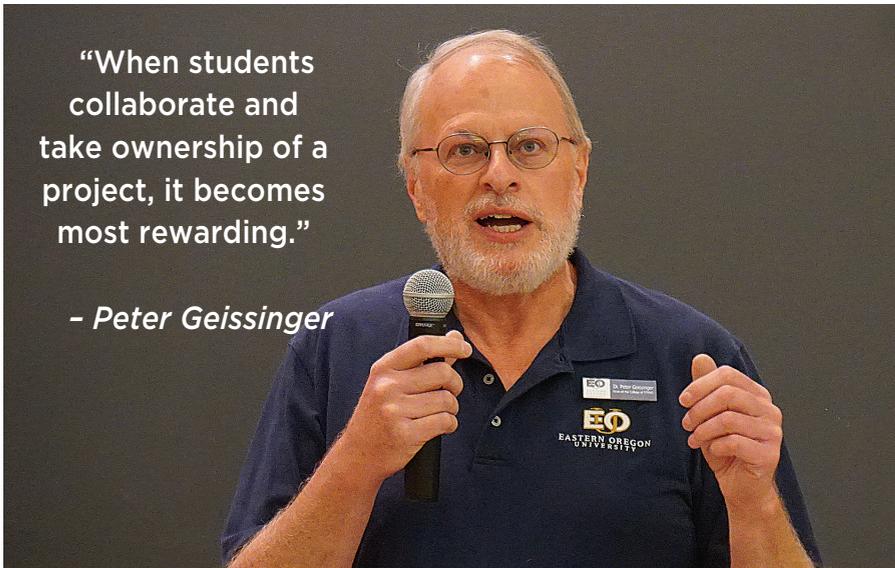
High-quality programs

Access for all

Live, learn, succeed

“When students collaborate and take ownership of a project, it becomes most rewarding.”

– Peter Geissinger



## Community at the center of scientific innovation

**A**fter decades apart, Eastern Oregon University has reunited with a long-ago exchange student. Peter Geissinger fell head-over-heels for the Grande Ronde Valley when he was a 24-year-old exchange student from Germany, and he's returned to give back to the university that welcomed him so many years ago.

As dean of EOU's newly created College of Science, Technology, Mathematics and Health Science, Geissinger brings goals to establish EOU as a leader and partner in rural communities through interdisciplinary projects.

“Learning is disjointed — students gain understanding as they work through different approaches to an issue — so we have to create a framework across disciplines to represent real-world problems,” Geissinger said. “When students collaborate and take ownership of a project, it becomes most rewarding.”

Such a framework will incorporate a range of disciplines to promote prosperity

and resilience in the region. For instance, chemistry students will work with a local farmer on soil composition, while business or computer science students create a business plan for the farm or develop a custom app to support farm operations.

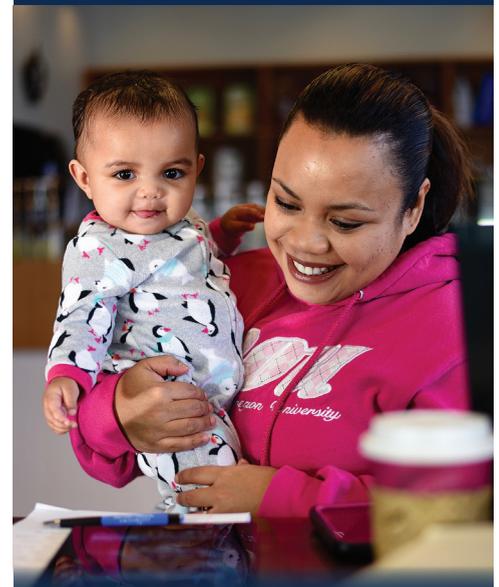
As programs work more closely with one another, students have greater opportunities to engage in high-impact, experiential learning activities. Fusing curriculums through meaningful internships, research projects and service-learning programs encourages students to solve real-world problems with diverse teams.

Geissinger has taken up a pivotal role in strengthening campus-to-community partnership in rural Oregon.

*Geissinger joined EOU with two other new leaders this fall. David Vande Pol started his role as executive director of Regional Outreach & Innovation in August, and Nathan Lowe was named dean of the College of Arts, Humanities & Social Science in July. ♦*

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## Officially Oregon's Rural University

The state legislature passed House Bill 4153 unanimously this spring to designate EOU Oregon's Rural University.

The bill, signed into law on March 6, calls EOU "a focal point for citizens of all age groups" that establishes the importance of education in rural communities and incorporates them into the advanced global economy.

"EOU has been serving rural Oregon since its founding in 1929," said Sen. Bill Hansell (R-Athena). "This official designation allows the university to appeal to potential students across the nation and leverage federal funds."

Rep. Greg Smith (R-Heppner) sponsored the bill with Rep. Lynn Findley (R-Vale), Rep. Greg Barreto (R-La Grande) and Sen. Hansell, demonstrating their belief that EOU serves students, alumni and communities in Eastern Oregon.

Official recognition also marks progress toward achieving goals outlined in the university's strategic plan, which includes highlighting EOU's role in promoting prosperity and resilience in rural communities.

"This designation defines EOU's role in the state," said Vice



State representatives Greg Barreto and Lynn Findley, joined EOU President Tom Insko and Vice President for University Advancement Tim Seydel in Salem as Governor Brown formally signed the bill into effect on March 6.

President for University Advancement Tim Seydel. "It enables us to show evidence of our mission, as well as our unique position and responsibilities as we pursue resources for students and programs in rural areas." ♦

## Speel-Ya Club hosts author, alumna

**A**uthor and alumna Renee Roman Nose, '05, returned to Eastern Oregon University to host lectures, workshops and readings for several days in November.

Roman Nose, who graduated with an anthropology-sociology degree, held a craft workshop with the Native American Program and read from her new book of poetry, "Sweet Grass Talking."

"'Sweet Grass Talking' has served as a place to release the pain of the reality faced by my people, my friends, family members and myself, as a result of colonization," Roman Nose said.

Roman Nose helped design EOU's Native American Studies minor, and tours the country extensively lecturing about Native American heritage, activism and civil rights.

EOU's Speel-Ya Club co-sponsored her visit with the Carl and Sandra Ellston Ars Poetica lecture series, the Native American Program, the Native American Studies minor and MESA.



# Man with a mandolin



**C**omposer, conductor and mandolinist Jesse Jones, '05, crafts music that is published and performed worldwide. After graduating from EOU with a bachelor's in music, he continued his education with a master's in composition from the University of Oregon, and a Doctorate of Musical Arts from Cornell University. Adding to the ranks of his accomplishments, the EOU Alumni Association recognized Jones in 2017 with the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

"EOU is the best place to get the education I needed as a composer," Jones said.

The small music department provided opportunities to participate in choir, orchestra, jazz, African drumming and fiddle ensembles.

"These experiences are things that I probably could not have done at a larger institution without training," he said. "I've been thankful to my teachers for that."

The ensemble Jones created at EOU, String Helix, performed world-style music with eccentric beats defying classification. The group appeared on OPB's Oregon Art Beat and NPR's nationally broadcast radio program, "A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor."

In 2012, Jones was named a Rome Prize fellow and spent a year at the American Academy in Rome.

"When I decided to become a composer I had

lofty dreams for my career, one of which was to teach at a prestigious university," Jones said.

He recently reached that goal, becoming assistant professor of composition at the Oberlin Conservatory.

EOU Music Professor Peter Wordelman, an Oberlin graduate himself, said Jones' music often incorporates a "rhythmic complexity" that matches the caliber of talent available at the conservatory. ♦

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# A fast track to tech jobs

Partnership connects alumni with growing industry

By Vicky Hart

“We’re excited about the skills and networks Revature has to offer our alumni.”

– Jessie Bowman  
Alumni Coordinator

**E**astern Oregon University and Revature, a leading technology talent development company, established a strategic partnership to provide EOU alumni with no-cost, hands-on technology training that will prepare them to fill critical gaps in the technology workforce.

Revature offers intensive online and in-person coding programs to teach alumni the diverse technology skills companies seek. The partnership with EOU provides free training that would otherwise cost alumni thousands of dollars.

“We’re excited about the skills and networks Revature has to offer our alumni,” said Alumni Coordinator Jessie Bowman.

“The EOU Alumni Association is always looking for programs and partnerships that benefit EOU graduates.”

EOU’s regional centers, hosted at community colleges throughout Oregon, also connect alumni with Revature’s training program.



“This partnership is a real asset to our network of alumni,” Bowman said. “Those who attended at regional sites or online can complete their degrees and immedi-

ately start building a career in this growing industry.”

Graduates of Revature’s immersion program are certified in the latest enterprise-level, next-gen and niche technologies, helping them make an immediate impact.

“Through our partnership with Eastern Oregon University we are working to alleviate the technology skills gap,” said Joe Mitchell, executive vice president of academic partnerships at Revature. “We are able to work with their highly talented alumni and provide them with a direct path to becoming skilled software developers.”

For more information or to enroll visit [revature.com/eou](http://revature.com/eou). ♦

# New Fieldhouse in EOU's future



**E**OU will soon have a new indoor facility for year-round events and activities, thanks to funding support from the state.

In March, the Oregon Legislature approved \$9 million in state bonds for construction of a Fieldhouse on the La Grande campus. When completed, the 66,000-plus square-foot, multi-use indoor facility will be the first new state-funded building constructed at the university in nearly 30 years.

"The Fieldhouse provides a flexible indoor space unavailable anywhere else in eastern Oregon, southeast Washington and western Idaho," said EOU President Tom Insko. "One of our goals as an institution is to create a campus that promotes a vibrant and engaging student life, while inviting prospec-

tive students, faculty, staff and others to take part in an active and thriving community. This project represents an incredible new energy at EOU, and I look forward to seeing it take shape."

The venue will add to the stadium and track upgrades already underway. It is planned to provide classroom and lab resources for the Physical Activity & Health and Outdoor Recreation & Leadership programs, indoor practice space for EOU athletics and a rock climbing wall. The facility will also offer opportunities for area schools, wellness activities, camps, and local and

regional sports events. Conferences, concerts and trade shows could also access the venue, bringing significant economic benefits to the region.

"Our success on the Fieldhouse would not have been possible without assistance from legislative leadership and the Eastern Oregon delegation," said Vice President for University Advancement Tim Seydel. "Representative Greg Barreto, Representative Greg Smith and Senator Bill Hansell worked hard to make this project a reality for EOU."

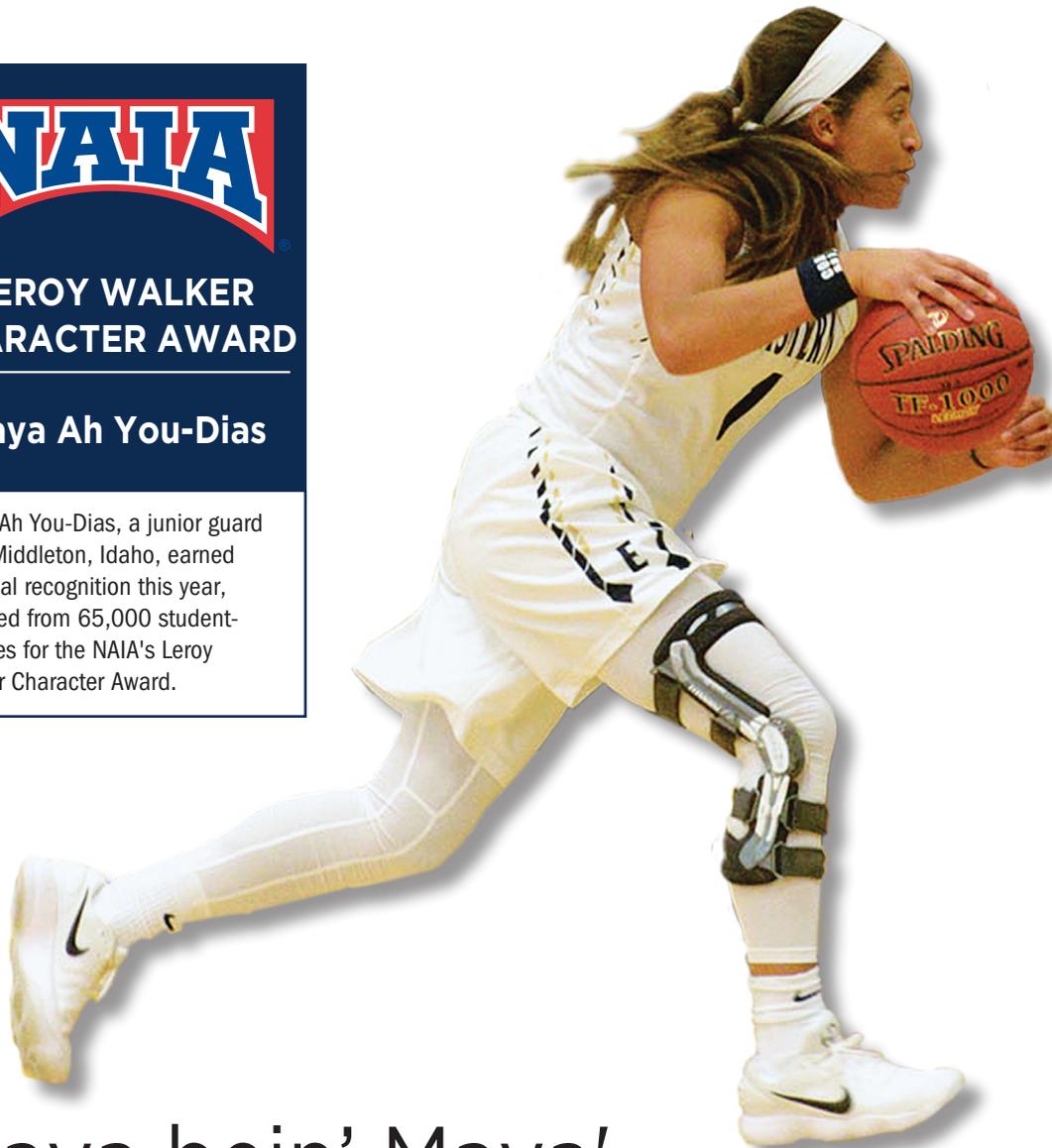
The lottery-backed bonds used to fund the project will be sold in spring 2019 and construction is expected to begin later that year. Additional private fundraising is expected to fully implement the facility. ♦



**LEROY WALKER  
CHARACTER AWARD**

**Maya Ah You-Dias**

Maya Ah You-Dias, a junior guard from Middleton, Idaho, earned national recognition this year, selected from 65,000 student-athletes for the NAIA's Leroy Walker Character Award.




**Maya Ah You-Dias**  
5' 8" Guard  
Middleton, Idaho  
Junior, Psychology  
CCC Player of the Year  
No. 1 in conference for points per game (16.7)  
First Team All-American (first in program history)

## 'Maya bein' Maya' EOU junior receives national NAIA award

Only a few young people could be said to have grace and maturity, and even fewer of them grow up to earn one of the nation's most prestigious awards for personal character. Maya Ah You-Dias, a junior on Eastern Oregon University's women's basketball team, is that student.

Coach Anji Weissenfluh said she recognized Dias' talent early on, but was truly impressed by the young player's personality. "I knew she was an extraordinary person

from the time I first met her," Weissenfluh said.

In September, Dias received the NAIA's Leroy Walker Character Award for outstanding academic achievement, campus and community leadership, athletic achievement, ambition and embracing the five core values of the NAIA Champions of Character initiative: integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship and servant leadership. The league selects one student-athlete out of 65,000 each year to receive the honor.

"Bringing a character award to our campus means so much," Dias said. "The core values of the Champions of Character are something we strive to exemplify every day at EOU, and knowing that our efforts are being acknowledged is very rewarding."

High standards of achievement reached the court this season, too. Dias broke the 1,000-point barrier in January alongside teammate Payton Parrish, and Weissenfluh claimed her 400th career win a month later. The team's momentum carried the Moun-

taineers to finish the regular season 20-0, a first in Cascade Collegiate Conference history.

After winning the conference championship, improving their record to 23-0 in conference play, the team advanced to the NAIA national tournament. Weissenfluh, named CCC Coach of the Year for the sixth time, led the Mountaineers to the second round of the tournament, where the team's 25-game winning streak came to an end along with the 2017-18 season.

Dias said she treasures the relationships she's built on campus. A psychology major from Middleton, Idaho, Dias has spent five years in La Grande and has developed deep ties to the community.

"The connections I've been able to make with teammates, athletes, students, coaches and professors while being a student at EOU are the most special thing I'll take away from here," she said. "I never could have imagined the amount of lifelong friends and inspiring individuals I would meet throughout my college years."

Each athletics program at EOU makes intentional effort to practice service leadership through outreach events and demonstrate good character in words and actions. Weissenfluh said Dias's teammates look to her for an example of how to live by the NAIA's core values on and off the court.

"She epitomizes the Champions of Character program," Weissenfluh said. "She is a wonderful role model for not only the La Grande community, but in her hometown as well. She comes from a family where service is valued and she has taken it upon herself to continue a tradition of helping others."

The Mountaineer Athletic Association, an



Mountaineer Athletic Association President Craig Braseth recognized Dias at the organization's holiday celebration and presented her with a special scholarship award.

affiliate of the EOU Foundation, recognized Dias with a one-time \$500 scholarship in December to celebrate her status as a role model and recipient of the character award. As part of the recognition, the NAIA contributes \$1,000 to the school's general scholarship fund to benefit students and student-athletes.

Named CCC Player of the Year, Dias led the All-Conference team and took the top spot in the CCC for points per game (16.7) this season. She encourages every student to be actively engaged in everything EOU has to offer.

"The amount of things that you can accomplish by being part of the EOU community is amazing," she said. "There are so many people who are willing and waiting to help you accomplish your goals!"

Weissenfluh said "the most important part of our jobs as coaches," is instilling those lifelong character traits into students' words and actions. She said they come to Dias naturally.

"It's part of who she is. It's not something that she's trying to be recognized for, it's what she's truly about," Weissenfluh said. "We've gotten to see Maya being Maya."

Learn more about Maya and keep up with all Mountaineer athletics at [eouSports.com](http://eouSports.com). ♦

## MOUNTAINEER FALL AND WINTER ROUND-UP

**Overall Athletic Success:**  
No. 12 in NAIA 2016-17, No.  
17 in NAIA so far in 2017-18

**Women's Soccer:** NAIA No.  
26, 13-4-2, CCC champions,  
13 shutouts

**Men's Cross-Country:** NAIA  
No. 7, seven competitors at  
national championship race

**Women's Cross-Country:**  
Sr. Roelle represents EOU  
and CCC at nationals, breaks  
school record with 17:52

**Football:** 4-6, OT win 41-34 on  
senior day in La Grande

**Men's Soccer:** 8-8-1, 10  
student-athletes named  
Academic All-CCC

**Men's Wrestling:** No. 19 in  
NAIA; 5-12

**Women's Wrestling:** No. 15,  
4-4, fr. Cavero led team in  
duals wins Jan. 15 in California

**Volleyball:** No. 12 in NAIA; 24-  
11, 3-2 in national tournament;  
graduated two All-Americans  
and CCC Player of the Year

**Men's Basketball:** No. 21 in  
NAIA, 21-8

**Women's Basketball:** No. 6,  
31-3; first CCC team to go 20-0  
in conference play

For more Mountaineer news,  
go to [eouSports.com](http://eouSports.com)

# FROM A SMALL SCHOOL TO THE BIG TIME



By Vicky Hart

Photo courtesy of Detroit Lions.

Jace Billingsley is 5'9" and 189 pounds — among the shortest and lightest players on the Detroit Lions' active roster — but he's used to exceeding expectations.

Billingsley grew up in Winnemucca, Nev., a town of less than 8,000 that lies about six hours south of La Grande.

He was an all-state quarterback for the Lowry Buckaroos when he met Tim Camp, Eastern Oregon University's head football coach. Camp recognized Billingsley's potential instantly at a summer football clinic.

"He was one of the hardest workers," Camp said. "That stuck out most. He was going into his senior year, and he had this ability to work really hard and passionately."

Billingsley joined the Mountaineers as a wide receiver in 2012. He broke a school record with 69 receptions the following year and continued to improve. He found that many EOU professors and coaches invest in students the way Camp had first demonstrated.

"You could tell he cared a lot about the program and players — about everybody there," Billingsley said. "At EOU, coaches are looking after you on the field and helping you develop as a person, too."

At EOU, the community, small classes and genuine relationships kept Billingsley engaged on and off the field. He majored in history and found a role model in professor Ryan Dearing.

"He is a great teacher and advisor... someone I could always talk to," Billingsley said. In his final season at EOU in 2015, Billingsley racked up 13 touchdowns for a team-high 78 points and made up his mind to take a shot at his childhood dream of playing professionally.

"As far back as I can remember, I always believed that [playing professionally] could happen," he said. "Coming from a small high school and then a small college, I never knew it would happen — but I always knew I wanted to give it a shot."

He started training for a Pro Day in Seattle, where NFL scouts could see him perform. In March 2016, he made an impressive showing with a 4.39-second 40-meter dash and 25 reps of a 225-pound bench press. A month later, on NFL Draft Day, Billingsley received a call from the Detroit Lions.

"It's definitely a dream come true," Billingsley said. "I was starting to get a little worried because [the call] was later in the day, but it's such a big accomplishment to even have the opportunity to play for an NFL team."

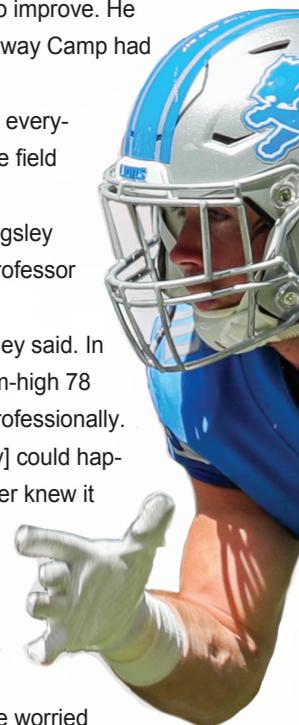
Reflecting on his time as a Mountaineer, Camp called Billingsley "a real Mountie," and said he remains an inspiration to current and future student-athletes.

"You have to at least try and not be afraid of failure," Billingsley said. "I hope my success motivates other EOU students to see that anything is within their reach."

Since 2016, Billingsley has adapted to the more business-like atmosphere of the NFL. After 20 years of playing on small stages with big heart, he said it's been an adjustment.

"It's a competitive business," he said. "And that's what makes it tough, but that's also what makes it great."

After a show-stopping entry to the league in the 2016 preseason, Billingsley spent the better part of the regular season on the practice team. He topped the team's preseason stats chart with 12 receptions for 146 yards in 2016, and returned to the active roster for six games in 2017.



He's on the off-season active roster and maintaining the positive attitude he developed as a Mountie.

Billingsley still visits campus on a regular basis, and said EOU keeps getting better while maintaining the friendly environment that made it feel like home when we he was attending.

"What I love most about EOU is that everyone has respect for one another — in the classroom, on a team — everyone enjoys being with each other," he said. "That's something I always try to keep doing."

One of the leading reasons Billingsley chose EOU was for the short distance from his hometown. However, his time in the blue and gold launched him to achieve his dream in stadiums across the country.

"A small school doesn't mean small opportunities," he said. "EOU is a great place to see yourself grow as student, a person and an athlete... and it goes really fast." ♦



## Coach's Corner

EOU's Tim Camp, head football coach, weighs in



### Q: What's your favorite memory of Jace?

**A:** I loved coaching him at the running back position. He's a perfectionist and he would do amazing things, but I still coached him to do better and that motivated him. After 18 years in college football, I knew he was good, but I always coached him to be great. Working with him was some of the most fun I've had at EOU. He always gave it all he had.

### Q: What's his role at EOU now, as a high-profile alumnus?

**A:** He's always a Mountie — once a Mountie, always a Mountie. His story is a great way to sell folks on EOU. He comes from a small town, became one of the best players we've had, and now he's in the NFL.

### Q: What is the next big step for EOU football?

**A:** We've got to continue our winning tradition and get back in the playoffs. Our conference is one of the toughest in the country, and our goal is to get back on the winning side of things. We need to look at our facilities in general. To be a top-15 team in the nation, you've got to have the facilities to keep that up. The turf will add a big piece that we haven't had here before. We don't have a large field to practice on right now, and that's an important step moving forward.

### Q: What are your goals for fall 2018?

**A:** We've got to win the conference championship and get back into the playoffs.

# Stadium, track upgrades aim to expand facilities



**M**ountaineer athletics will be performing at a new level when major upgrades to Community Stadium and the track and field complex are completed this fall.

With fundraising efforts underway to fill out project costs, EOU plans to add synthetic turf to Community Stadium and overhaul its track and field facilities, bringing long-overdue changes to two key campus venues. Stadium lighting systems and ADA accessible grandstands are also part of the proposed renovations.

The nearly \$3 million investment promises significant benefits to the university, its students and the community as a whole.

Following recent record-breaking seasons in football and soccer, Mountaineer fans and alumni united in support of installing multi-use synthetic turf in the stadium. Currently, the natural grass limits use to fewer than a dozen EOU and high school games per year. Once installed, the new playing surface can host a dozen events per week.

The new turf enables EOU to add men's and women's soccer matches to the stadium site, as well as soccer events for La Grande High School.

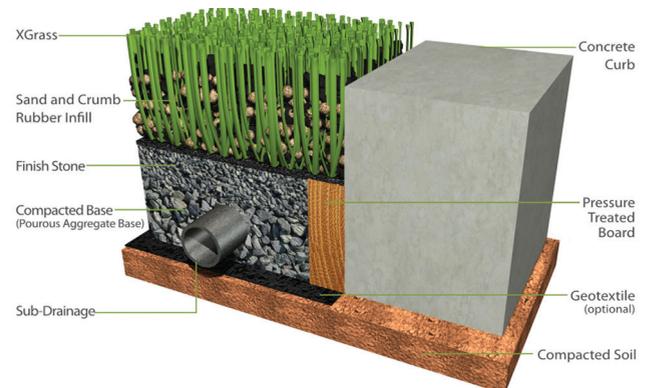
It also opens up a range of possibilities for clinics, camps, intramural sports, ultimate frisbee, and other Mountaineer athletic teams. EOU would also become

eligible to host post-season play for high school and collegiate sports, drawing visitors to Union County and supporting local businesses.

"The turf will be a massive selling point for recruits and it's something our community will have access to," said Kenny Huber, head coach of the EOU men's soccer team. "This will generate a lot more high school teams and parents coming to our campus for athletic events."

Although it boasts multiple national champions, EOU's track and field team has been forced to host conference competitions off-campus for the past several years, due to the condition of its facilities. The new track surface will offer dramatically improved access and performance, and

Cross-section example of multi-use, synthetic turf to be used in Community Stadium.



enables EOU to once again host collegiate meets in La Grande.

"It's hard to state how important it is for our teams to have a facility they can be proud of, that will help them train at a higher level, and provide opportunities to compete on campus," said Ben Welch, head coach of EOU's cross-country and track and field teams.

In addition to EOU's teams, Community Stadium provides a venue for local high school and middle school sports and the project is supported financially by the La Grande School District. Concerts, speakers, graduations, community events

and the capacity to accommodate year-round activities will attract more visitors to the region.

Recent success in securing \$9 million in state funding for construction of a new Fieldhouse (see story, p. 5), has EOU developing state-of-the-art facilities for athletic, academic and community use.

Working with university leadership, alumni and supporters, the EOU Foundation is coordinating efforts to raise nearly half of the of funds needed for the Stadium and Track Project. With fall 2018 in sight, Foundation leaders say the time to support this critical project is now.

Visit [eou.edu/stadium-track](http://eou.edu/stadium-track) to learn more. ♦

**Help us build champions!**  
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[eou.edu/stadium-track](http://eou.edu/stadium-track)

# Fostering philanthropy across disciplines

**E**OU is a significant part of many lives, but alumni are just as significant to the life of EOU. Don Dunbar, an EOU alumnus and retired Beaverton public school administrator, rose to that calling with a lifelong commitment to supporting the work of the EOU Foundation.

Dunbar and his late wife, Zola, attended EOU in the 1940s, when it was Eastern Oregon College of Education. A World War II veteran, Dunbar got his education through the GI Bill after doing engineering work for the Oregon State Highway Department and private highway construction contractors. He and Zola spent a combined 68 years in public education.

The Dunbars established an endowed scholarship at the university that set them on course toward meaningful and successful careers, and in March 2017 Dunbar made a \$100,000 gift to the EOU Foundation that benefits a variety of programs.

"I developed a special feeling for the arts by observing that they are too often left wanting when funding is scarce or reduced," Dunbar said. "It seems only right to extend support to the needs of this generation."

Dunbar allocated the funds to improve a computer lab in the Colleges of Business and Education, support College of Education and student-athlete scholarships, and provide new equipment and instruments for the music department. His gift supplied two saxophones, a valve trombone, a bass guitar, two upright pianos, a portable sound system and a grand piano – all of which are already in use by current students and faculty.

Peter Wordelman, a music professor at EOU, said the grand piano replaced an instrument older than Loso Hall, and the sound system allows jazz group 45th Parallel to take its performances off-campus.

"It was very generous," Wordelman said. "Don's gift made it possible for us to continue moving our music program forward." ♦



Students in jazz ensemble 45th Parallel depend on quality instruments like the ones purchased through Dunbar's gift.

## New keys: Piano Campaign

Further improvements to Loso Hall are part of the music program's future, and it's partnered with the EOU Foundation on a fundraising campaign to replace the concert grand piano in McKenzie Theatre. The current model is 65 years old, and a high-quality instrument costs about \$150,000.



Donate now: [eou.edu/piano](http://eou.edu/piano)

# On the road across South

with K P and Taylor Pawley

**E**OU alumni K P, '10 and Taylor, '11 Pawley left their driveway in 2016 and turned the headlights southward. Since then, they've visited 10 countries in their modified Chevy Silverado.

K P studied business and economics at EOU, and has dreamed of this journey since he was a kid. He and Taylor, both Eastern Oregon natives, anticipate reaching the southern tip of South America at the end of this year. Their blog, [runningfrommonday.com](http://runningfrommonday.com), chronicles their day-to-day experiences.

**Q: What inspired (or persuaded) you to try a trip like this?**

**K:** Before I could even drive I was reading off-road and adventure maga-

zines. I was enamored with the idea of being able to leave Oregon by car and reach a place where penguins lived. One night, while watching "Living on a Dollar a Day" and drinking expensive wine, we made the decision to abandon our careers and comfortable suburban life for something different.

**Q: What's the biggest challenge you encounter on a daily basis?**

**K:** One of the largest issues we had to learn to deal with early on is the lack of direction. There were so few restrictions or commitments in our day-to-day that we were almost paralyzed by it. We found ourselves moving very quickly at first, changing locations almost daily. Our whole lives we'd been conditioned to "do" something every day and we carried the



zines. I was enamored with the idea of being able to leave Oregon by car and reach a place where penguins lived.

One night, while watching "Living on a Dollar a Day" and drinking expensive wine, we made the decision to abandon our careers and comfortable suburban life for something different.

**T:** K P has always had the desire to do this trip and I thought it was crazy, until we spent 10 days driving a rented truck around Namibia in 2013 and I realized the incredible freedom you have traveling like that.

**Q: Why did you decide to travel through this part of the world?**

**K:** Neither of us had ever really been to any of Central or South America

and it seemed like a good opportunity to really dive deeply into cultures, climates and environments we were unfamiliar with by simply driving relentlessly (albeit slowly) south.

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**Q: What do you miss about home?**

**K:** Just how easy everything is. Grocery shopping, buying parts, even navigating the roads is just so much more familiar to us. Part of it is the

# h America

sheer availability of products in the U.S. When we came back from Central America this past summer, Taylor and I just about had a breakdown in the first Safeway we'd seen in months. The variety of cheeses, beers and bacon was stupefying. Plus, Amazon. We definitely miss Amazon.

**T:** Surprisingly enough, we miss working. Lying on the beach drinking margaritas is the best, don't get me wrong, but after a while you start to feel a little guilty that you are no longer a productive member of society. We put out a weekly blog which gives us something to work on, but we do miss the routine and sense of purpose having a job gives you.

required a certain level of discipline and organization to learn in a guided, but very independent manner like that. Now that we're on the road, I fall back on many of the habits formed at EOU to help structure a portion of my days into learning new skills on my own.

**T:** I think the experience of going to college and being a fish out of water is so valuable to a young person. Each time you start a new class or move into a new dorm, it allows you to build a new community. When you travel the way we do, every day can be like that. Starting over in a new place where the Spanish is a little different and the people are unfamiliar is incredible, but can be a little exhausting.



**Q: How has your relationship with each other grown through this experience?**

**T:** You definitely get into rhythms and routines and it can be really good for feeling close, but you also miss having independent experiences. When you do everything together, you don't exactly have things to tell each other over dinner, so we make an effort to do things apart as well. Time away allows us to appreciate how amazing it is to have a partner to do this with!

**Q: What did you learn at EOU that comes into play in your life now?**

**K:** Most of my bachelor's degree was earned through online courses. It

**Q: What would you say to someone who's considering a leap into the unknown?**

**T:** DO IT! We have never met anyone on the road who regretted it. Whether they spent their life's savings or had to quit their high-powered job — if you crave travel, this is the way to do it! And it's easier than you think. Get a few thousand dollars saved up in the bank, get a rig that you can sleep in and start driving! And if you have any questions about how to do it, reach out to us, we would be so happy to help someone start their own journey! ♦

Photos submitted by K P and Taylor Pawley

# Tailoring to GaGa

By Vicky Hart

**T**rea Taylor, '08, left EOU with a degree in theatre arts and a passion for building intricate costumes. Following a year-long internship and a brief return to La Grande while her husband completed his degree, she moved to Los Angeles and entered the tailoring and costume construction industry in 2011.

She works as a cutter and draper, using designer drawings to create 3D costumes. Taylor began working with fabric during her time as a student.

"I learned how to sew at EOU," she said. "April Curtis and Heather Tomlinson gave me the foundation I needed to become the successful industry woman I am today. April inspired creativity and design in my work, and Heather gave me the refinement of pattern-making and being technically accurate. Both have made me a more skilled technician."

Today she works with several shops and travels internationally to complete high-profile projects for live stage performances, theme parks, television shows, concerts and Hollywood films. ♦



Trea Taylor, '08



Ensemble for Lady Gaga

Photo by Terry Richardson



Cowboys outfit for Super Bowl commercial

Super Bowl Baby XXVII

Photos submitted by Trea Taylor



Back-up dancer dresses for Ariana Grande performance

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A photograph of a large crowd of students at a homecoming event. Many students are wearing blue and white clothing, and some are holding pom-poms. The atmosphere is festive and energetic.



## Introducing: Patrick J. Regan

Executive Director of Philanthropy and the EOU Foundation

**P**atrick J. Regan joined the University Advancement team as Executive Director of Philanthropy and the EOU Foundation in January.

He is from the Portland area and has built a 21-year career in alumni affairs and development, with extensive experience at the University of Portland, Oregon Health and

Science University and the OHSU Foundation, and Portland State University.

Pat has been recognized by industry leaders for excellence in alumni engagement, fundraising and campaign management. He joins the development staff as the EOU Foundation celebrates surpassing its \$11 million dollar goal and completing the first phase of the Campaign for Eastern.

As Executive Director of Philanthropy and the EOU Foundation, Pat's responsibilities include management of university fundraising efforts.

Pat is an avid golfer and looks forward to walking the region's

fairways and greens as well as exploring all that Eastern Oregon has to offer. He and his spouse, Noreen, serve as leaders and presenters for Retrouvaille, an organization that ministers to couples experiencing difficulties in their relationships. They have three daughters, two in

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"President Insko and the Board have an incredible vision for the university and the Foundation."

*- Pat Regan, Executive Director of Philanthropy and the EOU Foundation*

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college and one who works with a non-profit organization in Ireland.

"My wife and I are thrilled to be joining the Eastern Oregon University community and we look forward to getting involved in the wonderful community of La Grande," Pat said. "President Insko and the Boards have an incredible vision for the university and the Foundation, and I am excited to help the team achieve the ambitious goals that shape the future of this outstanding institution."

**Want to chat?** Contact Pat at 541-962-3130, [pregan@eou.edu](mailto:pregan@eou.edu) or stop by the University Advancement office in Inlow Hall 212. ♦

## Introducing: Alumni Board and new EOU Foundation Board members



Eastern Oregon University Alumni Association Board of Directors from 2016-17 and 2017-18: (back row from left) Kelsha Black, '12, David Smith, '66, John Patterson, '68, Nick Toreson, '11, Mike Daugherty, '74, Jamey McDonald, '93, Jeff Church, '95, Adriana DalSoglio, '06 & '08, Kasey Powers, '95 & '97, Amy McNamee, '00, (front row from left) Andrea Waldrop, '04, Karin Tsiatsos, '93, Mary Horn, '11 & '13, Mary Jo Lemon, '67, Patty Herron, '83, Amanda May, '10. Not pictured: Bob McMillan, '68, Joel Myer, '04, Skye Fitzgerald, '93.



EOU Foundation President Patrick Nearing, '75, (front) welcomes new foundation board members (back row from left) James Gorham, '95, Mark Pearson, '77, Robert McMillan, '68 and (not pictured) Marcy Haines.

# In memoriam



**Maxine Hermens, '69**, passed away Oct. 6, 2017 at age 78 after cardiac arrest at her home in La Grande. Following acute kidney failure while attending her favorite college basketball tournament (WCC), Maxine was on dialysis for two years prior to her death.

Many alumni will remember Maxine from the 12 years she spent working in EOU's registrar's office. Maxine earned a degree in elementary education from the University of Idaho, and in 1960 she met Richard and began a marriage that lasted 56 years. The family moved to La Grande, where she taught as a substitute teacher at various elementary schools.

Maxine received her master's in elementary education from

EOU, and went on to work in the registrar's office for 12 years. She loved working with diverse students and kind coworkers, while also participating in the EOU Faculty Gourmet Club.

She is survived by her husband Richard, sons Leonard and Michael, and daughters Louise and Joyce. Maxine received joy in her life from nine grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, the family encourages gifts to be made to the Eastern Oregon University Foundation in her name.

## Mountaineer Tracks

Let us know about updates in your family – births, deaths, marriages and moves!

[eou.edu/alumni/updates](http://eou.edu/alumni/updates)

### Alumni:

**Beverly P. Adams**, Salt Lake City, Dec. 12, 2017  
**Susana Arroyo**, Pendleton, Oct. 13, 2017  
**Rosemary B. Burton**, Provo, April 12, 1931  
**Candy J. Brooks**, La Grande, Jan. 1, 2018  
**Dean C. Diffin**, Meridian, Idaho, Nov. 12, 2017  
**Gladys M. Kelly**, Simi Valley, Calif., June 8, 2017  
**Thomas R. Madden**, La Grande, June 27, 2017  
**Jeremiah F. McCarthy**, La Grande, July 16, 2017

### 1940s

**Richard Taylor**, '41, La Grande, Jan. 1, 2018  
**Muriel M. Danforth**, '47, Pendleton, May 13, 2017  
**David R. Eshelman**, '47, Tulare, Calif., June 30, 2017  
**Dona J. Goold**, '47, Beaverton, May 19, 2017  
**Dorothy Clark**, '48, Jan. 9, 2018  
**John J. Doherty**, '48, Hermiston, April 7, 2017

### 1950s

**Amelia E. Jossi**, '50, La Grande, Sept. 19, 2017  
**Herman R. Lawson**, '50, Eugene, May 11, 2017  
**Thomas F. Sims**, '51, Eugene, July 2, 2017  
**Joan M. Sumner**, '51, The Dalles, Nov. 23, 2017  
**William F. Heizer**, '53, Baker City, Oct. 2, 2017

**Colleen Eveson**, '55, La Grande, Sept. 5, 2017  
**Dwain A. Estes**, '57, Portland, July 10, 2017  
**Dick Nusser**, '59, Enterprise, Oct. 21, 2017

### 1960s

**Richard A. Garbe**, '60, Walla Walla, Wash., Aug. 4, 2017  
**Robert V. Hubbard**, '60, Lone, Aug. 18, 2017  
**Clarence M. Bare**, '62, The Dalles, Jan. 8, 2018  
**Richard L. Barr**, '63, Eugene, Aug. 31, 2017  
**Thomas F. Beeson**, '64, La Grande, Aug. 16, 2017  
**Anjeletta S. Clark**, '64, Baker City, May 17, 2017  
**Myrtha Fields**, '65, John Day, May 30, 2017  
**Billie Wright**, '69, Gresham, Aug. 18, 2017

### 1970s

**William M. Clements**, '72, Prineville, April 14, 2017  
**Craig A. Botham**, '74, Cove, Dec. 8, 2017  
**Marlin R. Griffin**, '79, Payette, Idaho, Jan. 5, 2018  
**Eugene R. Hirata**, '79, Weiser, Idaho, April 30, 2017

### 1980s

**Terri L. Wilson**, '80, Baker City, Dec. 15, 2017  
**Meri B. Berberet**, '85, Spokane, Nov. 12, 2017  
**Eva H. Slinker**, '87, Salem, April 22, 2017

### 1990s

**Steve James Pitner**, '92, Kennewick, Wash., Dec. 25, 2017  
**Susan J. Werner**, '95, Baker City, May 16, 2017

### 2000s

**Leslie J. Balsiger**, '01, Cheyenne, Wyo. Jan. 5, 2018  
**Jake D. Watterson**, '01, La Grande, July 21, 2017

### 2010s

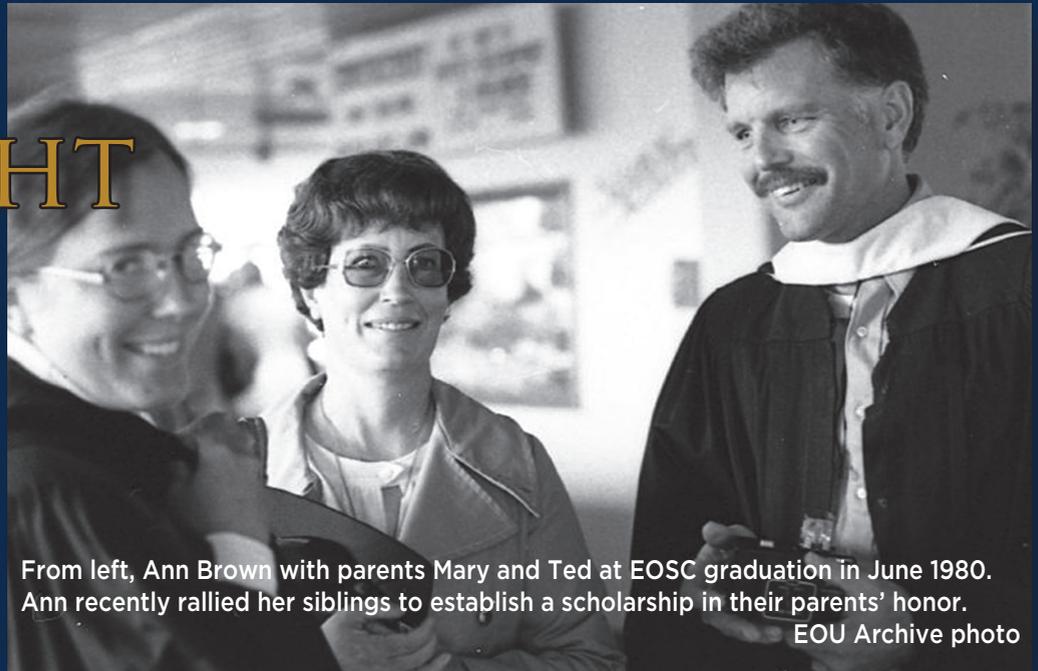
**Nancy J. Bruch**, '16, La Grande, Sept. 22, 2017

### Faculty & Friends:

**Raymond Baum**, La Grande, Feb. 9, 2018  
**Patricia Johnson**, Cove, July 22, 2017  
**Dennis Swanger**, Boise, April 25, 2017  
**Robbie Waller**, Dallas, Ore., Jan. 7, 2018

# DONOR SPOTLIGHT

*They've got  
a spark in  
them*



From left, Ann Brown with parents Mary and Ted at EOSC graduation in June 1980. Ann recently rallied her siblings to establish a scholarship in their parents' honor. EOU Archive photo

The late Ted and Mary Brown bequeathed a bevy of interests to their three children. Ted, who taught at EOU, studied for a master's in entomology and followed his passion from teaching Spanish, to anthropology, to education courses, and leading outdoor recreation groups.

Mary worked on campus as an advisor to foreign exchange students, and their children, Cathy, Alexander and Ann, inherited their parents' passions.

"We got to participate so much in our parents' lives," Ann said. "Most folks stick the kids in the basement with a pizza, but we were involved in all of the things our parents were doing."

All three siblings attended EOU and when Ted died in 2017, a former faculty member reached out to Ann, youngest of the three, about setting up a scholarship in honor of her parents.

Ann, '80, earned a degree in chemistry before embarking on a 30-year veterinary career. At age 11, she tagged along as "unofficial mascot" of the student exchange program her father started in Michuacan, Mexico.

Ted also initiated a program that placed student-teachers in migrant camps, where they practiced bilingual education. Alexander carries on this passion as an

advocate for DACA students.

Cathy, meanwhile, picked up her parents' penchant for teaching and the arts. Ann said her father enjoyed helping young teachers brave their first day in the classroom.

"He probably nudged them in the door with a, 'You can do it!'" Ann said. "He would come home and say, 'They've got a spark in them.'"

The siblings created a scholarship in honor of their parents through the EOU Foundation. In determining what type of students would be eligible, they focused on their folks' many passions and split along somewhat predictable lines.

"My sister wanted to award a music student and my brother wanted them to be bilingual," Ann said. "Tom Bradbeer, who worked with my dad, helped us decide to award a master's student in any subject."

The Ted and Mary Brown Scholarship Fund was awarded for the first time this spring to a regional student in the Master of Arts in Teaching program.

"I got a scholarship when I was entering college from Mabel Doty," Ann said. "I never met her, but it was so encouraging. Our hope is that this scholarship helps and inspires somebody."

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# This is Coral.

*“When I opened the scholarship letter I was overwhelmed with joy. I looked at my mom and said, ‘Someone else believes in me, too.’”*

Coral Goldstein  
Imbler, Ore.

After her father died in 2016, Coral didn't know if she would be able to afford a college education.

But her hope to attend EOU held firm. She applied for and received scholarships from the EOU Foundation.

Now a psychology major, Coral has discovered a supportive campus community that challenges her to succeed in new ways.

## Be the start of someone's story.

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- 2 By phone at 541-962-3740
- 3 Via mail to the EOU Foundation at the address above

