

# Regional Universities

Eastern Oregon University • Oregon Institute of Technology • Southern Oregon University • Western Oregon University

## STUDENT EXPERIENCES IN THEIR OWN WORDS

### Shauna Alloway

**Hometown:** Halsey

**University:** Western Oregon

**Major:** Speech Communication; Minor: Health

**Class year:** Junior

**What is your career aspiration?** When I graduate I would like to go into the communications field working as a journalist or as a public relations person and use my career to make a difference.

**What do you plan to do with your degree?** I plan to use my degree to fulfill my dreams of being a journalist and help to show the truth with the world through the written world.

**Why did you choose your major?** I chose my major due to my love for the communications field and my hopes in becoming a journalist.

**Are you simultaneously working and going to school? If so, how many hours a week do you work?** Yes, and I am currently working seventeen hours a week or more depending on hour availability.

**How are you paying for college?** Per Term: Subsidized Direct Loan, \$1,149; Pell Grant 06-07, \$1,350; Perkins Loan 06-07, \$500; SEOG 06-07, \$233; Oregon Opportunity Grant 06-07, \$558; OUS Supp Tuition Grant, \$300.

**How much debt have you accrued during your enrollment?** Approximately: \$9,894.

**How much debt will you have by graduation?** Approximately: \$19,788, or more depending on credits

**What drew you to enroll in college?** What drew me to enroll in college was the passion to become the first person in family to become a university graduate. I knew that by obtaining a college degree that I could not only make a better life for myself through an exceptional education, but make my family proud.

**Are you the first in your family to attend college?** Yes, I am the first in my family to attend college.

**Why did you choose this university?** I chose Western Oregon University because it seemed to be the best fit for me. I loved that the professors actually know their students by name, and are always

willing to help you. The people were also very friendly when I came here for my tour, and showed me the best hospitality that I have ever experienced from any college.

**What is your favorite memory, or story, of your time at this university?** I honestly cannot pick one story or memory that is my favorite. I have too many fond memories of this University; from studying late in the library with friends, working at the Phonathon while raising money for programs at the University, hanging out with friends at comedians, dances, and many other fantastic memories that have showed me what college should truly be like. Almost all of my experiences here at WOU have taught me something valuable about life, friendship, and myself.

### Shakira Bandolin

**Hometown:** Twin Falls, Idaho

**University:** EOU

**Major:** Biochemistry

**Class standing:** Sophomore

**What is your career aspiration? What do you plan to do with your degree?** I want to be a rural medical doctor; so I am planning on attending medical school immediately after completing my BS in Biochemistry.

**Why did you choose your major?** It was the best one that fit my pre-med requirements and I am interested in science.

**How much debt have you accrued during your enrollment?** Estimate: \$7,000

**How much debt will you have by graduation?** Estimate: \$15,000

**What drew you to enroll in college?** It is absolutely necessary for me to graduate with a BS if I want to be a doctor.

**Are you the first in your family to attend college?** No

**Why did you choose this university?** No out-of-state tuition and I received good academic scholarships.

*"I liked the idea of small class*

*sizes and the variety of activities that are available in this community. The best thing about SOU is the people who are a part of this University. From professors to students, the campus environment is very active and friendly."*

**Anna Berning, Mt. Angel  
SOU: Pre-Physical Therapy,  
Class of 2009**

### Katy Barnett

**Hometown:** Littleton, Colorado

**University:** EOU

**Major:** Political Science, Philosophy, Economics and History

**Class standing:** Sophomore

**What is your career aspiration? What do you plan to do with your degree?** I would like to be a representative in Congress.

**Why did you choose your major?** I love my country and my state, I would like to make a difference in both.

**Are you simultaneously working and going to school? If so, how many hours a week do you work?** I am not currently working but next year I will need a job to afford school.

**How are you paying for college?** I receive a \$1,000 university stipend and the remainder currently is personal contribution.

**How much debt have you accrued during your enrollment?** None so far.

**How much debt will you have by graduation?** Estimate: \$20,000

**What drew you to enroll in college?** I wanted to further my education and knowledge.

**Are you the first in your family to attend college?** No

**Why did you choose this university?** I chose Eastern because of their integrated political science program.

**What is your favorite memory, or story, of your time at university?** Going into the public grave yard next to the dorms and playing hide and seek at midnight.

### **Tabatha Cooke**

**Hometown:** Klamath Falls

**University:** OIT

**Major:** Small Business Management and Entrepreneurship

**Class standing:** Sophomore

**What is your career aspiration? What do you plan to do with your degree?** I plan to use my degree to start my own interior design business.

**Why did you choose your major?** Actually it was recommended by a friend who was in the program. She had mentioned how enjoyable the professors are in the business department. And made me realize there are lots of different things you can do with a business degree.

**Are you simultaneously working and going to school? If so, how many hours a week do you work?** I work about 10 – 15 hours per week, and I am taking about 12 – 15 credits a term. It balances out pretty nicely. It always helps when you have a boss that is willing to work with your schedule. I am happy to say that I am very lucky to have that.

**How are you paying for college?** Personal contribution.

**How much debt have you accrued during your enrollment?** None

**How much debt will you have by graduation?** Hopefully none

**What drew you to enroll in college?** As a high school student, it wasn't really a question as to "if" I would go to college; it was more of a "where" would I go to college. Growing up I always wanted to go to college not so much for an education but to meet new people and experience new things and play college sports.

**Are you the first in your family to attend college?** No

**Why did you choose this university?** I wanted to stay close to my family, save money, and play basketball. By living with my parents, I was able to do all of that.

**What is your favorite memory, or story, of your time at university?** I have made some really great friends here, and new awesome memories are made all of the time. I just really enjoy being able to laugh and my friends family and co-workers bring laughs and a smile to my face all of the time, making everyday a great memory.

*"SOU is located in a gorgeous area with an amazing commu-*

*nity. Ashland is everything you could ask for in a college town.*

*What isn't great about SOU?"*

**Daniel Maduell, Beaverton**

**SOU: Marketing, Class of 2007**

### **Anastasia Dancer**

**Hometown:** Willamina

**University:** Western Oregon

**Major:** Early childhood / Elementary Education

**Class year:** Junior

**What is your career aspiration?** My career aspiration is to become a teacher for special needs / deaf children.

**What do you plan to do with your degree?** I plan to use my degree as a starting point of my future career and as a key to open the door into the special needs / deaf education realm.

**Why did you choose your major?** I choose my major because I have always enjoyed working with children. I decided, I want a chance to touch as many peoples lives as possible. I feel as if I can make a difference in just one child's life than I would have help to make a difference in this world.

**Are you simultaneously working and going to school? If so, how many hours a week do you work?** I am currently working two part-time jobs while I attend college full time. I work on the weekend an average of 16 hours a week. There are some weeks where I work 24 when they need my help. During the week, I work a different job on campus. At this job I work 8 hours a week. So the total number of hours I work a week averages 24 hours.

**How are you paying for college?** \$4,200 Pell Grant; \$18,107 Subsidized Direct Loan; \$8,744 Unsubsidized Direct Loan; \$4,000 Work Study; \$11,392 Plus Direct Loan; \$1,644 Bank Loan. Total cost of college Fall 2003 to Spring 2007: \$58,932.78.

**How much debt have you accrued during your enrollment?** Total for loans Fall 2003- Spring 2007: \$48,087

**How much debt will you have by graduation?** I would have to estimate that I will gain about \$10,000 more in debt in the upcoming school year.

**What drew you to enroll in college?** I enrolled in college because I wanted to make my life better. I see this experience as the ticket to my future career and life.

**Are you the first in your family to attend college?** I am the first person on either side of my family to attend college.

**Why did you choose this university?** I choose this university because WOU had the best program for my undergrad

work and an outstanding program for my graduate work.

**What is your favorite memory, or story, of your time at university?** It is hard to say what my favorite memory of my time at Western Oregon University. I think my favorite memory is going to be the whole experience. I believe everything I have done here has help me towards my goal in some way. Whether it is the teachers encouraging me to keep going or my friends who provide me with random entertainment, WOU has provided me with a number of experiences that have made a better person.

### **Honor Christine E. Frazier**

**Hometown:** Malin

**University:** OIT

**Major:** Communication with a minor in Psychology

**Class standing:** Senior

**What is your career aspiration? What do you plan to do with your degree?** I would like to work at a small university working with student groups. I would really like any aspect of student affairs or freshman year experience.

**Why did you choose your major?** I love learning how people interact with each other and am fascinated by nonverbal communication. I enjoy the small community feel we have in our major and at OIT as a whole.

**Are you simultaneously working and going to school? If so, how many hours a week do you work?** I have had a part time job since freshman year of college and I've always taken at least 12 credits. Currently I'm taking 15 credits and working 20 hours a week.

**How are you paying for college?** \$2,900 Pell Grant, \$350 SEOG Grant, \$1,500 Leadership and Diversity Scholarship, \$1,674 OOG, \$600 Tech Supplemental, \$5,500 Stafford Sub., \$1,100 Work Study.

**How much debt have you accrued during your enrollment?** \$9,000

**How much debt will you have by graduation?** \$12,000

**What drew you to enroll in college?** The necessity for a college education in order to get a high paying job after graduating.

**Are you the first in your family to attend college?** Yes.

**Why did you choose this university?** Small town feel, close to home.

**What is your favorite memory, or story, of your time at university?** In high school I was very involved in many different extracurricular activities. When I came to college, however, I was too afraid to get involved because I wanted to do well in school. I worked at a local fast food restaurant 25-30 hours a week and took 12 credits a term. By winter term I was fed up and ready to just get my AA and stop

going to school. My academic advisor convinced me to run for student government so I figured "what the heck; may as well give it a shot." I got elected that year and have been in student government ever since and am the President this year. Getting involved gave me a sense of pride and accomplishment and helped me realize the importance of my education.

*"The best thing about SOU is my amazing professors, co-workers on campus, and friends. The welcome and friendly atmosphere that the staff, faculty, and students provide has made it easy for me to make this major change in life."*

**Steffanie Hamilton, St. Helens**  
SOU: Criminology  
and Criminal Justice,  
Class of 2007

### **Sadie Isley**

**Hometown:** Wallowa

**University:** EOU

**Major:** Philosophy, Politics & Economics

**Class standing:** Senior

**What is your career aspiration? What do you plan to do with your degree?** I will be getting my Master's in Teaching Education Degree in order to become a high school social studies teacher.

**Why did you choose your major?** I chose my major because I am interested in government and politics.

**Are you simultaneously working and going to school? If so, how many hours a week do you work?** Yes, I currently work 20 hours a week, but have worked as many as 40 in the past.

**How are you paying for college?** Scholarships pay my tuition. I pay all my living expenses, fees and books with my jobs (and summer jobs).

**How much debt have you accrued during your enrollment?** I have taken out \$5,000 in loans, but will take out all loans possible next year.

**How much debt will you have by graduation?** Undergraduate \$5000

**What drew you to enroll in college?** I wanted to be involved in professions that require a degree.

**Are you the first in your family to attend college?** One of my parents attended Eastern.

**Why did you choose this university? I wanted to be close to my family.**

### **Charisse Josi**

**Hometown:** Wallowa

**University:** EOU

**Major:** Elementary Education

**Class standing:** Freshman

**What is your career aspiration? What do you plan to do with your degree?** I want to become a third-grade teacher in a small rural area.

**Why did you choose your major?** I like to work with children, and also love small areas.

**Are you simultaneously working and going to school? If so, how many hours a week do you work?** 15 hours / week

**How are you paying for college?** Subsidized Stafford Loan, \$2,625; Plus Loan, \$4,500; Stafford Loan, \$2,000, Personal contribution \$4,500.

**How much debt have you accrued during your enrollment?** \$9,200

**How much debt will you have by graduation?** \$36,000

**What drew you to enroll in college?** The career I want to pursue.

**Are you the first in your family to attend college?** No

**Why did you choose this university?** Close to home, I like the campus.

### **Molly Litchfield**

**Hometown:** Milwaukie

**University:** EOU

**Major:** Pre-Nursing / Political Science

**Class standing:** Freshman

**What is your career aspiration? What do you plan to do with your degree?** Become an emergency room nurse, work in public health.

**Why did you choose your major?** Mom was nurse; I want to work in healthcare field.

**Are you simultaneously working and going to school? If so, how many hours a week do you work?** No

**How are you paying for college?** All paid for personally with money saved and in mutual funds.

**How much debt have you accrued during your enrollment?** None yet, but after sophomore year, will accrue about \$20,000.

**How much debt will you have by graduation?** At least \$20,000

**What drew you to enroll in college?** Need to be able to support myself and family in the future.

**Are you the first in your family to attend**

**college?** No. Mom went to EOU; Dad did not go to college.

**Why did you choose this university?** Because it was small and the cost was lower.

**What is your favorite memory, or story, of your time at university?** The ability to have one-on-one time with professors, small/personal class sizes.

### **Charles Martin**

**Hometown:** Astoria

**University:** EOU

**Major:** Ag Business Management

**Class standing:** Sophomore

**What is your career aspiration? What do you plan to do with your degree?** Ag business owner; I will use my degree to gain the skills I need to do this.

**Why did you choose your major?** It was the most direct way to gain business knowledge with an emphasis in agriculture.

**Are you simultaneously working and going to school? If so, how many hours a week do you work?** Yes, 20+ hours weekly.

**How are you paying for college?** \$1500 Stafford, \$1500 Plus, \$6000 personal.

**How much debt have you accrued during your enrollment?** \$20,000

**How much debt will you have by graduation?** \$30,000

**What drew you to enroll in college?**

Thought I would have better job opportunities and earnings potential.

**Are you the first in your family to attend college?** Yes

**Why did you choose this university?** Small class sizes, personal attention.

**What is your favorite memory, or story, of your time at university?** Standing on a log during orientation hugging who later became my roommate.

*"I chose SOU because it was convenient for my wife and me with family housing options. If you are searching for your soul and need an exciting place to be, come to SOU."*

**Sergio Larios, Twin Falls, Idaho**  
SOU: Computer Science,  
Class of 2008

### **Alicia Monrroy**

**Hometown:** Monmouth

**University:** Western Oregon

**Major:** Social Science

**Class year:** Senior

**What is your career aspiration? What do you plan to do with your degree?** Work in a place where I can help people and the community.

**What do you plan to do with your degree?** I plan to work as a social worker.

**Why did you choose your major?** I chose my major because I like working with people and enjoy helping them solve problems or achieve their goals.

**Are you simultaneously working and going to school? If so, how many hours a week do you work?** Yes, I currently work 20-25 hours a week plus an occasional Saturday. During the summer I usually work the full 40 hours. During my sophomore and junior years, I worked two jobs simultaneously while going to school for around two years. At that time I worked 20 to 25 (day) hours in one job and 25-27 (evening and weekend) hours at another while attending school full time.

**How are you paying for college?** PELL GRANT \$1,479; OREGON OPPORTUNITY GRANT \$873; LOANS \$8,781; STUDENT CONTRIBUTION \$418

**How much debt have you accrued during your enrollment?** \$22,000

**How much debt will you have by graduation?** \$22,000

**What drew you to enroll in college?** I was part of the Upward Bound Program at WOU.

**Are you the first in your family to attend college?** Yes.

**Why did you choose this university?** It is close to home and I can live with my family and help support them financially while attending finishing up my college degree.

**What is your favorite memory, or story, of your time at university?** Getting to know the staff from the university and becoming involved in student programs and activities.

### **Robert Nakasone, Jr.**

**Hometown:** Pohnpei, Micronesia

**University:** EOU

**Major:** P.P.E. – Pre-Law

**Class standing:** Freshman

**What is your career aspiration? What do you plan to do with your degree?** I am planning to become a lawyer.

**Why did you choose your major?** I chose my major because my Dad is a lawyer and a senator; and I like to study about law.

**Are you simultaneously working and going to school? If so, how many hours a week do you work?** Yes, I am working and going to school at the same time. I

In their own words

work 9 hours in a week at the Zabel Computer Lab.

**How are you paying for college?** I am paying for my college from Pell Grants, State Scholarships and personal money.

**How much debt have you accrued during your enrollment?** I have not accrued any loans during my enrollment.

**How much debt will you have by graduation?** \$25,000

**What drew you to enroll in college?** I want to have a better future life.

**Are you the first in your family to attend college?** No

**Why did you choose this university?** I chose this university because EOU has a great reputation in Micronesia and my Dad graduated from here.

**What is your favorite memory, or story, of your time at university?** My favorite memory is that Eastern Oregon University is a diverse community.

### **Tiffany Rockwell**

**Hometown:** Pleasant Hill

**University:**WOU

**Major:** Speech Communication (Minor Art)

**Class year:** Junior

**What is your career aspiration?** To have a career where I can continue to learn, be challenged and help others learn and improve themselves.

**What do you plan to do with your degree?** I plan to work in event coordinating and College Admissions/Recruitment. Eventually I will go to Graduate school so I can be a Counselor or continue studying communication.

**Why did you choose your major?** Communication affects everything. Written, Verbal, and Visual. Effective communication skills are something I can carry into any career. The overall breakdown of human communication is just plain fascinating to me.

**Are you simultaneously working and going to school? If so, how many hours a week do you work?** I work 2 campus jobs. I work approximate 15 hours a week. Sometimes more depending on the time of year. Before my Junior year I worked 25-30 hours a week at an off campus job.

**How are you paying for college?** \$3,500 Stafford Loans \*unsubsidized\*; \$500 Scholarship; \$10,000 Family; \$5,000 Personal

**How much debt have you accrued during your enrollment?** \$3,500

**How much debt will you have by graduation?** \$14,500

**What drew you to enroll in college?** I love to learn and explore complex subjects and ideas with others who enjoy the same. Personal empowerment through

education is something I strongly believe in.

**Are you the first in your family to attend college?** I am a first generation student. I'm the third in my family to attend but the only one who will complete a degree.

**Why did you choose this university?** The teachers at WOU are very willing to help and get to know each student. I also choose WOU because their Speech and Art department came highly recommended.

**What is your favorite memory, or story, of your time at university?** On an Advocates Retreat (student tour guides for Western) we went through a high ropes challenge course together. It was below freezing the whole day. The last exercise was to climb up 60ft in the trees and go out on ropes between them with a safety line around our waist and navigate through obstacles. Our partners were responsible for checking our safety lines. The team bonding experience from being up in trees in the freezing weather hanging by ropes and still encouraging each other to finish is something I'll never forget.

*"I am more than another face in the crowd or a number to my teachers. They care about my progress and are helping me set career goals."*

**Ignacio Franklin, Coos Bay**  
SOU: Accounting, Class of 2007

### **Nick Romriell**

**Hometown:** Payette, Idaho

**University:** EOU

**Major:** Business Administration

**Class standing:** Junior

**What is your career aspiration? What do you plan to do with your degree?** Enter top MBA program – work as top management of a company or teach college business.

**Why did you choose your major?** I enjoy business procedures and management.

**Are you simultaneously working and going to school? If so, how many hours a week do you work?** Yes, 20 hours per week.

**How are you paying for college?** \$1350 Pell Grant per quarter, \$200 SEOG per quarter, \$97 personal contribution

**How much debt have you accrued during your enrollment?** \$0

**How much debt will you have by graduation?** \$0

**What drew you to enroll in college?** More life experience and a chance at a good career.

**Are you the first in your family to attend college?** Yes

**Why did you choose this university?** Low cost, wife.

**What is your favorite memory, or story, of your time at university?** Northwest Leadership Conference.

## Rachel Stephens

**Hometown:** Klamath Falls

**University:** OIT

**Major:** Psychology

**Class standing:** Senior

**What is your career aspiration? What do you plan to do with your degree?** I would like to work in student services at a university.

**Why did you choose your major?** I like to work with and help people.

**Are you simultaneously working and going to school? If so, how many hours a week do you work?** I work an average of 15 hours per week on campus.

**How are you paying for college?** My financial aid is being cut at the end of this term. I will get \$2,000 next year in scholarship money only.

**How much debt have you accrued during your enrollment?** About \$35,000.

**How much debt will you have by graduation?** I was able to pay off most of my loans with inheritance money, so I will only have about \$5,000 debt when I graduate.

**What drew you to enroll in college?** I wanted to do something that I found fun and interesting, and where I could make a difference.

**Are you the first in your family to attend college?** Yes.

**Why did you choose this university?** I moved to Klamath Falls, so it was convenient.

**What is your favorite memory, or story, of your time at university?** I really enjoyed doing my externship on campus working with the learning disabilities counselor, and students in her caseload.

## Abby Warnock

**Hometown:** Maupin

**University:** EOU

**Major:** Marketing

**Class standing:** Sophomore

**What is your career aspiration? What do you plan to do with your degree?** I want to work for some small businesses by conducting their marketing.

**Why did you choose your major?** It can employ me in a wide range of jobs.

**Are you simultaneously working and going to school? If so, how many hours a**

**week do you work?** Yes, I work about 7 ½ hours a week.

**How are you paying for college?** I am personally paying for college. I am unable to receive financial aid, but I will be taking out a loan.

**How much debt have you accrued during your enrollment?** \$0

**How much debt will you have by graduation?** \$30,000

**What drew you to enroll in college?** Good job prospects.

**Are you the first in your family to attend college?** No

**Why did you choose this university?** I like the small town environment.

**What is your favorite memory, or story, of your time at university?** My first day on campus, seeing all of my possibilities.

## Dwayne Wheat

**Hometown:** Klamath Falls

**University:** OIT

**Major:** Applied Psychology and Communication Studies

**Class standing:** Senior

**What is your career aspiration? What do you plan to do with your degree?** It is my hope that within the next five years I will be able to enter the workplace as a teacher or counselor. Of course, that means that after completion of my studies at OIT I will need to enter a graduate program specifically devoted to training teachers and/or counselors. My dream job is to work with high-risk populations in a structured environment wherein I can work to help them develop the life skills needed to succeed in society.

**Why did you choose your major?** Before I came to OIT, I worked as a baker for nearly 18 years. By chance, in early 2000, I volunteered at a local homeless shelter to prepare meals for the homeless. I noticed very early on in my volunteerism to the shelter that there was a need for highly skilled and thoughtful employees to effectively work with the people who came for services. Plainly speaking, there are too many issues facing the homeless for just anyone to effectively help the homeless. Consequently, I came to OIT to help me better understand the homeless and what events led to their homelessness circumstance, such as the issues of alcoholism, drug abuse, criminality, and the societal or governmental influences and biases, and any possible cultural identifications specifically related to the homeless.

**Are you simultaneously working and going to school? If so, how many hours a week do you work?** Yes, I work about 25 hours a week while attending OIT as a full-time student. I have jobs on- and off-campus, working as a tutor in CFLAT and as an office aide/counselor for a local homeless shelter.

**How are you paying for college?** I pay for my college education largely from financial aid I receive in Pell Grants, Stafford Loans and Scholarships. Roughly 90% of my finances come from these sources. Without this financial support I most assuredly would not be able to attend college.

**How much debt have you accrued during your enrollment?** Of the nearly \$80,000 in financial aid I've received in the last five years, over half (\$43,000) are loans I will need to pay back after graduation.

**Are you the first in your family to attend college?** I graduated from high school nearly 20 years ago (1984) and was the first member of my family to do so, although two of my younger siblings graduated from high school within four years of my completion of high school. My youngest sibling graduated from Rogue Valley Community College in June, 2004. She is the first of my family to graduate from college.

**Why did you choose this university?** In all honesty, I chose to attend OIT because it is located in my hometown. Of course, I could have chosen to attend the local community college, but their curriculum wasn't adept to what I was looking for in my field of study.

**What is your favorite memory, or story, of your time at university?** I have been involved in all sorts of activities in the last five years at OIT but the one thing I believe I will most remember is being a writing tutor. I enjoy the process of connecting with another person and helping them perceive things previously not understood. One example of this process was seen last term when I tutored an OIT student who was taking a Humanities class. In our initial correspondence, the student had a difficult time accepting any advice on improving her writing. After a short conversation, the student decided to accept the tutoring from me and consequently completed the class with an A (and a perfect score on her final paper). This last week the student came back to me and gave me a thank you letter, stating her appreciation for my assistance in tutoring her in writing. She added that before she came to me for tutoring, she had a fear of writing which kept her from expressing herself with the written word. Today, she believes she is able to properly express herself "without stammering" and has a newfound confidence in writing that will carry her long into her professional career. My experience in tutoring has given me an appreciation for my own ability to contribute to another person's success – this is what I will remember most from my time at OIT.

