

Inside Oregon

FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON COMMUNITY

December 10, 2007

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[Full story »](#)

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[Full story »](#)

Artist's work reflects 'visual cacophany'



Michael Salter's eye catches most everything. And like a prism, his work reflects his obsessive observations. The UO art professor finds inspiration in strip malls, fast food and even Styrofoam. Lately in fact, it's the gigantic robot sculptures he creates from Styrofoam packing that have been

garnering attention across the nation.

[Full story »](#)

Historic preservationist chronicles Oregon Coast life-saving stations and lighthouses



Heroes of the sea are the subject of the new book "Lighthouses and Life-Saving on the Oregon Coast" by UO alum and adjunct instructor David Pinyerd. His book is part

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[Full story »](#)

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[Full story »](#)

Pure Intimates wins UO Venture Quest business plan competition

Pure Intimates, an apparel company that celebrates femininity, natural beauty and a healthy lifestyle won the \$1,500 first place award at the Venture Quest MBA business plan competition held Friday, Nov. 30, at the University of Oregon.

[Full story »](#)

Changing face of wildfire detailed by Gavin



Climate change and the amount and type of vegetation in a forest can influence wildfire, but no single factor is enough to explain both past fluctuations and the

current increase in frequency and magnitude of wildfire, said University of Oregon geography professor Dan Gavin, the lead author of a review on the subject's literature in the November issue of *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*.

[Full story »](#)

Alumni Association rides wave of emotion with football team



For the past six weeks, it has been a roller coaster of a ride for the Ducks football team. The highs

led to visions of a national championship, but the reality is a respectable fourth-place Pac-10 finish -- enough to earn the Ducks a trip to the Brut Sun Bowl in El Paso. For the University of Oregon Alumni Association, the road to this conclusion was filled with anticipation, anxiety and fluctuating work flow.

[Full story »](#)

UO tops rival in annual blood drive



For the first time since the initial year of competition in 2002, the Ducks won the Civil War Blood Drive. This year, a record 7,230 people participated during the two-week statewide blood drive, making it the most successful in the six-year history of the campaign.

[Full story »](#)

Solstice celebration at UO museum brings together many traditions

The University of Oregon's Museum of Natural and Cultural History will celebrate the Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year, Friday, Dec. 14.

[Full story »](#)

This issue the last of 2007

This is the final issue of 2007. Inside Oregon will resume publication on Jan. 7, with a submission deadline of noon Jan. 3. Visit: <http://duckhenge.uoregon.edu/io/sched> for a complete publication schedule. Happy new year. -- The Office of Public and Media Relations

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"The Fund for Faculty Excellence enables the University of Oregon to retain, reward and support our faculty members on the cutting edge of interdisciplinary research and ensure students benefit from outstanding educators and mentors," said Senior Vice President and Provost Linda Brady. "The ability to recognize the contributions of these individuals strengthens our overall academic quality."

Established in 2006 by an anonymous gift to

Campaign Oregon: Transforming Lives, the second year of the awards program honors a new group of faculty and unveils the previously-anonymous donor. The program to recognize and retain key faculty was established by gifts totaling \$10.4 million from Lorry I. Lokey.

Lokey, the founder of Business Wire, the world's leading international news release wire service, has donated a total of \$132 million to the UO in the past four years. Lokey supported the Fund for Faculty Excellence program as an important element of the university's academic priorities.

"Lorry Lokey's vision and generosity that underpin the Fund for Faculty Excellence allow us to recognize and reward faculty members who are truly outstanding in the distinguished research and teaching that are hallmarks of this university. These faculty are among our very best and we are so pleased to be able to honor them in this way," said UO President Dave Frohnmayer.

Twelve of the 20 recipients are from the College of Arts and Sciences: Bruce A. Bowerman, biology; Jeffrey A. Cina, chemistry; Victoria J. DeRose, chemistry; Andre Djiffack, French; John R. Halliwill, human physiology; John T. Lysaker, philosophy; Ronald B. Mitchell, political science; Madonna L. Moss, anthropology; Craig Parsons, political science; Qi-Man Shao, mathematics; Stephen J. Shoemaker, religious studies; and Joseph W. Thornton, biology.

Three recipients are from the School of Architecture and Allied Arts: Renee A. Irvin, planning, public policy and management; Marc Schlossberg, planning, public policy and management; and Andrew P. Schulz, art history.

Other recipients are Lauren J. Kessler, journalism and communication from the School of Journalism

and Communication; Daniel B. Rosenberg, history, from the Robert D. Clark Honors College; Stephen W. Owen, music, from the School of Music and Dance; Robert L. Tsai, law, from the School of Law; and Cynthia M. Anderson, school psychology, from the College of Education.

Approximately 50 candidates for the awards were nominated by department heads, deans and the director of the Robert D. Clark Honors College. The individuals were selected by the provost based on recommendations by a committee of distinguished faculty members, each holding a named chair or recipient of another significant honor for outstanding scholarship, research and teaching.

Members of the committee were:

Rob Horner, selection committee chair and alumni-Philip H. Knight Professor of Special Education, College of Education; Kathy Cashman, College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor of Sciences; Evlyn Gould, College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor of Humanities; Mary Wood, Philip H. Knight Professor of Law, School of Law; and Kyu Ho Youm, Marshall First Amendment Chair, School of Journalism and Communication.

Research support and salary supplements range from \$3,000 to \$14,000 this year. The supplements are for five years and are renewable.

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Recipient Bios: University of Oregon Fund for Faculty Excellence Awards Academic Year 2007-08

Cynthia M. Anderson, Associate Professor of School Psychology

Cynthia Anderson is widely considered one of the top young scholars in the fields of applied behavior analysis and positive behavior support in schools. Her scholarship focuses on effective, efficient, and practical ways that schools can

implement system-wide discipline programs to foster learning among all students while at the same time addressing the needs of those students who require accommodations or special support. Anderson is the co-director of the UO School Psychology program in the College of Education.

Bruce A. Bowerman, Professor of Biology

Bruce Bowerman's research on the mechanisms that govern the development of a single cell into a multicellular organism is considered some of the best work performed in this field. His papers have been published in the best journals in the field, including Nature and Science, and he is a much sought-after speaker at national and international conferences. At the same time, he is an excellent teacher who has developed and taught courses across the entire spectrum of the biology department's offerings, from the 100-level to specialized graduate courses. Bowerman also serves as Director of the Institute of Molecular Biology.

Jeffrey A. Cina, Professor of Chemistry

Jeffrey Cina is an innovator in the theoretical, quantum mechanical analysis of fast chemical processes ("wavepacket interferometry"). With an excellent record of publication in theoretical physical chemistry research on dynamical processes in molecules, Cina was honored with a Guggenheim award in 2003. He is consistently identified as one of the top teachers in the department of chemistry. Cina has served as director of the Oregon Center for Optics.

Victoria J. DeRose, Professor of Chemistry

Victoria DeRose is an inorganic spectroscopist who investigates chemical activity and structure in nucleic acids and proteins, with an emphasis on metal interactions. Her work is innovative in its interdisciplinary effort to use tools of biological and bioinorganic chemistry and spectroscopic methods to examine biological and chemical processes that are extremely difficult to study with conventional methods. Her research promises far-reaching impact on our understanding of fundamental biological and chemical systems. She is extending this strategy to the investigation of the interactions of metal-based therapeutics, such as the anticancer compound cisplatin, with structured RNAs. Her research excellence extends into her teaching with a record of mentoring of undergraduate and graduate students at UO that is exemplary.

André Djiffack, Associate Professor of French

André Djiffack is an internationally-recognized specialist in sub-Saharan Francophone literature. He is an expert on Mongo Beti, one of the most prominent authors in Francophone literature of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. His critical work on Mongo Beti was well known and after the author's death, Djiffack has undertaken the preparation of a three-volume edition on this seminal literary figure: "Mongo Beti: Le Rebelle" (Paris: Gallimard). Djiffack has proven to be an outstanding teacher and plays a key role in the French program in Francophone literature.

John R. Halliwill, Associate Professor of Human Physiology

John R. Halliwill investigates how the human cardiovascular and respiratory systems adapt and respond to exercise and other stresses encountered during everyday life. This research has two major focus areas: why blood pressure is lower after exercise (a phenomenon known as postexercise hypotension), and what hormonal, neural, or metabolic factors are responsible for changes in blood flow in various regions of the body during exposure to environmental and physical stresses, such as altitude (hypoxic stress) or changes in body position (gravitational stress). Both of these focus areas are related to issues of human health and disease. He co-directs the Exercise and Environmental Physiology Labs. His receipt of a National Young Investigator Award for Environmental and Exercise Physiology given by the American Physiological Society underscores the high quality of his work.

Renee A. Irvin, Associate Professor of Planning, Public Policy and Management

Renee Irvin's research specialization is in the area of economics of not-for-profit enterprise, wealth, and philanthropy as well as regulation and management of the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors. She directs the Graduate Certificate in Not-for-Profit Management. Irvin was awarded "Outstanding Teacher of the Year" in 2003 by the department of planning, public policy and management undergraduate and graduate students. In 2005, she developed a program, funded by Pacific Continental Bank, that enables students to gain valuable experience on boards and with nonprofit organizations.

Lauren J. Kessler, Professor of Journalism and Communication

Lauren Kessler is nationally known and respected in both the academic and professional writing communities. She is the author of a leading textbook on grammar and is the creator and director of the only creative nonfiction program located in a journalism school in the country. She is the author of 11 books, including five works of narrative nonfiction. Her most recent book, "Dancing with Rose," was published in 2007 to strong reviews. "When Words Collide," a grammar and style guide for media writers co-authored with Duncan McDonald, is now in its seventh edition and is a standard reference work for professional writers and journalism students.

John T. Lysaker, Associate Professor of Philosophy

John Lysaker is an outstanding scholar whose work ranges across several subfields of philosophy, including aesthetics, social and political philosophy, philosophical psychology, and both Continental and American philosophy. His second book, "Emerson and Self-Culture," will be released in February 2008. His third book, "Schizophrenia and the Fate of Self," co-authored with a clinical psychologist is under contract with Oxford University Press. Lysaker is an outstanding teacher offering courses on many of the most influential thinkers of Europe and America: Husserl, Heidegger, Derrida, Foucault, Adorno, Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche, Emerson, the classical pragmatists and contemporary thinkers such as Stanley Cavell and Richard Rorty. He is completing a three-year term on the executive committee of the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy and has served on a number of other committees in the American Philosophical Association and the Society for the Study of Existentialism and Phenomenology.

Ronald B. Mitchell, Professor of Political Science

Ronald Mitchell is an accomplished political scientist who specializes in international relations and environmental politics. His current research is supported by two National Science Foundation grants – "Fostering Cross-Disciplinary Relationships and Early-Career Development to Advance Interdisciplinary Research on Climate Change and Impacts" and "Analysis of the Effects of Environmental Treaties." He has published two books and numerous articles on environmental politics and treaty compliance. Mitchell is a core faculty member in the Environmental Studies Program and is very active in national and international advisory boards and scientific committees.

Madonna L. Moss, Professor of Anthropology

Madonna Moss has established an international profile based on her expertise in Northwest Coast archaeology encompassing First Nations of Canada and the U.S. In addition to standard archaeological methods, she brings expertise in zooarchaeological, cultural resource management and ethnohistorical methods to her research and develops projects that address the needs of local Native communities, such as her current work on a 4000-year-old Tlingit village. In addition, her work on marine mammals and seabirds has relevance to biologists and wildlife managers because of its significance for understanding long-term trends in wildlife abundance and behavior, and the sustainability of resource use. Moss has won the Thomas F. Herman Award for Distinguished Teaching.

Stephen W. Owen, Professor of Music

Stephen Owen is a nationally known composer, arranger, soloist, clinician and educator. His compositions are performed nationally and have received performances at the International Association of Jazz Educators Conference each year since 1986. Owen is a highly respected educator and a 1991 recipient of the Ersted Award, the University of Oregon's top faculty award for distinguished teaching. Owen has conducted all-state and regional honor groups in eight states and he has given solo performances across the nation establishing him as a national leader in jazz education.

Craig Parsons, Associate Professor of Political Science

Craig Parsons works in the general area of comparative politics with particular focus on in the ideas and institutions that have come together to construct today's Europe. His first book, "A Certain Idea of Europe" (Cornell University Press, 2003), focused on the political principles that won out in the construction of the European Union. He has also been involved in projects on European Union politics, immigration in Europe, and "constructivist" political economy. His current research looks further back in history to trace ideas about democracy in Britain, France, and Germany in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Daniel B. Rosenberg, Associate Professor of History in the Robert D. Clark Honors College

An intellectual and cultural historian, Daniel Rosenberg focuses on problems of time and representation in eighteenth-century Europe. He has written extensively

on the legacies of the Enlightenment in nineteenth and twentieth-century art, philosophy, and literature. His current project on the history of the timeline is titled *The Graphic Invention of Modern Time*. He spent 2006-07 as a visiting fellow in the Princeton University Council of the Humanities. Rosenberg is an exemplary teacher and is a member of the American Historical Association, Modern Language Association, American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Western Society for French History and the Portland Center for Cultural Studies.

Marc Schlossberg, Associate Professor of Planning, Public Policy and Management

Marc Schlossberg has been a pioneer in fostering interdisciplinary projects that integrate sustainability, city design and social change. For the last two years he has led the UO's involvement in a four campus, five-year, \$30 million national transportation research center called OTREC – the Oregon Transportation Research and Education Consortium. He has secured two UO Williams Council grants to build interdisciplinary campus capacity for students to engage in community-based service learning and mapping work. Schlossberg was selected as one of 25 NextGen Scholars of Sustainable Transport in Europe and Links and Liaisons.

Andrew P. Schulz, Associate Professor of Art History

Andrew Schulz specializes in 18th- and 19th-century European art, the art of Spain from El Greco to Picasso, and the history of printmaking. Much of his published work has focused on Francisco Goya (1746-1828), culminating with a book-length study on Goya's seminal print series, *Los Caprichos*. His continuing research on Goya addresses the artist's legacy in the 19th and 20th centuries. In addition, Schulz is currently investigating the use of visual culture to construct Spanish imperial and national identity in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

Qi-Man Shao, Professor of Mathematics

Qi-Man Shao works in the area of probability and statistics. He has published more than 130 scholarly articles on a variety of complex topics in probability and statistics including self-normalized limit theory, Monte Carlo studies, bootstrap, general M-estimate, normal approximation, strong approximation, small deviation

and Gaussian processes. He also is an editor of several key statistics journals including *The Annals of Statistics*.

Stephen J. Shoemaker, Associate Professor of Religious Studies

Stephen Shoemaker is a nationally and internationally recognized scholar of Early Christian Studies. Shoemaker's primary interests lie in the ancient and early medieval Christian traditions, and more specifically in early Byzantine and Near Eastern Christianity. His research focuses on early devotion to the Virgin Mary, Christian apocryphal literature, and the relations between Near Eastern Christianity and formative Islam. In 2006 he received a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, an Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Fellowship, an American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship and a Dumbarton Oaks Fellowship in Byzantine Studies.

Joseph W. Thornton, Associate Professor of Biology

Joseph Thornton is internationally recognized for his work in evolutionary biology. Employing a synthesis of evolutionary and phylogenetic techniques with functional molecular biology, he seeks to understand the evolutionary dynamics that have determined how genes and the proteins they code for got their highly specialized and well-optimized functions. He is one of this year's recipients of the White House Presidential Awards for Early Career Scientists and Engineers, marking him as one of the very best young scientists in the country. Thornton is highly respected also for the contributions he makes to teaching, in part through his commitment to how scientific knowledge can be used to support policies that protect both natural systems and democratic principles.

Robert L. Tsai, Associate Professor of Law

Robert Tsai is a constitutional law scholar. He is finishing a book on the First Amendment titled "Eloquence and Reason: Cultivating Freedom of Expression" (Yale University Press, forthcoming October 2008). He is also working on a project that investigates presidential strategies on rights and theorizes the social conditions under which executive endorsement of rights is plausible. Tsai is known as a challenging and superb teacher, and in 2007 the law faculty presented him with the Orlando J. Hollis Teaching Award, the law school's highest teaching honor.

PMR Affiliations

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Language builds bridges between West & East



The Yamada Language Center's Fall 2007 newsletter features a cover story about Mohamed Jemmali, a new Arabic instructor in the World Language Academy. Jemmali, from Tunisia, says learning a new language should be fun, but much like learning to play a musical instrument; it takes practice. Download [YLC Quarterly](#) (PDF file) and read the story.

More Oregon college students choosing to study Arabic and Chinese

'New world order stimulates new linguistic interests' is the headline on a Sunday, Nov. 25, story by The Oregonian's higher-education reporter Suzanne Pardington. She focuses on rising enrollment in Portland-area universities and mentions numbers are also up at the University of Oregon. ([Read the story](#))

At the UO: In the last decade (1997-2007), undergraduate enrollment in foreign languages has increased 14 percent. Undergraduate enrollment in Chinese is at 511 students this fall, up 27 percent from Fall 1997.

Arabic at the UO has jumped: Fall 2007 undergraduate enrollment is at 126 students, compared to 52 students just last spring -- a 142 percent increase -- leading to the addition of class sessions to meet demand.

Enrollment in Italian, Japanese and Latin also increased in the last decade.

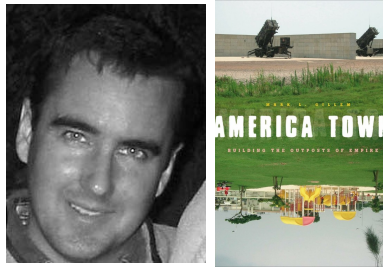
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UO sociology professor John Bellamy Foster and English professor Ben Saunders were finalists in the same category. Read the announcement detailing all seven [2007 winners](#). The awards ceremony was Dec. 2 in Portland. (Also, read the coverage in the [Register-Guard](#))

UO's Gillem releases 'America Town,' will present findings to NATO in Portugal



"America Town: *Building the Outposts of Empire*" is a new book by University of Oregon architecture professor Mark Gillem. For the book he flew over U.S. military bases in several parts of the world to detail the social and economic impact of U.S. land use abroad. [LISTEN and WATCH](#) as Gillem discusses modern military outposts as key symbols of not just American power but also consumer consumption and discrepancy in the value of land.

Gillem will address NATO on his findings on Thursday, Dec. 13, at a conference in Portugal. ([News release](#))

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"I am greatly honored to have won," Epps said. "I think the judges recognized that 'Democracy Reborn' is written for general readers, and that I tried to make it not just scholarly, but also fun to read."

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Artist's work reflects 'visual cacophony'



CLICK ON IMAGE FOR LARGER VIEW.

Michael Salter's eye catches most everything. And like a prism, his work reflects his obsessive observations. The UO art professor finds inspiration in strip malls, fast food and even Styrofoam. Lately in fact, it's the gigantic robot sculptures he creates from Styrofoam packing that have been garnering attention across the nation.

"I wish there was more care taken in designing our culture," he says, sitting in the UO studio he

shares with 600-cubic feet of Styrofoam soon to take the form of a 22-foot robot, complete with a wooden armature.

In his artist statement, Salter writes, "I am fascinated, repulsed and hypnotized by the tidal wave of imagery that our visual culture crashes down upon us everyday."

His body of work ranges from pieces created using "found" materials such as 55-gallon drums, cardboard and Styrofoam to slip-cast porcelain, kinetic sculpture and digital animation. Most, if not all of his work characterizes Salter's search for order, meaning and beauty in what he terms "a cacophony of visual noise."

His Styrofoam sculptures attempt the feat on a grand scale. Salter, who's represented in Brussels, Miami and New York, recently shipped a 12-foot Styrofoam robot to New York for his solo exhibition, "Are You Sure," set to open Jan. 10 at the Jeff Bailey Gallery. He's working on a 22-footer which will be the centerpiece of an exhibition on robots opening in April at the San Jose Museum of Art.

"Ironically, the Styrofoam pieces actually critique the very culture of which they are byproducts," Salter says.

Further illustrating the cultural irony is the complication of keeping Styrofoam -- a widely used packing material -- intact during shipping. The 12-footer he recently sent to New York had to be broken down into four pieces, each of which was shipped in a bulky wooden crate.

The entire shipment, a 12-foot Styrofoam robot, weighed little more than the crates themselves. While Salter's robot weighed next to nothing, consider that his main supplier of the used

Styrofoam, Eugene's NextStep Recycling, collected eight tons of the white stuff in a single month earlier this year, Salter says.

"The robots can be stark reminders of our consumption," Salter says. "They are stark and minimalist and at the same time reminders of cultural excess."

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Historic preservationist chronicles Oregon Coast life-saving stations and lighthouses



CLICK ON IMAGE FOR LARGER VIEW. Men and supplies both arrived to Tillamook Rock via a basket suspended from a boom, as shown in this 1928 photo. Nicknamed "Terrible Tilly," the Tillamook Rock Lighthouse was lit on Jan. 21, 1881, after 15 months of construction. In 1980, the lighthouse was bought and gutted to become the first lighthouse in the world to be turned into a columbarium, storing the ashes of the dead within its walls. (Courtesy of U. S. Coast Guard Headquarters.)

Heroes of the sea are the subject of the new book "Lighthouses and Life-Saving on the Oregon Coast" by UO alum and adjunct instructor David

Pinyerd. His book is part of the Images of America Series by Arcadia Publishing and features more than 180 historic photographs documenting the history of Oregon's lighthouses and life-saving stations.

Pinyerd's interest in the life-saving stations was piqued in 1996 while he was earning a master's degree in historic preservation, and since then he has dedicated his time to the field in hopes of bringing alive the early history of the Coast Guard in Oregon.

"My UO education is the principal reason I'm now a historic preservationist," said Pinyerd. "The historic preservation program has lots of real world opportunities for students, and since it's a small program, most any student can find something of interest that more likely than not will pay them money while they do it."

Pinyerd started in the historic preservation program back in 1993, and his master's thesis was on the architecture of the early Coast Guard in Oregon. He was staying in and working on an old Coast Guard station at the time, so he said the topic seemed appropriate.

"The thesis got me on the board of the U.S. Life-Saving Station Heritage Association, a national group devoted to the preservation of Life-Saving Service, and that led to me writing my book," said Pinyerd.

The photos used in the book are from the late 1800s and early 1900s and have never been published before now.

"I'm going to continue to do historic preservation work until the day I die. We're like archaeologists, except we work on above-ground resources," said Pinyerd. "I'll keep on writing

reports and looking at buildings until I can no longer write or look, which should be a long time."

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Pure Intimates, an apparel company that celebrates femininity, natural beauty and a healthy lifestyle won the \$1,500 first place award at the Venture Quest MBA business plan competition held Friday, Nov. 30, at the University of Oregon.

This year's Venture Quest competition featured six teams of MBA and JD/MBA students from the UO Charles H. Lundquist College of Business. Each of the six teams earned the opportunity to move forward into the Lundquist Center for Entrepreneurship's Venture Launch program, which could lead to participation in business plan competitions at the national and international levels.

Earning their way into the finals by virtue of winning the Lillis Elevator Pitch shootout, Pure Intimates was selected as champion by the three Venture Quest finalist judges. Pure Intimates capitalizes on a growing trend of sustainable apparel products in the marketplace and focuses

on the intimate apparel market utilizing fabrications such as bamboo, organic cotton and SeaCell™. Team members were Meredith McCurdy, Monica Thilges, Kim Saunders and Bradley Russell.

The second place team was Momentum, a non-profit organization that seeks to improve the effectiveness of non-profit organizations through selection and placement of qualified executive management candidates. The team members were Emily McGrath, Natasha MacDonald, Kevin Snyder and Itzel Orozco.

Rounding out the top three finishers was TakeShape, which seeks to revolutionize how athletes and athletic programs set goals and track performance progress through its patented body scanning device. TakeShape also won the Best Written Executive Summary award voted upon by entrepreneurship students at the Lundquist College of Business. Team members were Cody Stavig, Andrew Earle, Bill Sedlak and Peter Vomocil.

The Venture Quest competition is one of the flagship events of the Lundquist Center for Entrepreneurship. The competition for undergraduate majors and undergraduate minors will take place during spring term.

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Changing face of wildfire detailed by Gavin



Climate change and the amount and type of vegetation in a forest can influence wildfire, but no single factor is enough to explain both past fluctuations and the current increase in frequency and magnitude of wildfire, said University of Oregon geography professor Dan Gavin, the lead author of a review on the subject's literature in the November issue of *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*.

"Rather it is a complex combination of those factors working in concert with a variety of variables that explain and ultimately might allow us to help forest managers with predictions of fire

and its effects," said Gavin.

Paleofire research, the focus of Gavin's review, is helping to piece together not only a history of fire, but also factors that influence the amount of fire on the landscape. By analyzing charcoal in lake sediments, researchers can determine the amount of burning and when fires occurred over thousands of years. A similar analysis of ancient pollen paints a detailed picture of what types of vegetation dominated an area at a given time, while water levels and sediments from ancient lakes provide a picture of climatic conditions over thousands of years.

When data from all sources are combined, researchers can address cause and effect between fire and vegetation and how changes may have paralleled those in the climate.

"Ultimately we desire a model of wildfire that explains how these factors have interacted in the past and how they might in the future," said Gavin, who teaches "Fire in the Environment," an upper-level special topics course. "What we're seeing is that fire -- not climate -- can explain the actual boundaries for some ecosystems. For example, we may find grasslands that could support a forest, but fire prevents it. Through time we may see a threshold where grasses give way to different fuel."

Determination of such thresholds is complicated by environmental factors in specific locations, as well as a century of warming trends capping what had been a 4,000-year cooling-off period, Gavin said.

"Conventional wisdom shows that global warming should contribute to increased wildfire," Gavin said. "But mechanistic models may show that warmer, drier climates in some places may show

a decrease in fires because of reduced vegetation, essentially leaving nothing to burn and no fire," Gavin said. "While climate change has always been a factor in fires, we can't let that precedent lull us into a false sense of security. Recent climate changes have significantly outpaced those in the past."

UO geography professor Patrick Bartlein was among the eight co-authors of the review.

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Alumni Association rides wave of emotion with football team



For the past six weeks, it has been a roller coaster of a ride for the Ducks football team. The highs led to visions of a national championship, but the reality is a respectable fourth-place Pac-10 finish -- enough to earn the Ducks a trip to the Brut Sun Bowl in El Paso. For the University of Oregon Alumni Association, the road to this conclusion was filled with anticipation, anxiety and fluctuating work flow.

As the hosts of the Official Bowl Tour, the Pre-func Tailgate Party and other accompanying bowl-related events, the staff was simultaneously planning for as many as six potential bowl games, and four at any given time. At the peak of the national visibility, phones were ringing off the

hook and staff was busy answering e-mails. Even though the national championship run didn't become a reality, there is still plenty of planning going on. Now, with the Brut Sun Bowl set and a match-up set on Dec. 31, 2007 against the no. 21 University of South Florida Bulls, the staff has been able to focus on one bowl trip and one game.

"It was definitely exciting to have the opportunity to even be thinking about a national championship and all the event planning, membership opportunities, and excitement that goes along with it," said UOAA Executive Director Dan Rodriguez. "But one thing remains consistent no matter which bowl game we ever go to: this is one of the busiest times of year for our staff as we are busy creating a great experience for the Duck Alumni and fans who are going to be attending the season's bowl game."

This year's trip to the Brut Sun Bowl will mark the fourth time the Ducks have appeared in the bowl game that will be played at the home stadium of the University of Texas at El Paso. The UOAA will host the Official Pre-func Tailgate Party, the Bowl Tour and will participate in events happening in El Paso, including the Fan Fiesta which will feature each team, each university's marching bands and cheerleaders, the Duck, entertainment, a fireworks display and more on Dec. 30 in downtown El Paso.

If you or anyone you know is attending the game, be sure and register for the Official Pre-func Tailgate Party, which will begin two-and-a-half hours prior to kick-off at Glory Field, adjacent to the Sun Bowl Stadium. Similar to all other UOAA parties at regular season away games, the party will feature food, drinks, entertainment and the best pre-game activity where Duck Fans gather

prior to kick-off. Go to uoalumni.com to register.

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UO tops rival in annual blood drive



For the first time since the initial year of competition in 2002, the Ducks won the Civil War Blood Drive. This year, a record 7,230 people participated during the two-week statewide blood drive, making it the most successful in the six-year history of the campaign.

By rising to the "Rivals for Life" challenge, the fans, students and alumni of the University of Oregon and Oregon State University who donated during the drive will help to save thousands of lives with their donations. The UO won with 3,709 Duck supporters presenting to donate. The

Oregon State Beavers also came out in force, with 3,521 participants this year.

"The difference in this year's Blood Drive was definitely the staff and faculty participation," said Jennifer Casey, deputy director for alumni communications at the UOAA. "With Lane Memorial Blood Bank being able to accept appointments and an e-mail to the faculty and staff, there was a definite increase in awareness, convenience and accessibility for the faculty and staff. It feels great to win after five years, but it feels even better to know that our UO community is making a difference in thousands of lives."

The Civil War Blood Drive, put on by the American Red Cross, Lane Memorial Blood Bank, and OSU and UO alumni associations, was held from Nov. 1 to Nov. 17, across the state of Oregon. It is the largest blood drive in the Pacific Northwest. The drive boosts the community blood supply at a critical time of year, just as blood donations typically drop-off due to donors' busy holiday schedules, travel and the start of cold and flu season. With a shelf life of 42 days, the thousands of units of blood collected during this year's Civil War Blood Drive can help keep the blood supply at a safe level during the winter and holiday season. Other major supporters of the Civil War Blood Drive this year include the UO Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and the UO Student Blood Drive Association.

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Solstice celebration at UO museum brings together many traditions

The University of Oregon's Museum of Natural and Cultural History will celebrate the Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year, Friday, Dec. 14.

The Winter Solstice Celebration will take place from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the museum, 1680 E. 15th Ave. Admission is \$3 per person and \$5 for families (two adults and up to four youths). Museum members are admitted free. Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door.

The Winter Solstice, which will take place this year on Dec. 22 at 6:22 a.m., occurs when the earth is farthest from the sun.

Celebration activities include creating a winter wand to awaken sleeping plants in the springtime, making a lantern to light up the dark months, exploring the night sky through a telescope, and discovering the wonders of the universe with celestial photographer John Flinn's slide presentation, The Northern Lights -- Bridge

Between New Worlds.

Melodies by flutist Karen Stingle will entertain participants as they walk along an illuminated path to the Many Nations Longhouse where storyteller Esther Stutzman will recite Coos and Komemma Kalapuya lore. The story telling will be followed by a performance by a group of Asian fan dancers.

Museum hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays. Admission is \$3 for adults; \$2 for seniors and youths ages 17 and under and \$8 for families (two adults and up to four youths). Museum members, university faculty and staff and students are admitted free. Admission is free for the public on Wednesdays.

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This issue the last of 2007

This is the final issue of 2007. Inside Oregon will resume publication on Jan. 7, with a submission deadline of noon Jan. 3. Visit: <http://duckhenge.uoregon.edu/io/sched> for a complete publication schedule. Happy new year. -- The Office of Public and Media Relations

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