

Inside Oregon

FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON COMMUNITY

April 9, 2007

National survey ranks University of Oregon grad programs among nation's best

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Recent Gifts to Campaign Oregon: Transforming Lives



Following is a small sample of the many contributions received from private donors during

February and March to benefit University of Oregon students, faculty members, academic programs and facilities:

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The annual survey, available on newsstands April 2, ranks the College of Education's graduate program in special education as third best in the country. Overall, the College of Education is ranked no. 12, up from no. 15 a year ago, placing it in the top five percent of all ranked schools.

The School of Law's program in conflict and dispute resolution has moved into the top ten conflict resolution programs in the country. In addition, the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Program is again listed in the top 10. The law school, overall, is ranked in the top 100 among both public and private institutions.

The College of Arts and Sciences' clinical psychology program is listed in the top 20 in the

U.S., positioning it among the top 10 percent of programs in the nation. Additionally, the UO's psychology program is ranked among the top 15 percent in the nation while the university's biological sciences program is listed among the top 50 in the country.

"We are pleased to note the strong showing of University of Oregon graduate programs in the latest U.S. News and World Report Graduate School rankings," said Linda Brady, provost and senior vice president. "While rankings are not the only measure of institutional and program excellence, they demonstrate how our colleagues across the country view the quality of graduate education at the University of Oregon."

Rankings in the U.S. News & World Report's 2008 edition of America's Best Graduate Schools are based on student selectivity, placement success, faculty resources and separate measures of institutional reputation.

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The Cameron Baird Foundation—\$50,000 to the Baird Family Scholarship in the School of Architecture and Allied Arts.

Blixseth Group, Inc.—\$50,000 to the Pioneer Award Presidential Scholarships.

Estate of Mary Lou Baer—\$350,853 for student scholarships.

Gretchen and Walt Barger—\$20,000 to UO Libraries.

Blue Star Gas Co.—\$30,000 to the New Venture Championship in the Lundquist College of

Business.

Lisa and Tim Clevenger—\$25,000 for the UO Alumni Center.

Estate of Henry Collier—\$110,161 to the Collier Law Scholarship.

Robert DeArmond—Funds to purchase a Steinway concert grand piano in honor of his wife, Leona, for the Beall Concert Hall in the School of Music and Dance.

The Dimmer Family Foundation—\$30,000 to the New Venture Championship in the Lundquist College of Business.

Cheryl and Allyn Ford—\$500,000 for educational outreach in the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art.

Colleen and William Gardner—\$12,500 to the College of Arts and Sciences and \$12,500 to the Lundquist College of Business.

Kelly Kilkenny Hale—\$25,000 to the UO Libraries technology fund.

John Hartley—\$50,000 to the M.B.A. scholarship fund in the Lundquist College of Business.

Monte L. Johnson—\$50,000 for the Securities Analysis Center in the Lundquist College of Business.

Neil Kelly, Inc.—\$50,000 for the Sustainable Supply Chain Management Center in the Lundquist College of Business.

Donna and John Luger—\$100,000 to the Warsaw Sports Marketing Center Lundquist College of Business. in the

J.P. Lynch—\$45,000 to the Pat Lynch scholarship endowment in the Lundquist College of Business.

Bernard Osher Foundation—\$50,000 to the Osher Reentry Scholarship Fund.

Shirley and James Rippey—Significant gift to the Securities Analysis Center in the Lundquist College of Business.

Richard Seow—\$50,000 for international student scholarships.

Estate of Thomas Wildish—\$500,000 to the Oregon Bach Festival and \$500,000 to the Lundquist College of Business.

Juan Young Trust—\$12,000 for student scholarships and \$20,000 to the Oregon Young Scholars Program.

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University of Oregon physicist Raghuveer Parthasarathy was among 118 researchers at 52 universities named to receive a 2007 Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship. The highly competitive award provides \$45,000 over two years to each winner.

The Sloan Foundation, based in New York, established the fellowships in 1955 "to stimulate fundamental research by early career scientists and scholars of outstanding promise." Parthasarathy joined the UO faculty last summer.

He was one of 23 young physics professors to be honored with the award. The fellowships also fund research in chemistry, math, neuroscience, computer science, molecular biology and economics.

Parthasarathy, who earned his doctorate in physics from the University of Chicago in 2002, said he primarily will use the Sloan funds to support the students who work in his lab, where they use a diverse range of chemical, physical and optical techniques to understand membranes that enclose biological cells.

"These bio-membranes form the boundaries of all cells and all their internal organelles, and they all share a similar molecular architecture," he said.

"We explore the physical properties of membranes, investigating things like mechanical rigidity, mobility of membrane molecules, and electric interactions between charged components, all of which are important to a wide range of natural processes. We also use biomembranes as tools to create new non-biological materials, such as coating small particles with membranes and using membrane-to-membrane interactions to drive the formation of otherwise structurally complex materials."

Parthasarathy's name already has appeared on 16 published research papers. Before moving to Oregon, he worked as a postdoctoral researcher in the chemistry department of the University of California, Berkeley.

Sloan fellows are chosen from nominations of department heads or other senior researchers and must be nominated while in a tenure-track position within six years of their doctoral degree.

Link: <http://physics.uoregon.edu/~raghu/index>.

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Jurassic crocodile unearthed in eastern Oregon is world news



An ancient sea-going crocodile has surfaced from the rocks of Crook County, Oregon. Now, news of the find is surfacing from Bend to Beijing.

The discovery, made last month by the North American Research Group (NARG), whose members were digging for Jurassic-age mollusks known as ammonites, is another confirmation that the Blue Mountains consist of rocks that traveled from somewhere in the Far East, says retired University of Oregon geologist William Orr, who was called in to examine the find for the state.

The remains, which included about 50 percent of

a six-to-eight-foot reptile, featured long, needlepoint teeth. The find was embedded in Jurassic rock on private property in the Snowshoe Formation of the Izee Terrane south of Dayville, Ore. Rocks containing the fossils were slowly cut out of the rock, after NARG members realized that the linear appearance of the fossils in the region's hard rocks suggested that a whole creature had been found, Orr said.

Here's a sampling of news media around the world that ran the story:

USA Today, National Geographic Online, The Oregonian, Xinhua News Agency (China), Fox News, Bend Weekly, Live Science, Daily India, and the journal Science.

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Ancient Crocodile



Artist's rendering of a full, intact thalattosuchia, a fish-like crocodile from the Jurassic Period. Credit: By Jon Hughes (non-commercial use only)



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Bones from an ancient crocodile in rock chiseled out of the Blue Mountains in northeast Oregon. At right is a humerus bone measuring 8.5 inches, or 21 centimeters, in length. To the left are rib bones. Photo by Jim Barlow

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