

## PERS Uncertainties Confounding

Bookmark the PERS web site, <[www.pers.state.or.us/](http://www.pers.state.or.us/)>, and visit it often. That's about the best advice that Helen Stoop can give employees nearing retirement these days because information about the troubled Public Employee Retirement System changes almost daily.

"We're sorry we can't give anyone more definitive information, but we will keep you updated as reform progresses," says Stoop, Human Resources benefits administrator. "The current PERS unknowns compound the difficulty of making retirement decisions, and we realize it is very difficult for those who are very near retirement and are trying to make decisions that will affect their futures."

As *Inside Oregon* goes to press, the House passed HB 2001-A on Jan. 29, while the House Committee on PERS approved an amended version of HB 2005 on Jan. 30 and sent it on to the full House.

As passed by the House, HB 2001-A prohibits PERS from crediting accounts of Tier One members with earnings in excess of the assumed rate until: 1) the deficit reserve account is no longer in deficit;

2) the deficit reserve account is fully funded with amounts determined by the PERS Board (after consultation with the actuary) to ensure a zero balance in the account when all Tier One members retire; and 3) the deficit reserve account has been fully funded for the three immediately preceding calendar years. These restrictions apply to earnings crediting for calendar year 2003 and after. The bill next moves to the Senate for assignment to a committee.

HB 2005 would reduce the PERS Board from 12 members to five, with only one member from a group with a vested interest in PERS. The bill is endorsed by the governor and is expected to pass both the House and the Senate relatively easily.

"It's important to remember," Stoop cautions, "that these are just a couple of actions by the numerous players currently trying to resolve the PERS dilemma, including the PERS Board, the Legislature and the governor."

Complicating matters further, several local governments filed a lawsuit against the PERS Board in 2000, and Judge Paul

Lipscomb of the Marion County Circuit Court issued a final order in this case on Jan. 16. The Oregon Education Association has filed an appeal of that decision, with others expected, and rulings on those appeals may come at any time, sooner or later.

Unfortunately, Stoop says, there are probably more questions than answers right now about how to solve the PERS system's various problems including increased costs to employers.

With that in mind, Stoop says the PERS web site contains links to the latest available information regarding the implementation of the Actuarial Equivalency Factors, the litigation and Judge Lipscomb's final judgment, a summary of bills introduced in the 2003 Legislative Session and Gov. Ted Kulongoski's proposed set of standards that any changes to the PERS retirement program must meet.

The PERS web site also provides a link to a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). In addition, Stoop says UO employees with questions about retirement are welcome to contact her, 6-2967.

### Get Up to Speed on Copyright Issues

Find out how well you're complying with federal copyright laws by attending Copyright Online, a series of events scheduled Feb. 17-21 and sponsored by the UO Libraries. See the calendar in this issue of *Inside Oregon* for full descriptions, times and locations of the following events:

- **Monday, Feb. 17**—"Is Your 'Online' in Line?" workshop
- **Tuesday, Feb. 18**—"Full-Text, E-Reserves & Fair Use: Copyright Content & Your Course Web Site" workshop
- **Wednesday, Feb. 19**—"UO Copyright Issues & Services" panel discussion
- **Thursday, Feb. 20**—"Critical Challenges in Distance Education: Copyright Issues Online" videoconference

All events are free and no preregistration is required. For more information, call JQ Johnson, 6-1746.

### Sign Up Now for Committee Service

The Committee on Committees is seeking volunteers to uphold "our cherished tradition of faculty governance" by serving on a university committee during the 2003-2004 academic year.

As noted in a Jan. 28 memo to faculty, all full-time faculty members, particularly those with tenure, are expected to serve on at least one university committee each year. If preferences are not identified, faculty will be appointed to one committee at random.

A full description of each committee is available online at <[darkwing.uoregon.edu/~committees/](http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~committees/)>. Send preference cards to Kathy Wagner in the President's Office by **March 3**.

## Professional Distinctions Offer Bridge to Employability

By Anna Brinkmann

Convincing a potential employer that a liberal arts degree translates into real skills can be a daunting task for graduates. A recently implemented new Career Center program, however, is giving UO students the tools to do just that.

The Professional Distinctions Program, conceived two years ago, awards students who complete a four-part program

with a certificate of distinction. Interested students must

"The program is a way of bridging from the academic environment to the professional environment."

— Lowell Bowditch

complete 60 units with a GPA of 3.0 or higher and must submit a proposal describing their plan and choice of distinction.

Professional distinctions are designed to complement students' majors. A biology major may choose a distinction in written communication, while a political science major may choose a distinction in data analysis.

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## PEOPLE

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**Melissa M. Rolls**, Neuroscience, is the recipient of a three-year Damon Runyon Postdoctoral Fellowship for her research on "Approaching Neuronal Polarity in *Drosophila*." She is one of 20 young scientists selected for the prestigious fellowships given by the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation of New York. **Chris Doe**, Biology, is her sponsor.

**Svitlana Kravchenko**, Law, was invited by the United Nations Environmental Program to participate in a Jan. 30–31 meeting of chief justices from 15 nations in Nairobi, Kenya. They discussed creation of a worldwide program to educate and sensitize judges to issues of environmental law and sustainable development.

**John T. Gage**, English, has been named the 2003–2004 Coleman-Guitteau Teaching-and-Research Fellow by the Oregon Humanities Center. The experimental new fellowship underscores the center's commitment to the vital relationship between humanities teaching and research. Gage will teach the new course, "Being Reasonable: Theories and Practices of Ethical Argument," during Fall Term 2003 and then spend a second term engaged in research that—with the aid of student research assistants—follows up on some aspect of the course material.

## ON THE MOVE

**James Reinmuth**, Business, was named interim president of the OSU Foundation on Feb. 1. Named an Alumni Fellow by the OSU Alumni Association in 1998, he is a former UO business dean and continues as the Lundquist Distinguished Professor of Business. Reinmuth also is a director of several companies in Oregon and Asia and is senior consulting vice president for Grenzebach, Glier & Associates, a philanthropic management consulting service. He is expected to fill the interim post while the OSU Foundation conducts a search for a new president and CEO.

## Plan Focuses on University Lighting Improvements

In response to an on-going concern over night safety on campus, the Campus Planning Committee has developed a two-part program to upgrade campus lighting.

Part One of the Campus Outdoor Lighting Plan, adopted last spring, addresses general lighting guidelines and identifies areas in need of light maintenance, such as walkways and building entrances. Part Two, still in the planning stages, will address the specific design for lighting fixtures.

"We want to create areas that are well lit and function well for pedestrians," says planning associate Christine Thompson, University Planning.

Devising an orderly campus lighting plan required an impressive effort by various student organizations, as well as Facilities Services, Public Safety, University Planning and outside lighting consultants.

Student involvement has been especially strong. Through student organized "safety walks," walkways and other potential trouble spots were identified. The ASUO also donated \$150,000 to help pay for lighting maintenance.

"Students have always taken a leadership role on issues dealing with safety on campus," says Assistant Dean Sheryl Eyster, Student Life. "They deserve a lot of the credit."

**Professional Distinctions Are Employment Tool**

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The Career Center provides counseling on which distinction a student should choose, based on the student's major and professional aspirations.

"The program is a way of bridging from the academic environment to the professional environment," says program director Lowell Bowditch, Classics.

Distinctions generally are composed of an interdisciplinary array of courses. The distinction's coursework, which is the first part of the four-part program, includes a minimum of 16 upper-division credits with a grade of B- or better. The second step is completion of a four-credit internship or participatory learning experience (PLE) during the student's junior or senior year.

The third step is completion of four workshops that focus on employment skills. The work-

shops, called EDGE workshops for "Employment Development Guided Experiences," are presented by employers. The final step in the program is completion of a unique web-based professional portfolio designed to facilitate the student's efforts to write an effective resume.

"We're excited about this program because it potentially links courses that already exist at the U of O with new applications," says Larry Smith, Career Center director.

In fact, not one course was added for the purpose of satisfying the coursework of the distinctions program. Instead, Smith says, the program makes use of existing courses and encourages students to "take what they know is inherently invaluable about a liberal arts education and think about it in a new way."

Anna Brinkman is a student reporter for *Inside Oregon*.

Last Call for *DuckCall*; *DuckWeb* to Take Over

By Dave Goldberg

On Feb. 14, the University of Oregon's telephone registration service, better known as DuckCall, will be retired from service. Students registering for spring term will now have to do so on-line, through their DuckWeb account.

"DuckCall has served us well," says University Registrar Herbert Chereck, "but now it's time to move on."

Since the introduction of DuckWeb in Winter Term 2000, people have been able to access their university records via the computer, whether at home or on campus. As more people turned to the Internet for registration, DuckCall has experienced a decline in usage.

For example, of the 223,845 transactions that occurred during registration this last

Winter Term, only three percent took place through DuckCall. And of that three percent, half were during the first three days of priority registration.



"It suggests that the few people who still use DuckCall are those who started at the university before the introduction of DuckWeb," says Chereck.

Chereck explains that with more people opting for DuckWeb, the cost of maintain-

ing, and upgrading DuckCall could no longer be justified.

DuckCall certainly served its purpose. Before its introduction in 1992, students would throng McArthur Court over the course of two days in order to register for classes.

"It was so dehumanizing," recalled Chereck. "The Arts and Sciences tables were on the floor, foreign languages in the halls. There were lines of students all the way down University Street!"

So while DuckCall clearly provided a more efficient way for students and faculty to manage course enrollments for its time, the movement to a web-based system is simply "the next step," Chereck says.

Dave Goldberg is an *Inside Oregon* student reporter.

# Forell To Direct Wayne Morse Center

By Eliza Schmidkunz

Caroline Forell has been named interim director of the Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics, an independent center housed at the UO School of Law. Forell, a longtime law professor and UO faculty leader, is best known for her groundbreaking book, *A Law of Her Own*, in which she and co-author Donna Matthews advocate for a "reasonable woman" standard in legal cases involving rape, domestic violence and sexual harassment.

UO Provost John Moseley appointed Forell to take the place of founding director Margaret Hallock, who recently joined Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski's senior policy team. The

Wayne Morse Center sponsors research, teaching and public events in law and politics as a living memorial to Oregon's late senator and former UO law school dean. Its scope was expanded in 2000, thanks to a \$3 million bequest from Morse's friend, Ed Conklin.

The new director will serve an indefinite term of six to 18 months.

An admirer of Morse, Forell has been a member of the center's advisory board for seven years. She particularly remembers the senator for his early opposition to the Vietnam War.

"I view as courageous—even heroic—the fact that a politician was not afraid to take an unpopular stand when it put him at such political risk. He had the common touch. Morse was a man of the people and I admire him greatly," she says.

Forell began her career at the law school as assistant dean for student affairs in 1979. She went on to serve on the University Senate and was a member of a key committee that revitalized faculty governance at the UO in 1994-95. She chaired the



CAROLINE FORELL

Faculty Advisory Council in 2000-01.

"In addition to being a superb teacher, Caroline is highly regarded as a UO faculty leader," says Law Dean Laird Kirkpatrick. "I am delighted at her appointment."

The Wayne Morse Center is planning its next two-year program around the theme of "The Changing Geopolitical Order: Implications for Peace and Stability."

"There certainly is no more important theme," Forell says. "The world is at a critical juncture for issues of peace and stability."

Forell's goals for her time in office include strengthening the connection between the UO campus, the community and the law school through the Wayne Morse Center.

"This cross-pollination is exciting," she says. "Next year's interdisciplinary theme was the brainchild of Alec Murphy, a UO professor who is both a geographer and a lawyer."

Her tasks include recruiting Wayne Morse Professors—visiting scholars—from the ranks of distinguished academics and new advisory board members from Oregon legal practitioners and the law faculty. She also will pursue a cooperative program with law faculty and students who are coordinating the law school's many public interest and public service offerings.

Forell particularly looks forward to selecting next year's six Wayne Morse fellows from the law school student body. The coveted scholarships are worth \$6,000 to each student.

"We look for a balance between activism and stellar academic background," Forell says. "Our fellows are those we expect to continue to do public interest work after graduation."

"We're looking for a future Wayne Morse!" she adds.

Eliza Schmidkunz is assistant director of communications at the UO School of Law.

## Aoki, Nelson Are Morse Scholars

Keith Aoki, Law, and Lise Nelson, Geography, have been chosen as 2003-2004 resident scholars at the Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics. Each will receive \$10,000 to conduct research or undertake other professional activities in concert with the center's current theme, "The Changing Geopolitical Order: Implications for Peace and Stability."

Aoki will create a project that focuses on the effects of recent changes in agricultural technology as well as in legal regimes such as the WTO and their impact on global food supply patterns.



KEITH AOKI

Aoki, who has specialized in copyright and cyber law during his nine-year stint at the university, will present "Weeds, Seeds and Deeds" in the form of a book and a Morse Center symposium at the end of 2004.

"Because the security of the food supply has been and continues to be foundational to any regime of domestic and international stability, I believe this project has strong implications for contemporary geopolitics," he says.

Nelson will complete a book and organize a symposium about the daily lives of Mexican indigenous women, local political practices and their interrelationship with the changing landscapes of globalization.



LISE NELSON

"The book explores the social and economic implications of globalization," Nelson says. "It provides a fine-grained portrait of how place, ethnicity and gender can become politicized during an era of rapid globalization and shifting relations between state and society."

The book, *Women Defending the Plaza: Gender, Citizenship and the Politics of Place*, will segue into a winter 2004 symposium at the Morse Center that brings together scholars from disciplines such as geography, anthropology and law.

## PEOPLE

**Bruce Barnes** and **William Kantor**, both Mathematics, have been given the title of professor emeritus on their retirement after 37 and 32 years of service, respectively, during which they demonstrated excellence not only in the classroom but also as published scholars.

### IN PRINT/ON DISPLAY

**Joe R. Blakely**, formerly Public Safety, is the author of *The Bellfountain Giant Killers* (Bear Creek Press). He will sign and sell copies of the 64-page story of "a small Oregon high school basketball team and its miraculous championship season," from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Feb. 10 at the EMU.

### IN MEMORIAM

**LeRoy H. Klemm**, Chemistry, died Jan. 21 of cancer in Eugene. A *summa cum laude* graduate of the University of Illinois, Klemm, 83, earned master's and doctoral degrees in chemistry from the University of Michigan. Following a postdoctoral fellowship at Ohio State and teaching stints at Harvard and Indiana, Klemm came to Eugene in 1952, celebrating his 50th anniversary as a UO faculty member on Sept. 26, 2002. Instrumental in establishing the UO undergraduate research program in organic chemistry, he taught, supervised and trained students and was the author of more than 200 scholarly papers, three dozen of those coming after his retirement in 1990. Twice assistant dean of Arts and Sciences and once associate dean of the Graduate School, Klemm was an elected fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, received a Guggenheim fellowship among other honors, and was a member of the editorial advisory board of the *Journal of Heterocyclic Chemistry*. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. March 8 in the Knight Library Browsing Room. Memorial contributions may be made to the LeRoy H. Klemm Seminar and Undergraduate Research Fund in Chemistry, to the Nature Conservancy, to the Sierra Club, to the Obsidians or to the Oregon Health & Science University.

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Editor in Chief: **John R. Crosiar**

Reporters: **Anna Brinkman, Dave Goldberg, Julie Lauderbaugh**

Published by Internal Communications, Room 106, Johnson Hall, 1098 E. 13th Ave.

Mailing address: *Inside Oregon*, Internal Communications, 1281 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1281

Telephone (541) 346-3135; FAX (541) 346-3117

E-Mail [inside@uoregon.edu](mailto:inside@uoregon.edu)

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## IN BRIEF

### Johnson Award Selection Underway

Nominations for the Charles E. Johnson Memorial Award will be accepted through **March 3** in the President's Office. The award honors the pursuit of learning, open exchange of ideas and value of reason in resolving conflict advocated by professor and acting UO president Charles E. Johnson. The award will be presented at the June 2003 Commencement to a faculty member who has exemplified commitment to the same principles affirmed by the life and career of Johnson.

### Honors College Proposals Sought

Tenure-related faculty members interested in teaching Clark Honors College colloquia can turn in course proposals through **March 14**. Each colloquium will satisfy upper division breadth requirements in humanities, social sciences or natural sciences. Courses will be taught as part of a faculty member's regular teaching load and his or her department will receive \$6,000 plus OPE. Proposal forms are available on line at [honors.uoregon.edu/faculty/forms/course\\_proposal.pdf](mailto:honors.uoregon.edu/faculty/forms/course_proposal.pdf). Submit proposals to David Frank, Honors College director.

### Committee Seeks Westling Nominees

Nominations for the Wayne T. Westling Award for University Leadership and Service will be accepted in the President's Office until **March 21**. The inaugural award, to be made annually, will be presented in May by the University Senate to a faculty or staff member for outstanding participation on university committees and inspired commitment to the principles of faculty governance. Nominations should include a biographical sketch detailing the nominee's UO leadership contributions.

### Food Drive Seeks 32+ Tons to Feed Hungry

The 2003 Governor's State Employees Food Drive is underway through Feb. 28. This year's goal is 65,000 pounds—all of which will go to FOOD for Lane County.

In keeping with this year's theme—"UO Can Do It!"—each week of the drive features a particular food category. For example, beans/vegetables are in the spotlight Feb. 10–14. Desired items include chili with meat, canned corn, refried beans and baked beans. Look for FOOD for Lane County collection barrels in departments around campus.

Cash donations are especially valuable because \$1 buys six pounds of food. One-time or monthly payroll deductions are another option. See your department's food drive coordinator to contribute.

For more information, contact Kim Mangun, 6-5313; Karen Scheeland, 6-5021; or Nita Nickell, 6-6036.

### Committee Plans Survey of Fixed-Term, Instructional Faculty

The University Standing Committee on the Status of Non-Tenure-Track Instructional Faculty (NTTIF) plans to conduct a web-based survey of fixed-term, instructional faculty in mid-February. Those faculty members should receive a letter announcing the survey soon, followed by an e-mail that gives instructions for completing it. Committee co-chair Jim Long, Chemistry, says that great care has been put into making sure that the 15–20 minute survey is completely confidential. A high rate of participation is very important. Information related to the committee, as well as the survey, will be posted at [darkwing.uoregon.edu/~uosenate/dircom/NTTIF.html](mailto:darkwing.uoregon.edu/~uosenate/dircom/NTTIF.html).



### Public Safety is Cleaning Up the University

A new marshal is in town and she's set on cleaning up Dodge.

Well, it isn't actually a marshal but rather a sweeper, and it isn't really Dodge but rather the UO parking lots. But cleaning up is right on the money.

The new guy in town is the Applied Sweeper 424HS, better known as "The Green Machine," a sleek, green ride-on-or-walk-behind sweeper recently purchased by Public Safety to help deal with the omnipresent problem of trash, broken bottles and litter in the university's parking lots.

The quiet (68.1 decibel), pedestrian-friendly sweeper can operate safely around students, faculty, staff and visitors while collecting all manner of litter and refuse in campus parking lots. Flashing warning lights and an audible voice recording warning folks of its approach are perfect for congested areas.

In ride-on mode, the removable cab keeps the operator pro-

tected from the weather during Oregon's rains. The cab comes with a recycling chamber in back with slots for whole cans and bottles that may turn up in the course of a day's work.

The trash it does sweep up—broken glass, paper, Styrofoam cups, cigarette packages and such—is gathered with two rotating brushes in front, pulled through a tough alloy impeller fan and compacted to something the size and consistency of rock salt. Spray jets of water at both brushes and in the collection bag help ensure that dust is kept to a minimum.

"Customer service can be greatly improved with this new member of the DPS team," says Rand Stamm, DPS parking and transportation manager. "The 'Green Machine' provides the ability to address parking lot trash and litter faster and more thoroughly than ever before."

For more information, contact Stamm, 6-5444.

### East Campus Child Care Center Advances

Bids were opened Jan. 30 for the new East Campus Child Care Center. Groundbreaking on the 1685 Moss St. site is expected during February.

The new center, housing programs currently in "temporary" facilities at East 15th and Moss and in the EMU, is

projected to open in January 2004. Services for children under one year old and expanded after-school programs will begin in summer 2004.

"We're absolutely thrilled we have a permanent space now," says Dennis Reynolds, EMU child care center coordinator.