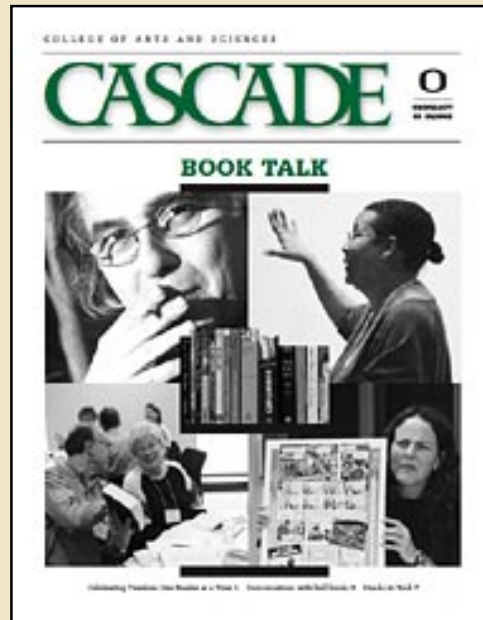


## ALUMNI &amp; DEVELOPMENT

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON  
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

## CAS NEWS

**Cascade**  
Spring 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.

home page

college at a glance

giving to CAS

alumni

CAS news

CAS home page

**Cover Story****Book Talk**Comix in Context: [Art Spiegelman](#)Four Books by [UO Faculty](#)[Top Ten Books](#) UO Students are Reading**News Briefs**[The Dean's Letter](#): Conversations of a Lifetime["Kelp Highway"](#) May Have Helped Peopling of the AmericasThree CAS Researchers Receive [Guggenheim Fellowships](#)UO Physicist Contributes to [Pollock Debate](#)[Theater Students Shine](#) at Regional CompetitionDavid Johnson Named 2006 OAS [Outstanding Scientist](#)[National Computing Award](#) Reflects Professor's Dedication to Diversity in the Field

<b>Humanities</b>	<a href="#">Saturday Class</a>
	<a href="#">hooks' call</a>
<b>Social Science</b>	Three <a href="#">Latin American Scholars</a> Find a Home in Eugene
<b>Natural Science</b>	<a href="#">Understanding Cell Structure</a> in the Doe Lab
	<a href="#">Four Stars</a>
<b>Alumni</b>	<a href="#">Tech Talk</a>
	<a href="#">Search Class Notes Online</a>



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
University of Oregon

COMMUNICATE INNOVATE LEAD

1245 University of Oregon • Eugene, OR • 97403-1245  
(541) 346.3950 • FAX (541) 346.3282 • [alumnidev@cas.uoregon.edu](mailto:alumnidev@cas.uoregon.edu)

Copyright © 2006 [University of Oregon](#)

Updated May 25, 2006

---

[UO HOME](#) [ADMISSIONS](#) [FINANCIAL AID](#) [CAS HOME](#) [SEARCH](#)

## ALUMNI &amp; DEVELOPMENT

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON  
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

## CAS NEWS

## Comix in Context

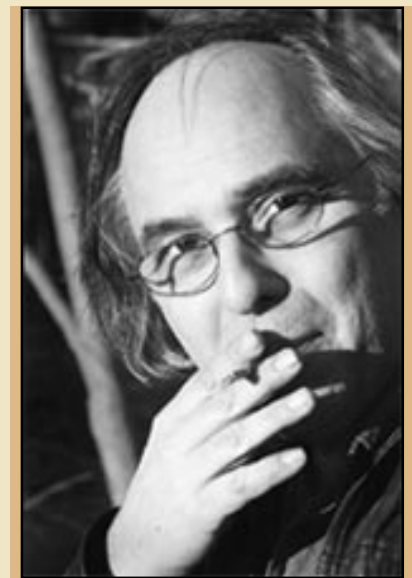
The Comparative Literature Program  
in Conversation with Art Spiegelman

Everything I know I learned from comic books," Art Spiegelman began, as he charmed a crowd of more than 800 during a Eugene talk about the more serious side of cartooning last February. A Pulitzer Prize-winning graphic artist, Spiegelman's talk was a timely lesson in both the history and current politics of the comic form.

Claiming that he learned feminism from Little Lulu and ethics from *Mad* magazine, Spiegelman proposed that it was not a mere matter of coincidence that the other kids who pondered *Mad's* comic koans ("The media is lying to you and so are we") would grow up to question American culture so actively, from their gender roles to the Vietnam war. Artful and, yes, funny cultural critique had taught an entire generation to see the underside to the fifties suburban ideal and the dangers of McCarthyism.

"At that time, it was useful to be told that Mickey Mouse was a rodent. There's something unsavory about him; he's got mousetraps attached to his fingers and there's something sinister about him," said Spiegelman, showing the audience a *Mad* cartoon of Mickey being carted away for not wearing regulation white gloves. "*Mad* was giving America a way to understand itself by offering a penicillin against the bland culture in the form of irony..."

Remember Wacky Packages? Mutt's Apple Juice or Crust toothpaste? They were developed by a team of sharp artistic talents, including Spiegelman, who helped innovate new comic parodies through his own contributions to *Mad*, and who would continue to evolve, throughout his career, the subversive comic form known as "comix."



Art Spiegelman: "You can't go home again. You can't go back to Norman Rockwell land... You have to take all the lessons of irony and use it to say something worth saying."

home page

college at a glance

giving to CAS

alumni

CAS news

CAS home page

“This was deep stuff and we kids knew it,” said Associate Professor Lisa Freinkel, who brought Spiegelman to campus as part of the Comparative Literature Reading Project. Spiegelman’s work shows us that comics can be “a form capacious enough to hold *all* the stuff of life,” she said, “not just the men in tights and Archie’s gang.”

In 1992, Spiegelman began taking his comix — and, indeed, the whole art form — into a new and more personal territory with the publication of his two-volume graphic novel, *Maus, A Survivor’s Tale*. These twin memoirs retell the story of his father’s survival and his own survival, as a witness, to Auschwitz. The work earned him a Pulitzer Prize, but it also elevated the comic novel to a new status as an art form. Then, strangely, Spiegelman spent much of the following decade trying to avoid it.

During this time, Spiegelman worked as an illustrator for the New Yorker, creating beautiful and provocative images for its covers. Among them is the indelible black-on-black image of the World Trade Center towers, published six days after September 11. This ghosted image would find its way onto the cover of Spiegelman’s next graphic novel, *In the Shadow of No Towers*, which explores the personal and political aftermath of that day.

As a Manhattanite whose daughter had just started high school right under the towers, Spiegelman described feeling “unhinged” after 9/11. He told the audience that he could no longer find a sufficiently “sophisticated self” to do covers for magazines.

“I retreated,” said Spiegelman. “The things that were roiling through my head just couldn’t be said.”

Once again, the complexities of his experience could only find their way onto the page as comix.

“[Comix] have the power to fly beneath the critical radar and enter your brain directly,” he said. But their immediacy also makes them dangerous, he contended.

**“It’s only lines on paper.”** Borrowed from a Robert Crumb cartoon, Spiegelman used that definition of comics as a refrain throughout his February 27 lecture, both to question the historical censorship of the form and to cast doubt on the casualness of the phrase. A master of paradox, he managed to mock those who might be threatened by cartoons at the same time he agreed with them.

Yes, it’s only lines on paper, but comics also have “highly articulated structures,” he said.



“A political cartoon tends to take information and chunk it down, reduce the number of bits so it sits firmer in your head,” said Spiegelman, explaining what he called comic shorthand. “Before they had newsprint, they used to do it in stained glass...”

The power that comes from collapsing the word-picture divide — creating a “lightning bolt of thought” — has throughout the last century landed artists in jail or on trial, Spiegelman recounted. In 1898, politicians even tried to pass anti-cartoon laws. In California, for instance, you couldn’t print an image of a politician, or anybody, without their expressed written permission.

But Spiegelman was quick to point out that it’s also been used by politicians. He showed slides of the Nazi’s depictions of Jews as rats and an anti-Nazi drawing endorsed by our own government: “Before we could drop bombs on Hiroshima in WWII, we had to see the ‘Japa-nazis’ as less than human,” he said.

By necessity, comics play upon the stereotypes existing in the dominant culture, said Spiegelman, who recognizes his own complicity in putting “lines on paper.” Comics, to be effective, must be reduced to the iconic, he said. “I’m not saying this is innocent, I’m just saying that it’s the nature of the language that I use.”

Spiegelman and UO alumnus and cartoonist Joe Sacco (’81) were interviewed recently by *The Nation* about the power of such icons and emblems to insult — also, about “the right to insult.” The article, printed in the March 6 issue, came on the heels of the riots in protest of the Muhammad cartoons printed in one of Denmark’s politically right-wing newspapers.

Spiegelman, a self-proclaimed “First Amendment fundamentalist,” acknowledged that the controversy about the images couldn’t simply be understood as a pure free speech issue. “Context is everything,” he said. Some of the caricatures were malicious, and the printing of them was an intentional provocation but, in the end, he still believed in their right to be printed. “As is often the case, I’m left defending jerks,” he said.

As he showed the Eugene audience the images that had caused such controversy, he chastised the American media for not doing so first and allowing its readership to formulate their own critical responses.

“It seems to me that the answer to stupidity is more talk, more discussion...” he said.

**“In our last episode, as you might remember, the world ended.”** So begins Spiegelman’s controversial collection of post-apocalyptic commentary, *In the Shadow of No Towers*.

*No Towers* was an appropriate pick for the UO’s inaugural community Reading Project, not only because it raises and addresses some urgent questions, but because Spiegelman himself is so careful in considering his own formal questions: How is it possible or not possible to (re)imagine catastrophic events into form? Reading groups on campus and off considered this question through multiple discussion groups and events.



A community reading group at the Temple Beth Israel, in the weeks before the February lecture, explored the ways in which Spiegelman put “his grief into boxes,” then stacked those boxes into crumbling towers on the page. Rabbi Maurice Harris noted that the shapes of two comic frames were rounded, “more like television screens.” On them, the group noted, the emblems of patriotism and celebrity looked enormous compared to the towers, an effective distortion of scale.

“In comp lit, we’re not simply interested in subject matter but also in how it’s presented. By looking at the form, we get a deeper sense of the message,” explained Lisa Freinkel, the director of the UO’s Comparative Literature program.

In addition to community group readings, the Reading Project challenged more than 350 students enrolled in nine different courses to read Spiegelman’s work. The students reported being affected, offended, and relieved by its content — but, despite their varied emotional reactions, it’s clear they’ve also been deeply engaged in the questions the work presents.

In fact, when a delayed flight prevented Spiegelman from making his seminar with students, eight of them decided to stay anyway. Among other things, the group wanted to discuss the complexity of Spiegelman’s relationship with humor and anger.

“At first [when I heard about *Maus*] I thought: ‘Where does he get off doing a comic book on the Holocaust?’” said Natalie Brandt, who was introduced to Spiegelman in Jennifer Presto’s class on “Writing Disaster.” “But surprisingly enough, it works. It’s a great Tom Collins.”

Spiegelman’s specialty is the “traumatic pastiche,” said English major Laura

Hindley. In her opinion, the personal content of *In the Shadow of No Towers* only helps to make Spiegelman's scathing cultural critique more trustworthy: his self-effacing tone, in addition to the relentless inclusion of himself as part of the problem, is part of the reason it works, she said.

"No one is unmarred by Spiegelman's caricature," agreed Assistant Professor of German Elke Heckner, who lectured in one of the reading project's affiliated events. "He caricatures his own caricatures."

But the students asked, "Is it funny? Or just sad?"

"It's something you're afraid to laugh at in front of people," admitted political science student Tony Kaminski.

"Yeah, but it feels so much better to have a format where I can be serious and laugh at the same time," said Nikki Thommen, a senior in the English department. An artist herself, Thommen admires the simultaneous sense of urgency and control that Spiegelman is able to capture on his pages. "He renders [the emotional experience] in a way that's completely opposite of the emotion."

The group stuck around for almost an hour, finding other ways that Spiegelman's comix play with the collapse of binaries — between high and low culture, the past and the present, the word and the image, the personal and the political — to unsettle the reader.

The work has an odd but powerful effect, said Hindley: "It's like when you see someone laughing really hard and you have to ask, 'Are you crying?'"

—JL



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
University of Oregon

COMMUNICATE INNOVATE LEAD

1245 University of Oregon • Eugene, OR • 97403-1245  
(541) 346.3950 • FAX (541) 346.3282 • [alumnidev@cas.uoregon.edu](mailto:alumnidev@cas.uoregon.edu)

Copyright © 2006 [University of Oregon](http://www.uoregon.edu)

Updated May 15, 2006

---

## ALUMNI &amp; DEVELOPMENT

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON  
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

## CAS NEWS

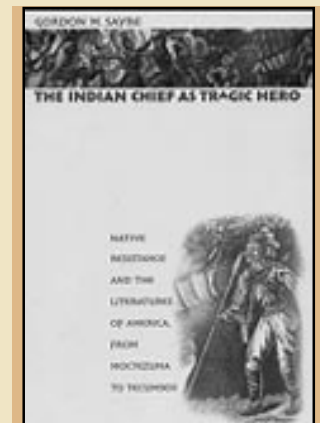
## Four Books by UO Faculty

***Split-Gut Song: Jean Toomer and the Poetics of Modernity***Karen Ford,  
professor of English

*Split-Gut Song* examines Toomer's experimental aesthetics and the difference they made to modern racial representation. Ford's book considers the tension in *Cane* between, on the one hand, poetic form, idealism, and hope in the utopian past versus, on the other hand, prose realism, modernity, and a tragic vision of the urban present. Ford has also received an American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship for work on a book on race and form in American poetry.

***The Indian Chief as Tragic Hero: Native Resistance and the Literatures of America***Gordon Sayre,  
associate professor of English

With chapters on seven major resistance struggles, including the Pueblo Revolt of 1680 and the Natchez Massacre of 1729, *The Indian Chief as Tragic Hero* offers an analysis of not only the tragedies and epics written about leaders such as Metacom, Pontiac, Tecumseh, and Cuauhtemoc, but also their own speeches and strategies, as recorded in archival sources and narratives by adversaries including Hernán Cortés, Antoine-Simon Le Page du Pratz, Joseph Doddridge, Robert Rogers, and William Henry Harrison. Sayre concludes that these tragedies and epics about Native resistance laid the foundation for revolutionary culture and historiography in North America, and that these leaders presented colonizers with a cathartic reproof of past injustices.



home page

college at a glance

giving to CAS

alumni

CAS news

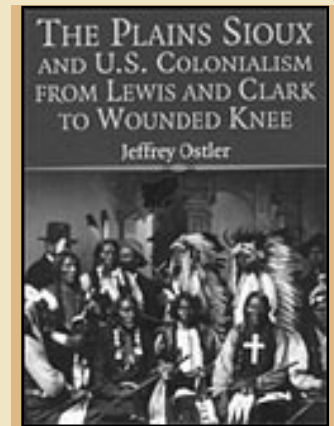
CAS home page



***The Plains Sioux and U.S. Colonialism from Lewis and Clark to Wounded Knee***

Jeffrey Ostler,  
professor of history

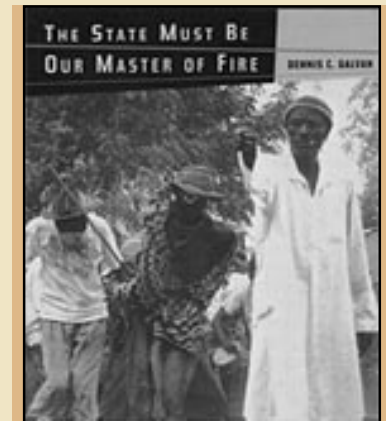
Professor Jeffrey Ostler won the Western History Association's Caughey Prize for *The Plains Sioux and U.S. Colonialism from Lewis and Clark to Wounded Knee*, which revisits Plains Sioux history and offers several convincing revisions of previous studies. Incorporating a breadth of Lakota words and concepts, the author's overall contribution is a rich cultural study of the Lakota that appeals to both scholars and general readers. Ostler reveals the fissures, continuities, insufficiencies, and power that characterize a century of colonial encounters, and his powerfully narrated history offers crucial lessons for anyone considering the dynamics of colonial domination and resistance in Native North America.



***The State Must Be Our Master of Fire: How Peasants Craft Culturally Sustainable Development in Senegal***

Dennis Galvan,  
associate professor of political science

Over several centuries, the Serer of the Siin region of Senegal developed a complex system of land tenure that resulted in a stable rural society, productive agriculture, and a well-managed ecosystem. Dennis Galvan tells the story of what happened when French colonial rulers, and later the government of the newly independent Senegal, imposed new systems of land tenure and cultivation on the Serer of Siin. Galvan's book, which was awarded the African Politics Conference Group Best Book Award for 2005, is a skillful autopsy of ruinous Western-style "rational" economic development policy forced upon a fragile, yet self-sustaining, society. It is also an attempt to articulate a better model for change, which Galvan calls "institutional syncretism."



## ALUMNI &amp; DEVELOPMENT

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON  
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

## CAS NEWS

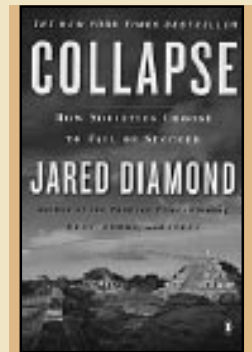
## Top 10 Books UO Students Are Reading

**1. *A Million Little Pieces*****by James Frey**

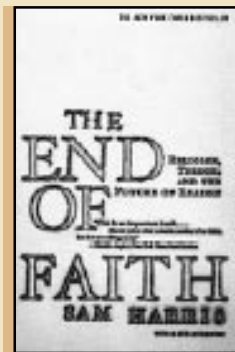
A harrowing memoir of addiction that has recently been at the center of a great deal of controversy regarding creative non-fiction, as Frey has admitted that portions of his “true” story are, in fact, fictional.

**2. *Collapse*****by Jared Diamond**

The author of *Guns, Germs, and Steel* addresses how environmental factors impact the future. In this new book, Diamond seeks to understand the fates of past societies that collapsed for ecological reasons, combining environment policy debate with the romance and mystery of lost worlds.

**3. *Kafka on the Shore*****by Haruki Murakami**

Kafka Tamura runs away from home to escape his father’s oedipal prophecy and to find his long-lost mother and sister. As Kafka flees, so too does Nakata, an elderly simpleton whose quiet life has been upset by a gruesome murder. What follows is a kind of double odyssey, as the two grope to understand the roles fate has in store for them.

**4. *The End of Faith: Religion, Terror, and the Future of Reason*****by Sam Harris**

This timely book delivers a startling analysis of the clash of faith and reason in today’s world. Harris offers a historical tour of mankind’s willingness to suspend reason in favor of religious beliefs, even when those beliefs are used to justify harmful behavior. While warning against the encroachment of organized religion into world politics, Harris also draws on new evidence from neuroscience

and insights from philosophy to explore spirituality as a biological, brain-based need.

**5. *The Kite Runner***

home page

college at a glance

giving to CAS

alumni

CAS news

CAS home page

**by Khaled Hosseini**

Privileged young narrator Amir comes of age during the last peaceful days of the monarchy in Afghanistan, then must endure revolution, invasion, and a country's long struggle to triumph over violent forces.

**6. Confessions of an Economic Hit Man****by John Perkins**

For many years Perkins worked for an international consulting firm. He describes his job as convincing LDCs (less developed countries) around the world to accept multibillion-dollar loans for infrastructure projects and ensuring most of this money ended up at U.S. engineering and construction companies. This book is his attack on a little-known phenomenon he feels has had dire consequences on both the victimized countries and the U.S.

**7. Gilead****by Marilynne Robinson**

Twenty-four years after her first novel, Marilynne Robinson returns with an intimate tale of three generations, ranging from the Civil War to the twentieth century: a story about fathers and sons and the spiritual battles that still rage at America's heart.

**8. Memoirs of a Geisha****by Arthur Golden**

Nitta Sayuri tells the story of her life as a geisha, in a world where appearances are paramount; where a girl's virginity is auctioned to the highest bidder; where women are trained to beguile the most powerful men; and where love is scorned as illusion. Sayuri's story begins when she is sold into slavery to a renowned geisha house. The book follows her transformation as she learns the rigorous arts of the geisha and how she must reinvent herself yet again as World War II erupts and the geisha houses are forced to close.

**9. Guns, Germs & Steel: The Fates of Human Societies****by Jared Diamond**

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, *Guns, Germs, and Steel* answers the question of why the peoples of certain continents succeeded in invading other continents and conquering or displacing their peoples. Until around 11,000 B. C., all peoples were still Stone Age hunter/gatherers. At that point, a great divide occurred in the rates that human societies evolved. But how did differences in societies arise? Diamond assembles convincing evidence linking germs to domestication of animals, germs that Eurasians then spread in epidemic proportions in their voyages of discovery.

**10. In Me Own Words: The Autobiography of Bigfoot****by Graham Roumieu**

America's favorite crypto-zoological hominid is humorously recast as the modern-day everyman, struggling with eating disorders, casual cannibalism,

pop culture, and philosophical quandaries: "Me once believe in good. Now, no. World go [bad], just like Bigfoot screenwriting career."

---



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
University of Oregon

**COMMUNICATE INNOVATE LEAD**

1245 University of Oregon • Eugene, OR • 97403-1245  
(541) 346.3950 • FAX (541) 346.3282 • [alumnidev@cas.uoregon.edu](mailto:alumnidev@cas.uoregon.edu)

Copyright © 2006 [University of Oregon](http://www.uoregon.edu)

Updated May 15, 2006

---

[UO HOME](#) [ADMISSIONS](#) [FINANCIAL AID](#) [CAS HOME](#) [SEARCH](#)

## ALUMNI &amp; DEVELOPMENT

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON  
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

## CAS NEWS

## The Dean's Letter

## Conversations of a Lifetime

Joe Stone, Dean of Arts and Sciences

There are no second acts in American lives," F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote late in his life. Though his had none, others' lives are often defined by second acts, from Washington or Lincoln to Martha Stewart.

Author Frank McCourt's second act came very late, at age 66. After a childhood of grime and hunger in the shadow of an alcoholic father, and then thirty years of teaching in New York public schools, McCourt published his first book, the Pulitzer Prize-winning bestseller, *Angela's Ashes*. McCourt noted his surprise at the radical shift in his life in his latest book, *Teacher Man*. He'd written a book about his childhood and suddenly he was a teacher on television, he said. Imagine. A teacher on television!



Dean Joe Stone with Guggenheim Scholarship winners Dare Baldwin, Patrick Phillips and Stephen Shoemaker

This anecdote comes to mind (and page) by way of sharing what's been on my own reading table these days, and my thinking, given the theme of this issue, about the various ways in which books can change our lives. At the University of Oregon, we seek to prepare our students for *all* the acts of their lives—even those that might come at age 66—by helping them to acquire an appreciation of learning and of life. Books help us do that. By facilitating conversations with others, either fictional or real, they challenge us intellectually and connect us to each other.

From "Book Talk" to "Tech Talk," the articles in this issue of *Cascade* are a testament to the ways in which our alumni and students are engaged in a vibrant exchange of ideas on and beyond our campus. The college has also made a concerted effort to open this conversation to the community, and our

home page

college at a glance

giving to CAS

alumni

CAS news

CAS home page

programs have initiated important discussions on everything from the [comic form](#) to the [Book of Job](#), the [implications](#) of [technology](#) to the power of [Latin American film](#). Of course, the issue would be incomplete without acknowledging our faculty's work in generating new knowledge and posing challenging new questions through their own [books](#) and lectures.

I am grateful, as always, for the opportunity to recognize their good work in these pages. I'm grateful, too, for your support, which has been critical in supporting initiatives like the Reading Project.

*Thank you for reading,*  
**Joe Stone**



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
University of Oregon

**COMMUNICATE INNOVATE LEAD**

1245 University of Oregon • Eugene, OR • 97403-1245  
(541) 346.3950 • FAX (541) 346.3282 • [alumnidev@cas.uoregon.edu](mailto:alumnidev@cas.uoregon.edu)

Copyright © 2006 [University of Oregon](#)

Updated May 15, 2006

---

[UO HOME](#) [ADMISSIONS](#) [FINANCIAL AID](#) [CAS HOME](#) [SEARCH](#)

# ALUMNI & DEVELOPMENT

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON  
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

## CAS NEWS

### "Kelp Highway" May Have Helped Peopling of the Americas

If humans migrated from Asia to the Americas along Pacific Rim coastlines near the end of the Pleistocene era, kelp forests may have aided their journey, according to UO archaeologist Jon Erlandson.

New discoveries, reported at the 2006 annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), have moved the "coastal migration theory" to the forefront of debate on the origins of the First Americans, though it has yet to be proven with hard evidence. It is now known that seafaring peoples living in the Ryuku Islands and Japan may have migrated into the Americas about 35,000 to 15,000 years ago.

"The fact that productive kelp forests are found adjacent to some of the earliest coastal archaeological sites in the Americas supports the idea that such forests may have facilitated human coastal migrations around the Pacific Rim near the end of the last glacial period," said Jon Erlandson, professor of anthropology and director of the Museum of Natural and Cultural History and the study's lead researcher. "In essence, they may have acted as a sort of kelp highway."

Kelp forests are some of the world's richest ecosystems, providing an assortment of food resources—including shellfish, fish, sea mammals, and seabirds—along thousands of miles of the North Pacific coast.

"This study is a unique example of collaboration between coastal archaeologists and marine biologists," Erlandson said. The "kelp highway hypothesis" first crystallized at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis and includes research from groups and laboratories throughout the U.S.

[home page](#)

[college at a glance](#)

[giving to CAS](#)

[alumni](#)

[CAS news](#)

[CAS home page](#)

# ALUMNI & DEVELOPMENT

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON  
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

## CAS NEWS

### Three CAS Researchers Receive Guggenheim Fellowships

This April, three researchers from the College of Arts and Sciences have received Guggenheim Fellowships, one of higher education's top honors.

Dare Baldwin, a professor of psychology, Patrick Phillips, an associate professor of biology, and Stephen Shoemaker, an assistant professor of religious studies, are among 187 artists, scientists, and scholars to receive fellowships for the 2006–2007 academic year.

Fellows receive a stipend and a year's sabbatical to pursue their research.

Baldwin, whose current research focuses on how we understand and interpret the actions of other people, plans to write a book that will synthesize what is currently known about this foundational cognitive skill. She will begin her fellowship in 2007.

Stephen Shoemaker, whose work focuses on religion in the late ancient and early medieval Near East, will use the award to work on his book, *The Death of a Prophet: The End of Muhammad's Life in Christian and Early Islamic Sources*. The book will investigate the conflicting traditions in Near Eastern Christian and early Islamic sources about the end of Muhammad's life. Shoemaker will begin his fellowship in 2007.

Phillips, whose work focuses on the genetics of complex traits and the evolution of genetic networks and gene interaction systems, will use the award to write a book on the evolution of genetic architecture. He also plans to travel to Edinburgh to work with other experts in population genetics. He will begin his fellowship in the fall of 2006.

[home page](#)

[college at a glance](#)

[giving to CAS](#)

[alumni](#)

[CAS news](#)

[CAS home page](#)



## CAS NEWS

**UO Physicist  
Contributes to Pollock Debate**

After the discovery of 25 new paintings, possibly by Jackson Pollock, was made public in 2005, UO physicist Richard Taylor was asked to conduct scientific analyses of the artwork. Commissioned by the Pollock-Krasner Foundation, Taylor and a team of UO students conducted fractal analyses to conclude that none of the paintings are authentic.

Although Taylor himself has stated his analysis should not be the sole determining factor, since 1999 he has demonstrated that fractals are evident within Pollock's dripped paint patterns. Fractals consist of patterns which recur at finer and finer magnifications, building up shapes of immense complexity. Significantly, fractals are the basic building blocks of nature's scenery (for example, lightning, clouds, mountains, and trees), earning the fractal the dramatic title of "the fingerprint of God."

The highly systematic fractal painting process, which Taylor coined as "Fractal Expressionism," was perfected by Pollock over ten years. These twenty-five new paintings did not reflect that fractal process. With paintings valued at over \$40 million, art galleries wanted to explore the technique's potential to authenticate Pollock's work, particularly after the discovery of this new work.



An example of fractal patterns found in tree branches

home page

college at a glance

giving to CAS

alumni

CAS news

CAS home page

## ALUMNI &amp; DEVELOPMENT

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON  
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

## CAS NEWS

**Theater Students Shine  
at Regional Competition**

Theater arts students from the University of Oregon were honored with awards from the Northwest Drama Conference (NWDC), held in conjunction with the Region VII Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF). Students being honored included Hayley Zeal, for outstanding classical scene for her performance from *Richard III*; Amy Bowman, who received a Meritorious Achievement citation for set design; J.C. Spiva, who received a Meritorious Achievement citation in the NWDC design competition for his design of *Medea*; Angela Flores, who received a Meritorious Achievement citation for her design of *Woyseck*; and Tamara Langman, who received a Meritorious Achievement citation in the Crafts and Technology category for her corset construction.



Eric Dodson and Andrew Gerl in *Autism*

The university was represented in the One-Act Play Marathon by Scott Stewart's play *Autism*, directed by John Schmor, which was invited to participate at the festival after being viewed by an outside respondent.

The NWDC and KCACTF Region VII conference was a five-day event held in Pasco, WA, at Columbia Basin College. This year's competition featured nearly 800 students and faculty from over 50 colleges and universities.

home page

college at a glance

giving to CAS

alumni

CAS news

CAS home page

# ALUMNI & DEVELOPMENT

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON  
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

## CAS NEWS

### David Johnson Named 2006 OAS Outstanding Scientist

Professor David C. Johnson, a chemistry faculty member at the University of Oregon and UO's Materials Science Institute, is one of the winners of the 2006 Outstanding Scientist Award from the Oregon Academy of Science (OAS). This award was presented to Professor Johnson in recognition of his commitment to bring innovative programs to the forefront of graduate research and education.

Johnson has been an active member of the research community in Oregon for the past 20 years. He began his career at the UO in 1986 and is currently a faculty co-director of ONAMI.

Johnson's research efforts focused on the principle of controlling solid state reactions by tailoring diffusion distances, which has resulted in a new synthetic technique that has permitted Johnson and his coworkers to prepare hundreds of new inorganic materials. This synthetic control is being used to understand the interplay between structure and properties in this class of materials.

Johnson is devoted to improving science education at all levels. He led the development of the Materials Science Institute's graduate internship program that has put the UO chemistry department consistently among the top 10 in the country for awarding masters degrees. He has been the lead PI for MSI's NSF funded IGERT (Integrated Graduate Education and Research Training) program that has received national attention for its innovations in graduate education. More recently he has partnered with Professors Tyler, Page, and Livelybrooks in starting an NSF GK-12 program, which places graduate students in K-12 classrooms in schools in Lane, Deschutes, and Jefferson counties, where they educate teachers to teach science using an active learning science kit curriculum.

[home page](#)[college at a glance](#)[giving to CAS](#)[alumni](#)[CAS news](#)[CAS home page](#)

## ALUMNI &amp; DEVELOPMENT

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON  
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

## CAS NEWS

**National Computing Award  
Reflects Professor's Dedication  
to Diversity in the Field**

The Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), an educational and scientific society, announced Janice Cuny as a winner of one of the 2006 ACM President's Awards. This rarely-bestowed award honors exceptional abilities to advance computing technology and enhance its impact for the benefit of society. Jan Cuny, UO professor of Computer and Information Science, was acknowledged for her ability to "demonstrate how to help underserved populations as a parent, teacher, civil servant, and citizen."



Cuny served as chair of the Computing Research Association's Committee on the Status of Women in Computing Research (CRA-W) and was also Program Chair and General Chair of the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing, as well as a member of the Leadership Team of the National Center for Women and Information Technology.

In 2004, she represented CRA-W when it received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring from President George Bush for significant achievements in mentoring women across educational levels. Her achievements led to her recruitment by the NSF to run the Broadening Participation in Computing initiative, which aims to significantly increase the number and diversity of students receiving post-secondary degrees in the computing disciplines. In Washington, she required that each program undergo rigorous evaluation and serve the highest number of students possible. Even on this sabbatical assignment, Cuny continues to teach by tutoring low-income students in the Washington, DC area.

[home page](#)[college at a glance](#)[giving to CAS](#)[alumni](#)[CAS news](#)[CAS home page](#)

## ALUMNI &amp; DEVELOPMENT

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON  
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

## CAS NEWS

## Saturday Class

Four years ago, Professor James Earl was looking for a way to strengthen the UO's relationship with the greater Eugene community. Russ Carpenter, a recent retiree, was looking for a way to participate in the vibrant educational world he knew the UO offered. Together, they have created the Insight Seminars, month-long college classes designed specifically to guide and challenge individuals in middle life as they reflect on issues in the humanities.



Participants take notes during Baskin's "Wisdom in Israel" course

Earl calls the Insight Seminars "the definition of community connections." In developing the program, he and Carpenter met with interested faculty and community members on a weekly basis to discuss what the community really needed and wanted, what kinds of classes would work, and the logistics of location and timing.

After a year, they were ready to begin offering classes. At first, Earl was the only professor, donating huge amounts of his time in order to help get the program on its feet. However, he knew if he was to attain his goal of establishing a self-sufficient adult education college, he would need to expand the staff.

"It can't be associated only with me," he says.

Today, the six-month series revolve around themes such as "Ancient Wisdom" or "Peace and War." UO professors from various disciplines within the humanities — including English, Religious Studies, and East Asian Languages and Literature — have stepped forward to give participants a broader perspective.

Conquering one challenge, however, has only led to more ambitious goals. "Now we're at a crossroad, I think," says Earl. "I can now invent the six-

home page

college at a glance

giving to CAS

alumni

CAS news

CAS home page

month series and I can sell them out instantly ... but that's not what I want. What I want is the whole community."

Typical seminars are two and a half hours, but each winter, Earl begins with a special, four-hour opening session. "It's meant to bring people in and give them such an intellectual jolt that they'll realize what it's all about," Earl explains. "People walk out of these introductory sessions just high as a kite."

This ebullient atmosphere was more than apparent in February's series, "Wisdom in Israel." Participants arrived early and began discussing the reading before Professor Baskin, director of Judaic Studies, had even arrived, bringing invaluable perspective to the work: "These people are well educated and have a lot of experience," Earl notes. This life experience was evident in their reactions to course material, such as the legendarily depressing Ecclesiastes and Job. One participant thought it was fairly dismal, but another woman felt there was "gold in there." Her friend replied, "Yeah, but you've really got to work for it."

Earl claims this unique, challenging approach is why the program is so successful. "Our goal from the start was that we would not be offering anything like what usual adult education is. It was to be absolutely distinctive. We offer real college work."

Whatever the secret is, it appears to be working. In three years, Earl has not had a single participant drop out, despite such challenges as reading *War and Peace* in a week. Professors balance these reading-heavy classes with equally intensive close readings, such as an entire month devoted to Shakespeare's *Henry V*. There are no grades and no written work (except for a specific class on "Life Writing"), but a great deal of reading and high-level discussion. "What they want is to return to the intellectual excitement of the college classroom."

Currently, the program is taking flight — literally — with a field trip to Spain and a \$10,000 gift from a private donor. After last April's "Culture of Tolerance," participants asked Earl to lead a trip to Cordova and Granada to further explore the history and literature of Jews and Muslims in medieval Spain. Such activities are wonderful stepping stones to Earl's real vision: an adult education college with a full-time administrative and professorial staff to complement the undergraduate and graduate programs at the UO. After all, he points out, most participants come out of the introductory seminar saying, "This is why I moved to Eugene, this is what I always wanted."

—AP

## ALUMNI &amp; DEVELOPMENT

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON  
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

## CAS NEWS

**hooks' call**

bell hooks gets cold feet. Literally. When I shook hands with her in February, summoning the courage to tell her how long I've admired and been influenced by her work, she sat curled up on a couch, a blanket at her feet. In line, I'd noticed how she made sure she learned each visitor's name, and thanked them all. In that moment, my respect for this woman was augmented by simple affection.

Just like me, bundled in my poorly-insulated grad-school apartment, bell hooks gets cold feet. When I finally found the words to speak to her, she asked me about my research project and recommended a book that might help me. Her interest was genuine. And for a first year graduate student, treading water in the massive academic pool, the effect of such interest is immeasurable.

After the book signing I walked over to Columbia Hall where a large crowd waited on a rainy Friday evening to hear bell hooks speak. hooks discussed a number of compelling topics: the power of critical thinking, the importance of the English teacher, and the role of white women in the fight against discrimination. But what really stuck with me and still has me thinking was something else altogether: screening your phone calls.

According to hooks, if you love justice you should be scared for our democracy—because the power to make qualitative judgments about who is worth our time is dividing our society into a binary of “those who are chosen” and “those who are not,” increasing the gulf between the “haves” and the “have-nots.” While we might consider the ability to screen phone calls to be our right, hooks wants us to see how the phenomenon, only fifteen years in the making, encourages us to judge the worthiness of our friends, family, and co-workers on an hourly basis.

home page

college at a glance

giving to CAS

alumni

CAS news

CAS home page

hooks believes the late twentieth century invention of call-screening is only one symptom of a greater social disease, one characterized by a national antipathy to authentic relationships and vulnerability. A lack of intimacy, when unacknowledged, can lead nations to war and domination, to binaries of good and evil, and ultimately to fascism.

As a person who follows hooks' work and is engaged and sympathetic to most of her theories, it was interesting to find myself falling into the category of someone who screens calls, someone who hooks might feel was a small part of this larger problem. But I don't think that hooks would have us all throw our phones into the river. Instead, as her invocation of Susan Sontag attests, she simply wants us to 'be serious, be passionate,' but most importantly, to 'wake up.'

hooks' call for critical thinking in all aspects of our lives has changed the way that I think about the qualitative choices I make everyday, whether it's which of my students to call on in class, who to slow-down for in the cross-walk, or who to screen on my cell phone. I appreciated hooks challenging the ways in which I avoid connections with others in my daily life, and, even more so, I appreciate how much she practiced what she preached. She signed my copy of her book "In Sweet Sisterhood," and what was truly touching was the feeling I had that she believed her inscription, just as she was able to make a 300-person lecture intimate and meaningful.

—AHP

*Anne Petersen is in her first year of graduate school in the UO English department, focusing on film studies. She completed her B.A. at Whitman College where she encountered hooks' theories while working on her senior thesis.*



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
University of Oregon

COMMUNICATE INNOVATE LEAD

1245 University of Oregon • Eugene, OR • 97403-1245  
(541) 346.3950 • FAX (541) 346.3282 • [alumnidev@cas.uoregon.edu](mailto:alumnidev@cas.uoregon.edu)

Copyright © 2006 [University of Oregon](http://www.uoregon.edu)

Updated May 15, 2006



## ALUMNI &amp; DEVELOPMENT

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON  
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

## CAS NEWS

Three Latin American Scholars  
Find a Home in Eugene

With classes ranging from tango to the history of race in Latin America, from Spanish language to anthropology, the interdisciplinarity of Latin American Studies at the University of Oregon has been attracting more and more students to the program. Not surprisingly, it's also what has drawn three new professors to Eugene this year.

"Collaboration across languages and across national traditions was extremely helpful to my development as a scholar," said Tania Triana, one of three new faculty hires in the program. "I wanted to be in a place that prioritized that kind of collaboration."

Along with Triana, the UO welcomed Gabriela Martinez and Cecilia Enjuto Rangel. While the three women work in different departments and have diverse research goals, they all contribute to the UO's growing Latin American Studies program, and each was drawn here by the unique freedom and emphasis on collaboration that the UO provides.

For **Gabriela Martinez** in the School of Journalism, this freedom means balancing a theoretical framework of international communications and political economy with her work as a documentarian. "I want to keep the creative part of me alive," she said. Martinez recently completed a new documentary on public health issues in Guatemala and feels combining this work with her role as a professor can have great results in the classroom.

Originally from Peru, Martinez received her Ph.D. from the UO in 2005. She's interested in the study of media in Latin America, particularly in how



New professors Gabriela Martinez, Tania Triana, and Cecilia Enjuto Rangel bring new perspectives—and complementary strengths—to students in Latin American Studies

home page

college at a glance

giving to CAS

alumni

CAS news

CAS home page

Latin Americans are adopting technologies to develop their relations and affirm their nationalities and identities. “There are groups that are attempting to resist [cultural imperialism] by using technology to build their own traditions, their own oralities.”

Martinez is looking forward to the ways in which she can contribute to both the School of Journalism and the College of Arts and Sciences: “The group of people [in Latin American Studies] is really wonderful and stimulating.”

**Tania Triana**, whose appointment is in the Department of Romance Languages, has found that her departmental colleagues are also working within many different national literatures and cultural traditions. That’s precisely what makes the UO feel like home.

Triana earned her Ph.D. in world literature at UC San Diego, which was academically exciting for many of the same reasons she finds the environment at the UO exciting. At UCSD, interdisciplinary work allowed her to broaden her work in the literatures of the Americas to include the African diaspora, a field that seeks to draw connections between various cultures and historical interactions, and “understand the ways that cultural influences move back and forth.”

Some of Triana’s current research is focused on the narratives of racialization in the Americas—for example, why Caribbean immigrants from Puerto Rico are considered Puerto Rican in their home country but, upon coming to the U.S., are identified as black.

**Cecilia Enjuto Rangel**, also an assistant professor of Spanish who completed her Ph.D. at Yale University, was drawn to the UO by the job’s focus on Transatlantic Studies. “That was just exactly what I wanted,” she said. “The idea [in Transatlantic Studies] is that you can’t study Latin American and Spanish literatures as if they are not reading or reacting to one other.” Her recent research explores the connections between poetry and modern cities, and how “after World Wars I and II [poets in both Europe and Latin America] reacted to a city in ruins.”

As a teacher, Enjuto Rangel actively promotes foreign study for students at the UO. As an undergraduate at the University of Puerto Rico, she spent a formative year studying in Paris. “That had been my dream, so I worked for it. For years, I saved. I worked as a reporter. And it was worth it. It changed, completely, my perspective.” So now she’s serving on a foreign study committee in order to help students find their own ways abroad, perhaps through UO programs in Queretaro or Madrid.

Educational enrichment activities are a priority for the others as well: Triana is hoping that travel restrictions will have loosened enough for her to lead a field trip to Cuba in the near future; Professor Martinez is helping coordinate the university’s first annual Latin American film festival. “Academia should

come down from this ivory tower and be in touch with the community,” says Martinez, who hopes to incorporate Eugene’s Latin American population into the university learning experience.

Building connections with the community, bridges between disciplines, and opportunities for their students, these three new faculty members are clearly invigorating Latin American Studies on the UO campus. And they seem to be enjoying what Eugene has to offer them as well—namely, their students.

Both Triana and Enjuto Rangel noted, with appreciation, how hard many of their students work for their opportunities to learn. “A degree isn’t something that just happens to them,” said Triana, “a degree is something that they’re earning.”

—AP



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

University of Oregon

**COMMUNICATE INNOVATE LEAD**

1245 University of Oregon • Eugene, OR • 97403-1245  
(541) 346.3950 • FAX (541) 346.3282 • [alumnidev@cas.uoregon.edu](mailto:alumnidev@cas.uoregon.edu)

Copyright © 2006 [University of Oregon](http://www.uoregon.edu)

Updated May 15, 2006

---

[UO HOME](#) [ADMISSIONS](#) [FINANCIAL AID](#) [CAS HOME](#) [SEARCH](#)

## ALUMNI &amp; DEVELOPMENT

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON  
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

## CAS NEWS

Understanding Cell Structure  
in the Doe Lab

It's been a good year for Sarah Siegrist. She has had her first child, completed her Ph.D. in biology at the UO, co-published two papers with advisor Chris Doe, and received the prestigious 2006 Harold M. Weintraub Graduate Student Award sponsored by the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. Considering that Sarah's research has important applications in understanding the ways in which cancer could develop, a good year for Sarah may be a good year for many others, as well.



Sarah Siegrist with mentor Chris Doe

As Sarah describes it, her work in the Doe lab consists of “doing basic research” using model organisms to understand higher processes. “We are using the fruit fly, *Drosophila*—which is a genetically tractable organism (meaning easy to make genetic mutations of and then analyze the consequence of not having that gene)—to understand how cells work at a general level. Everything that we find in *Drosophila* can be translated to how cells work in more complex organisms and even in humans.”

According to Sarah, one goal is always to understand more about human diseases, for example, how uncontrolled cell growth could give rise to cancer. She explains that in the Doe lab, several genes that they study are required to maintain correct organization of a cell's architecture. When these genes are mutated, cells begin to proliferate uncontrollably and this can result in a loss of tissue organization and function and eventually lead to cancer in *Drosophila*.

Sarah's advisor, Chris Doe, is one of two active HHMI (Howard Hughes Medical Institute) Investigators at the UO. Since the organization's inception in 1984, its investigators have made great progress in discovering genes related to cancer, as well as making advancements in understanding other diseases such as heart disease, obesity, cystic fibrosis, and muscular

home page

college at a glance

giving to CAS

alumni

CAS news

CAS home page

dystrophy.

Sarah describes Professor Doe as a very generous mentor. In addition to his national reputation as a researcher, “He’s always there as a sounding board for your questions, he looks at your data with you... and then you sit down together to interpret the results and then think about what you need to do to address the next set of questions.”

Sarah was drawn to the UO because she was familiar with Doe's work on cell architecture and she liked that “the biology department was smaller with a strong emphasis on developmental biology.” After spending time working as a laboratory technician at the University of Utah, she had finally decided to make the leap and get her Ph.D. “I’ve had a really great graduate experience,” she says. “I always had a lot of freedom to explore what I wanted to do. It was really a great scientific atmosphere for me.”

In May, Sarah will present at a scientific symposium at the Hutchinson Center, before moving onto UC Berkeley to continue her exploration of some of the same processes she studied here at the UO. She is interested in how cell size and cell number contributes to the size of an organ. For example, mutations in certain genes cause brains to be abnormally small. It turns out that these mutations affect brain size in part by causing individual brain cells to be smaller in size. “Basically, my questions are ‘How do you form a proper sized brain? How does cell size and cell number directly contribute to the size of an organ?’”

Of course, the UO will be sad to lose Sarah, but when asked if she would maintain a relationship with the university and the Doe lab, she smiled. “Absolutely,” she said. “You always keep in contact with your advisor or your former advisors to find out how things are going.”

—AP



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
University of Oregon

COMMUNICATE INNOVATE LEAD

1245 University of Oregon • Eugene, OR • 97403-1245  
(541) 346.3950 • FAX (541) 346.3282 • [alumnidev@cas.uoregon.edu](mailto:alumnidev@cas.uoregon.edu)

Copyright © 2006 [University of Oregon](http://www.uoregon.edu)

Updated May 15, 2006

## ALUMNI &amp; DEVELOPMENT

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON  
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

## CAS NEWS

[home page](#)[college at a glance](#)[giving to CAS](#)[alumni](#)[CAS news](#)[CAS home page](#)

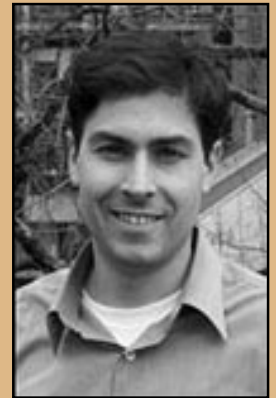
Darren Johnson



Joseph Thornton



David Schmidt



Daniel Steck

**Four Stars**

Four young University of Oregon faculty members are 2006 recipients of an Early CAREER Development Award from the National Science Foundation (NSF), the highest honor bestowed by this federal government agency on scientists and engineers who are beginning independent research careers. Awardees each receive a five-year grant to integrate their research and teaching.

**Darren Johnson**, assistant professor of chemistry, focuses his nanoscale research on arsenic and lead coordination with long-term applications in environmental remediation, treatment for metal poisoning, and contamination sensing.

**Joseph Thornton**, assistant professor of biology, studies the evolution of gene function and specializes in phylogenetic methods for analyzing gene families. He also is an expert in environmental health and policy. His grant will help develop new courses, including real-world policy issues and evolutionary biology.

**David Schmidt**, assistant professor of geological sciences, specializes in fault mechanics and crustal deformation. His research centers on fault friction, stress interactions, and seismotectonics. He plans to use his award to help catalogue aseismic and seismic faults throughout the world and better identify fault characteristics.

**Daniel Steck**, assistant professor of physics, deals with quantum and atom optics. His research interests are cold-atom physics and measurement and control of quantum systems. A part of his project is outreach to high school teachers and the development of a “mad scientist” course aimed at non-science majors.



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
University of Oregon

**COMMUNICATE INNOVATE LEAD**

1245 University of Oregon • Eugene, OR • 97403-1245  
(541) 346.3950 • FAX (541) 346.3282 • [alumnidev@cas.uoregon.edu](mailto:alumnidev@cas.uoregon.edu)

Copyright © 2006 [University of Oregon](http://www.uoregon.edu)

Updated May 15, 2006

---

[UO HOME](#) [ADMISSIONS](#) [FINANCIAL AID](#) [CAS HOME](#) [SEARCH](#)

## ALUMNI &amp; DEVELOPMENT

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON  
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

## CAS NEWS

## Tech Talk

Cascade recently asked three successful Computer and Information Science alumni to share their thoughts on the continuing evolution of computer and information science and its uses in society: Gurdeep Singh Pall, Moira Burke, and Dr. Juan Flores. CIS department head Andrzej Proskurowski moderated this e-mail forum.

**Gurdeep Singh Pall** received a master's degree in computer and information science from the UO in 1989 and an undergraduate degree in computer engineering from Birla Institute of Technology and Science. He also holds several patents in networking, compression, and collaboration areas. Pall is a Corporate Vice President at Microsoft, where his teams are responsible for Unified Communications product development as well as Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) strategy, a modern business solution for telecommunications networking. Pall describes his CIS professors as being accessible and inspiring, particularly Associate Professor Ginnie Lo, his mentor in the program. "Without her coaching, encouragement, and support I wouldn't be here today."



**Moira Burke** received a bachelor of arts, summa cum laude in computer and information science in 2001 from the UO and completed an honors thesis under the direction of Professor Anthony Hornof. Burke states that Hornof, as well as Steve Fickas and Jan Cuny, had a profound impact on her research career. Hornof first introduced Burke to human-computer interaction and helped her perform high quality experiments where they hashed out experimental designs, recruited participants, and ran studies. Burke is now a doctoral student in the Human-Computer

Interaction Institute at Carnegie Mellon University, where she studies online communities by investigating the rhetorical strategies of newcomers to discussion groups. She has collaborated with researchers at Georgia Tech,

home page

college at a glance

giving to CAS

alumni

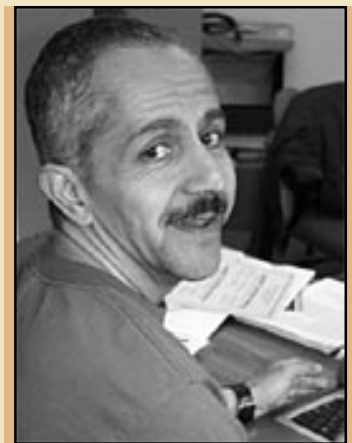
CAS news

CAS home page



Brown, Lewis and Clark College, and AT&T Research.

**Dr. Juan Flores** received a bachelor of sciences in electrical engineering from the Universidad Michoacana, Mexico, a master's degree in computer science from the Centro de Investigación y Estudios Avanzados, of the Instituto Politécnico Nacional, Mexico, and a Ph. D. in computer and information science from the UO in 1997. He is a full time professor at the Universidad Michoacana where he researches the applications of artificial intelligence to electrical engineering and financial analysis. Dr. Flores is a visiting professor at the UO for the 2005–2006 school year, teaching and mentoring CIS undergraduate and graduate students. Dr. Flores credits his advisor Art Farley for teaching him scholarly skills “like analytical thinking, and on the non-academical side of life, being a good person.” He has high respect for all of his professors at the UO, and as a professor himself, he is always trying to live up to their standards.



#### Question 1:

**What will be the next great milestone in the world of computation and communication? When will this be achieved?**

**JF:** The next important step in computing/communications will be characterized by 1) ubiquitous computing 2) information integration and 3) technological merging. With this technological integration, a single identifier, such as a social security number, can be used to access all personal information. Technology will combine TV, music, phones or videophones, data bases, software, games, etc. into a single device with access to every piece of information in the world.

**MB:** The convergence—unified access to massive amounts of information and its management via a single device— is half the story. The other half is keeping the human in the loop. The next great milestone will also involve designing systems that respect the user's privacy concerns, prevent information overload, and can be accessible to everyone. In fact, the most appropriate interface of the future may not be visual, but rather auditory, tangible, or some other form we haven't conceived of yet.

**JF:** Of course, I agree. Information has to be usable and displayed in the right form, one that follows the users' needs.

**GP:** Convergence is going to change how we think about communications. Say goodbye to the days of missed calls, phone-tag, interruptions, multiple phone #s, or 64 kbps audio channels. Combine this with Moira's “technological convergence” of knowledge and you have unleashed a “sixth sense” (or is it “seventh sense”?) on humans—where they may soon be able

to find others through a simple “

### Question 2:

**Is privacy and security of computer-based communication worth preserving? Can it be preserved? Will it be preserved?**

**GP:** Privacy and security are never negotiable, but computer-based communications will cause an evolution of what we think about these issues. The first response to any threat (viruses, spam, etc.) is to lock down everything and become hyper-sensitive. Over time, as our ability to deal with attacks and threats goes up, our thinking gets more sophisticated, and the trade-off between “lock down” and “benefits” will be looked at in new light. In its absolute sense—leaking private information about a person is bad. But, if by “leaking” this information to a small set of relevant people, a user can stay better connected or have fewer interruptions, then they derive value from it themselves and evolve their definition of acceptable privacy.

**MB:** “Leaking” small amounts of personal information does have many benefits, as long as the person disclosing the information is doing it intentionally and is aware of the consequences. We see this kind of behavior in online communities all the time: People reveal details about themselves in order to legitimize their membership in the group and to bond with others. And bloggers disclose all kinds of personal tidbits over time that, if systematically harvested, would populate a consumer database of frightening detail.

This is not to say that security shouldn't be a primary consideration of system developers. In fact, one area of human-computer interaction that is coming into prominence is usable security: designing security mechanisms that take human abilities into consideration. Tapping into people's natural talents, such as facial recognition, or developing other forms of identification that don't tax our limited recall skills will be the next great step to more secure systems.

**JF:** One issue is to be able to voluntarily make some personal information public, and a totally different one is to maintain privacy on whatever you decide not to make public. The second one is the main concern of information/communications/computing security. Software cannot be proven to be correct, and security schemes cannot be guaranteed to be bug-free. No matter what we invent to make something secure, someone else will outsmart us and come up with a forged key to open that door. I think that battle will continue forever, but computer scientists and the computer industry will continue making an effort in that direction.

—KN

# ALUMNI & DEVELOPMENT

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON  
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

## ALUMNI

### Looking for an old friend?

Search our *Cascade* archive of Class Notes

Every year in *Cascade* we print Class Notes from alumni of the UO College of Arts and Sciences. From this page you can search our archive for recent submissions.

What's new in your life? Submit a Class Note with our [online form](#).

home page

college at a glance

giving to CAS

alumni

CAS news

CAS home page

### Simple Search

Find names in the Class Notes archives

Enter Name

### Advanced Search

Select only the fields you need

Name

Major

**Class Year  
(by decade)**

**Cascade  
Issue**



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
University of Oregon

**COMMUNICATE INNOVATE LEAD**

1245 University of Oregon • Eugene, OR • 97403-1245  
(541) 346.3950 • FAX (541) 346.3282 • [alumnidev@cas.uoregon.edu](mailto:alumnidev@cas.uoregon.edu)

Copyright © [University of Oregon](http://www.uoregon.edu)

[UO HOME](#) [ADMISSIONS](#) [FINANCIAL AID](#) [CAS HOME](#) [SEARCH](#)