**Further Together: The ORAU Podcast**

**Women in STEM**

**March 20, 2024**

Welcome to Further Together: The ORAU Podcast. As ever, it's me your host Michael Holtz in the communications and marketing department at ORAU and I am joined today by two of my co-workers: Matthew Underwood and Amber Davis

We are talking about a really exciting and fun topic. We're talking about women in STEM and in particular historical figures in STEM from ORAU. We're talking about 3 women today and. Um, rather than just launch in and tell you who they are I'm going to have Amber and Matthew talk a little bit about who these women are and get to why we're talking about them so or why not ever why don't we start with you.

Amber Davis

Sure well you know what I love about this podcast is sometimes these topics come up so that buzzword organically, you know we were having a team lunch and we were all chatting about some things and Matthew and I've been working on a project and so we've really been digging into some of the history.

History and so it came up that some of the women in ore's history that we've been you know learning about you know, just how cool and how trailblazing they were and then someone was like oh you know that's kind of interesting because we've got this day that comes up every year like women in stem and we're like oh that would be really cool.

That would be really cool. We should can help and so it kind of started there and yeah I appreciate you having me on because um, if you hadn't picked up on this by now I do get really passionate and excited just got a lot of energy I always have.

Um, but when I learn something I just get really excited to share especially when it's cool and there are just so many amazing people in general men and women. Um, but it's really cool for me to read about these early pioneers because our history dates back. You know I don't know how many people really know the backstory of ORAU because now we're just like this solid government contractor who comes up with all these solutions and we're technical and we're we're doing all these things but you know we really go back to World War II when we kind of got started and when things were being just covered for the first time and we know some of the the names. Perhaps that you know the doctors and and the researchers but there were women too which I think is cool because sometimes we think oh you know there's been a ah more recent push for women in stem. Um, and I did I did a little bit of prep when we decided to do this episode and I saw that really um, the the term stem the acronym really became popular around 2001 so it is fairly new. Ah, it's you know, old enough that I was still kind of in school just barely, but.

Um, gold when that gets just came up but I'm gonna claim it but it really wasn't something that I did much with because by the time that did come around I was kind of already focused and I'm you know a journalism major Yes I didn't really touch a lot but that whole concept and I'm a mother now and so seeing how they want to encourage children in elementary school to go into the science and technology and engineering and math. How great those disciplines are to encourage children to to look into those opportunities when they're young and not wait until they're older to even explore that. So I think it's great, but um, it's fairly new and.

Thing is that I think we associate that with well there's been a more recent push to to you know, pull in different um groups with the culture into him. You know it started as male dominated and and particularly you know, white male dominatated and I look at our history and I don't know that that is always the case.

So I love that and we wanted to talk about some so do me just Michael do I mean to dive in and start talking about 1 of them or do you? How do you want me to do this because I can get excited. Ah, okay.

michaelholtz

ah ah well um let let me bring in Matthew first and you know Amber's excitement about our history is obviously palpable and what I love about talking to both of you is kind of the newest members of our team is your. Sort of uncovering all of this as part of an addition to our website that we can talk about at the end of the podcast but some new stuff that we have going on and so you're uncovering this history that you know has been there all along but we don't talk about it very much. So.

And Matthew you and I have done several podcasts around our cancer history and you know running the cancer hospital and y'all are uncovering now you know these women who women have been part of the scientific fabric of or are you really from day one. Um. So. It's awesome to get the opportunity to talk about who these women are what they contributed? Um, Matthew from your perspective. You know as you're learning about this talk about what you're what you're thinking and feeling.

Matthew Underwood

Yeah, you know Michael it is really interesting because you know we do have this, you know, really rich history that dates back but like you said, no one really talks about it and it's not really been. You know out there and written about that often. So it's been a lot of fun to research you know all the work that oru does now. And you know that's kind of well-known and well documented. But it's so fascinating how it started you know back in the 40 s and how it's transformed to now. Um, and 1 thing that interest me particularly about the women in stem is like Amber mentioned you know they were working with these doctors and a lot of them just had this drive to learn and that was 1 thing that really stuck out to me is you know.

A lot of them. They would be sitting and the doctor would give them something to look at and they would just have a book and they would just teach themselves which is something that you know just really fascinated me. They took advantage of the opportunities that they had and I think that really goes back to. You know these women in particular is you know while the opportunities as a whole weren't there. They took what they had and were able to build on it to really get to a point to where they were the pioneers. You know they coming in they learned and learned what they could and then they took those opportunities and built upon them and were really able to you know, come up with a lot of technology and be a part of a lot of projects that are still used today especially in the cancer space like you speak about with the. Um, cancer research hospital. So to me, it's just fascinating that you know these women you know just took the opportunities that they had and were able to transform science and technology and really get us to a point where we are today.

06:37.33

michaelholtz

Absolutely so Amber introduce us to the women that you want to talk about today.

06:45.71

Amber Davis

Sure and I am going to take 1 step back before we get into that because I found these really cool pictures and this again just kind of illustrates what we're talking about is you know you think that men dominate the scene if you look at oau we have photo archives.

06:53.92

michaelholtz

Um, okay.

07:04.40

Amber Davis

And so I pulled some of these because I think it's so cool if you see this grouping We have just as many women in epidemiology as we did men which is so cool because that's the picture We've got another one I mean you're just looking at these are just department pictures.

07:12.77

michaelholtz

Absolutely.

07:21.87

michaelholtz

Um, me.

07:22.11

Amber Davis

You know from seventy s eighty s when we started taking departments I think our our team was kind of small before that but you can see from the beginning. We have always had women and different minorities and that's just so exciting and encouraging to me so they have been there from the beginning.

07:25.24

michaelholtz

Right.

07:32.24

michaelholtz

Miss me.

07:41.20

Amber Davis

Of what oru you was looking into but Matthew you mentioned women in the cancer space and you mentioned the cancer research hospital. So I've got a couple of women who touched that I'm going to start actually with Evelyn Watson and this is just so cool. Evelyn. Is an english major I love her story so much I can relate because I you know I do more of the the words than the the numbers but she is a self taught nuclear physicist.

08:08.17

michaelholtz

Right? right.

08:17.80

michaelholtz

Self-tats.

08:18.90

Amber Davis

Like what in the world. So I already adore this woman just because um, she learned all this and she just she had this talent this skill you know the smarts for it but she really loved reading and writing and grammar and so people tried to encourage her into science and math and she was like.

08:23.50

Matthew Underwood

You learn.

08:38.28

Amber Davis

Yeah, and so she actually graduated with an english degree and went into teaching. You know her story is just it's a sweet Cinderella story. She didn't go out with the ambition to climb a ladder and become this renowned woman who who ended up. When she retired. She had 2 lifetime achievement awards and you know a whole wall of accolades but she started out humbly just wanted to be a teacher but you know along the way um her life just took some turns that she she met and married a man who worked in Oak Ridge Tennessee ended up.

08:58.16

michaelholtz

Oh my gosh.

09:14.81

Amber Davis

In Oak Rid at the right time. Um, and even so when she ah she was pregnant and she decided you know I don't really want to stay home and during that era The fifty s I mean she actually went to apply while she was pregnant. And there were some employers potential employers who told her don't even Apply. We're not looking for that and so that's amazing to me that she is like you know I want to do something So guess where she ended up a place called Orins which is actually O R a use predecessors so she ended up with O a.

09:38.11

michaelholtz

Um, Wow right? right.

09:52.71

Amber Davis

But she was a records clerk and I'm telling you this woman was smart and being a records records clerk didn't really hold her interest. She kind of got a little bored and so she quit after a couple of years and you know again as life's circumstances goes sometimes.

10:02.56

michaelholtz

Right.

10:12.27

Amber Davis

Then her husband lost his job and so she's like well I guess I do need to work and so she went back trying to find a job and went to that unemployment office and they're like well we see here that you worked at oh are you want? just go back over there and she was like they'll never hire me back and they did.

10:26.75

michaelholtz

Um.

10:29.24

Amber Davis

So but she took another. It's so funny. She took another clerk position but this time it was within the radiation safety department so she was in a different grouping of people and the the department head there.

10:38.40

michaelholtz

Okay.

10:46.35

Amber Davis

Ah, he actually her resume had crossed his desk and it intrigued him but maybe not for what you're thinking because she did have some math and science that you know in college and he was like oh that's interesting. Um, but what happened was ah she had a recommendation on her resume or ah, that. She was a good cattle judge and it caught his attention. So sometimes you never know what you need to put in that resume but she was a good cattle judge. Apparently anyway, he ended up working with um Roger Clautier who is their cloudier. He's you know, somebody who is a a giant.

11:08.47

michaelholtz

Um, ah, interesting. Ah.

11:13.57

michaelholtz

Wow.

11:23.74

michaelholtz

See.

11:24.60

Amber Davis

Um, in our history and it was interesting because again he knew she was smart and so he started giving her some some tasks. Ah he he would give her a a smear and say hey we we're trying to test this and see you know what's going on and she she she did a um, an oral history Interview. You know of Oakridge. Library The public library did these wonderful historic interviews I'm so glad they did that because I've just been going through all those and and finding people and and learning the history locally here and what was going on during World War Ii and so I was I was just eating this up reading this this interview and she she kind of got kind of.

11:50.68

michaelholtz

Um, right.

12:03.34

Amber Davis

Quiet in the interview and she was like he would ask me to do things I didn't know what he was asking me so I would go get a book and I would because because Roger apparently was known to have this library annex and so anything he would ask her to do he'd he'd kind of leave a task on her desk and then leave you know going out to a project or whatever.

12:09.11

michaelholtz

Um.

12:22.95

Amber Davis

And she'd go get a book and she'd try to learn and she also did give lots of credit to the cancer research hospital because there were so many doctors and nurses kind of around you know at her disposal and says she would ask questions and then she would you know read. But um as time went on I mean Roger was noticing. She gets.

12:30.10

michaelholtz

Right.

12:42.58

Amber Davis

This and anything she didn't and understand she'd go back and study more and study more and it got to the point where he he was taking her with him instead of just leaving her to do some some odds and ends Jobs. He started taking her with him when he would go to courses on radiation And. Um, safety and all all these different you know things that he was Doing. He would take her with him and she really became his number 2 and it's Amazing. You know she started as a clerk climbed her way up. She actually never got a higher degree. She joked that. Um.

13:05.58

michaelholtz

While.

13:15.50

Amber Davis

You know as she was going to more and more of these things and and she started helping develop. We have this whole system Ridic you know where they're doing their their gauging internal dose. You know how much someone's been exposed and what that means and and she's understanding what this radiation has done to somebody. Um.

13:20.95

michaelholtz

Myself.

13:34.42

Amber Davis

And so people started really respecting the 2 of them almost were like a package deal and they started calling her doctor whatson and she tried to say no I'm not and they just wouldn't listen and so she's like I stopped trying to correct them because they went and listen to me I'm an english major I don't have any kind of credentials like that. But um, you know she took some undergraduate work at the University Of Tennessee but she she never got another degree. She she held that english major and she went on to lead that industry and um I love this personally as a mother she kind of looked at it going. We don't really know. What radiation does to pregnant women to those unborn babies. What what does that do and so she started looking into that and so she created you know a way to to measure that and to watch that and she was really one of the very first people to to pay attention. So I love that she she cared about. Um.

14:13.21

michaelholtz

Um, in.

14:30.43

Amber Davis

You know, kind of holistically you know what? what do we need to to know we got this information. What is that how was that apply how does it apply to different people. Um, and so Evelyn Watson I tell you what she quickly became one of my heroes as I was researching about her.

14:47.37

michaelholtz

That's easy to see certainly in a that. She's self-taught as a nuclear physicist but just her her drive to um understand what she was asked to do and would just you know. I Don't know what I'm doing but I'm going to go research and figure it out and and get it done I Love that.

15:06.00

Amber Davis

I Love it I Love it so much.

15:07.30

Matthew Underwood

You know that? yeah, that really was a trend and a few of these people that we researched like I mentioned earlier you know she was one of the ones specifically that popped out to me, you know, just you know she didn't know how to do something one said of you know, going back to him Roger Claudie who was probably busy doing our things. She took the initiative upon herself and was like you know what? I'm going to figure out how to do that I may not know how to do it now. But I'm going to figure it out and just that journey of becoming you know from the record clerk up to leading. You know these organizations and doing all this amazing work is really just incredible and just speaks to hard drive of you know.

15:28.56

michaelholtz

Right? right.

15:42.30

Matthew Underwood

Just wanting to do better and wanting to learn and that whole story is just amazing to me.

15:47.33

michaelholtz

It is amazing and Matthew you have someone that you want to talk about so um, introduce introduce your guest so to speak. Ah.

15:57.52

Matthew Underwood

Yeah, so so as you mentioned earlier me and you have had quite a few talks about you know the cancer raar hospital. So the person that I you know took a lot of interest in was Helen Vota pick and she was another one of those you know, kind of an interesting story. Um, actually her husband.

16:06.75

michaelholtz

Okay.

16:15.10

Matthew Underwood

Francis Goswitz was also worked for ons and it was kind of funny because he was actually in a conference in California and he came across Gould Andrews which is another big name in oru's history that we'll probably talk about at some point but um, it was kind of interesting because he just came across him at a conference and.

16:22.51

michaelholtz

Um, okay.

16:33.82

Matthew Underwood

He was aware of over of Oak Ridge in general because he had also been in the military at Fort Campbell Kentucky and so with that close revalence. He had kind of heard about you know Oak Ridge her husband Frances had heard about oak bridge and kind of knew and then they ran into Gould Andrews and you know he's like oh well we have this opportunity.

16:48.14

michaelholtz

Um.

16:54.40

Matthew Underwood

Um, at Oinn's why don't you come and of course francens was like okay I'll come and it just so happened that Francis and Helen both kind of came upon a position that they wanted to you know, learn about and then it turns out that voapic actually began tutelage under another you know. Big name Marshall brewer and so she ended up working under brewster kind of the same way you know just learning about different things and you know in the cancer space her and bruster together just were huge in the cancer space. You know coming up with all these different.

17:13.91

michaelholtz

Um, because.

17:28.29

Matthew Underwood

Cancer research techniques. The biggest one part being guyam 67 which was a huge in developing a way to detect malignancies which is huge in the cancer space and it's something that still exists today and it was just a trailblazing idea.

17:38.99

michaelholtz

Is Ruth.

17:45.88

Matthew Underwood

Um, she also did a lot of work in oncology and hematology under bruwer and again that led to you know the early stages which is what we're really talking about here is this work that they did was really trailblazing to even some of the technologies that exist today you know without this early reesar 2 knows you know if we would be at the point where we are today. And you know this cancer hospital was one of 3 of its kind and you know you think about you know Oak Ridge is this amazing town that you know a lot of people don't even know existed you know of course. Ah you know they call it the secret city and and over time people have you know, learned more and more. But.

18:06.41

michaelholtz

Write it. Ri.

18:22.33

Matthew Underwood

Back in the day this cancer research hospital was doing amazing work that you know a lot of people at the time didn't even know about and for them to come up with these processes. You know, brewer and bo to pick under him and some of the other doctors to come up with these processes that led to the technology we have today. It's just incredible that all that transpired from this little Townbo Bridge um so I think that's just really fascinating. Um, after she you know came along in her career like of course shut the cancer hospital down but she still did a lot of work with Methodist Medical Center she went there and did a lot of additional research.

18:49.31

michaelholtz

Right.

18:58.96

Matthew Underwood

Continue to do you know a lot of cancer work that was kind of her passion and you know we've mentioned you know the cancer space and all the work that or you did in the past and is still doing So I think that's really fascinating that she was one of those early pioneers in that cancer research coming up with a lot of those technologies.

19:15.40

michaelholtz

So much.

19:17.16

Matthew Underwood

So that is her story and to me it you know it's just fascinating that you know again, kind of happenstance you know she was with her husband just happened to go to this conference in California and meet gould andrews and then he just had a position for him both and then you know her story then working with you know. Going on to work with bruer and you know just that transformation of it might have happened by happenstance but then she ended up leading you know, a lot of trailblazing ideas that got us to where we are today in the cancer. History.

19:44.38

michaelholtz

Absolutely. And yeah, so much came from so much of what we know today about nuclear medicine and radiation therapy and immunology and even you know oncology in general like. So much of that was learned in the 24 years that we ran that cancer hospital and it's amazing. Um, again to think that you know women have always been part of the fabric of o and the same is true of the cancer hospital. So I just I love her story and I love.

20:15.38

Amber Davis

Um, yeah.

20:15.62

Matthew Underwood

But.

20:19.87

michaelholtz

Um, certainly Dr. Watson's story Dr. Watson look at me call her Dr Watson it's hard right? It's hard though right? because but right it does it sounds so correct. Um that you know we have this and you know we still have um.

20:23.50

Matthew Underwood

Well it is and.

20:26.48

Amber Davis

Ah, it sounds so right? Yeah, it does.

20:38.99

michaelholtz

Today you know, amazing women in science at this organization who are making huge contributions across the board and it's just always always been the life of ah ou which I love that we get to talk about that. So.

20:54.36

Amber Davis

Yeah, me too I had one more I was gonna share and sorry again I get excited this this goes back you know or connects well with with this cancer hospital that we keep talking about this cancer research hospital was one of only 3 in the country that was established.

20:58.31

michaelholtz

Yeah, absolutely.

21:10.34

michaelholtz

Um, right.

21:12.81

Amber Davis

You know after World War Ii which was really cool because the government was interested in and what can we do with nuclear medicine. You know we we create the Atomic Bomb All right? What can we? What can we use you know this for that's that's not um, how about how about this something that's for peacetime efforts you know and so they they is.

21:16.76

Matthew Underwood

Interpreted. What's so new.

21:21.23

michaelholtz

Right.

21:29.45

michaelholtz

Um, brea.

21:31.39

Matthew Underwood

Definite so written.

21:32.67

Amber Davis

Established 3 cancer research hospitals to really explore nuclear medicine. So the next woman I'm gonna talk about is any she is in this picture. She is a nurse and she's got her hands right? there in the middle. She's got the mask on the hair. Ne so she is right there in the middle of that.

21:42.60

Matthew Underwood

Picture say.

21:45.81

michaelholtz

Love it.

21:52.20

Amber Davis

Um, Andype Ah, she was pretty much the day-to-day manager of that facility after she came on she really was the one who um, who worked with the the patients and let's let's back up just a minute and talk about the people who came you know because people are like oh cancer research so research is like. Experiment and and really the way it was was these are people who this was their last hope every every effort has been exhausted the type of cancer they have has the the best chance with Nuclear medicine.

22:19.50

michaelholtz

Um, absolutely yep.

22:30.59

Amber Davis

You know to that day what we were looking to deal with and so this was something that a doctor had to refer them for. They did not pay. They came here because again this was something we were truly hoping that maybe this would work for them and if not for them. What can we learn.

22:31.16

michaelholtz

Um.

22:47.57

michaelholtz

Um, right? yeah and and over the course of just from a numbers perspective the hospital existed for 24 years over the course of those 24 years 3500 patients

22:50.40

Amber Davis

For the next patient. So so that's really what this place was.

23:00.53

Amber Davis

24 years um

23:04.85

michaelholtz

From around the country and I think around the world came to this hospital and again it was every other option had been exhausted. So this was um, a bit of a hail Mary but also like we're learning something here.

23:14.34

Amber Davis

Yes.

23:22.60

Amber Davis

Yeah, so.

23:23.50

michaelholtz

And if we can do something to help it use um radiation. You know as you said for good as opposed to for a weapon. Let's you know, let's learn. What can we do to benefit mankind This was the place that that was happening.

23:31.35

Amber Davis

Um, yeah, right right? So um, you know you mentioned those numbers. There were only thirty beds so this is not a huge facility which honestly just makes so much sense for Oak Ridge it really is a so.

23:42.20

michaelholtz

Right? It does.

23:48.89

Amber Davis

Small community and that's as I was learning Andy story because she and Evelyn Watson both are deceased now and so I was going through those you know, oral history interviews and and reading records. Um, so I was I was understanding where they were from reading about.

23:55.78

michaelholtz

Who.

24:08.51

Amber Davis

You know their life through interviews and um, really ansype took her job of caring for patients and their families so near and dear to her heart. You know she talked about that and and that's one of the things that. Later on because you mentioned they they were open for 24 years and in that twenty four years what they learned they were able to share with the cancer world and those are in that space and so many hospitals started doing their own work in that area and so the need wasn't.

24:40.28

michaelholtz

Um, this.

24:43.26

Amber Davis

There as much because what they had found worked and they they passed that on and so others were able to start doing that and there wasn't just that need they kind of had mission accomplished you know and so they closed that but then you know years later people did start asking questions. Oh.

24:45.22

michaelholtz

Right.

24:51.78

michaelholtz

Right.

24:58.70

Amber Davis

So what were you doing did people know what you were doing and so they had to kind of go back and say yes and we have this all documented you know and so but through those you know congressional testimonies I was able to really glean how passionate ansype was and how she cared for these families. She talked about you know years later. They would still be getting Christmas cards you know and how um you know they wished every patient you know had had it had worked and they'd had their life extended and it didn't work in every case but there were cases where it did happen where they were you know blessed with more time that they didn't have.

25:20.23

michaelholtz

Ah.

25:36.90

Amber Davis

Before you know because they were told it's terminal. it's three months it's six weeks it's whatever and and then some of these new therapies actually did work and extend the life and so she was talking about how how that weighed on them and it wasn't a place of of darkness like you might expect ah a last.

25:41.43

michaelholtz

Rights.

25:52.75

michaelholtz

So.

25:56.44

Amber Davis

Hope facility to be but she said it was a place of light and and the the staff would bring in their own you know, have to think back to you know, different expectations in the the sixty s but they would bring in their own food. You know and and they'd make a cake or cupcakes or whatever and bring that um and and patience would would request.

26:08.82

michaelholtz

Yeah, oh.

26:16.41

Amber Davis

Things she said she would drive people around you know after their treatments sometimes they didn't have family who could stay with them so she would drive people around o grid she said she went on walks through the the arboretum here you know and she's like and I hate to walk but I would walk I took them to shone's and we got a Sunday you know and she just talked about those.

26:20.43

michaelholtz

Sure.

26:30.97

michaelholtz

Um, ah.

26:34.90

Amber Davis

Those stories of really connecting with these people and and that's what I also love about seeing women in Stem you know she's passionate. She's good at what she does, but she also brings that heart and you know that's that's that's a big blanket statement but I love seeing that you know these women get in there and say okay but I'm going to care for you.

26:44.15

michaelholtz

Gas.

26:53.85

Amber Davis

I'm going to give you you know the support that you need holistically I'm gonna I'm Goingnna take you down the road. We're gonna go get a Sunday that's what you need right? now you know that kind of care and love. So that's really what I loved and then you know Ash she was so passionate and fiery you know saying that what they did had so much value. You know, even if. They didn't get to extend lives. Um, you know they they were working hard to do everything they could to to love the people who came through those doors. Um, so that was really neat and I have 1 more thing I'm very excited about because I just found this a couple weeks ago I

27:14.49

michaelholtz

Um, me.

27:23.39

michaelholtz

Um, yeah, yeah, ah.

27:29.21

Amber Davis

And so happy I found a picture. It's from an internal newsletter that o a you had it was in our like archives in a warehouse I didn't find it digitally so but this is a picture of the 2 of them together my heart just fluttered and I was so happy because oh how I wish I could have met these women just to. Hug their necks and say thank you for their contributions but in this picture you have Evelyn Watson on the left and you have anneype on the right and the reason they're together and there's reason I'm telling this story. The reason they're together. This is from an event when or a you did a rededication ceremony. So.

27:48.62

michaelholtz

Riots.

28:05.79

michaelholtz

Um, yeah.

28:06.70

Amber Davis

There was the hymn to life. We had this beautiful mosaic mural and it was on the side of the hospital and the vance road entrance side of our hospital for years and years and years it was a local artist Charles Counts he's pretty well known around these parts. Um, but he had done a mural and it was. It's known as the hemmed to life and it's just um in appreciation and memory and recognition of those patients who came here you know again, it was it was help but it was also help you know to help us understand. You know where we could go with with radiation treatment and and nuclear medicine in general and so that neural was on the outside of that building for years and years and years and then you know the cancer hospital was closed and we moved on to other things. Um. Fans I went on to to work in react and do some things there. So I mean people kind of found other places but that building was eventually brought down because there was no purpose for it anymore. But we were able to save that mural and now we have it hanging in our pollarded auditorium. So we still have it but this picture is from that event when. They actually were photographed together which I love because while they worked at o are you at the same time they didn't necessarily work together. They knew each other but they weren't necessarily together but this picture of them together. There was some some information in the caption in the story.

29:20.42

michaelholtz

Right.

29:29.98

Amber Davis

Ah, these women really were were pivotal and planning that rededication ceremony of bringing that mosaic to the inside of our auditorium that we we still proudly display that as part of our history. But at that ceremony they had a patient there who had been diagnosed with terminal Thyroid cancer.

29:36.92

michaelholtz

Just.

29:49.56

Amber Davis

And this is 30 something years later and she was at this dedication ceremony with her nurses who supported her and cared for her and oh my goodness I was just like oh that's amazing because there are those stories. Do we wish that was the story for everyone of course, but.

29:50.99

michaelholtz

Right? Oh my gosh.

30:05.98

michaelholtz

A hundred percent

30:08.72

Amber Davis

Because it can't be. We will take what we can from. You know those those bits of our time and in cancer in the cancer research hospital and and and say look look what happened look what we did and we're so proud of our people so ansype and Evelyn Watson again I've learned about them just as I've been working on a project reading you know about a lot about our history and these women are women in stem and they also now are just a couple of my heroes.

30:37.82

Matthew Underwood

You know you bring you bring it up though and that's something that really interests me is all these women you know like you said it may have not led to a 30 year extra but 1 thing fascinating about each one of these that really stuck out to me was.

30:39.70

michaelholtz

Um I.

30:52.70

Matthew Underwood

If they could just give someone an extra few months that they weren't expecting or do or just care for them in the time that they were still here any hope that they could bring and kind of like you said that's that women mentality of yeah I'm going to care for you and I'm going to do you know the scientific things that need to be done but I'm also going to care for you and bringing that emotional support.

30:53.21

michaelholtz

Youth.

30:55.56

Amber Davis

Gasped.

30:59.46

Amber Davis

And others with.

31:11.10

Matthew Underwood

And I think that's huge. You know they had such a care and such a love for the patients and you know even Voa picks said she would go back through and she would find files. She kept all the files of her patients and she would look back and there be a file thick of you know, just all this you know things that brought back the memories for her and you know in this file she would have the letters. Patients would send her and she'd have you know these these special memories that she had and she said she would just bring them out from time to time even long after these people aren't patients anymore just to remember the impact that she was able to have on these patients and it really stuck with her and I think all 3 of these women as we've talked about. It was really more than the job. It was more than the research. It was really bringing the care that these people needed at a tough time I mean Cancer is not fun and it's a hard process to go through and I think all 3 of these women if you could talk to the patients I think they would say that they made a tremendous impact in their lives.

31:51.18

michaelholtz

Um, yes.

31:53.94

Amber Davis

Do this.

32:03.94

Amber Davis

So.

32:06.16

michaelholtz

I love as as a former cancer patient. Um I love the idea of first of all the hospital not being a place of darkness you know, even though even though it was this sort of last hope hail mary kind of place.

32:06.72

Matthew Underwood

Math.

32:15.55

Amber Davis

This is.

32:21.30

Amber Davis

Yeah, yeah.

32:23.55

michaelholtz

That the staff really made it a place of light and showed up for their patients. You know, bringing like you said cake and cupcakes and feeding feeding the patients which you certainly couldn't do today but you know it was a totally different time right? But also.

32:37.10

Amber Davis

Um, right, darn it.

32:43.30

michaelholtz

Um, just being there to meet the emotional needs and to meet the you know hey, let's go for a walk in the Arboretum let's you know, let's go to shony's and get that Sunday let's you know, take a walk around on the block. Whatever it was to like you know.

32:54.51

Amber Davis

Yes.

33:00.69

michaelholtz

It's not just the physical medical treatment. It's the whole person. Um, and I I think as um, a practice you know Oncology oncology is getting better about that. But.

33:08.63

Amber Davis

Yep.

33:20.31

michaelholtz

You know, looking back at those circumstances I think there's a lot for um, medical professionals today to learn from those experiences of you know, but not and again not that every doctor or every nurse can take every patient you know.

33:37.29

Amber Davis

Right.

33:39.50

michaelholtz

And to dinner or to but you know to look at every patient holistically and look at you know, not just meet the medical needs or the treatment it needs but the emotional mental social needs of those patients as well because like you said.

33:44.20

Amber Davis

M.

33:53.90

Matthew Underwood

And.

33:57.67

michaelholtz

Most of those patients probably didn't have someone with them. Um, you know they were by themselves in a strange place that you know having scary stuff done to them because um, we didn't know you know we we know now that at the time.

34:01.50

Amber Davis

Litness.

34:06.62

Amber Davis

Again.

34:16.44

michaelholtz

You know is this going to work is this going to extend people's lives and you know we're learning and ah you know again, it wasn't it was experimental when it was but it it was based on knowledge and evidence and research so it wasn't like we were doing um you know blind blind research.

34:30.11

Amber Davis

Yeah, yeah, blind right? Yeah yeah I right? right? No is educated. Yeah I was educated I think too just if you if you take all the context you know that place and time.

34:30.15

Matthew Underwood

That's.

34:36.16

michaelholtz

Or just trying trying stuff just to try it right? right.

34:48.33

Amber Davis

You know in in Oak Ridge Tennessee you know when we are just trying to figure out nuclear medicine I think it's so beautiful that we have people who are like hey come on. We're gonna go. We're gonna get in the car and we're gonna get you know it just it just is what it I feel like should be. You know.

34:51.33

Matthew Underwood

Some.

34:59.54

michaelholtz

Um, yup.

35:04.99

michaelholtz

Yeah.

35:07.79

Amber Davis

It's It's part of how things should have been and I understand you know as time has gone on there's there's different wisdom now. But I think in that place in time the way they were caring and loving their patients. You know in in that hospital. Um I think it's It's beautiful.

35:12.33

Matthew Underwood

You.

35:15.43

michaelholtz

Writes.

35:26.29

Matthew Underwood

Well I think that's real. That's really a good thing about it. You know we talked about being so small I think that is one of the positive sides you know over this you know over this short amount of time relatively 25 years you know you see these patients but you know with it being that 30 bed kind of smaller facility. It really did give them the opportunity to kind of you know.

35:27.48

Amber Davis

So of course I'm going to get emotional about it.

35:28.68

michaelholtz

Um, and milk.

35:32.67

michaelholtz

Absolutely.

35:45.85

Matthew Underwood

Really understand the patients and really have that personal connection and you know so these hospitals now. Yeah, they're huge and they're dealing with so many patients and you know going back to the beginning of you know this research it really was that was a bigger part of the mission than I think you know people realize is it was you know this is a last you know.

35:46.41

michaelholtz

It was.

35:46.65

Amber Davis

Is.

36:05.33

Matthew Underwood

Last stitch effort. We're gonna try to you know, give you the treatment that you need, but it really also was a place where people could come and get that emotional attachment and get the care that they need holistically.

36:16.24

michaelholtz

And the pictures of the patient rooms. You know were very homelike. You know if you if you look at back at some of those pictures. Um, so yeah I think it was it was listening to you all tell these stories and just.

36:20.16

Matthew Underwood

Um.

36:20.33

Amber Davis

This is.

36:33.98

michaelholtz

What I am aware of from photos of my own research. It was a very thoughtful place. A very patient-centered place where it wasn't necessarily just about the research but it was about caring for those 3500 people

36:40.23

Amber Davis

This is it.

36:53.52

michaelholtz

Over the course of those 24 years and it definitely sounds like um Anne and Evelyn and and Helen cared deeply about the folks that they interacted with so so thank you both for.

37:05.42

Amber Davis

Um, is the.

37:13.19

michaelholtz

Sharing those stories. This has been a wonderful conversation I've learned a lot. Um and you know certainly have been touched by the stories that you've shared and I help our listeners will be as well and have will take a lot away from what we've talked about today.

37:16.30

Matthew Underwood

Oh.

37:28.40

Amber Davis

Um, yes, women are needed. We need more women in stem look what you can do.

37:30.74

Matthew Underwood

Um, absolutely.

37:32.60

michaelholtz

We do? That's right exactly.

37:35.42

Matthew Underwood

The never for growing thing. You know these women go back way and then you know like Michael mentioned earlier you know now we still have all these amazing women or are you that are you know, putting in this researching technology and you know it really is and looking forward the future. That's another big part of what over you does is you know, even finding the new generation of women to come in. You know make a difference so from the beginning of time to the future. Oru's always been a company that has really pushed the women in stem idea and like Amber said it's not you know, trying to be different. It's not trying. We're just finding the best people out there and women can make a huge impact and I think that's really touching and something that the younger generation can hear and.

37:56.97

michaelholtz

Um, yeah.

38:06.23

michaelholtz

If.

38:14.54

Matthew Underwood

Be able to look for those opportunities to you know make a difference.

38:16.96

michaelholtz

Yeah, absolutely and I hope we can come back at some time in the near future and have another conversation like this about some more of the of the historical figures that that you discovered um or rediscovered as you're going through.

38:34.31

michaelholtz

Research and putting together the blog which I suppose we can talk about here at the end. Um, since we're just a couple of weeks out but um as um, you guys since you all started. You've been really.

38:38.54

Matthew Underwood

We can now. Yeah, that.

38:39.89

Amber Davis

Yay.

38:51.23

michaelholtz

Working diligently on a new feature for the website ore.org which is a blog. Um, do you want to talk a little bit about what that is and when people can expect to sort of have a new a new channel to learn more about what we do here.

39:08.99

Amber Davis

Yes, we are so excited Matthew and I haveve been working pretty much since we we and then the fun story is Matthew and I started on the same day. So we um, we were able to kind of join in this venture together.

39:15.31

michaelholtz

Um, right if.

39:20.37

Amber Davis

And um, that was really one of the first projects we were handed it was you know hey look into this What could this look like for oriu and it took us all of about what 20 seconds to realize oh we have so much content because. When you talk about a blog. You know the content's going to be presented a little bit differently than how we have content already on our website. It's going to be more accessible. We. We want it to be easily digestible because we've got so many smart people at o are you and lots of great information. But then you've got people who might just want to be like.

39:48.23

michaelholtz

Um, so.

39:49.40

Matthew Underwood

I.

39:53.31

Amber Davis

Doing some research for a project or or whatever you know, maybe they're doing some history and then learning this or that maybe they live in our community and they just wonder what is O a you. So I Love that we're gonna take some of the content that we've been learning about some of it's historical. Some of it's about current programs Some of it's about. You know, hey what are our core values just to get it. We Want to educate you. We want to engage you and we want to endear you to what we do to our mission and and furthering science and health and education because it's one of our nation's top Priorities. We've got to get people interested in.

40:20.30

michaelholtz

No.

40:30.64

Amber Davis

Stem we need to have a strong workforce and we need people to care about stem because that's how we stay competitive on the world stage. So we're taking some of that information and we are just making it more accessible so we're going to have listicles right? Matthew we're talk about having you know listicle we're gonna have.

40:46.42

Matthew Underwood

That's right.

40:49.10

Amber Davis

Some of it is going to be vlog. You know so we're gonna have some some videos on there but we're Goingnna have picture galleries again taking the information and showing you who these people are and what they did and I love that presentation with images that just really helps me I'm I'm more of a visual learner.

40:49.61

michaelholtz

Right.

41:05.17

michaelholtz

Right.

41:07.11

Amber Davis

Um, and so and it's not going to be you know too too academic. It's going to be broken down more for the layman. So we're really excited about it and and Matthew do you want to tell us since I've been I get excited and I talk too much. That's what I've always been told but Matthew do you want to tell us when we're expecting to to launch.

41:12.69

Matthew Underwood

Um.

41:23.65

Matthew Underwood

Yeah, so one other thing I will add to what you said is um, the blog is called or are you then and now and what that encapsulates really is you know that early history of the Vim part. So that's that's one piece of what we're doing so you know some of this last Michael mentioned we've been doing a lot of research about some of the early historical figures. And you know their impacts on where orri is now. So that's kind of the then now and then the now part of it. You know comes to what we're currently doing and what our capabilities are and like Amber said we're taking you know all this fascinating work that we're doing and really putting it in a way where you can understand it. And you know, really learn about o are you because there is a lot of stuff that overu does as I'm sure you've learned listen to Michael's podcast you know all these topics that you know we're doing this and we're doing that and really taking all that information and making it easily digestible is the goal of the blog to where you can easily get screenshots of. Oh. Okay, this is what au does and then there's always opportunities to go and learn more on the website. We'll have a lot of links um throughout the blogs to where you know we'll break it down and then there's easily a way to go and learn more if you're interested in learning more. Um, so timeframe. Um, we're planning to launch um towards the end of february.

42:32.12

michaelholtz

1

42:34.10

Matthew Underwood

Um, so that is a goal so within the next month you can be looking for content. We're gonna launch with plenty of content that's already out there so they'll probably be about 15 to 20 blogs from day one so you don't have to wait too long so towards end of February we'll have those 15 to 20 that you can learn and read and.

42:48.99

michaelholtz

Um.

42:54.30

Matthew Underwood

Then from there every couple weeks we'll have a new piece of content come out that you can you know, learn more about over are you and the fascinating mission and values that the company has.

43:02.97

michaelholtz

Well, it's been so cool for me to watch you guys be excited and put together this great content and have the opportunity to look at some of the content that will be launched um on day one and y'all it's great. It's I'm so excited for people. To find the blog to to get into or are you then and now and learn again so much about where we've been where we are where we you know, kind of where we come from where we're going. Um all the things that you are helping people understand in a. In a way that again is accessible. It's it's Readable. It's not academic. It's you know, let me tell you a story about you know this and seeing you all be excited about the history and being able to share that this personally warms my heart because we have.

43:47.90

Amber Davis

This is.

43:58.10

Matthew Underwood

I.

43:59.29

Amber Davis

Um.

44:00.40

michaelholtz

Such an amazing history here that we really truly haven't spent enough time talking about and I love that we're taking that sort of dual view of looking back and looking forward and in you know all of the things that you all are going to be able to cover in this in this awesome New. Channel on our website. So I'm looking forward to the day that this thing goes live for for for both of you but also just for the organization. It's such a wonderful Thing. So.

44:24.69

Amber Davis

2

44:32.33

Amber Davis

Yeah, we're excited we can. We can now say hey if you want more information on any of these people. We've talked about look for it on our block. Ah, ah yeah.

44:32.64

Matthew Underwood

Be back.

44:39.60

michaelholtz

That's right, that's right look for it on or you then it now comings hopefully before the end of the month before the end of February so but that's right.

44:43.18

Matthew Underwood

That's right? Yep, there's a plug you want to learn more about all these people you know that will have a feature on them. So go check it out. Yeah.

44:53.93

michaelholtz

Amber Davis and Matthew Underwood thank you so much for spending this time I hope we do it again soon? Um, and talk about more of of who you're learning about and what you're learning about the organization so we can share it with the rest of the world. Thank you so much.

44:59.60

Amber Davis

Me too. It's fun.

45:11.70

michaelholtz

Awesome.

45:11.70

Amber Davis

Bye.