

Beloved Spanish instructor dies of infection at age 46

Wayne Gottshall, who was dedicated to helping students and performing community service on campus, died July 1

By Jillian Daley
Oregon Daily Emerald

Wayne Gottshall, a senior instructor of Spanish at the University, passed away July 1. He was 46 years old.

He died from an infection, as his white-blood cell count was low from chemotherapy treatment for lymphoma two years ago.

He was born Aug. 10, 1955, in San Diego to William and Jeanne Behart. He married Sayo Murcia in Spain on Dec. 10, 1983.

In 1976, he moved to Eugene, and lived in Spain from 1980 to 1985, after which he returned to Eugene. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in 1988 from the University. In 1992, he graduat-

ed from the University law school.

Survivors include his wife; three sons, Mikel, Alex and Julian of Eugene; his mother, of San Diego; and two brothers, Marc of DeMoines, Wash., and Loyd of Seattle. An infant daughter, Leann, died in 1991.

"He was an excellent lawyer, but we had three boys and he really wanted to spend more time with them, and teaching could give him that," said his wife, Sayo, who is a senior Spanish instructor at the University.

Gottshall was known for the time he spent with students and his love of teaching.

"He had more office hours than anyone else," she said. "The maximum was two hours. He had four."

Colleagues also spoke highly of Gottshall, as well as his dedication to teaching and the University.

"He was a friend of mine," Spanish Associate Professor Leonardo Garcia-Pabon said. "He

was open and warm.

"He was an incredible instructor. He designed some grammar classes that were very good. He was strict, but at the same time he made students love what he was teaching."

He performed community service for the University, which, as an instructor, he did not have to do, Garcia-Pabon said.

"He was really, really dedicated," his wife said. "He did everything 150 percent. If he decided to cook, he was the best cook. When he played the guitar, he was the best. When he decided to knit, he made the best sweaters. It was the same thing with teaching."

Gottshall's colleagues concurred about his good nature.

"As a person he was wonderful," Garcia-Pabon said. "We will all miss him very much."

Contact the reporter at jilliandaley@dailyemerald.com.

Speakers focus on immigration issues

Vincenza Scarpaci and Robert Kono are two of the lecturers who will discuss issues of cultural assimilation in Oregon

By Michael J. Kleckner
Oregon Daily Emerald

Students and community members interested in ethnic assimilation in Oregon have three opportunities this summer to attend lectures discussing issues of immigration.

History instructor Vincenza Scarpaci's summer course, A Century of Immigration: 1897-1997, offers guest lectures from 3 to 5 p.m. on alternate Thursdays in 214 McKenzie. The first lecture is today, the second is on July 23 and the last is on Aug. 6.

Today, Gerald Rasmussen, co-author of "Oregon Danish Colony: Ethnic Assimilation in Junction City 1902-1952," examines the Danish settlers of that town as they moved from an immigrant group to an ethnic group while trying to retain their customs.

"There is an active Danish brotherhood there," Scarpaci said, and the community carries on the rituals of

its ancestors. "Every midsummer's eve, they have a bonfire as a way of keeping the traditions alive."

On July 23, Robert Kono, author of "The Last Fox: A Novel of the 100th/442nd RCT," and Peggy Nagae, lead attorney in reopening a famous Japanese internment case, will speak on the Japanese American experience in Oregon.

Kono lives in Eugene and was an internee as a teenager during WWII. His book looks at four Japanese American soldiers from Oregon who fought for American freedom while their families were being kept behind barbed wire.

Nagae's efforts to get redress for WWII internees were probably best known to the University community in the case of Minoru Yasui, Class of '37. In 1942, Yasui, who lived in Portland after graduating from the University, intentionally violated curfew laws aimed at Japanese Americans to test the laws' constitutionality.

Scarpaci finds it ironic that the University now recognizes Yasui's heroic efforts, but it stood by while he was kept in solitary confinement before the Supreme Court

ruled on his case.

"In the 125th Anniversary brochure, the University claims him with pride," she said, "and yet, where were they when he was being held? Although, it was probably hard to speak out then."

On Aug. 6, Thao Xiong, president of the Hmong Association of Oregon, will discuss efforts to preserve the Hmong culture, and two women will perform a traditional Hmong dance.

Also on Aug. 6, Hung Luong will describe his journey alone at age 14 from Vietnam to Portland. Luong acts as a guide for bike tours each year that travel 1,200 miles from North Vietnam to South Vietnam, introducing the bicyclists to the traditional culture of the country.

Scarpaci is excited about the opportunity to better understand the experience of immigration.

"When we have available to us people in the area that reflect the experience," she said, "it comes to life for students and people in the community."

Contact the editor in chief at editor@dailyemerald.com.

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