

## ALUMNI &amp; DEVELOPMENT

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON  
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

## CAS NEWS



## Cascade

### Autumn 2006

*Cascade*, the biannual publication of the College of Arts & Sciences, features recent activities and ground-breaking research by faculty members and demonstrates the many ways students and graduates benefit from their UO education.

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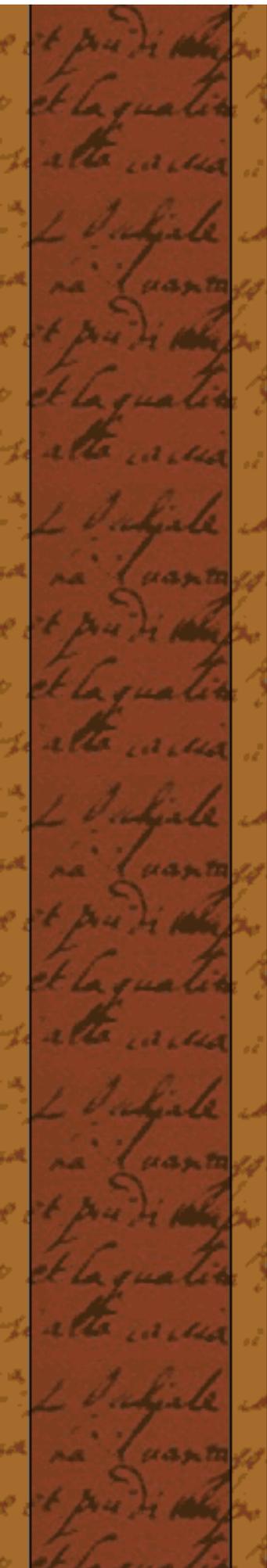
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## Falling into Place

## Student geophysicist hones intuition as researcher

Noah Fay claims that he became a geologist “by accident” during a post-graduation road trip across the Cascades.

“The mountains were beautiful,” Fay said. “I found myself wondering, all those miles in the car, ‘How did they come to be?’”

He arrived at the University of Oregon in 2001 with that question in mind. Now, just one term away from a doctoral degree in geological sciences, Fay’s question has expanded into pages and pages of “better questions.”

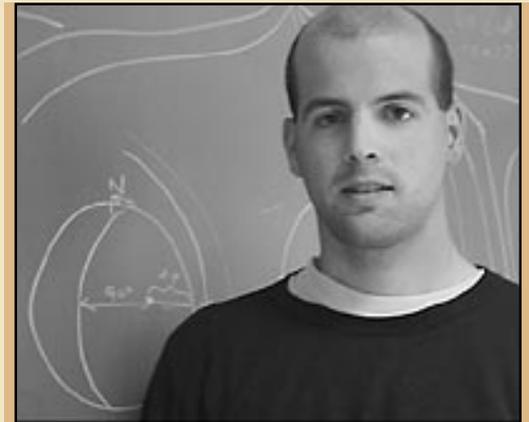
Fay, who earned his bachelor’s degree in physics at the Eastern Michigan University, believes the most important skill he’s been taught at Oregon is how to refine his intuition as a scientist.

“Geophysics isn’t like physics or chemistry,” Fay said. “The data can be ambiguous, so I find I have to be more creative.”

Though the math itself is more straightforward, he explained, nature can complicate matters. “Earthquakes are a little experiment that the earth does for you,” he said.

Fortunately, being in Oregon provides UO students with access to some good natural laboratories. “The Western U.S. is one of the most active in making geology,” said Eugene Humphreys, Fay’s graduate advisor.

Humphreys shares Fay’s fascination with the land and with the same essential question: Why do mountains build and canyons expand? More



Noah Fay is studying the causes of geologic change.

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specifically, the two researchers ask: Is geologic change caused by faults or the viscous processes underneath the plates?

Of course, this is not an either/or proposition. The extent to which each is a factor in mountain building is, Fay said, "Somewhere between 1 and 99 percent."

Humphreys said, "It's nature. It's imperfect. It's got a wide range of variables, so you're constantly asking, 'Is the theory wrong or did something else complicate it?'"

In their calculations, Fay and Humphreys aim to evaluate both the strength of geologic materials, such as the earth's crust, as well as the forces deforming them. "We look at everything related to what a plate might be," Humphreys said. With so many factors to consider, sometimes the results can only be expressed with a range rather than a number.

But the relative imprecision of nature's experiments doesn't bother Fay. In fact, his background in math and physics helps him create geologic models that he hopes will continue to narrow those uncertainties.

Fay's recent research with Humphreys on the Salton block in Southern California was published in the April 2006 issue of *Geology*. In their article, they assert that the San Bernardino Mountains are not simply squeezed into being, but that the friction of lateral movement is an even more important factor for the range's uplift. To demonstrate, Humphreys twisted a thick foam plate, inward and sideways.

But the geologists in the Humphreys lab aren't "rock squashers." That is, they don't bring rock samples home and test how much force it takes to break them. Why not? Because it takes more force to break a rock in the lab than it does to break the same rock in the earth, said Humphreys. His lab is interested in answering the question of why.

"What we want is at great depths, not on the surface," Fay said. "We can only infer about what we really want."

And so, while other scientists drill one or two miles deep into the crust, Fay and Humphreys use the resulting rock data to create parameters for models that they believe more accurately represent all the forces at play. Fay tests his theories with what he calls his "imaginary rocks," virtual mountains and movements that live only in the computer.

Those models have been the source of Fay's most exciting moments in geology, but he said they've also been the source of some of his greatest frustrations. The computer code with which he meant to solve a problem often was the problem, said Fay, a self-taught programmer. And, in many cases, the answers would present themselves as soon as he looked away.

"You can rip your hair out, hit your head. It just won't work. Come back the next day and it's the simplest fix."

Humphreys' mentorship style seems to encourage the surreptitious "a-ha."

"Gene is subtle, not forceful or frank," Fay explained. In Humphreys' corner of Cascade Hall, scientific conversations tend to be more low-key and fluid.

"He's always available with his ideas," Fay said. "Always there to talk it through."

As a result, posing the right questions has become easier, Fay said. Even his dissertation topic is a testament to that organic process. Though he wanted to study the region that inspired his initial interest in geophysics, Fay noticed that the Salton block in Southern California provided a convenient microcosm for the questions he wanted answered in that larger fault system.

"I've been learning how to ask questions that are answerable, or that lend themselves to testing somehow," he said.

After graduating, Fay will begin a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Arizona, where Humphreys will also conduct research next year.

Reminded that his UO diploma will carry the motto "Minds Move Mountains," Noah Fay smiled. "That sounds just about right."

— JL



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## Gazing at the Galaxies

## Observatory opens the skies to novice astronomers

When Sami Hilliard, a junior UO chemistry student, first got to look through a telescope at Pine Mountain Observatory, she was amazed. The tiny pinpoint of light that she was focusing on was Andromeda — 2.5 million light years away.

The observatory, a research arm of the UO Department of Physics, has a way of leaving its visitors in awe. Functioning primarily as an educational facility for the public, it gives viewers a glimpse of the universe through the lens of three big professional, domed telescopes.



Rick Kang leads the UO Pine Mountain Observatory's outreach program.

"The great thing is, they can be used by anyone who wants to do research — amateur astronomers, students, teachers, as well as professional astrophysicists," said Pine Mountain Outreach Coordinator Rick Kang.

The observatory is one of a few in the world whose facilities are open to the public at night, and each summer approximately 3,000 people take advantage of the rare opportunity and make the journey to Central Oregon, thirty miles southeast of Bend. Science classes, astronomy and church clubs, and other private groups take these unique "sky tours" together.

To facilitate more comfortable and effective sky tours, the observatory plans to build a new science educational center with a combined auditorium/classroom facility and an outdoor amphitheater.

As the only professional observatory in Oregon, Pine Mountain is currently home to several NASA projects, which involve optical imaging of targets detected by NASA's satellites. Though a relatively small astronomical research center, Pine Mountain is known for its ongoing research since

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1970, when a UO physicist put Pine Mountain on the map by proving the existence of collapsed white dwarf stars.

Pine Mountain scientists use powerful telescopes and cameras to detect unknown objects in the galaxy. A digital camera is the heart of their data collection process. When fed by light from the large telescopes, it allows the scientists to detect objects millions and billions of light years away, picking up light that has spread out over huge distances. Using these high-tech instruments, they gather, record and eventually interpret what they're seeing.

"That's what astronomy is, figuring out what's in the universe, because you've never seen it before," said Greg Bothun, director of the observatory and professor of physics.

Pine Mountain also allows students of all age levels to collect their own scientific data through an extensive outreach program that visits about 6,000 students in 300 classrooms each school year.



Kang demonstrates how a telescope works to schoolchildren in Bend.

"We're a proven program," Kang said. "We've been in operation for fifteen years now, and we offer many currently recommended practices of teaching: hands-on, inquiry-based science, technology, engineering and math."

Judy Francis, supervisor for the middle-secondary teacher program at the UO and retired 4J teacher, brought Kang and his outreach program to her UO and middle school classrooms. Her middle school students communicated with astronomers at Pine Mountain by computer to test their theories and map stars. It was a unique experience, Francis said. "It triggered an enthusiasm for astronomy that I was able to share with my students."

In addition, K–12 science teachers are invited to special on-site trainings that give teachers an authentic experience by allowing them to gather their own data. "In this way, teaching science is an inquiry-based activity," said Dr. Bothun, "rather than a fact-memorization activity."

— KN

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## Voices of the Willamette Valley

## Environmental Studies students explore river's history

Eleanor Gordon discovered earlier this year that the land along the Willamette River holds hundreds of years' worth of stories, and as a senior environmental studies student, it was her job to unearth those stories.

"The Willamette River has undergone many drastic changes," Gordon said. "The further that I dig, the more it becomes apparent: Oral history is like the soil of this river valley: it is important because it belongs to each and every one of us and must be cultivated as a common good."

Last winter Gordon and the other members of the Environmental History Team gathered oral histories of this area and the people connected to it, highlighting Eugene's unique environment and culture. The project was designed to be an educational tool to create a stronger relationship between the community and its local environment by exploring how awareness of a place influences the way people live and act within it.

The Environmental History Team was one of four projects offered during the winter 2006 term as part of the Environmental Leadership Program, the capstone to environmental studies students' learning experience. As a service-learning program, the students team up with local community partners to apply what they learn in the classroom to real environmental issues. Not only did this project offer real-world experience to six environmental studies students, but it has also given a voice to the diverse stories related to the Willamette River Valley and its inhabitants.

The team conducted ethnographic interviews, geographic exploration and civic and library archival research to reveal many perspectives about how the river and the surrounding valley have transformed.



Eleanor Gordon recorded Eugeneans' personal connections to the Willamette River.

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To share their findings, the group placed handmade flags along the Willamette bike paths listing a phone number to call to hear audio recordings of the stories. The flags denoted locations where stories took place, giving the public a brief narration of how the area might have looked or been used in the past.

One story is about the adventures of a sixty-mile boat ride a man and his children embarked on fifty years ago. Another explains the ecological impact of the construction of the Valley River Center. In another, a local elder of the Kalapuya Native Americans speaks of their strong connection to the area.

“The power of this project is that the students, as well as the wider community, have the opportunity to learn about the Willamette River from a diverse set of people,” said Dr. Kathryn Lynch, the program’s co-coordinator. Lynch has been working to broaden the department’s offerings to include more service learning projects in the humanities and social sciences since she joined the university in September of 2005. “Each story provides unique insight into the cultural, historical, political and economic factors that influence how people connect and interact with their natural environment.”

The audio recordings can be heard at: <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~ecostudy/elp/ehistory/oralhistory.htm>.

— KN



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## The Dean's Letter

## Seeing the Whole

Wendy Larson

As a professor of Chinese literature, I am always on the lookout for what is brilliant, quirky, and controversial in fiction across the globe. The theme of this issue of *Cascade* ("It's elemental") immediately brought to mind Arthur Conan Doyle's eccentric detective Sherlock Holmes and his sidekick, to whom he often quipped: "It's elementary, my dear Watson." What was elementary to Holmes was impossible for poor Watson — and usually the reader — to comprehend.

Bits of academic evidence, whether they be for a literary argument or a scientific hypothesis, can sometimes seem insignificant. However, to those who are able to see the big picture, imagine how the parts may fit together, and understand why the puzzle is worth pursuing, every hour spent combing over the details is well spent.

Professor Stephen Shoemaker's skill in the Coptic language (and seven others) allows him to investigate the "nooks and crannies" of [religious history](#). Anika Copp scours [ancient texts](#) for just one Latin word. Jenny Dahl, a graduate student in Jim Hutchison's chemistry lab, studies the optical properties of [gold nanoparticles](#).

To these student and faculty researchers, each element is part of a complex and fascinating whole. In my new position as interim dean, I am gaining a deeper understanding of how much the College of Arts and Sciences, in both its diversity and its particularity, is also greater than the sum of its parts.

As dean of the college and a university leader for more than thirteen years, Joe Stone well understood that basic principle. It has been only a few



Wendy Larson started her first term as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences this year.

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months since he left his position to return to the Department of Economics, but I already sorely miss his intelligence and bold voice. Joe set in motion and guided many initiatives that have expanded and improved the college — the Society of College Scholars, the Professional Distinctions Program, and collaborative ventures between the college and the professional schools. As his fellow social scientists might note, Joe was able to make connections at the “macro” and “micro” levels, and recognize programmatic opportunities alongside individual needs and benefits. Joe’s tireless work on behalf of undergraduate education has touched many lives. As I begin this academic year as dean, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to him.

At the University of Oregon, faculty, students, and staff all contribute basic elements to our mission, balancing close attention to their role with an understanding of our larger goals. CAS alumni and donors are also a critical piece of our educational success. The construction progress on our new [Integrative Science Complex](#) is a testament to how both public and private support are necessary in our quest to sustain and further develop excellence (pg. 6). Lorry Lokey has been extraordinarily generous in making that project possible. However, as we approach the last two years of the University of Oregon’s *Transforming Lives* campaign, I want to underscore how each gift — like each detail in Doyle’s mysteries — has been significant. More than 12,000 individuals have played a part in the college’s campaign thus far, and the university faculty has given more than \$2.6 million to date. Each and every contribution has an impact — thank you!

### AT A GLANCE: DEAN WENDY LARSON

#### Previous Appointments

- Member of the East Asian Languages and Literatures (EALL) faculty since 1985; full professor since 1997
- Associate Dean of Humanities 2002–2006
- EALL Department Head 1992–95; 1996–97
- Fulbright research-teaching grant: University of Aarhus in Denmark, 1991

#### Education

- Ph.D. and M.A. in Oriental Languages from UC Berkeley
- B.A., Department of Chinese, University of Oregon (Phi Beta Kappa)

#### Professional Highlights

- Marta Sutton Weeks Senior Fellow, Stanford Humanities Center, 2005–06
  - China Council Member, Association for Asian Studies, 2005–07
  - Author/editor of five books including *Gender in Motion: Divisions of Labor and Cultural Change in Late Imperial and Modern China*, 2005
-

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## GIVING TO CAS

### Campaign Alchemy

#### Shining Examples of how Campaign Oregon has Transformed Lives

With two years left in the most ambitious fundraising effort in the state of Oregon, this is an exciting time for the College of Arts and Sciences. Fifty-four percent of faculty have donated campus wide; three new building projects are underway; and the College of Arts and Sciences has achieved more than 80% of its \$75 million dollar goal. I'm pleased to take this opportunity to provide you with some idea of our progress, and the impact you have made with your gifts.

**Endowed gifts** are invested funds that provide a reliable stream of income to our programs. The endowed gift value for the College of Arts and Sciences prior to the campaign was \$14.7 million. During the past five years, the college has raised an additional \$10 million in endowed gifts.

**Scholarships** and **fellowships** help recruit and retain top undergraduate and graduate students. With an ambitious 100 million dollar goal to raise for scholarships, the UO is approximately 65% of the way there.

Many donors began planning for Campaign Oregon even before it was announced. **Planned gifts** have contributed \$30.8 million to our university-wide campaign total, and many CAS alumni are following their generous example. Seventy-one have indicated the College of Arts and Sciences in their estate plans, including life income gifts.

There have also been many "**firsts**" for our departments in Campaign Oregon. A handful of newly established endowments have been celebrated as the first in the departments' history.

We hope there are many more!

— Jane Gary, Executive Director for College Advancement

#### A 'Classics' Case of Academic Devotion

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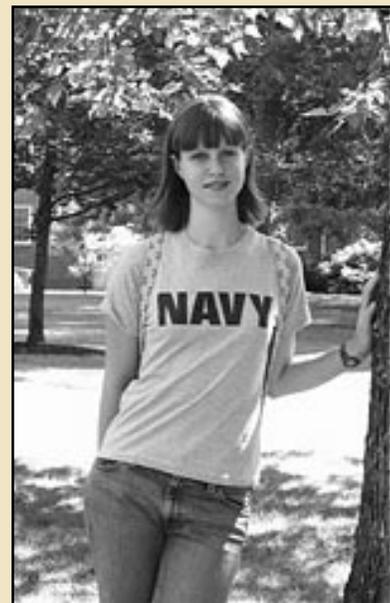
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Financial obstacles have never stopped Anika Copp from pursuing her plans to become a high school Latin teacher.



“My philosophy is to do whatever it takes to get a good education,” she said.

Her commitment to her career goals has gotten her where she is now: starting her senior year in the University of Oregon’s Classics program as a 2006 Fugelsang Scholar. Each year, the Fugelsang Scholarship is awarded based on recommendations from faculty members to four undergraduates with demonstrated financial need.

Without having to work to pay tuition, Copp said she has more free time to devote to assisting faculty members with their research. For the past year, she’s assisted John Nicols, professor of classics and history, in scouring ancient texts for references to the word *hospitium*, the Latin term for hospitality, to find its changes in meaning.

Copp said she expects this close examination of the Latin language will enhance her classics studies.

“Having to analyze those texts so closely gives me insight to the meaning,” Copp said.

Nicols said he has been impressed with Copp’s work. “She possesses an unusual degree of empathy in that she listens with attention and care, yet does so without suspending her own critical judgment.”

— KY

### The Funding to Run for His Dreams

Finding funding to study as well as train for the Olympics can be nearly impossible. But University of Oregon scholarships helped Santiago Lorenzo do just that.



“If I didn’t have a scholarship I could have never come to the U.S.,” said Lorenzo, a graduate student in human physiology who received the 2006 Risa Palm Graduate Fellowship, awarded annually to select College of Arts and Sciences graduate students.

Lorenzo first came to Oregon from Argentina in 1999 on a track scholarship. It was an offer Lorenzo couldn’t refuse, he said. It allowed him to combine his two passions: studying and athletics.

In Argentina it would be more difficult, he said. Being in the United States allowed him to pursue both interests. “I was able to get an education and still grow as an athlete,” he said.

And grow as an athlete he did. After receiving his bachelor’s degree in exercise and movement science in 2003, Lorenzo went on to compete in the 2004 Summer Olympics decathlon with the Argentina team.

Since then Lorenzo has returned to UO. He finished his master’s degree this summer and is now pursuing his doctorate. His research will focus on the effects of thermoregulation on athletic performance in hot, humid conditions.

— KY

**\$62.2 Million as of October 1 > > \$75 Million Campaign Goal**

## HUMANITIES

The majority of endowed dollars within the humanities has come in the form of student support. In fact, the number of scholarships dedicated to students in the humanities has doubled.

The Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures awarded the first Hansen Scholarship in 2005–2006. This endowment is the first in the department's history. "The scholarship is motivation for our majors to continue their pursuit of German language and culture," says Susan C. Anderson, department head.

With nearly 600 majors, the Department of English can now offer an award to one of its top undergraduate students through the Debora Tims Ellis Scholarship.

The Pete Nickerson scholarship will provide "last dollar" awards for students in the Oregon Chinese Flagship Program who may need a financial boost in order to be able to study abroad in China during their junior year.

The James F. Miller Theatre Complex will break ground next year, expanding the existing facilities with a new flexible theater, additional classrooms and improved creative laboratory space.

## NATURAL SCIENCES

Overall, the college's endowment for science has grown to more than 3.2 million dollars, from \$870,000.

The first fully endowed chair in the sciences, the Rosaria P. Haugland Foundation Chair in Pure and Applied Chemistry, will be appointed in 2007.

The Hubbard family joined together to establish the first endowed fund for the Department of Computer and Information Science in 2003.

The Alice C. Tyler Perpetual Trust established the first instructional laboratory for green chemistry in the world at the UO.

The Lorry I. Lokey Laboratories represents the first phase of a significant capital investment that aims to bring diverse scientific researchers under the same roof.

## SOCIAL SCIENCES

Six new funds have been established to support social science faculty, which triples the number of endowed funds supporting excellence in

teaching and research.

Awarded only to social science students in the Society of College Scholars, the Rothert Family Social Sciences Scholarship represents an innovative idea that will encourage student achievement across the discipline.

Two alumni, Ed Colligan '90 and Alanson Kleinsorge '73, have made a critical difference for more than 900 students and seventeen full-time faculty in the Department of Political Science. They have established the first two endowed funds in the department's history, one for faculty and one for student support.

The Geographic Information Science program at the UO has grown steadily due to a new flexible source of income for emerging needs in this rapidly changing field.



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**UO Researcher Sees Modern Day Lessons  
in Island's History**

New research, led by the University of Oregon's Douglas Kennett, has shed fresh new light on Rapa, a French Polynesian island with a population of less than 500, and on what life may have been like before the arrival of European explorers in 1791.



Rising high on the island of Rapa is the Tevaitau Fortification. Researchers suspect that fortifications like this one were established as divisions increased among the island's population.

Kennett's team reported in the June issue of the journal *Antiquity* that Polynesians arrived on the island around A.D. 1200, much later than long assumed. As many as 1,500 to 2,000 settlers spread across the island, splintering from a shoreline-based society into competing groups that built and likely defended a growing number of spectacular fortifications carved from mountaintops.

"Rapa is a compelling story," Kennett said. "To me, this is an example of what's happening on the planet today in terms of expanding populations, environmental degradation and increasing warfare. Rapa is a little microcosm of our planet. There are lessons about the consequences of population growth to be learned there."

The conclusions of Kennett's team are based on 48 radiocarbon dates drawn from samples taken from a variety of sites, including archaeological excavations.

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**Mount St. Helens Data Will Improve  
Volcanic Monitoring Worldwide**

A discovery by a team of scientists, including University of Oregon geologist Katharine Cashman, will likely aid monitoring of conditions at Mount St. Helens and other volcanic hot spots around the world.

The researchers have shown that rapid crystallization of magma within one to two kilometers of the surface causes magma to heat up to as much as 100 degrees Celsius, according to the Sept. 7 issue of the journal *Nature*. The reason may be counter-intuitive, but the more magma crystallizes, the hotter it gets and the more likely a volcano will erupt, the scientists reported.

“While this sort of heating has been expected in theory, we are the first to show that we can measure it,” Cashman said. “These results have important consequences for models of magma ascent beneath volcanoes, as increasing the melt temperatures causes the melt viscosity to decrease so that it can flow more easily, like heating up a jar of honey to allow the honey to flow out of the jar.”

Explosive volcanic eruptions are fueled by the escape of volcanic gases from magma stored in underground reservoirs and pipes several kilometers below the surface. Predicting such eruptions requires a real-time knowledge of just where the magma is at any one time and what it is doing.

This latest research shows that if ascending magma heats up simply by crystallizing, it may provide an important trigger for eruption without the need to invoke an extraneous heat source such as a shot of hotter magma from deep below the surface.

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**\$3.2 Million for Materials Science Education**

The University of Oregon has received a five-year, \$3.2 million grant from the National Science Foundation to unite Oregon universities with international technology companies. The grant will fund graduate studies in materials sciences to accelerate the transition from student to scientist by building on the University of Oregon Materials Science Institute's model internship program. This program is responsible for putting the university among the top-ten institutions nationwide for the number of master's degrees awarded in chemistry.



Professor Dave Johnson and Stacey Standridge '05 examine a vacuum chamber used to create nanocomposite materials. Johnson is the co-principal investigator on an NSF grant aimed at facilitating the transition from student to scientist.

This grant is funded by the foundation's Graduate Education Research and Traineeship Program and will increase the number of participating-doctoral students and will extend the internship program to doctoral candidates at Oregon State University and Portland State University.

The new program makes the Oregon universities even stronger by further uniting academia and industry, said David Johnson, chemistry professor at the University of Oregon and the grant's co-principal investigator.

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### Medical School Opens Campus in Eugene

In answer to a potential statewide physician shortage, Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) is partnering with PeaceHealth and Sacred Heart Medical Center to provide medical education at the University of Oregon.

"It is imperative that OHSU graduate more physicians to meet Oregon's future needs," said Joe Robertson, dean of the OHSU school of medicine.

Key players in this partnership hope the new interuniversity collaboration will produce more physicians to meet statewide demand. The goal is to increase the entering class-size statewide from 112 to 160 students over the next six years.

The program in Eugene will provide resources for both medical students' preclinical and clinical training, including clinical clerkships with the PeaceHealth system starting in the 2006–2007 academic year. In 2008–2009, the first-year medical school curriculum is expected to begin at UO. The Eugene campus will provide a first-year curriculum with the second-year of curriculum offered only at the Marquam Hill campus.



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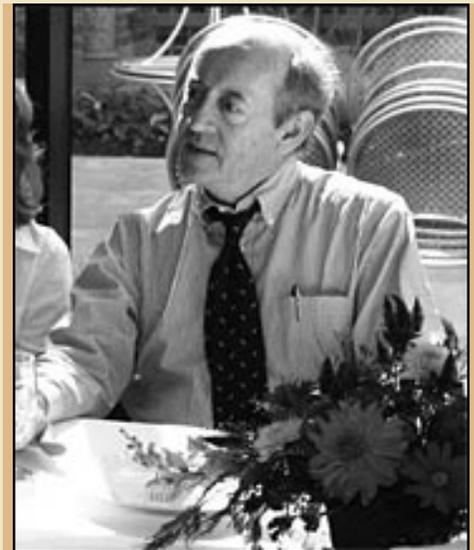
**Former Poet Laureate  
Speaks at Fall Convocation**

Billy Collins, former U.S. poet laureate spoke Sept. 24, setting the tone for the new school year with laughter, poetry and advice about “creative reading.”

“Put down your highlighters and pick up your pencils,” he said, advocating that students create a sense of dialogue with the authors they are reading.

Collins’ book *Sailing Alone Around the Room* was recommended summer reading for incoming first-year students. In his poem “Introduction to Literature,” Collins asks readers to “drop a mouse into a poem and watch him probe his way out.”

Collins, who has published eight collections of poetry, was featured earlier this year on National Public Radio. Collins served at the nation’s poet laureate from 2001–2003 and is now the poet laureate of New York.



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### Center for Asian and Pacific Studies Wins Grant for Foreign Language Scholarships

The University of Oregon's Center for Asian and Pacific Studies has been awarded a \$778,000 federal grant for graduate students to study Chinese, Japanese, and Korean as part of the Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships Program.

The grant will fund six academic-year and five summer fellowships each year from 2006 through 2010. funding is administered by the U.S. Department of Education under Title VI of the Higher Education Act.

The program provides tuition and a stipend for university graduate students who are doing advanced language training in Chinese, Japanese or Korean in combination with area studies, international studies or international aspects of professional studies. To be eligible for funds, students must be U. S. citizens or permanent residents.

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## Christian Sources, Islamic Sources

## Sifting Facts from Tradition

“One of the biggest myths in American education is that the Roman Empire fell in 476,” says Stephen Shoemaker, assistant professor of religious studies. In fact, the Middle East had a vibrant Christian Roman culture in the opening of the seventh century. Shoemaker’s latest research asks: What do the Christian and Jewish texts of the time tell us about that time period and, in particular, about the life of Muhammad?

“A lot of what the Christian sources tell us is purely polemic,” he assents, “but the question is: ... Do they maybe tell us some things that the Islamic sources have left out?” Shoemaker’s book-in-progress, “The Death of a Prophet: The End of Muhammad’s Life in Christian and Early Islamic Sources,” investigates the differences in what medieval Christian and early Islamic sources tell us about circumstances of the prophet’s death.

The Christian sources, written independently by authors in Syria, Palestine, and what today is Iraq all indicate that Muhammad was alive at the time of the Near Eastern Conquest, in 634 or 635 AD. The Islamic sources, however, agree that the prophet died in 632 in Medina.

Shoemaker notes that the Islamic biography of Muhammad is not a straightforward account of history.

“It is a biography that has literary characteristics to it,” he says. “It has themes that shape its narrative, themes that we can see the writer had an interest in emphasizing.”



Religious historian Stephen Shoemaker says he tries to challenge his students — both religious and non-religious — to explore how religion looks when viewed through a “neutral lens.”

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For instance, the early biography of Muhammad likens him to Moses in many ways, says Shoemaker. This writerly motive is important to Shoemaker because it's one possible explanation of the variance in the date of death. "One of the things that would fit that pattern [of likening Muhammad to Moses] would be to have Muhammad die before he ever reaches Jerusalem."

The question of Muhammad's death is extremely important to the Islamic tradition, as it relates to the division between the Sunni and Shiite branches of Islam and may also shed light on the ways in which the Islamic faith might have grown out of an apocalyptic tradition.

Although his work has obvious implications for religious communities, Shoemaker does not seek to build direct connections between his work and the current Islamic tradition. "That's the work of a theologian," he says. "[I'm] asking secular questions, seeking secular answers."

While Shoemaker considers his work purely historical, he acknowledges that this study reveals much more than the ciphering of one historical fact. "In some ways, it's a methodological study ... It's about questioning how we use the sources, why we use the Islamic sources in one way, which is sort of trusting what they say, and Christian sources in another way, treating them with a high dose of skepticism," he says. Shoemaker, whose primary research specialty is early medieval Christianity, will apply the methods and approaches from biblical studies — "the tool-kit that we use to study early Judaism and early Christianity" — to early Islamic studies.

That tool-kit includes a fine-toothed comb. "I tend to be especially interested in finding the really important things that other people are overlooking," explains Shoemaker. "I'm very interested in what's in the nooks and crannies."

His previous work on the cult of the Virgin Mary and apocryphal literature has uniquely prepared him for his current project. This experience allows him to speak with authority on the time period and has given him language skills in Greek, Latin, Coptic, Syriac, Armenian, Georgian, Ethiopic, and Arabic — skills that enable him to work across these traditions in ways few scholars can.

Shoemaker's interest in new, interdisciplinary approaches to Islamic studies began in graduate school in the mid-90's, when a friend introduced him to emerging "revisionist" theories in the tradition. *Hagarism: The Making of the Islamic World*, by Patricia Crone and Michael Cook, briefly mentions the discrepancy between Christian and Islamic sources regarding the prophet's death. Shoemaker has since decided to pursue his own research on the topic, although he was initially concerned that most religious scholars might consider it a non-issue due to the fact that most studies accept the Islamic sources at face value.

“I was completely prepared to have a full failure with this project for that reason,” Shoemaker admits. On the contrary, Shoemaker’s inquiry has merited him recent fellowships from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Guggenheim Foundation.

— AP (with JL)



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### Complex Questions: Human Variables

Social scientists provide an analytical approach to society's most controversial issues. They strive to go beyond the impassioned, fist-pounding debates and encourage students to blend their intense feelings with a reasoned and informed approach.

The approaches vary. And the resulting analyses are often as complex as the problems themselves.

To highlight this concept, four new department heads in the social sciences were asked how scholars in their field approach a current hot topic:

#### Immigration.

While their responses are diverse, all agreed the best answers come from considering many elements of the issue at once.

#### INA ASIM Asian Studies



While some divisions of the social sciences share a uniform approach to discussing social issues, scholars in the area of Asian studies tend to attack an issue from a variety of angles, according to Ina Asim.

Immigration issues could be analyzed from a number of aspects, such as assimilation, public policy, old world cultural influence, integration and globalization.

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“It really depends on whether you’re a historian or a sociologist,” she said.

For Asim, the historical perspective guides her research. Asim is currently exploring how Chinese gardens in the United States have provided venues for cultural affirmation and exchange, which is a phenomenon she says doesn’t exist in Europe or South America, despite the large Chinese immigrant communities there.

“American communities now welcome the heart of Chinese-American heritage and how these meeting points, these venues of exchange, become elements of Chinese and American communities,” she said.

Regardless of the scholarly approach, Asim said immigration is a social issue worth considering. “All industrialized countries are affected by immigration issues,” she said.

### **MICHAEL HAMES-GARCIA** **Ethnic Studies**



Though race is not as central to U.S. immigrant labor as it was in the 1880’s, Michael Hames-Garcia said it continues to play a role.

“I think that if we have an eye to the culture, and to the media, and to the way that popular conversations take place, race is certainly one factor in how these issues are being received and interpreted by people.”

Ethnic studies scholars might write about questions related to the causes of job scarcity, job availability or the kind of support networks immigrants build between their former communities and new communities, he said. They’ve begun to think more transnationally too.

For example, his colleague Lynn Stephens (Department of Anthropology) looks at the indigenous Mexican communities that have now recreated themselves in Oregon. “They’re Native Americans and they’re also Mexicans. But they’re neither the Mexican-American population that is more established in Oregon, nor the Native-American population that is indigenous to Oregon.”

The complexities of ethnic identification among immigrant populations are

causing people to rethink what it means to study ethnicity and race, he said.

**ELLEN SCOTT**  
**Women's and Gender Studies**



When studying a topic like immigration from a women's and gender studies perspective, the scholarship is interdisciplinary, drawing on the humanities, social sciences and sciences to understand complex issues, Ellen Scott said.

"We might study migration from multiple perspectives. We might look at the individual- or family-level experiences of migration, as told through personal narratives, poetry, interviews, focus groups or human rights testimonials," Scott said. "We might look at entire villages or communities on either end of a migration stream, or we might examine the macro policy, political and economic context."

As an ethnographer, Scott said combining statistics and macro-level analysis help her understand the context for individual or group experiences. Integrating these levels of analysis can be difficult, she admitted, but the best of women's and gender studies accomplishes this integration.

Immigrants migrate for economic, political, and social reasons, and right now females make up the majority of migrants globally, she said. Because the face of immigration is changing so radically, Scott said scholars in women's and gender studies might argue, "Any perspective on immigration right now ought to put gender at the center."

**LARRY SINGELL**  
**Economics**



When economists consider an issue like immigration, they won't make a value judgment on whether immigration should or shouldn't be encouraged, Larry Singell said.

"Immigration isn't necessarily a bad thing or a good thing for the United States," he said.

The benefits of immigration depend on the economic perspective of the parties involved. And that's what the economist considers, he said.

Economists look at questions including what factors lead people to migrate, what types of people migrate, what incentives encourage immigration and what the ramifications are for the country receiving immigrants. Singell said the overriding answers are almost always the same: "There are some people that will win and some that will lose."

In his experience Singell has found that this answer usually frustrates non-economists who want a straight positive or negative response. But the reality is that there's always a tradeoff.

"A consensus of economic evidence suggests that immigrants tend to compete with the relatively low-income residents of the U.S. for jobs and services, which may well benefit those at the upper end of the income distribution who hire these workers and purchase their services," he said, but most economists attempt to adopt a positivist approach of reporting the tradeoffs as they find them and leaving the normative decisions to those whose job it is to evaluate those tradeoffs.

"We're not moral philosophers or politicians," Singell said. "We're economists."



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### Social Science Faculty Receive \$30,000 for Research

Three social science faculty members will be the first to receive a new \$10,000 research fellowship made possible by support from the Oregon Community Credit Union, the University of Oregon announced this fall.

The recipients are Jennifer Ablow from psychology, whose research interests include developmental psychopathology; Bill Harbaugh from economics, who researches the economic behavior of children and economic models of altruism; and Craig Parsons from political science who will be studying the development and changing nature of democracy and political institutions in Western Europe.

The credit union has provided \$5,500 of each award and the Office of the Vice President for Research funded the remaining \$4,500. The credit union's board of directors chose to fund this program with the hope that the resulting research would help stimulate economic development and enhance community services and activities.

"We believe that research activities in the social sciences contribute to a healthy and vibrant community," said Mandy Jones, CEO of Oregon Community Credit Union.

The ongoing fellowship program will follow a four-year cycle, supporting research in a different field each year. The second year will be geared to research in the fields of humanities and performing arts, followed by research in professional programs, and finally the natural and physical sciences.

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## Digging Deep

## Gift of \$10 Million Launches Integrative Science Complex

On June 8 Business Wire founder Lorry Lokey dug the first foot of dirt to begin construction on the University of Oregon's two-phase, \$76 million Integrative Science Complex. Since then, the first phase of the project has progressed quickly — and hit rock bottom.



(Left to right: Governor Kulongoski, Lorry Lokey and President Frohnmayer) Supported by significant public and private investment, the Lokey Laboratories demonstrates strong partnerships between government, education, and industry.

But that's good news.

The footprint of the 26,000-gross-square-foot building was designed to sit squarely on bedrock to minimize vibration interference for the sensitive instruments required to work at the micro- and nano- scales.

The removal of nearly 3,000 tons of soil and bedrock between Deschutes and Huestis halls is almost complete, and the foundation will soon be laid for this innovative, underground research facility.

The facility, named in Lorry Lokey's honor, is on track for completion in fall of 2007 and will house more than twenty high-tech instruments. The Lorry I. Lokey Laboratories is the first major construction for the sciences since 1990.

## FOUNDATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

President Dave Frohnmayer and Governor Ted Kulongoski's public announcement of Lokey's \$10 million gift on June 8 drew a standing ovation from faculty, government, student and industry representatives.

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At the podium, Lokey called attention to the collaborative nature of the project, saying that the effort to bolster scientific research in Oregon would need strong legislative, executive, private and industrial support.

The Lokey Laboratories is a good start in that direction. Current funding for the \$16.5 million project includes commitments from across the public and private sectors. Most significantly, \$9.5 million in bonds and lottery funds was approved by the Oregon Legislature and issued in 2005, and \$3 million from Lorry Lokey was given to the project in 2006. The remaining \$7 million of Lokey's gift will go toward the second phase of the Integrative Science Complex.



Lorry Lokey and Joanne Harrington (right) talk with graduate student Jenny Dahl (center) and Professor Dave Johnson (left).

Dahl hopes that her work with gold nanoparticles will lead to new medical technologies.

A signature research center associated with the Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnologies Institute (ONAMI), the Lokey Laboratories is also being built upon a strong foundation of inter-institutional collaboration. ONAMI includes researchers from the University of Oregon, Oregon State University, Portland State University, Pacific Northwest National Laboratories and the region's high-tech companies.

The unprecedented and powerful collaboration of research universities began in 2000 and has been gaining strength ever since with an aim of cultivating research and commercialization to advance the state's high-tech sector.

"These new facilities support our goals for a vibrant Oregon economy," Kulongoski said. "Investing in education, research and industry partnerships will pay long-term dividends for the entire state."

## HIGH-TECH SERVICES

Because the integration of multiple disciplines is needed to address complex scientific problems, the breakthroughs made during the 21st century will likely reflect a new paradigm for academic research, said Rich Linton, vice president for research and graduate studies. "Supporting interdisciplinary education, collaborative scientific research, and public-private partnerships requires new ways of organizing people and configuring the associated high technology facilities," he added.

In addition to semiconductor, photolithography, nanofabrication and bio-optics labs, the center will house the university's Center for Advanced Materials Characterization in Oregon (CAMCOR) and provide laboratory space for industry partners.

Leaders envision the facility as providing a high-tech extension service to the entire region. Dave Chen, partner in OVP Venture Partners and chair of the board of directors for ONAMI, described it as an important part of a resource network that will enable students, professors and industry researchers to have access to millions of dollars of equipment at any time of day.



Dave Chen, board chair of the Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnologies Institute, says Oregon could one day have the largest network of high technology equipment in the world.

"Our operating philosophy of open access for this new facility represents a complete departure from business as usual at universities," said Professor of Chemistry Dave Johnson.

The instruments, used to characterize materials for researchers from archaeology to optics, will be centrally located to give other off-campus researchers easier access to state-of-the-art technologies.

"By having the right spaces in close proximity to one another, we're able to have each facility work better and more efficiently," said Professor Jim Hutchison, lead faculty representative on the architectural planning and design group.

Working adjacent to industry collaborators will also spur more opportunities for discovery, helping to bring those discoveries quickly and more effectively to market, Linton said.

Linton is optimistic that lease agreements for approximately 2,300 square feet of industry partnership lab space will be signed in the near future. Voxel, a technology company working to make high-speed photodetectors, is one Oregon company that plans to expand its collaborations with university scientists by having a presence in the facility.

"Through ONAMI, our scientists have conducted research with UO faculty for the past several years," said Voxel President George Williams. "These collaborations have enriched our research capabilities, and we're confident that our company will continue to grow right alongside with the rest of Oregon's high-tech sector."

To read more about Integrative Science at the UO and learn details about phase two of the complex, log on to [isc.uoregon.edu](http://isc.uoregon.edu).



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## Phase One

## Bringing the Nanoscale into Focus



Lokey Laboratories: Groundbreaking, aerial view, underground facility

When you're a scientist examining materials at a scale thousands of times smaller than dust particles, the slightest vibrations can blur your images. The Lokey Laboratories will provide the University of Oregon with one of the highest performance facilities for nanoscale research in the world.

Project engineers are designing the new facility with the aim of reducing vibrations to a level two to three times lower than the "gold standard" set by the National Institute of Standards and Technology. This will be accomplished by:

**Anchoring to bedrock.** The Lokey Laboratories will be situated nineteen feet underground, connected tightly to the bedrock in order to keep vibrations on the surface from propagating in the building.

**Keeping the quad.** The absence of above-ground construction between Huestis and Deschutes halls will minimize vibrations, while allowing for natural light in the main collaboration space.

**Careful planning.** Comprehensive site testing has helped planners place the most sensitive equipment in the quietest corner, farthest away from the busy streets, railroad tracks and mechanical facilities.

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**Exporting vibration- and radiation-causing activities to another space.**

Being connected to other buildings will allow the Lokey Laboratories to use elevators in adjacent buildings to avoid electromagnetic interference. Likewise, exhaust fans will also be routed away to adjacent buildings.



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## ALUMNI

## Tanya McKitrick '03

## Alumna Dives into Marine Biology Research

Nobody told Tanya McKitrick that being a marine biologist would mean snorkeling through sewage-infested waters to collect critters hanging off the bottom of docks and boats, but that's exactly what this '03 University of Oregon alumna found herself doing this past summer.



"I think I should get a gold star for my dedication," McKitrick said of her research in the Bocas del Toro archipelago of Panama.

This 27-year-old's dedication has already gotten her quite far: from being a wide-eyed child obsessed with the Discovery Channel to a star pupil in UO's undergraduate biology courses to where she is now, a Ph.D. candidate at Stanford University.

As a child in Bend, Oreg., McKitrick imagined her work would entail playing with dolphins. But as an undergraduate she quickly learned her research would never be that romantic, she said.

In the UO Center for Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, she spent hours scrubbing the scum off mosquito dishes.

Yet McKitrick remained committed and she even did so with exuberance, said biology professors Bill Bradshaw and Christina Holzapfel, who McKitrick still refers to as her "academic parents." The research team spoke with pride of the young biologist whom they remember attended lab meetings wearing pajamas.

"Of the hundreds of undergrads we've worked with, Tanya is in the top 1 percent," Holzapfel said.

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McKitrick's senior thesis of the pitcher-plant dwelling mosquito, they pointed out, was more appropriate for a master's student.

"But she handled her thesis with great perseverance and gave a fine lucid defense of it," Bradshaw said, remembering that McKitrick even bought a gray flannel suit for the presentation. No more PJs. She was establishing her professional research career.

A few months later McKitrick started in Stanford's marine biology program.

"When I came to grad school to start my degree, I was going to change the world. I wanted to apply my research to conservation-minded interests," McKitrick said.

But in the spring of her first year, a different cause took priority.

Her husband, UO alum Chris Dempsey ('03 Chinese/International Studies), was diagnosed with cancer. For the next two years, McKitrick took care of her husband and read everything she could about cancer biology and treatment options to help him make decisions about how to battle the disease. Through the course of this extracurricular research, McKitrick began to connect the dots between the biology of cancer and her work as an evolutionary ecologist.

"I started thinking about cancer in the terms of ecology and cancer cells as individuals competing for resources," she said. And the parallels were too intriguing for her to ignore.

With her husband's cancer in remission, McKitrick returned to the laboratory with renewed energy and a new focus: to try to find answers to some interesting questions about ecology and evolution in terms of immunology and cell biology.

To do so, McKitrick is working in the marine laboratories of Stanford's Hopkins Marine Station on the Monterey Peninsula of California. Though she still doesn't get to swim with dolphins, McKitrick prefers studying her new animals: *Botryllus schlosseri*, known commonly as sea squirts.

These dime-sized invertebrates, known for their tendency to spray water when touched, hold particular interest for McKitrick because they undergo blood-based transplantation reaction and reproduce rapidly.

"It takes just a week for them to re-grow and replace themselves. They're great systems for studying genetics and doing mini experiments because they're always growing," she said. "They are the fruit flies of the sea."

These daisy-shaped creatures dwell in high-nutrient harbor areas where the

competition is so fierce that they will often grow together, but only if they recognize each other as relatives and can share a common blood supply. If not, they reject one another. In essence, they reject or accept their neighbors' blood in a manner similar to the reaction between human cells and transplanted organs and tissue.

Since these animals are the most closely related invertebrates to vertebrates, McKitrick said, her research could have implications for how the vertebrate immune system has evolved.

"She's looking at a reaction that looks a lot like part of our immune system," said McKitrick's advisor Tony de Tomaso, assistant professor at Stanford. These marine organisms are particularly fascinating for looking at human diseases, he said, since they are evolutionary predecessors to the human. He acknowledged that this type of research is somewhat rare but said the unusual approach could prove to be groundbreaking.

For the next three years, McKitrick will continue to study the sea squirts for her doctoral thesis, trying to answer a few of the questions that keep her up at night. After graduation, she hopes this project will give her the tools and experience to move into cellular biology research of cancer stem cells.

— KC



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## ALUMNI

### Jim Harvey '52

#### Alum Reflects on a Lifetime of Change

For most people, a lifetime isn't enough to be an artist, a military officer, a policeman, a teacher, a priest and an author. But for Jim Harvey, '52, this seemingly manic career path made complete sense.

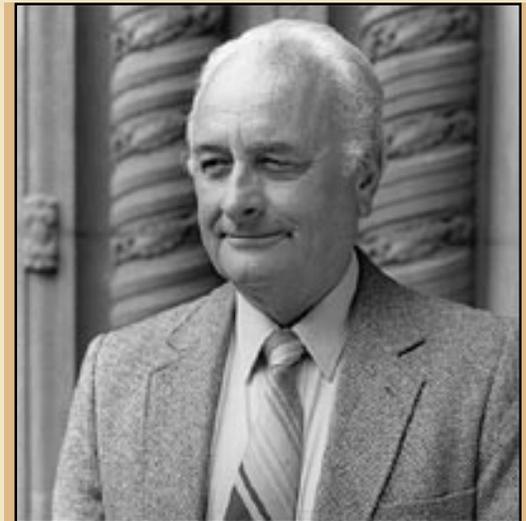
"I have to say that I've enjoyed everything that I've done," Harvey said. "I've just felt very blessed to be able to do the things I wanted to do."

Though he didn't go on to study art at the University of Oregon because his painting style was unlike the impressionistic form he was taught, he has continued to use art throughout his various careers. A UO criminology class renewed his childhood interest in police work, and a new career path developed.

After completing the UO's required two years of ROTC training during the Korean War, Harvey decided to continue with Advanced ROTC in order to stay in Eugene and complete his college education. He received his B.A. in psychology in 1952 and that same year married Carol Braun.

When many of his peers applied for the Air Force Advanced ROTC, Harvey selected the less-popular route into the infantry, though he knew it might mean living in a hole and fighting as a ground soldier. His father had served in the cavalry in WWI, and he felt the infantry was the closest thing to following in his footsteps.

But Harvey never had to live in a hole or experience the brutality of life as a ground soldier. Instead, he became 2nd lieutenant in the Infantry after attending the Associate Company Officer's Course at Ft. Benning, Ga., and was sent to California to teach leadership to enlisted men who were



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interested in becoming noncommissioned officers.

By the time he was due to go to Korea, the war had ended, and Harvey found a logical career move into law enforcement. "I entered into a police career because I wanted to help people in times of need," Harvey said.

In 1954 he entered the Portland Police Bureau as a patrolman in the traffic division. He later became an investigator and a detective and received a commendation for his work from then U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy.

Harvey said his most intriguing assignment came when he joined the homicide and robbery division. In an attempt to solve an ongoing purse-snatching problem in downtown Portland, Harvey posed as an old woman. As Harvey walked the city streets in a wig and one of his mother-in-law's dresses, a man eventually took the bait.

"He grabbed the purse, and I grabbed him by the leg," Harvey said. "When the wig came off, he really started screaming, but it brought an end to the problem."

Over the years, he moved his way up the ranks to detective, sergeant, lieutenant, and finally captain in 1972. From 1969 through 1975, Harvey also taught classes in crime-prevention, police organization and management at Portland State University. In addition, he got a master's degree in education from the University of Portland in 1975.

For most of his life, he had been active in the Catholic Church, and had decided that he would become even more involved upon retirement from the police bureau. Though he was still working as captain, Harvey and his wife began teaching religious education to kids in two parishes they attended.

The call to ministry took on a new importance when his wife was killed in 1980 by a drunk driver. On the first anniversary of her death, Harvey entered Mt. Angel Seminary in St. Benedict, Oreg.

"It wasn't a moment of sudden realization or conversion or anything like that," he said.

In 1986, at age 55, Harvey was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Orange County, Calif., and was assigned to St. Barbara's Parish in Santa Ana. He soon became associate pastor in Mission San Juan Capistrano.

As a priest Harvey also conducted workshops for people who had lost a partner. In 1991 health problems forced Harvey to resign from priesthood. The next year he married Beverly Finnerty, a grade school librarian and widow he'd met in his workshop.

"I told the bishop when I left that I was going to write a book about leadership for clergy and others in ministry because I had seen such poor examples of leadership in the church," Harvey said. His book, *Who's in Charge? Leadership Skills for Clergy and Others in Ministry*, was published in 1996.

Reflecting on his lifetime of changes, Harvey is pleased with all that he's accomplished.

"If I wanted to become a policeman, I was able to do that," he said. "I wanted to become an army officer; I was able to do that. I wanted to become a priest, and I was able to do that. So it's been a very satisfying life."

— KN



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## ALUMNI &amp; DEVELOPMENT

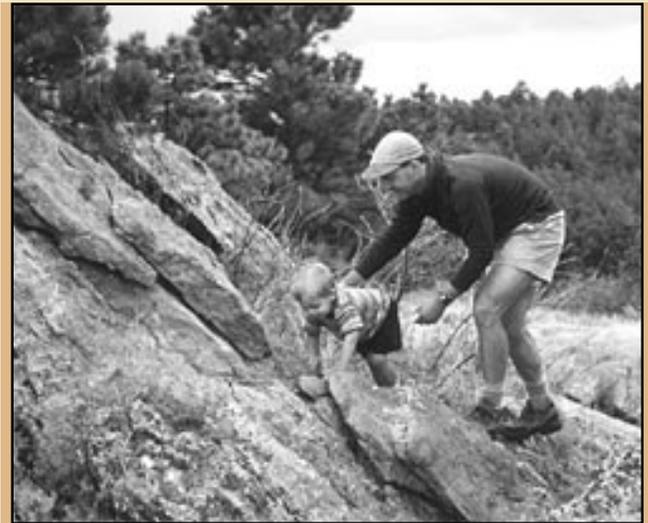
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## ALUMNI

## Lloyd Athearn '86

## Political Climber

Growing up near Oregon's mountains, many of the defining moments in Lloyd Athearn's life occurred while backpacking, climbing, or exploring nature. Now, as the new Deputy Director of the Colorado Conservation Trust, Athearn ('86) uses his University of Oregon background in history and political science to help preserve threatened natural landscapes.



Lloyd Athearn and son, Forrest Athearn, climbing rocks in White Ranch Open Space Park, Golden Colorado (2005).

"Because you go to these places, you understand the importance of them," Athearn said, "and you realize that people need to stand up for them and protect them."

Athearn remembers having tempestuous relationships with his parents during high school — not over the usual car privileges — but over going backpacking without them in the wilderness with his best friend. He didn't get to take the car to the mountains until after college, but he had enough opportunities for outdoor adventure that he was hooked. Captivated in particular by the challenges that climbing presented, he has spent many weekends at Smith Rock and Mt. Hood.

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A graduate degree in wilderness management from the University of Montana and an intrepid spirit helped Athearn make a career out of his early interests. After graduating from the UO in 1986, Athearn got involved in Portland politics: working in a commissioner's office, then with a speaker of the House of Representatives, and later as a lobbyist and risk communicator for an Oregon health communications project. He found these initial political jobs exciting, but when he considered moving to the center of politics in Washington D.C., he realized how many peaks there were in the Northwest that he had never conquered.



"Eventually I would be able to combine what I knew how to do in an intellectual way with what I really loved and wanted to do," he says.

His experience as a risk communicator gave him insight into how people perceive risk, and when he got involved defending his fellow climbers against unfair rescue charges in proposed 1995 legislative session, he quickly became an important lobbyist in the mountain climbing world. Soon, he found his niche at the American Alpine Club, the oldest national mountaineering organization based in Colorado. Athearn served as director of the AAC for ten years, from 1996 until 2006, where he represented the interests of American climbers, dealt with regulations and policy management issues, and worked to protect and conserve worldwide mountain regions.

Though he's tackled more than 100 big peaks and many smaller summits, Athearn is always looking for a new challenge. He joined the Colorado Conservation Trust in May of this year, where he is working toward their goal of conserving 200 million acres of Colorado's open spaces.

He's also working to keep up with Forrest, his adventurous four-year-old son. As a fourth generation Oregonian, Athearn says he and his wife Povy argue over whether Forrest is "a fifth-generation Coloradan, or a fifth-generation Oregonian born in exile." Forrest doesn't seem to be deterred by the ambiguity — though it's clear that a love of exploration seems to run in the family. Since his dad introduced him to hiking when he was only four days old, Forrest has since taken to the trail on his own — wobbling along in long underwear, a big sunhat, tiny hiking shoes, and dad's oversized trekking pole.

Amid a busy work and family life, Athearn still manages to fit in more extensive international trips. This year, he's traveled to Thailand and

Cambodia with his wife and son and mountain climbed in Western Australia with a long-time climbing partner.

Because such experiences have been strong contributors to who he is as a person, Athearn says it's important to him to make sure these things are available for others down the road: "I certainly hope that when my son gets older, I'll be able to take him backpacking and climbing in some of the places that were really important to me."

— KN



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# ALUMNI & DEVELOPMENT

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## ALUMNI

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