

# Inside Oregon

FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON COMMUNITY

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January 8, 2007

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[Full story »](#)

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[Full story »](#)

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Women Writing." The book offers a critical study of memory and time in the work of recent Canadian women writers from Anne Michaels to Joy Kogawa.

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international journal that focuses on advancements in research on protein molecules. Protein Society President Jeffery W. Kelly said, in a news release, that Matthews was chosen "because of his extensive experience, sound judgment and integrity."

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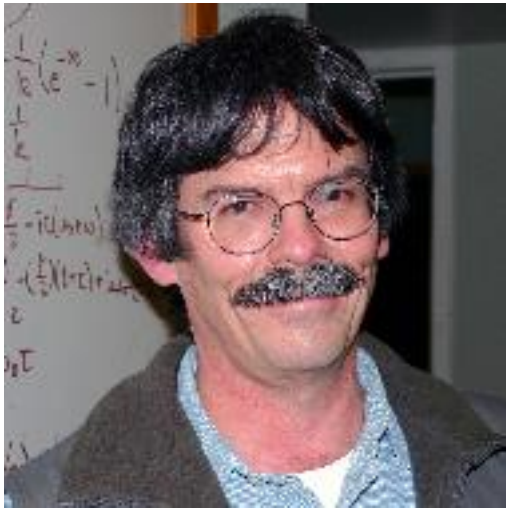
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"In my view, research and teaching are inseparable, and each stimulates the other in

positive ways," he said. "Daily contact with students, both undergraduates and graduates, is the most rewarding aspect of my job."

Such a combination of dedication is a requirement for selection as Knight Professor of Liberal Arts and Sciences, which Raymer received on Nov. 22.

Raymer joined the UO's department of physics in 1988. Since 1976, his name has appeared on more than 105 peer-reviewed journal articles. He was named a fellow of the Optical Society of America in 1990 and of the American Physical Society in 1993. He currently serves as a divisional associate editor (on laser sciences) for Physical Review Letters, a leading journal in his field.

"The study of light is one of the oldest sciences, and as we learn more about light, more new questions arise," said Raymer, who was the founding director of the Oregon Center for Optics. "My research is aimed at understanding the quantum nature of light, which refers to the fact that light behaves in some ways as if it is made up of waves and in other ways that make it appear that light is made up of particles. A deeper understanding of this behavior can lead to new ways to represent and transmit information with higher density, speed, or security."

Computers, he said, someday may use light pulses to transmit digital bits of information between chips within the computer. "A better understanding of how atoms absorb and emit light will lead to optimal use of light for this purpose. At a deeper level, we still do not fully understand what the quantum theory of nature is all about. That is, objects such as electrons and photons (particles of light) seem to behave in

surprising ways that, while well described by the mathematics of the theory, elude a clear intuitive understanding. We are carrying out experiments to probe the idea that the fundamental content of the quantum theory involves the concept of information and how it is created, stored and transmitted."

Raymer strives to lighten up his field to make it more accessible for his students. He developed a special course for non-science students called "The Physics Behind the Internet" to explore the physical basis for information technology at a level suitable for people with little or no physics background. In support of this course, he authored a textbook, "The Silicon Web: The Physics Behind the Internet," which is being prepared for distribution by the education-publishing company Addison Wesley. He has graduated 14 doctoral students, is currently working with eight others, and he regularly utilizes undergraduates in his research group. In the lower-division courses he teaches, Raymer uses extensive computer simulation and demonstrations involving physics.

Raymer earned bachelor's degrees in chemistry and physics in 1974 from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and a doctorate in chemical physics in 1979 from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Before moving to Eugene, he worked at the Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics at the University of Colorado and the National Bureau of Standards, and on faculty at the University of Rochester in New York.

His research group at the University of Oregon in 1993 reported the first instance of experimental quantum-state tomography of light. The group's paper was recognized as one of the 500 most frequently co-cited papers in all of science and

engineering during 1999 by the Science and Technology Policy Institute at the University of Sussex.

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"Dissident Women: Gender and Cultural Politics in Chiapas," (University of Texas Press, 2006) is a collection of writings by Mexican and American anthropologists and activists that explores the



personal and global implications of indigenous women's activism.

"Mexico, like the United States, fosters deep-seated and historical forms of racism against Native peoples," Stephen said. "The women featured in this book are interested in trying to move forward an agenda of collective indigenous rights as well as the rights of women. They argue that for indigenous women to have equality, they have to be considered as equals both in terms of their gender and in terms of their ethnicity."

Shannon Speed, assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Texas, Austin and R. Aída Hernández Castillo, associate professor of social anthropology at the Center of Advanced Studies in Social Anthropology in Mexico City co-edited the book with Stephen.

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An apocalyptic vision of planetary self-destruction provided the context for many late 20<sup>th</sup> century narratives. Women writers from Quebec and English Canada, including Margaret Atwood,

Madeleine Ouellette-Michalska, Madeleine Gagnon, Betsy Warland, Marie-Claire Blais, and Nicole Brossard, redefined their relationship to time and narrative in order to tell a different, perhaps more hopeful, story. Using "archaeology" as a trope and a methodology, Karen McPherson's "critical excavations" of these women's writings pose questions about loss and mourning, survival and witnessing, devastation and writing, remembering and imagining.

In "Archaeologies of an Uncertain Future," McPherson explores the memory work, alternative historiographies, and feminist aesthetics by which women writers revisit the past and reimagine the future. Grounded within critical discourses across many disciplines, McPherson's analysis engages contemporary discussions about autobiographical genres, post-modern historiographies, memoirs, and literary genealogies.

Karen S. McPherson is associate professor of French at the University of Oregon, president of the Conseil International d'Études Francophones, and author of "Incriminations: Guilty Women/Telling Stories."

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Matthews succeeded Mark Hermodson, who retired after almost 10 years in the position, effective Jan. 1. Matthews, who is a Howard

Hughes Medical Institute investigator at the University of Oregon, leads a research team working on protein folding, stability and activity. He joined the UO faculty in 1969. He served as president of the Protein Society in 1995-97. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

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