



WHERE ARE



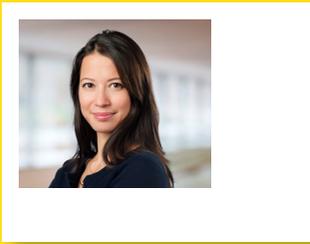


THEY NOW?

In 1988, Willamette trustee Bill Long '59 envisioned a flexible grant program that would allow Bearcat sophomores and juniors opportunities beyond the structured curriculum. First awarded in 1989, the Carson Undergraduate Research Grant program (named to honor former College of Liberal Arts Dean Julie Carson) now celebrates its 25th year of supporting scholarly, creative and professional projects.

Six past recipients report how Carson Grants helped shape their lives and careers.

**25 YEARS
292 GRANTS AWARDED
\$750,000+ IN
TOTAL SUPPORT**



Who:
Mara Hansen '07

Carson Grant Project:
“A Critical Examination of Medical Pluralism in Rural Guatemala.” Sponsor: Joyce Millen, anthropology, Willamette

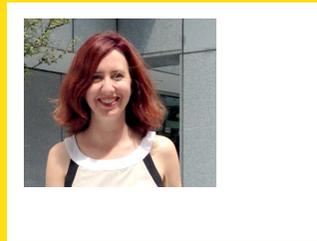
What I’m Doing Now:
Program officer, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

How I Got Here: After Willamette, I volunteered with the Peace Corps in Morocco, working with the Ministry of Health. Grad school in public health followed, as did projects in the U.S. (with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and in the Mississippi Delta) and in rural India. In 2011, I returned to Seattle to join the Gates Foundation.

About My Work: I lead a portfolio of investments that aims to improve coverage of high-quality basic health services available to the poor through networks of private providers, such as pharmaceutical suppliers, pharmacies, and doctors and nurses. The best part of the job is learning from and supporting the grantees we fund — they’re exceptional.

Thank You, Carson: The Carson Grant funded my first global health research project and allowed me to learn from two incredible role models: Drs. Joyce Millen and Paul Wise. The practical experience

and mentorship confirmed my interest in global public health and inspired me to pursue a career in the field. Thanks for the opportunity!



Who:
Lisa Lambert '98

Carson Grant Project:
“A Filmmaker and a Movement: Tracing the Effects of Neorealism on the Evolution of Federico Fellini’s Film Style.” Sponsor: Ken Nolley, English, Willamette

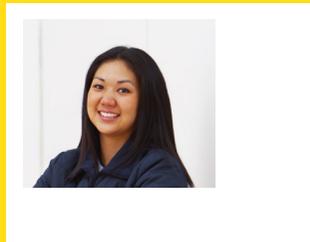
What I’m Doing Now:
Reporter, Reuters, Washington, D.C.

How I Got Here: After graduating, I worked in Portland as an administrator at Artists Repertory Theatre and the Oregon Symphony and reviewed art — and occasionally books and movies — for Willamette Week. I’d eavesdrop on reporters in the newsroom, slowly filling up with envy. That pushed me to the phenomenal journalism school at the University of California, Berkeley. From there, I was off to Washington, D.C.

About My Work: I’ve been with Reuters for nine years and have written stories on a wide range of subjects. If you want to see a liberal arts education put to good use, then look no further. Covering politics has been fun and occasionally glamorous, but I found the biggest challenges and rewards during the financial crisis and its aftermath.

Thank You, Carson: My grant may be my top experience at Willamette. The freedom and independence, having a knowledgeable faculty adviser on call to hear out my ideas, the insights into what other researchers were

doing, developing my self-reliance — it was all incredible. My family was proud of my project, and that meant something to me, too. Carson has had a positive impact on my professional life, whether it’s as simple as knowing how to organize my research or as big as summoning the courage to tackle a monstrously complicated story.



Who:
Lynn Miyahira '03

Carson Grant Project:
“Okinawa’s Awkward Guests: Conflicting Attitudes Surrounding the U.S. Military Bases in Okinawa.” Sponsor: Suresht Bald, politics, Willamette

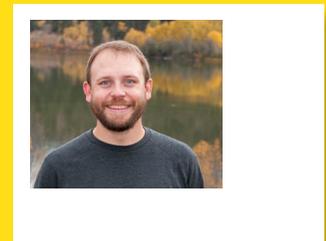
What I’m Doing Now:
Marketing director, Shidler College of Business, University of Hawai’i at Mānoa

How I Got Here: After graduation, I was selected for the Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme and lucky enough to be placed in Okinawa, giving me the chance to understand the complicated issue of a U.S. military base there. I returned to Hawai’i for the Japan-focused MBA program at Shidler College of Business at the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa. An internship at the American Chamber of Commerce Japan in Tokyo followed, then back to Shidler as marketer for all degree programs. Recently, I was selected to join the U.S.-Japan Council’s Emerging Leaders Program for 2014.

About My Work: Marketing for Shidler College, with a focus on student recruitment and alumni relations. I’m also responsible

for developing and maintaining brand continuity at Shidler. I love being in the world of higher education.

Thank You, Carson: The Carson Grant was the beginning of an amazing ride of “firsts,” including the first time I traveled internationally alone and the first time I interviewed a stranger in a different language. Even though a decade has passed, my Carson Grant experience continues to help me distinguish myself from others. I am eternally grateful.



Who:
Matt Reudink '01

Carson Grant Project:
“Investigation of Simian Retroviruses: Addressing the Safety of Xenotransplants.” Sponsor: Richard Grant, University of Washington

What I’m Doing Now:
Assistant professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, British Columbia

How I Got Here: After my Carson Grant, in which I used a number of genetic and molecular techniques to study retroviruses in yellow baboons with Dr. Richard Grant, I switched from the microscopic to the macroscopic. A summer as a field assistant in Colorado studying birds made me realize that I could transfer the skills and techniques learned during my Carson Grant to study broad questions about the ecology and evolution of animals.

The field and lab experiences that followed all began with work from my Carson Grant and positioned me perfectly for my master’s degree in science at Villanova University. I soon became fascinated by the idea

of studying migratory birds throughout the annual cycle and earned a Ph.D. at Queen's University in Ontario, studying American redstarts in both Ontario and Jamaica. I also had the wonderful opportunity to spend the last year of my Ph.D. program at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., as a predoctoral fellow. After finishing my Ph.D., a postdoc at Trent University and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources followed. In 2010, I joined Thompson Rivers University as an assistant professor, where I feel right at home.

About My Work: I teach small, upper-level biology courses, such as conservation biology and animal behavior, and maintain an active research lab with undergraduate and graduate students who work on a range of topics, including migration ecology, evolution, sexual selection and behavior. I focus on understanding how events occurring throughout the entire annual cycle interact to shape the life history, ecology and behavior of migratory birds.

Thank You, Carson: The Carson Grant was a pivotal event in my life. Although my research path has changed markedly, the tools and techniques I learned are ones that I have used in countless

projects since, and that my students and I continue to use today. Conducting independent research gave me the confidence I needed to pursue a scholarly career in research. I love what I do and will always be grateful for that experience.



Who:
Natalie Sashkin Goldberg '08

Carson Grant Project:
"Stimulating Neuroplasticity: The Effects of Enriched Environmental Conditions on Dopaminergic Neurogenesis in the Substantia Nigra of a Mouse Model of Parkinson's Disease." Sponsors: Charles Meshul, Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), and Barbara Stebbins-Boaz, biology, Willamette

What I'm Doing Now: Ph.D. candidate in neurobiology and behavior, entering my fourth year at the University of California, Irvine (UC Irvine)

How I Got Here: My Carson Grant facilitated a research

project on therapeutic interventions for Parkinson's disease in Dr. Meshul's lab at OHSU. After graduating, I was honored to continue working in Meshul's lab for three years while deciding where to attend graduate school.

About My Work: My current studies in Dr. Mathew Blurton-Jones' laboratory at UC Irvine focus on neural stem cell transplantation therapeutics for Parkinson's and other neurodegenerative diseases.

Thank You, Carson: The Carson Grant allowed me to support myself during my research project. It was my first experience writing a grant proposal, and the first time I synthesized my scientific interests and goals. The Carson Scholars symposium at the end of the summer was the first time that I gave a professional talk to a room of individuals with so many academic and non-academic interests. I was also fortunate to maintain a relationship and mentorship with Julie Carson and her husband, Guy Whitehead, while in Oregon. They played pivotal roles in forming my academic perspectives and my decision to pursue graduate school.



Who:
Tim Stumhofer '06

Carson Grant Project:
"Smart Growth in Post-Measure 37 Oregon: Urban Transportation Policy in a Time of Changing Land-Use." Sponsor: Laura Leete, Center for Governance and Public Policy Research, Willamette

What I'm Doing Now: I'm living in Berlin after being named a Robert Bosch

Foundation Fellow. The Bosch Foundation fellowship is a mid-career program that places Americans in counterpart German institutions.

How I Got Here: After Willamette, I studied environmental governance and economics in the UK. Following graduate school, I worked in climate-change policy, first as an analyst for an emissions trading firm and then for a nongovernmental organization focused on building the technical capacity to implement climate programs globally. Now, I'm looking at how climate-change readiness is financed in the developing world.

About My Work: I have been fortunate to see personal academic interests blossom into professional opportunities: from emissions trading to technical capacity building to international development cooperation. Like any specialization, this professional landscape is jargon-filled and difficult to quickly summarize. But the work has generally focused on designing, testing and scaling global climate-change mitigation programs. It is a fascinating, if incredibly challenging and humbling, line of work.

Thank You, Carson: As I suspect is the case with many other Carson alums, my career path has not been linear. Indeed, while I stand by the importance of my Carson project, it is quite tangential to my professional focus today.

But I would say therein lies the value of the fellowship. The grant resources allowed me to independently pursue my interests and offered much more than experience leading practical research. The program imbued me with a spirit of inquiry and opened my eyes to the opportunities that can come with following questions of personal interest. So far, my career has been guided by this precept and for this, I am grateful for the program. ☐

CARSON GRANTS: A CELEBRATION

Twenty-five years of Carson Undergraduate Research Grants — now that's a reason to throw a party. The university organized an Oct. 17 celebration for this year's recipients to gather in the Willson-Hines Rooms in Goudy Commons to share what they were able to accomplish this summer thanks to the generosity of the grant program. A reception with good food and good company was planned for the evening. As of press time, Bill Long and Julie Carson, along with many past grant winners, anticipated being among those toasting this year's recipients.
