

# Shooting Stars

## Central Oregonians to Watch

There are two ways to look at the label “person to watch.” It’s either a pedestal or a hot seat. To earn the tag in the first place, one must be doing something impressive. Once the mark is made, everyone is watching, and the pressure is on to keep doing something impressive. Keep your eyes on this talented and motivated group of Central Oregonians in the next few years. They can take the heat.

STORY BY KIM COOPER FINDLING ★ PHOTOGRAPHY BY PAUL CLARK



## Dr. Linyee Chang

### oncologist

As Dr. Linyee Chang sees it, national health care reform involves many controversies, but no one can dispute the need for quality care. That's why Chang, an oncologist with St. Charles Cancer Center, has devoted herself to health care reform efforts by serving locally as the chair of the quality and outcomes committee of the Physician Hospital Alliance. "Quality is where we (doctors) all have a shared passion," she says. "It's where we can come together and agree—anybody our health care system touches deserves the best care."

**"We want to streamline practice, improve communication and avoid duplicating effort."**

The PHA launched locally in August 2009, when hospital leadership extended an invitation to area physicians to form a group to address a new delivery system for regional health care. Nearly immediately, over 450 doctors signed a petition of support. "Reform is necessary, because of costs spiraling out of control. We know it's broken," says Chang.

"Things are happening nationally that will impact us. Rather than wait, we can seize the opportunity to develop something more local."

Chang, who studied medicine and trained at Oregon Health Sciences University, is quick to point out that many others are instrumental in the PHA, too. Still, her colleagues describe her as a powerful force, and her career in oncology makes her particularly well suited to address questions of standards of care. "In cancer, there have been well-defined standards of practice since 2003," she explains. "Cancer is the model for evidence-based practice in our region."

In a way, Central Oregon offers a relatively unique opportunity for health care reform. "With one hospital group, we are a somewhat closed system," explains Chang. Still, "care can be fragmented." The group's goal is to integrate the local health care delivery system. "We want to streamline practice, improve communication and avoid duplicating effort."

Just over a year into the process, projects are already being piloted to establish standards and hold doctors accountable to those standards. "We've created substance," says Chang. "We're creating an infrastructure to allow us to practice to the best of our ability."

Chang, who is married with two sons, is more than committed to the PHA process—she's passionate about it. "It's so exciting. To have a hospital supportive of our efforts, to get our colleagues engaged in the process, to get this level of physician engagement is fabulous. It's super collaborative, with the goal of embedding best practices into our system, so that they become default. We have an incredible opportunity to impact delivery of care locally."



## brewmaster

There aren't many people who are better known internationally than they are in Central Oregon. Tonya Cornett is one of them. In 2008, Cornett, the head brewer for Bend Brewing Co., won the title of Small Brewpub Brewer of the Year at the World Beer Cup, the world's largest commercial beer competition. Moreover, she was the first woman ever to be honored with the title.

The feat sealed Cornett's fame on the brewer's circuit. The World Beer Cup, she explains, is "like the Oscars of brewing." Ever since she brought home that gold statue, she's gotten used to the double-takes she experiences at brewing competitions. It's not unusual for her to see her own face plastered on the walls, in promotional materials. "People know who I am," she laughs.

**"I decided I wanted to be good at this. I enjoy taking a beer and making it a winner."**

Cornett has also won 15 gold, bronze and silver medals for Bend Brewing Co.'s micro-brews since 2006, but back home, most of her days are spent as they have been since her hire in 2002 —running a one-woman show upstairs in Bend Brewing Co.'s brewery. Bend Brewing brews about a 1,000 barrels of beer a year, and aside from the summer, when she has an assistant, Cornett does it solo. "Running my own small brewing operation has been much more challenging than I ever thought it would be."

Originally from Marion, Indiana, Cornett first discovered beer in the mid-1990s while waiting tables in Colorado. She began home brewing, and took a starter job at H.C. Berger Brewing in Fort Collins. "When I wasn't putting together packaging and giving tours, I was begging the brewmaster to let me brew." Soon she got her chance, and after a two-year gig at a brewery back in Indiana, she decided to up her game by attending the World Brewing Academy, a partnership between Siebel Institute of Technology in Chicago and Doemens Academy in Munich. She took the job in Bend, she says, "because I wanted the challenge of working in beer country."

Along the way, Cornett found many mentors. "I've found the brewing community in Bend and in Oregon to be very supportive and welcoming." But breaking trail as a woman in a male-dominated field was not without its challenges. "There was harassment," she admits. "I just decided to stick it out." Even when she first came to Bend, Cornett was dismayed to find that some of Bend Brewing Co.'s regulars were predisposed to be harsh critics of her work solely based on her gender. It's safe to say that most are convinced now.

"I decided I wanted to be good at this," Cornett says. "Winning this award really justified all of the hard work I was doing and gave me validation throughout the industry. I don't have to prove myself to myself anymore."

What does a woman do when she's already won the top prize in her field? Cornett has been invited to brew overseas, in England and Belgium, to collaborate with high-profile brewers in the U.S. and to judge at brewing competitions. She recently became a part of the Pink Boots Society, which brings female brewers together. Mostly, Cornett's plan is to keep on creating award-winning beers. "I enjoy taking a beer and making it a winner," she says. And there's always a chance of a repeat performance. "I'd love to win small brewer again. That would be fantastic."



## drummer

Since she was about twelve, Lindsey Elias has been known as 'that chick drummer.' She doesn't mind. "I just love to beat the heck out of my drums," she says. "If that's what I'm known for, awesome." She's found few female drum-playing role models. Elias doesn't mind that, either. "My idols are Dave Grohl (of Nirvana and the Foo Fighters) and John Bonham (of Led Zeppelin). Those guys brought the groove."

**"Drumming was always the most natural thing to me. Nothing else ever came so easy."**

Local band Empty Space Orchestra is Elias' primary group, but her talent means that she's often picked up by other musicians. "I am playing with about five bands right now," she says. Recently, a music engineer at a show that ESO played at the NorthWest Crossing Hullabaloo recommended her to a producer friend of his in Portland, and Elias was recruited. "I got this random call, and ended up in the studio in Portland with a bunch of musicians I'd never met," she says. "We recorded eleven songs in two days. I'd never done anything like that."

That sort of thing looks likely to happen more and more. To see Elias play the drums is to witness a

very compelling mix of talent, exuberance and spirit. "Drumming was always the most natural thing to me," she says. "Nothing else ever came so easy. I love to play the drums."

She began playing at the age of eleven. "My father plays the guitar. He had this old hi-hat (drum) and a snare. He said, 'here, keep the beat.'" Elias took to it immediately. In middle school, she joined band. For Christmas that year, her parents, who she said have always been enormously supportive, bought her a drum kit. At 4:30 a.m. Christmas morning, she discovered it in the family's music room. "The light shimmered on all the hardware," she recalls dreamily. "I just went after it." Four years ago, Elias splurged and bought herself her second drum set, made of koa wood. "I plan on having it the rest of my life," she says. "My grandchildren will be rocking on it."

Elias loves making all kinds of music. "It's all good, it's all different. It helps me become a better drummer." She works part-time and teaches drumming to make ends meet, but hopes to soon make a living solely with music. "I will be so ecstatic to say that music is my only job." In high school, she traveled to Japan with her high school band; earlier this year, she traveled to Los Angeles with local band Eric Tollefson and the World's Greatest Lovers. "It would be great to have music take me around the world."

Elias figures she's set up and taken down her drum kit a couple of hundred times in the last few years. "Recently I was thinking, how many times will I do this in my life? Maybe a million?" Not if she gets famous enough to have someone do it for her.

# Jason Graham aka Mosley Wotta

## singer, painter, writer

For Jason Graham, aka Mosley Wotta, winning the Last Band Standing competition with his eponymous hip-hop band was a combination of weird and cool. Weird, because he's lived and made music in Bend since 1992, and suddenly looking at fellow members of his tight-knit musical community as competition was unsettling. Cool, because the requisite series of performances really pushed the new band to achieve, which was then rewarded by the "subsequent yay factor" of winning. But more than weird or cool, becoming the last band standing was, for Graham, personally motivating. After winning, "Something in my brain said, Jason, get moving," he says. "Go somewhere."

Those who have their eye on Graham might argue that he already has gone somewhere. At the age of 27, he is an accomplished painter, writer, singer and public speaker. He's been hosting the Bend Poetry Slam for a year, demonstrating eloquence and poise as well as the ability to entertain. Art Walk visitors have seen his abstract paintings on display at tbd advertising. And he's been performing with local hip-hop band Person People the past five years.

But for Graham, the formation and early success of his newest endeavor, eight-month-old band Mosley Wotta, marks a turning point in his career. "This is where I am putting my energy now."

Graham coined his stage name many years ago, its meaning stemming from the central question that dominates his art and music—finding commonality and connection between people. "I'm mostly water and so are you," he explains. Growing up, "I never felt all that connected to other people in a rooted, obvious way. I was too tall, black but not black enough. I thought, where's the 'can't we all get along button'?" A craving for common ground shaped his art as well as his worldview. "There's a fair amount of preaching in my writing, but it's for me as much as anyone else," he explains. "Finding those commonalities between us keeps you rooted, keeps you humble."

Mosley Wotta is beginning to get out-of-town gigs, and Graham wants to "play as many places as I can." Still, Bend, where he's been since 1992, and where his family of origin, wife and child are, is home base. "When you are on stage and people are yelling and clapping for you, it's—whoa. But reality will bite you. I am trying to be grateful and appreciative, as practical as I know how." Not that he isn't willing to celebrate. "Everything about this feels very triumphant. This is the first time I have really taken myself seriously."



**"Finding those commonalities between us keeps you rooted, keeps you humble."**



### **non-profit restaurateur**

Zach Hancock ascribes to the belief that living well has to be practiced. “You can talk about lots of things, but it’s not real unless you live it.” Hancock believes that we as humans are all connected, that we are all only as well off as our neighbors, and that everyone has something to bring to the table. Common Table, a new non-profit café in downtown Bend, is Hancock’s way of living those beliefs. “We have several crises on the planet now, one of which is environmental,” says Hancock. “The other is about our tolerance and compassion for one another.” Allowing everyone the opportunity to gather around one table, Hancock hopes, will alleviate both.

**“We want to be a place to disagree but still recognize each other as valuable.”**

Common Table opened its doors in early September, operating with a different paradigm than for-profit restaurants. Each menu item has a suggested donation instead of a price, and \$10 vouchers for food are distributed in various ways. “Twenty percent of our gross is donated, and vouchers are also available for sale, for people to distribute as they wish,” Hancock explains. “We want to be available to everyone—to those with plenty of

money to those who wouldn’t normally have the opportunity to sit with us.” The restaurant isn’t a soup kitchen—diners will need to have money or a voucher to eat—but there is a strong philanthropic bent to the way Common Table operates.

Hancock came to Bend in January of this year. He was hired onto the project, by way of a grant acquired by First Presbyterian Church, in part because he started a non-profit coffee shop in Greeley, Colorado, several years ago, not long after finishing a Master of Divinity degree from Regent College in Vancouver B.C. “In all great traditions, compassion is vital to contentedness,” he says. “In order to be not an anxious person but a person that’s whole, we need to have compassion.” Seeing and listening to each other is where that begins. At Common Table, “Success will mean people are sitting down together from across the spectrum, exchanging ideas and learning about one another,” he says. “We want to be a place to disagree but still recognize each other as valuable.”

Open for breakfast and lunch, Common Table serves Northwest fare with a country twist. Hancock aims for the restaurant to be environmentally sustainable, as well, and will acquire at least half of required produce and other foods from local sources, with the rest coming from the greater region. “As consumers, we vote about what matters to us every day,” says Hancock. The restaurant opened with a few staff people as well as a cadre of volunteers. “We have grants and private donations, but now we need this business to be a success.”

In the early stages of a concept entirely new to Bend, it’s hard to say how things will progress, but Hancock is optimistic, and enthusiastic about the conversations he hopes Common Table will generate. “As humans, we gather around food,” he says. “It is important to us that all people eat, and that we be responsible citizens on the earth. Our mantra is radical hospitality to all.”



## **vice president oregon state university-cascades**

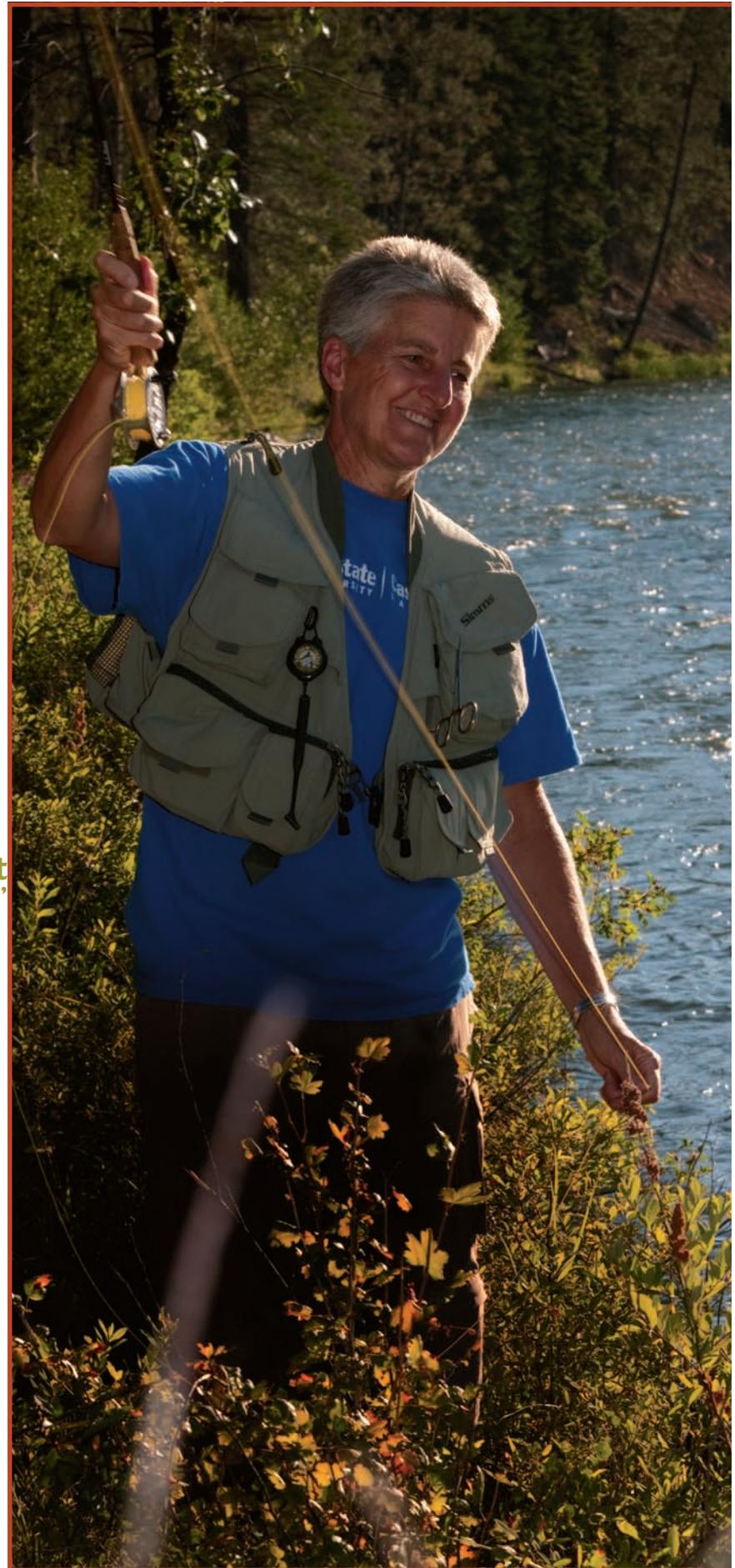
Becky Johnson has only lived in Central Oregon for 19 months, but she might be the region's most important resident when it comes to Bend's hopes for its own university. As the Vice President of Oregon State University-Cascades, Johnson has already implemented the beginnings of a 20-year plan that will propel OSU-C from the dual-enrollment partnership with Central Oregon Community College that it has been since its inception in 2001 to a true, stand-alone, four-year university.

"My biggest goal is growth of the campus," says Johnson, who was initially hired as interim campus leader in December 2008 and offered the vice presidency six months later. "I'd like to see 2000 students and 20 degree programs in place by 2020." OSU-C now has 620 students and 13 degree programs. Johnson admits that her plan is "not an insignificant hurdle," but she is sure it's possible—and moreover, necessary. "This is what the Central Oregon community has been requesting for many years."

**"I think that many people still don't see us as a four-year university."**

Common belief is that Johnson has the chops to make it happen, or at least get the institution off to a good start. That's partly because she brought with her relationships and experience critical to pushing new degrees—the component necessary to attract new students and faculty—through a system that can be known as glacial. Before moving to Bend, Johnson built a nearly 25-year career at Oregon State University in Corvallis, most recently as vice provost for academic affairs and international programs. (She has a B.A. in economics and an M.S. and Ph.D. in agricultural economics and taught in the School of Forestry before moving into administration.) According to colleagues, Johnson's familiarity with upper echelons of OSU, as well as her competence, common sense approach to leadership, and ability to generate trust quickly, put her in a unique and powerful position. At the same time, she fits in Bend and is already a strong advocate for the community. Johnson took quickly to the local lifestyle—golfing, biking and skiing are her favorite après-work activities—and already holds board positions with Economic Development of Central Oregon and City Club of Bend.

Johnson believes OSU-Cascades' primary challenge is recognition. "I think that many people still don't see us as four-year university," she says of the campus' youth and symbiotic relationship with COCC. "Now, most students come here because there is some barrier to going elsewhere. We want OSU-C to be the destination of choice, to be known as not only an incredible place to go to school, but a top-quality university with excellent faculty and degree programs. I want Central Oregon to know that OSU-C is their university."





# Kellie Schueler

## sprinter

Kellie Schueler was shopping at TJ Maxx when she got a phone call informing her that she'd been accepted into Stanford University. Background noise and excitement left her uncertain, however. Had she been offered a scholarship? Her parents couldn't afford to send her to Stanford. She thanked the caller—Stanford's track coach—and demurred. A second phone call later cleared things up. She'd been accepted, yes—with a full ride.

That modest reaction is typical of Schueler, who has been known to describe herself as a pessimist who is not very good at goal setting, while simultaneously demonstrating an incredible work ethic and mental strength in athletics, academics and life. At the Oregon State High School Track Championships, held in May at Hayward Field in Eugene, Schueler ran all four of her events—the 100, 200 and 400 meters, as well as the 4x400 relay—on an injured hamstring. As she was running that day, she recalls, she kept thinking, "There is no good result from this. I am either going to tear my hamstring in half, or I am going to lose." Her natural grit took over. She didn't tear, and took first in all four events.

**"I love running. I love the thrill of racing, of going really fast."**

The last win that day was Schueler's 16th state title—she won all four events for four years, something that had only been accomplished in the state of Oregon once before, and then in the 2A, not 4A, division. Schueler's record is the reason that, in fact, Stanford had been recruiting her for months before that telephone offer, along with many other colleges. "My coach told me that I would be able to go wherever I wanted, but I didn't really believe him," says Schueler, in typical fashion. "When I got two calls from schools the first morning recruitment began, I wasn't expecting it."

More calls came. Stanford began to stand out. But she still had to apply for admission. Even with a 4.0 GPA and 7th position class ranking from Summit High, Schueler wasn't sure she'd get in. Then she got the call. Stanford accepted her. She accepted them.

Schueler grew up in Bend, and began running as a child with the Central Oregon Track Club. "Back then there was this club for kids and families," she recalls. Schueler did well, so her mother started taking her to Junior Olympic meets in the Willamette Valley. When she was twelve, she qualified for the Junior Nationals, held that year at Hayward Field in Eugene. By her freshman year, she knew she wanted to run track in college.

"I love running," she says. "I love the thrill of racing, of going really fast." Schueler isn't sure yet which event she'll run at Stanford. "College is all about specialization," she says. "My coach wants to get to know me before he decides what I'll do." While it's out of character for her to predict her own success, Schueler does admit she'd love to be Pac10 champion. How about the Olympics? "What a crazy dream to have," she says. "If I had that opportunity, how amazing."

# Cara Thayer and Louie Van Patten

## oil artists

Cara Thayer and Louie Van Patten don't like the concept of retirement. Too many people, they think, spend their whole lives postponing the pursuit of their dreams. "We don't want to be those people who wait to start doing what we want," says Van Patten. What they want is to become self-supporting painters, and a year ago they quit their jobs in order to spend all day, every day painting. "We can't afford to wait," says Van Patten. "We have to commit to it like it's going to work."

The couple possesses a focus and determination that would be impressive under any conditions, but even more so given that neither has yet hit the age of 30. Even more unique is the fact that they work in oils on canvas as a team. From conceptualization to final touches, both stand in front of the canvas. "We want our art to look like it's made by one person," says Thayer.

**"It's a real advantage to stay immersed in [art] all of the time."**

Thayer and Van Patten met via friends in Chicago six years ago when Thayer was a student at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC). Van Patten was a budding artist as well, and the two hit it off immediately. Within a year, they began painting together. "I always wanted to work collaboratively," says Thayer. Adds Van Patten, "In a way, we are better painters together than we are separate. We both like what the other person brings to the table." There was a learning curve—"It took awhile to get how we talk about art and our work, to listen to each other's ideas and add in our own elements," says Thayer—but soon they were creating beautiful, haunting images in tandem, primarily of the human form. Last year, they married. "If you can establish a dialogue about art and make art together over a long period of time, relationships are simple, comparatively," laughs Van Patten.

Van Patten and Thayer's paintings elicit emotion from simple images and interpret identity, fear, tension and human relationships. "We're interested in questions like, how can you represent emotion



with just the hands?" says Thayer. They've had showings in Palo Alto, Calif.; Manzanita, Ore.; and Seattle and Vancouver, Wash. Their work is on display in downtown Bend at Expressions at River Bend Gallery.

Thayer grew up in Bend, and the pair moved back in 2007. They worked part-time in construction until last year, when they committed their time—and their future—to art. "It's a real advantage to stay immersed in it all of the time," says Thayer. Despite their dedication, the couple's goals are relatively practical. "We just want to be able to live," says Thayer. **CO**