



SEPTEMBER 2020

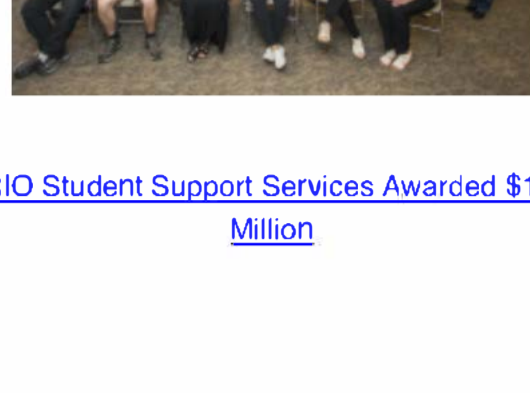
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Paul Randall-Grutter '88 has designed everything from structures to roads during his 30-year career as a civil/structural engineer. As the current Skagit County Engineer, he is responsible for 800 miles of roads and over 100 bridges within the county. Congrats to Paul for his recent achievement, being honored as County Engineer of the Year for the state of Washington.

[Read Paul's story here!](#)

HEADLINES



[TRIO Student Support Services Awarded \\$1.47 Million](#)



[Oregon Tech and Klamath Community College Create Base to Bachelor's Program for Military Students](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

[YouTube Premiere Video: CEET Groundbreaking](#)

Save the Date: September 10 | Online

[Oregon Tech Together: A Conversation with Dr. Dan Peterson, Dean of the College of HAS](#)

September 17 | Online

[Oregon Tech Together: A Conversation with John Van Dyke, Director of Athletics](#)

October 15 | Online

[Virtual Lunch & Learn: Estate Planning Workshop](#)

October 21 | Online

[Virtual Career Fairs](#)

Nov 3-6 | See flyer below

* Check out Oregon Tech's new website at: oit.edu

ONLINE RESOURCES:

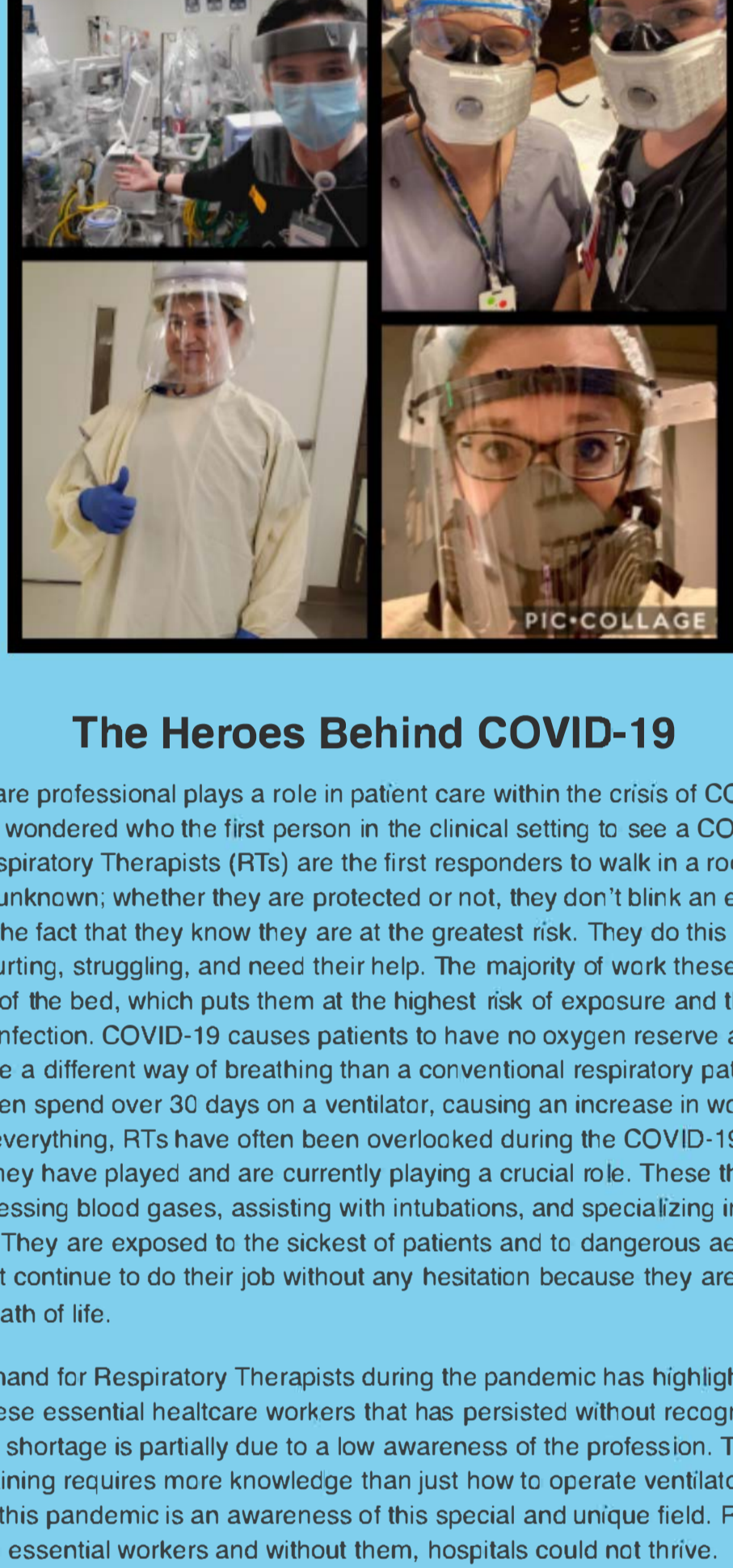
[Oregon Tech Covid-19 Response](#)

[Oregon Health Authority](#)

[Career Services Webinars](#)

[Mental Health Podcast](#)

[Money Saving Resources](#)



The Heroes Behind COVID-19

Every healthcare professional plays a role in patient care within the crisis of COVID-19, but have you ever wondered who the first person in the clinical setting to see a COVID positive patient is? Respiratory Therapists (RTs) are the first responders to walk in a room when COVID is still unknown; whether they are protected or not, they don't blink an eye or hesitate regardless of the fact that they know they are at the greatest risk. They do this because patients are hurting, struggling, and need their help. The majority of work these specialists do is at the head of the bed, which puts them at the highest risk of exposure and therefore higher risk of infection. COVID-19 causes patients to have no oxygen reserve and these patients require a different way of breathing than a conventional respiratory patient. COVID-19 patients often spend over 30 days on a ventilator, causing an increase in workloads for RTs. Despite everything, RTs have often been overlooked during the COVID-19 pandemic, even though they have played and are currently playing a crucial role. These therapists are experts in assessing blood gases, assisting with intubations, and specializing in ventilator management. They are exposed to the sickest of patients and to dangerous aerosolizing procedures yet continue to do their job without any hesitation because they are called to deliver the breath of life.

Increased demand for Respiratory Therapists during the pandemic has highlighted a shortage of these essential healthcare workers that has persisted without recognition over the years. The RT shortage is partially due to a low awareness of the profession. Their specialized training requires more knowledge than just how to operate ventilators. The hope coming out of this pandemic is an awareness of this special and unique field. Respiratory Therapists are essential workers and without them, hospitals could not thrive.

To learn more about Oregon Tech's Respiratory Care degree program, visit <https://www.oit.edu/academics/degrees/respiratory-care>.

- By Respiratory Therapy Alumna Stephanie Boerste '16

ALUMNI-OWNED BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Tashi Soap Company LLC is an award-winning business located in Klamath Falls, OR by Oregon Tech alumna Tashia Owen '05. Tashia was born and raised in Klamath Falls and enjoyed a career in healthcare for many years before becoming an entrepreneur. With a degree in chemistry and biology from Oregon Tech/OHSU and a prior career in pharmacy, she put her education and professional experience to good use, creating her own line of skincare products. Although she started making plant-based soaps in an effort to protect her family from the toxins in our foods, medicines and everyday household products, her business has expanded and she is now in her 9th year of business.



Tashia's products use only natural, healthy ingredients, including essential oils, clays, and plant powders. In addition to wonderful soaps, you can also find balms, lotions, creams, candles and more. These products smell and feel great and are gentle on the skin.

You can visit Tashi Soap Co. in person if you're in the Klamath Falls area, or visit the website for online shopping by visiting www.tashisoaps.com.

* Support alumni-owned businesses by visiting the online business directory [HERE](#) Want to add your business to the list? [Email the Alumni Relations Manager!](#)

Oregon Tech Together:

A Conversation with Dr. Dan Peterson

Moderated by Ashley Cox '08, '19



Dr. Dan Peterson
Dean of the College of HAS



Ashley Cox '08, '19
Vascular Technology,
Allied Health Management



Our Oregon Tech Together speaker series continues this month with an in-depth look at the College of Health, Arts and Sciences. Everyone is invited to this special online conversation on **Thursday, Sept. 17, 2020 at 5:30PM** as alumna Ashley Cox '08, '19 helps us get to know newly appointed dean of the College of HAS, Dr. Dan Peterson.

Fall 2020
Virtual
CAREER FAIRS

JOIN US!



Free for job seeking Alumni to attend!
Registration opens October 5th

▶ **DENTAL HYGIENE**
TUESDAY, NOV 3RD | 8AM-11AM

▶ **ENGINEERING**
TUESDAY, NOV 3RD | 12PM-3PM

▶ **BUSINESS**
WEDNESDAY, NOV 4TH | 3PM-6PM

▶ **HEALTH**
FRIDAY, NOV 6TH | 12PM-3PM

● oit.edu/career-services lynde.wright@oit.edu

● **Employer Registration Fees:**
Regular \$350 | Government \$250 | Nonprofit/Small Business \$150

Oregon Tech Alumni

<https://alumni.oit.edu/>

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