

Upfront

News, Notables, Innovations

44 Years, 17 Jobs, 1 Impressive Woman

A fixture on campus since the 1960s and as amiable as she is energetic, Lorraine Davis, PhD '72, is a Duck to be reckoned with.



Davis helps whip up UO football fans at the pep rally before the Rose Bowl game in January 2012 (Oregon 45, Wisconsin 38).



Badger State Bred The third of eight children, Davis was raised on a small family-run dairy farm: no indoor plumbing, harsh Wisconsin winters. She excelled in school, becoming salutatorian of her high school class, graduating from college in math and PE, then earning a master's degree in health. Her charred high school math award (above) was retrieved from the ashes of a house fire.



Career Launch She began her UO PhD studies in 1969, focusing on health education and statistics. Popular with students, Davis climbed the academic ranks during the '70s and '80s, becoming a full professor in 1986. She coauthored a textbook, *Access to Health*, in 1988; published a score of refereed academic papers; and chaired or served on (an astounding) 220-plus dissertation and master's thesis committees.



Batter Up Early on at the UO, she served as interim coach for the women's softball team—and drove the team van to away games.



Six Degrees of Education She dated (11 years!) then married her high school beau, Mason Davis, MS '71, PhD '75 (counseling psychology), with whom she has two children: Josh, MEd '00, and Zach '02, MEd '06.



Lifelong Outdoorswoman She's an avid cross-country skier; has canoed miles of Minnesota, Washington, and Wisconsin waterways; has climbed every major peak in Oregon; and ran the Paavo Nurmi Marathon, a half marathon, and many 5K and 10K races.



Many Hats and Addresses Named vice provost for academic personnel in 1990, Davis oversaw employment decisions for all university faculty members. In the course of her 44-year (and counting) career at the UO, she has had 17 different job titles and been located (and relocated, and relocated) in 18 offices across campus.



Badge of Honor One of her responsibilities as vice provost for academic affairs was campus ROTC. Attending a regional leadership meeting at Fort Lewis in Washington, one afternoon's activity choices were hearing a lecture or hitting the Army obstacle course to run, slide, climb, carry, and crawl her way to earning a recon badge. No hesitation, she was out the door.



Administrative Utility Infielder Retirement in 2004 and elevation to professor emerita status did not end Davis's UO career. She was interim provost for about a year, and filled in as interim athletic director for about six months following Mike Bellotti's departure. For a time, Davis simultaneously served as special assistant to the UO's president, provost, and athletic director. Today she works on the oversight and evaluation of support services for student-athletes and is a liaison between the Office of Academic Affairs and the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics concerning academic matters.



The Rose Tattoo At the 1995 Rose Bowl, Davis and five friends pledged to get inked to commemorate the UO victory (which wasn't); she recommitted to her pledge before the 2012 Rose Bowl game and, with the Ducks' win, followed through.



A Benchmark Career A bench commemorating Lorraine Davis's remarkable—and still ongoing—career of contributions to the UO is located just behind the Pioneer Mother statue.

—Ross West, MFA '84