
Inside Oregon

FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON COMMUNITY

June 11, 2007

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[Full story »](#)

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Workers recently put the finishing touches on a green, wooden vertical marker, or gnomon, which rises 35 feet above the quad on the west side of

the University of Oregon campus. The obelisk is a model of a proposed permanent structure, one that might be placed in one of several locations around campus and only after private funds are raised for its completion.

The shadow of the obelisk tracks seasons, months, days and hours.

For now, the model time piece will remain between Lillis and the Knight Library at least through the winter solstice, allowing project organizers to track a full solar cycle, from the summer solstice, June 21 until the winter solstice, Dec 22. The solstices mark the longest and shortest days of the year, so the full range of variations may be observed and recorded.

Crews with UO facilities services have constructed, painted and placed the obelisk following specifications developed by a group of scholars from architecture, physics, history, classics, astronomy and from the UO Library.



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Moffitt's speech, "In Praise of Surprises: Lessons from Conflict Resolution," will deal with the importance of keeping an open mind when dealing with the conflicts that inevitably arise in life.

"We have done our students a disservice if we have taught them that now they are educated, they

should no longer expect to be surprised," Moffitt says. "To be surprised is to be open to new information and new points of view. We learn when we see something we didn't expect to see." That unexpected moment, he says, can lead to a broader understanding of how to resolve conflicts.

A total of 4,359 students who have completed work toward a degree during the 2006-2007 academic year are eligible to participate in the spring ceremonies, which begin at 12:30 p.m., on Saturday, June 16 at McArthur Court, 1601 University St. No tickets are required, and doors will open at 11:30 a.m.

University of Oregon President Dave Frohnmayer will preside over the university-wide exercises and also will present the university's 2007 Distinguished Service Awards and Presidential Medals. Recipients of several distinguished teaching awards for faculty members also will be recognized.

Seating in McArthur Court will be available starting at 11:30 a.m., on a first-come, first-serve basis. Graduating students will sit on the main floor and guests will sit in the balconies. Limited seating will be available on the main floor on the east side of McArthur Court for those wheelchairs or with other special mobility needs. A sign-language interpreter will be present. Guests with impaired hearing may wish to sit in the first few rows of the southwest stands closest to the speaker's platform.

Individuals planning to attend commencement are advised to arrive early, as campus parking is very limited. Free parking will be available in lots at East 15th Avenue and Columbia Street and East 14th Avenue and Kincaid Street, as well as at specially marked parking meters on the edge of campus. In addition to the university-wide exercises on June 16, each school or college--including individual College of Arts and Sciences departments--will hold

ceremonies at various campus locations on Thursday, Friday or Saturday, June 14–16.

Times and locations of individual college ceremonies are available on line at: <http://www.uoregon.edu/~stl/programs/commencement/Spring07Locations.pdf>. More information about commencement also is available by calling 541-346-3216, or stopping by the Office of Student Life, Room 164, Oregon Hall, 1585 E. 13th Ave.

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The only way to access McArthur Court on graduation day will be via Agate Street. Off of Agate, traffic will be routed west on 15th Avenue. Cars will then turn south on University Street, which will be limited to one-way traffic for the day.

Guests are encouraged to park away from the congested area, said Amber Garrison, the university's director of family programs and commencement. The decision to limit traffic flow was necessary because three graduation ceremonies will be held in the building that day, and the university will need to safely and efficiently move people in and out. In addition, this allows space for guests with disabilities or mobility issues to be safely dropped off in front of McArthur Court, said Garrison. To arrange for

special access, call Garrison at 541-346-1148.

The doors to McArthur Court, 1601 University St., will open Saturday at 8 a.m. for the School of Journalism and Communication commencement ceremony. Guests will leave the building by 11 a.m. and follow the procession of graduates across University Street to the lawn south of Gerlinger Hall.

Those attending the main university ceremony will be asked to wait outside at the southwest corner of McArthur Court until directed to enter the building at approximately 11:30 a.m.

Those attending the Lundquist College of Business ceremony, which will begin at 3 p.m., should gather and wait outside at the southwest corner of McArthur Court for entry at approximately 2:30 p.m.

A map showing assembly locations can be found at:

<http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/programs/commencement/MACenterexit.pdf>

More information about University of Oregon Commencement is available at: <http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/programs/commencement/index.htm>

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Gray Hildreth (sitting), a University of Oregon junior, was one of approximately 2,300 participants in a survey organized by the university's Integrated Marketing and Strategic Communications Task Force.

Senior student workers Lisa Sheridan and Nathan Gue (both pictured) encouraged passersby to take the survey during two days in late May at a table in the Erb Memorial Union. University of Oregon faculty, staff and students received a link to the survey at their UO email addresses.

The survey was part of a communications planning process to help identify and convey the university's

strengths and benefits to prospective students, prospective faculty, donors, elected officials and the citizens of Oregon. The goal of this planning process is to develop an integrated set of messages that will effectively communicate what makes the UO a special and unique place.

Students, faculty, and staff who took the survey described the UO as being "the right size, socially conscious, and friendly."

If you have questions about the survey or the work of the Integrated Marketing and Communications Task Force, please visit www.imsc.uoregon.edu or contact Phil Weiler at pweiler@uoregon.edu.

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Jim Hutchison, a professor of chemistry at the University of Oregon, will discuss nanotechnology -- research on materials that are nanometer in size -- or about 1 billionth of a meter and applicable to virtually every technology and medicine -- at the Eugene debut of Science Pub on Thursday, June 14.

Hutchison's talk, "Nanotechnology: New Science for Society and the Environment" will begin at 7 p.m.

at Luna, 30 E. Broadway. Audience members are encouraged to arrive before the talk starts for food and drink. The monthly science-focused dialog is sponsored by the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, the University of Oregon and the Science Factory Children's Museum and Planetarium. It's usually held in the Portland area.

For more information, visit <http://www.oms.edu/education/adults/> or write to sciencepub@oms.edu.

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Festivities will feature Olympians, a band and special activities for children. The event is designed to unite the community and to recruit volunteers in

preparation for the trials, which begin in June 27, 2008. University of Oregon faculty and staff are encouraged to volunteer to help out with the trials.

The event is largest national championship track meet in the world. The UO and Eugene will host more than 1,000 athletes as they compete for the right to represent Team USA at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

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As part of a two-term architectural studio on globalization and place, Larco charged graduate students and undergraduates with creating designs of a structure in the planned Olympic Village. The waterfront building in Vancouver's Fall Creek area will house everything from a community center and day care to an non-motorized boating facility.

Although the planning process for the actual building is quite far along, the students' designs have opened the eyes of planners and designers to innovative ways of incorporating the proposed building into both the urban fabric and the striking natural features of the area, Larco said.

The biggest challenge of the assignment was for students to design a globally iconic building that is also inviting to the local community. In addition, students attempted to pioneer ways of incorporating the building into the natural landscape. One student used windows to frame a view of the adjacent tidal zone, in a sense changing the feel of the building with the tides.

With the help of G.Z. "Charlie" Brown, a UO architecture professor and expert on sustainable building principles, the students' designs all incorporate energy efficient and green design, long a trademark of the UO's program.

As part of the process, Scot Hein, a senior urban designer with the city of Vancouver, traveled to Eugene in February to review the students' work. He liked what he saw, and as the process evolved Hein eventually suggested the students travel to Canada to present their final projects. Arthur Erickson's office, the actual project architects suggested that their offices host the event.

The overall experience of presenting to a team of professionals working on a global stage is invaluable, Larco said. The growing Vancouver area boasts a host of opportunities for young, recent graduates of the UO's School of Architecture and Allied Arts, he said.

"I was thrilled when we were invited to Arthur Erickson's offices," Larco said. "This gives the students and the University of Oregon great visibility, is a tremendous way for the students to make connections, and also highlights the high quality work that is happening at the UO."

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