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CAS NEWS

**Cascade**
Autumn 2004

Cascade, the biannual publication of the College of Arts & Sciences, features recent activities and ground-breaking research by faculty members and demonstrates the many ways students and graduates benefit from their UO education.

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Exercising the Right to Think

UO Scholars Track Voting Trends, Raise Questions

by Scott Holter



Professor Southwell is an expert on Oregon's vote-by-mail process.

For some, the first Tuesday in November is met with passion, a national holiday of sorts that is both a true right and a privilege of freedom. Others treat it as a duty, if not a nuisance, finding their way to the polls despite their demanding lives.

Then there are those who don't vote at all. They don't have the time or they don't follow the issues or candidates. Or they don't care.

The act of voting can be as polarizing as the candidates or issues. Will my vote really count? Can't we find an easier way to cast a vote? Is there really a difference in the two parties? And how can a candidate get more votes but still lose an election?

Recently, several University of Oregon political scientists and professors offered their thoughts on a variety of voting processes and tendencies, looking back at elections gone by as well as the one ahead, which is among the most talked-about presidential elections in recent memory.

Every vote counts." It's an all-American mantra drilled into our consciousness even before we're old enough to cross the threshold of a voting booth, and even more so since the 2000 Presidential election — when George Bush outlasted Al Gore 2,912,790 votes to 2,912,253 in Florida and captured that state's 25 electoral votes, enough to put Bush over the top.

An inalienable right, voting makes us feel like concerned, civic-minded citizens, gives us a taste for the political process and keeps us thinking about our country's larger picture.

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But, says UO economics professor **William Harbaugh**, the vote that we painstakingly cast on the first Tuesday in November is not as important as we have come to think.

“Since 2000 we have heard often that, ‘See, our vote really does count,’” Harbaugh says. “But actually it doesn’t. Florida was not decided by one vote, but by several hundred.

“There is a real paradox in the voting process. There’s an old joke that you have a greater chance of getting killed on the way to the polls than having your vote determine an outcome.”

Harbaugh says it remains a mystery to economists as to why people vote when the only benefit is the ability to say you did. And according to a paper Harbaugh authored in 1994, many even admit to participating when indeed they didn’t.

“When you survey people to ask if they voted, 10 percent will lie and say they did when actually they didn’t,” Harbaugh continues. “And the frequency of the lies increases with education. College graduates are more likely to vote, but those who don’t vote are also more likely to lie about it.”

The five-week Florida recount in 2000 had average citizens calling for electronic voting faster than you can say hanging chad. If we can send a wireless email to our grandmother from a remote island near Fiji, why shouldn’t we be able to choose our political favorites with a point and a click?

Ask **Eric Anderson**, a UO graduate student in Computer and Information Science, and he’ll tell you that voting electronically is “extremely dangerous.” Anderson’s research in network security, coupled with the attention the Bush-Gore vote created, led him to study electronic voting security.

“There are advantages to some people, such as those with disabilities, but voting without printed backup creates a very high danger of fraud,” Anderson says. “A user can plug in their vote, but the stored vote can easily be changed later. And without paper ballots there is not a way to do a recount. All you have is what was corrupted.”

Anderson’s findings led him to co-host a graduate seminar last winter entitled “Trustworthiness and Security of Electronic Voting Systems.”

“The 2000 election got my attention,” he says, “It drove home that although many think we had a need for electronic systems, that would be like jumping from a frying pan into a fire.”

Home is where the voting booth is — at least for Oregonians.

“Oregon is a politically unique state in many ways, especially how we vote,” says Professor of Political Science and Associate Dean **Priscilla Southwell**. Southwell earned a National Science Foundation grant in 1996 to study vote-

by-mail, after Oregon became the first state in the nation to elect a federal candidate entirely by mail.

Oregonians now conduct all their elections by mail, and Southwell's 2003 follow-up survey shows that a strong majority (80.9%) of Oregonians prefer it. Nearly one-third (29.3%) reported that they have voted more often since the adoption of vote-by-mail.

Southwell's 2003 follow-up survey shows that a strong majority (80.9%) of Oregonians prefer it. Nearly one-third (29.3%) reported that they have voted more often since the adoption of vote-by-mail.

Still, some observers remain skeptical about the process. Can the secrecy of the ballot be protected? Is there a potential for voter fraud? For coercive voting? Although Southwell's 1996 survey showed no evidence of coercive voting, these issues remain a concern.

However, Southwell notes that one should always compare such concerns to those that already exist at the polling place: "I grew up in Mayor Daley's Chicago — let's first talk about fraud at the polling place!"

Southwell believes fraud is less likely with the vote-by-mail system. Each signature is compared, electronically or by a person, with the original signature on the voter's registration card. In fact, when Southwell's 18-year-old son and 20-year-old daughter once signed each other's mailing envelopes, it was caught by the local election office. At the polling place, signature comparisons were only conducted when an official challenge was made.

While certain Oregonians are nostalgic for the ritual of showing up at the polls, the overwhelming preference for vote-by-mail extends across all levels of education, income, age, and even partisanship.

"Both Republican and Democratic leaders initially thought that vote-by-mail would be similar to absentee voting, which previous studies have shown tends to increase voting for older Republicans," says Southwell. "But, in the last several elections, there has been no partisan advantage to vote-by-mail."

The closeness of the 2000 election, coupled with a down-to-the-wire prognostication of 2004, could be proof that America is split right down the middle in terms of party lines.

Not so, says **Joe Lowndes**, assistant political science professor who is teaching a historical course on the presidency in the upcoming school year.

"Americans have a far less durable identification with parties than in most of political history," he says. "People don't participate in the Democrat and Republican parties the way they once had. In the last 30 years or so, this country has had a growing number of independents. There's much less of a party focus in the electorate."

As a result, elections have become more volatile in certain aspects and candidates have taken to focusing on independents and swing voters. Where candidates used to rise up through the ranks in a party machine, today's candidates have the money to run their own campaigns.

Lowndes points to the role of dollars and the roles of media as partly to blame for the continuing great decline in voting in America. But he also blames the way we live our lives.

"Some scholars argue that there has been a privatization of American life," he says. "It's a loss of community, a hollowing out of civic culture. People are much less inclined to hang out with people and more inclined to stay in their homes and watch television."

Are people staying away from the polls because they feel candidates are bought and sold? Is it becoming more difficult to control the issue of money in politics? More rules could make for a less cynical voting population, but Lowndes believes it all comes down to the issues.

"As long as there are not meaningful things to fight for," he says, "then you're not going to get large turnouts."

Winning the popular vote in an election does not always mean winning a majority of the votes. Just ask UO President Dave Frohnmayer.

In 1990, the Republican Frohnmayer lost the Oregon gubernatorial race to Democrat Barbara Roberts even though she tallied only 46 percent of the votes — thanks to conservative independent Al Mobley's 13 percent showing.

Two years later, Bill Clinton earned his first term in office despite 43 percent of the vote compared to 37 percent for George H.W. Bush and Ross Perot's 19 percent.

"With three or more candidates, the outcome of an election can be based on voting methods," says **Deborah Baumgold**, UO assistant professor of political science. In 2001, Baumgold developed the course "Democracy in Theory and Practice," designed to bring together facts about voting with questions regarding democratic values and to provide students opportunities to test various voting methods.

She also developed a web-based software that allowed students in the classroom to plug in any political race and simulate the outcome through various voting methods, which include:

- **Plurality Vote:** What we are used to, this "winner-take-all" method allows someone with less than majority to win.
- **Alternative Vote:** Each voter selects first and second choices. The candidate that finishes third must reallocate his or her votes to the next choice and final tallies are recalculated. (In this scenario, Bush beats Clinton)

in 1992 and Frohnmayer beats Roberts in 1990.)

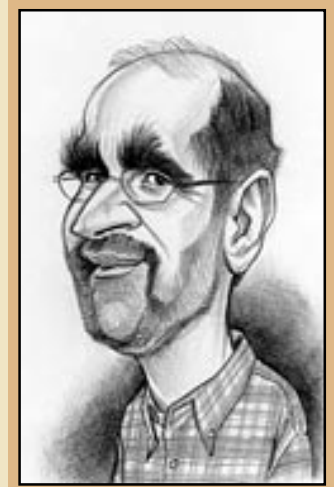
- Approval Vote: Voters select as many candidates as they wish.

“What is really fair and how do you choose what’s fair?” asks Baumgold, who plans to offer the course during the upcoming year. “Whether it proves anything or not, it is a nice exercise for opening discussions on what’s fair in democracy.”

November’s tea leaves, according to Steve Haynes, might best be read in the words of two separate headlines printed six months apart: “Bush’s economic plan aids re-election” (AP, Nov. 30, 2003) and “Iraq eclipses economic news” (New York Times, May 22, 2004).

“In previous presidential races the incumbent was helped when national security was a concern,” says Haynes, UO associate head of economics. “The economy has become stronger, but the weight on our national defense has become more important. The impact is that the Iraq crisis may have switched from once helping the president to harming him.”

In the 1994 paper “Why did economic models falsely predict a Bush landslide in 1992?,” coauthored with fellow UO economist and dean Joe Stone, Haynes focused on the standard economic model that predicted President George H.W. Bush would defeat Bill Clinton in a landslide. Haynes draws an interesting parallel — though on the flipside — between that election and the John Kerry/George W. Bush race.



Economist Steve Haynes

“The ’92 model tended to amplify the impact of economic factors, and these variables were more important than the models indicated,” he says. “The economy was mostly weak (close to the election), and those factors hurt Bush.”

Haynes says that where national defense was a non-issue in 1992, it dominates the process today. “As we get closer to November, economic factors should become less important and defense issues should become more important. When national security is an issue, voters tend to rally around the flag. But, following those headlines, it might be in reverse.”

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The Dean's Letter
Paying It Forward

Joe Stone, Dean of Arts and Sciences



Dean Stone, right, thanks Walter Mead '52 for his generosity to the Department of Economics.

Several years ago, the movie "Pay it Forward" pursued the theme of what the world around us would be like if each of us felt obligated to "pay it forward," i.e., to pass along to someone else, in one way or another, the most important gifts in life we receive from others. In the College of Arts and Sciences, we were recently humbled by two wonderful examples of paying it forward. A former student in our English department, **Robert A. Lee**, grateful for his experience while studying here in the 1960s, has endowed, with his wife **Gloria**, a professorship in English to honor one of his professors from that period, **A. Kingsley Weatherhead**.

Similarly, **Walter and Thelma Mead** have endowed a faculty fund in my home department of economics to help in recruiting and retaining strong faculty. Dr. Mead received the very first Ph.D. degree awarded by the Department of Economics in 1952 and continued with a distinguished career at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Gifts like these remind us not only of the generosity of our supporters, but also of the long-lasting effects of our faculty's efforts and the immeasurable impact these gifts have on the quality of our programs and the experiences of today's students. As you read through this issue of *Cascade*, I hope that you will enjoy and be impressed by the vitality of our programs and the opportunities they provide to our students. The topics range from issues related to this fall's [election](#) to issues related to [adoption](#). Our faculty explain the importance of [literary presses](#), and of paying attention to the needs of our [student chemists](#).

We and our students look forward to the start of this new year, to the new

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and expanding opportunities our academic programs will provide, and to the new and innovative ways the University of Oregon is seeking to contribute both to the region and to the larger world. I hope you enjoy some examples of our efforts.



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Introducing

Dietrich Belitz
Associate Dean of Natural Sciences

Appointed to a three year term as the new associate dean of natural sciences, Dr. Belitz was formerly head of the UO's Department of Physics. His research interests include statistical mechanics and condensed matter physics, in particular the theory of quantum many-body systems.

Affiliations:

UO faculty since 1987
Materials Science Institute
Institute for Theoretical Science

On his bookshelf:

Jayber Crow by Wendell Berry; *All the Little Live Things* by Wallace Stegner; *Extraordinary Popular Delusion and the Madness of Crowds* by Charles MacKay

"I am looking forward to working with the departments and with the university administration to further improve the quality of research and teaching at our institution."

Jane Gary
Executive Director for College Advancement[home page](#)[college at a glance](#)[giving to CAS](#)[alumni](#)[CAS news](#)[CAS home page](#)



Gary brings twenty-four years of campaign and fundraising experience to the College of Arts and Sciences. Her most recent successes have been at the UO School of Law, where she completed a fifteen million dollar campaign for the Knight Law Center.

Affiliations:

'73 alumna from the College of Arts and Sciences, Theatre Arts

On her bookshelf:

The Fencing Master by Arturo Perez-Reverte; *Middlesex* by Jeffrey Eugenides; *Reading Lolita in Tehran* by Azar Nafisi

"The College of Arts and Sciences is so multi-faceted. Leading its talented development team will be the best and most rewarding challenge of my career."



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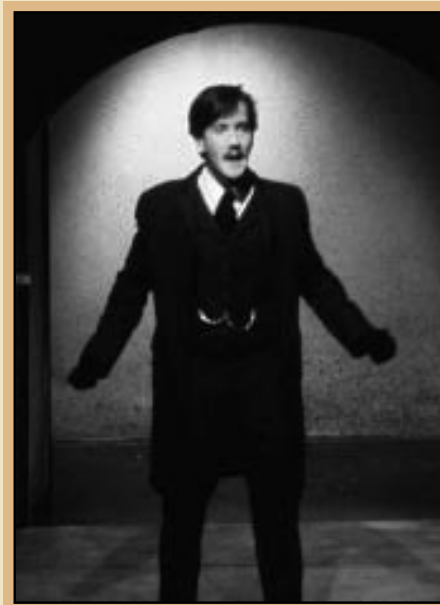
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UO Alum Wins Tony Awards



Tony Award winner Jeff Whitty

Coos Bay, Oregon, may seem a long way from the bright lights of Broadway. But the acclaimed work of a 1993 University of Oregon graduate who graduated from Marshfield High School on the central Oregon coast has shortened the distance considerably.

Jeff Whitty, who earned a bachelor's degree in English and was in the university's Robert D. Clark Honors College, was at the heart of the surprise of this year's Tony Awards ceremony. He won Best Book for the upstart musical "Avenue Q," which also earned Best Musical and Best Score honors.

"Avenue Q" is the story of Princeton, a bright-eyed college grad who comes to New York City with big dreams and a tiny bank account. He discovers the only neighborhood in his price range is Avenue Q. Together, Princeton and his newfound friends struggle to find jobs, dates, and their ever-elusive purpose in life. The show opened in July 2003.

Whitty performed in several University Theatre productions while at the University of Oregon, including "Assassins" and "Into the Woods." His honors college thesis project was a one-man show in which he played eight characters. Theater arts professor **John Schmor**, who helped Whitty on that project, said Whitty is "an intense and ambitious and somehow very sweet human being. An odd combination, but it's led him to great places in New York."

After leaving Oregon, Whitty moved to New York and earned a master's degree from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. As an actor, he's worked off-Broadway, regionally and in film and television.

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UO Geologists Predict a “Flurry” of Quakes

The notorious San Andreas fault may be on the cusp of producing a flurry of earthquakes that could rattle Southern California with a strong temblor every few decades or less, says University of Oregon geologist **Ray Weldon**.

A detailed analysis of two periods of past quake activity on a section of the fault suggests that a drawn-out period of little seismic activity may be coming to an end.

Together, Weldon’s research team has produced the most complete paleo-earthquake record to date at their excavation near the town of Wrightwood, Calif., about 62 miles northeast of Los Angeles. Data collection has spanned more than 18 years, and the team has excavated a total of 45 trenches to reconstruct 6,000 years of quake activity.

Weldon’s team includes Tom Fumal of the U.S. Geological Survey, and Glenn Biasi of the University of Nevada at Reno, and graduate student **Kate Scharer** of the UO Department of Geological Sciences, who joined the team five years ago as one of Weldon’s doctoral degree students.

“The timing and size of earthquakes in the past shows that the high level of strain in 2004 is rare,” she says. “Previously, this level of strain has been followed by a spate of earthquakes taking place over a couple of centuries.”

Data from studies like Wrightwood helps the engineering community improve building and infrastructure design so that losses are reduced when a major quake occurs, Scharer says.

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Hospital, UO Announce
Cardiovascular Research InstituteOregon Heart and Vascular
Institute

The newly formed Oregon Heart & Vascular Institute, an innovative partnership between the UO and Sacred Heart Medical Center, opened its doors at last April.

The institute is unique in its interdisciplinary model and will be among the premier heart and vascular centers in the Pacific Northwest. Sacred Heart is already known as one of the nation's top

one-hundred hospitals for cardiac services, and the University of Oregon brings more than eight decades of research and expertise in human physiology to the institute.

“Through curriculum development and basic research, University staff and students will work closely with physicians and others at the Institute to deliver student, patient, and public education,” said President **Dave Frohnmayr**. “These expanded opportunities will help the university extend its mission beyond its current geographical borders into the communities in Oregon and beyond.”

Faculty in the Department of Human Physiology hope the institute will further expand the opportunities for physician-researcher collaborations — through medical education and research seminars, student clinical and surgery observations, and physicians in the classrooms.

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UO Lab Solves Nanoscience Problem

University of Oregon chemists involved in the Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnologies Institute (ONAMI) are now able to control the spacing between nanoparticles, a key step for the development of a new class of nanoelectronic devices.

“We care about the spacing between the particles because the interactions between them are distance-dependent,” says Professor **Jim Hutchison**. “If they’re too far apart, the interaction will be weaker, preventing the particles from passing electrons from one to another.”

The ability to control spacing of nanoparticles at 1.5 to 3 nanometers is the latest in a series of groundbreaking discoveries coming out of the UO’s materials science program. A nano-meter is a billionth of a meter. A human hair is about 50,000 nanometers thick.

The National Science Foundation, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the Camille & Henry Dreyfus Foundation, Inc., fund Hutchison’s research.



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**Congress Approves \$8 Million
for UO Research**

The U.S. House and Senate have approved \$8 million in funding for University of Oregon research projects that will continue vital research into brain function and provide significant momentum for collaborative nanotechnology advancements.

The Department of Defense appropriations bill contains \$3 million for the Brain, Biology and Machine Initiative (BBMI) and \$5 million for the Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnologies Institute (ONAMI).

“These awards focus on the university’s two highest research priorities in the sciences,” says **Rich Linton**, UO vice president for research and graduate studies. “The new funds will accelerate the pace and impact of the research, will deepen collaborative partnerships, will enhance the quality of the UO’s research facilities, and will help UO scientists garner additional grant funding.”

The ONAMI funding includes \$2.5 million for research on developing environmentally friendly nanotechnology materials and manufacturing processes and \$2.5 million for development of miniaturized energy systems with diverse technologic applications.

The \$3 million in BBMI funding will be used to advance research in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computational science and genetics to better elucidate the factors that influence learning, memory and behavior, both in normal functions and in associated brain disorders. Possible applications for ongoing UO research include improved methods to treat post-traumatic stress disorders or to reroute brain function to help offset brain injuries.

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UO Anthropologists on California's Channel Island



Braje and Erlandson on San Miguel

The Chumash people of California's Channel Islands lived off the ocean's bounty for millennia without harming the coastal environment. In just 200 years, however, European settlement wreaked havoc on Channel Island ecosystems, devastating both terrestrial and marine species and seriously disrupting the fragile ecology of the islands.

What can we learn from these ancient people about conservation and the

restoration of coastal environment?

Plenty, says University of Oregon anthropologist **Jon Erlandson**, who uses archaeology and ecology to better understand how ancient people practiced sustainable harvesting of marine resources.

"Even though the Chumash were there for more than 10,000 years, there is limited evidence of major environmental impact," Erlandson says. "They had an impact, as all humans do, but the overall picture is one of sustained occupation and sustainable economies spanning thousands of years. This appears to be true, despite high Chumash population densities, sophisticated maritime technology and extensive trade with mainland peoples."

Erlandson and research assistant **Todd Braje**, an anthropology doctoral degree student from Michigan City, Ind., recently won a Mia Tegner Memorial Grant in Marine Environmental History and Historical Ecology.

The \$6,000 award will help continue their study of shell middens on San Miguel Island, the easternmost of the Channel Islands. Middens are refuse deposits containing shell debris, fish and sea mammal bones, and artifacts—some more than 9,000 years old. By examining the middens, Erlandson's team can create a picture of marine life in the Channel Islands over the

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course of time and gain insight about how the Chumash people, the islands' original inhabitants, harvested resources using ecologically sound methods.

Their work also can help guide restoration efforts by providing ecological data on the nature of island environments in the past.

The Tegner grant will help pay for travel and food expenses, as well as a variety of analyses, including carbon dating of the sites to determine the age of the material uncovered in the middens. Other funders include the National Park Service and the National Science Foundation.

Erlandson's work also has provided evidence for the theory of coastal migration which suggests that early humans settled the coastal regions of the Americas by boat. His research on early humans and coastal migration was featured in July on the PBS program "Scientific American Frontiers." For more information, visit <http://www.pbs.org/saf/1406/index.html>.



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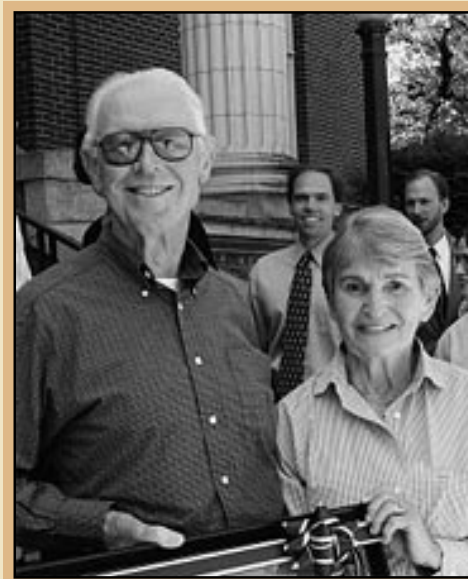
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The Meads



Walter and Thelma Mead

In 1952, **Walter J. Mead** was the first University of Oregon student to earn a Ph.D. in economics. Now, he's giving back to his alma mater through a \$500,000 endowment gift for a faculty fellowship in economics.

"I really appreciated having the opportunity to get to know my professors well at the University of Oregon and the personal attention they gave me," says Mead, who also received his undergraduate degree from the UO in 1948. "I received an excellent broad liberal arts education that has served me well in everything I've undertaken. I'm indebted to UO for helping me lay the groundwork for a richly rewarding life and

career, and I'm so pleased to be able to make this gift that can help ensure the continuing high quality of the faculty."

After a distinguished career of thirty-two years as a professor of economics at University of California, Santa Barbara, Mead retired in 1991. A past president of the Western Economics Association, Mead's expertise in energy economics earned him career recognition from the International Association of Energy Economists. In 1989, the College of Arts and Sciences also recognized his career by naming him one of their distinguished alumni fellows.

Mead, a native of Oregon who grew up in Salem, is fond of recalling his student days on campus. "Those friendships with fellow students and professors have lasted a lifetime," he says. He and his wife, **Thelma**, recently returned to campus, where their son, **Douglas '77**, studied as well.

They revisited some of their old friends and campus hangouts and, of course, "talked shop" with some of the UO's esteemed economists.

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Department head **Van Kolpin** says it was a special occasion for the entire department: "It was a real treat to reminisce with them about the early days of our program."

The **Walter J. Mead Faculty Endowment Fund in Economics** will be primarily used as a source of funding to retain top faculty and to lure the best and the brightest from around the world to join a department already renowned for its innovative programs and research.

"As a former professor, Walter Mead knows first hand how support for faculty translates into support for students," says Dean **Joe Stone**. "When individuals like him step up and show this level of generosity and loyalty for their alma mater, it serves as a wonderful testament to the impact that our faculty have on students' lives. Walter's gift ensures that a world-class faculty will continue to inspire students at the University of Oregon for generations to come."



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Reaching Back, Reaching Out
The Adoption History Project

In newspaper articles, magazine features, the evening news and now — believe it or not — on reality TV, stories about adoption capture the public's imagination. **Ellen Herman**, a history professor at the UO who has been collecting such stories, believes the topic attracts a broad audience because it raises fundamental human concerns.



Historian Ellen Herman created her adoption history website as an offshoot of her NSF-funded research on adoption issues.

"Adoption in some ways is very unique and at the same time very universal. It is a form of family that affects a tiny minority of Americans while addressing issues of identity and belonging that affect us all," she said.

Herman has produced a website that explores one of the more unfamiliar aspects of adoption: its modern history. Herman uses history to probe various adoption issues — its human interest, controversy, and relation to science — and also as a way bridging the gap between the public and academia.

The Human Connection

"I've been bombarded with emails," said Herman. The high public interest in adoption became even more apparent to Herman after the launch of her project in June of 2003. "I've gotten some fascinating feedback, mostly from the audiences that I wanted to reach," she said. "A lot of people write to tell me their stories." Sometimes, adoptees write Herman asking for assistance with connecting to their past. Many individuals who have discovered their Native American heritage, for example, have written for advice on locating lost relatives and tribes.

The Adoption History Project provides a service to its visitors by offering

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Orphan Train 1904

profiles of numerous people, topics, and organizations. On the same page, readers can access documents from Bastard Nation, a radical adoptee- rights organization, and Pearl S. Buck, the Nobel Prize winning novelist and adoption reform advocate from the mid-20th century.

Stories and narratives about adoption — documents with a human face — are what lured Herman into adoption

research in the first place. “People have lots of personal connections to adoption and to family-making. The compelling human drama of adoption really appealed to me.”

Evolving Attitudes

Oregonians weighed in on a controversial adoption issue in 1998, when voters passed a ballot measure allowing adult adoptees access to their original birth certificates. The new law angered some birth parents who said they were guaranteed secrecy when the adoptions took place. A few anonymous birth mothers filed suit against the state of Oregon, demanding the law be overturned. They failed, and Ballot Measure 58 is now state law.

Herman believes history can shed light on how changing attitudes and values influence issues like open records. “There are things I can do to communicate what a source of terrible shame it was for many unmarried women and their families to have an unwanted pregnancy just a few decades ago,” she said. “It’s an example of something young people today may not realize. It suggests that history can make an immediate difference in how people understand something that has enormous personal and legal consequences in the world.”

Over time, shifting values have changed the focus of our public debates. Today, interracial adoptions may raise eyebrows, but this wasn’t always a primary concern. “The whole idea of crossing religious lines was as least as controversial in the past as the debate over race is today. If you look back and try to understand what that conversation was about, and why it pushed buttons, you can gain real insight.”

Creating “Kinship by Design”

Herman created the Adoption History Project as an offshoot of her current research on the history of adoption science. Supported by the National Science Foundation, the project examines why and how social and behavioral scientists considered adoption an unusual social laboratory.

“Because non-relative adoptions separated parental genes from family environment, adoption amounted to the sort of scientific experiment that could not otherwise be ethically conducted with human beings,” she says.

The Adoption History Project provides material about research studies that tested theories of nature and nurture, measured adoptees' developmental outcomes, and treated psychopathologies.

The connection between science and adoption is the basis for Herman's forthcoming book, *Kinship by Design*. "Kinship by design" is a term I use to describe a history of self-conscious efforts to make families up on purpose, on the basis of systematic research and regulation. The point of kinship by design has been to maximize the ability to predict and control outcomes and minimize the mysteries, uncertainties, and risks of family-formation. To think about adoption in this way is to turn it into a social engineering project."

Making Research Accessible

Fueling public interest in academic history is one of Herman's main objectives, and the reason why she chose to put her work on the web. "It's a different sort of thing to reach deliberately beyond the community of scholars, and to say that history matters to all people. I consider that part of my responsibility as a historian," she said.

With help from the George Mason University's Center for History and New Media and the UO's Wired Humanities Project, Herman was able to create a viewer-friendly site that both educates and entertains. Viewers not only have the opportunity to learn about little-known facets of adoption, but also about the history of American law, science, culture, and government. By connecting a subject that attracts general interest with historical research and new media, Herman hopes to draw attention to the importance of university research. She also hopes to provide a public service to those whose struggle with the past is deeply personal.

"History can teach us that we are not the first people to ever think of anything, to struggle with anything. One of the things that has always drawn me to history is knowing that I'm part of something bigger."

—LS



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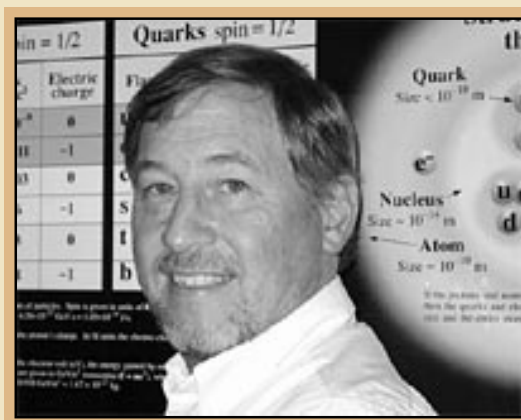
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Strange Charm

A Conversation with Quantum Physicist Jim Brau



Jim Brau is one of three leaders behind a worldwide effort to develop the next major facility for frontier particle physics, the International Linear Collider.

If **Jim Brau** told his neighbors what he actually “did” at his next dinner party, it would likely result in a few blank stares: He’s designing a four-pi detector to discover new physics in polarized electron-positron annihilation. Of course, that’s not what he tells them. He’s a teacher. He can talk about quantum physics as if it were the most natural thing in the world. In fact, it is.

Brau’s job, to put it simply, is to discover particles and study how they interact. “[As physicists], we try to understand the fundamental ingredients of the universe,” he explains. “What causes the universe

to do what it does? In principle, you could build up everything that happens from these fundamental particles and an understanding of the fundamental forces.”

Ironically, physicists often think big in order to study the smallest particles in the universe. Also a teacher of astronomy at the UO, Brau often uses the “peculiar behavior of galaxies and the universe” to pique students’ interests in particle physics.

Signals from deep space obtained with modern satellites, for instance, show even inexperienced science students that “it’s not just all philosophy and theory. The fireball of the Big Bang is actually experimental, observational reality . . . It’s about model building, going out to see if your predictions are right or not . . . If you’re wrong, then you’re wrong. Period.”

Brau and UO colleague **Ray Frey** encourage this same approach to physics education at the high schools through Quarknet, an outreach program to

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high school physics teachers. "It's nice for them to sense the excitement and take it back to their students," says Brau.

Though obviously a dedicated teacher, Brau's main focus as a physicist is discovering new knowledge. Brau, who came to the UO in 1988, says his field has changed greatly since he entered graduate school 35 years ago.

"We now have found six different types of quarks: Top, Bottom, Up, Down, Strange, Charm, and six related particles which include the electron and neutrinos," he says. "These particles explain all ordinary matter: rocks, insects, flowers, stars, cosmic rays, everything."

However, Brau emphasizes that the bulk of the universe remains a mystery: "We have been very successful in learning about the normal stuff: the stuff that we see, sense and feel and so forth . . . and how it interacts. At the same time, we are now aware that, throughout the universe — and that includes in this room! — something else is going on that we don't have contact with. And it dominates."

Brau talks in quick spirals of information: Unexplained gravitational forces may be explainable by "dark matter" and "dark energy." A force field (Higgs field) may fill the whole universe, and interact all the time with every particle of our bodies. String theory suggests that there are actually ten dimensions.

While he acknowledges the speculation involved with such theories (he's the first to make a Star Trek joke), he maintains that they are proving to be remarkably consistent.

"The idea is that maybe when the universe expanded with the Big Bang, it only expanded in three space dimensions," he explains. "We see these three dimensions around us, but there are actually quite a few other dimensions that are still very small . . . Or perhaps our matter is not actually connected into those extra dimensions somehow."

In his most recent research, Brau and colleagues have been trying to probe into these other dimensions. But how does one go about conducting an experiment of the undetectable?

Brau, who did his postdoc at Stanford, has worked with the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC) throughout his career. This work has yielded important indirect measurements about the properties of the Higgs-boson. With a new hadron collider being built in Geneva, physicists hope to observe directly, by the end of this decade, individual Higgs particles, which live only for a tiny fraction of a second.

But this tool will be a "sledgehammer" compared to the fine point probe that Brau envisions. He is one of three leaders of the worldwide community of physicists preparing for experiments at the next major facility for frontier particle physics research. The International Linear Collider would be a twenty-mile-long particle accelerator, one of the biggest projects in the history of science.

Director of the UO's Center for High Energy Physics, Brau says that the project would involve a closely coordinated international effort with shared costs and shared benefits on a scale and scope not seen before in science.

"Worldwide, 2,700 experimenters, theorists and accelerator scientists, graduate students and Nobel prizewinners have all signed up to support the linear collider which is being planned jointly by laboratories and scientific funding agencies across the globe. It is a tremendous endorsement."

The Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation in the U.S. and their counterparts in Canada, Europe and Asia are now discussing how to fund it and where it might be located.

But why does the smallest unit of matter in the universe need a runway that is more than four times longer than the Las Vegas strip?

"To get to small dimensions, you have to have very high energy," says Brau. "How do you get high energy? You have to take this electron and put it in an accelerating field, an electromagnetic field, over a long distance."

Electron probes have an advantage over hadron colliders (for protons) because they are point-like particles. It's like a basketball team, says Brau: "You have the large, bulky inside player, who's the big large hadron collider, and the outside, point guard, who's like the linear collider." While one is big and powerful on the court, the other is fast and precise.

Advances in accelerator design for particle physics research have contributed to advances in other sciences. The intense light sources generated by accelerators are now being used as probes, for instance, in studies to determine the structure of cancer-related proteins. These studies are helping in the design of drugs to treat cancer, says Brau.

But Brau says that physicists focus their research on fundamental science, not the spin-offs. "People doing particle physics accept no barriers to their science. They go after the impossible projects and just find ways to get things done — producing technology which is then available for others to capitalize on."

"We're focused on understanding the universe. Period."

—JL

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Northwest Review Pushing Fiftyby **John Witte**

For nearly half a century, Northwest Review, the University of Oregon's award-winning tri-annual, has offered an exciting forum for literary conversation in the Northwest and beyond. Work first appearing in Northwest Review has been honored with O'Henry, Best Short Story, and Pushcart prizes and featured authors have gone on to win MacArthur grants, Guggenheim fellowships, and Pulitzer Prizes. "Northwest Review is

*a literary treasure," says **John Kitzhaber**, former governor of Oregon. "The premier journal of its kind in the Northwest states, it is an ambassador for the state of Oregon." Cascade asked editor-in-chief **John Witte** to share some current and historical snapshots from his headquarters on the third floor of Prince Lucien Campbell hall.*

When **Joyce Carol Oates** was a young author, and traveling through the Northwest, she came to Eugene, and the office of *Northwest Review*, to pay her respects. We had published her first stories, and the magazine was already the literary center of gravity in the region. **Ken Kesey's** and **John Gardner's** fledgling first stories also appeared in the magazine, where Nobelists and literary lions rub shoulders with the nation's most talented young poets and fiction writers. Authors of the caliber of **Ted Hughes**, **Ursula Le Guin**, **R. Buckminster Fuller**, and **Octavio Paz** have appeared in our pages over the years.

Now entering its 48th year of continuous publication, *Northwest Review* is among the nation's oldest and most esteemed, yet feistiest, literary reviews. Being the editor of such a journal, with its demands and quirky vigor, is like having a child nearly as old as I am!

Receiving four thousand submissions annually, the magazine is edited largely by post-graduates, and graduate students who earn university credit

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History is everywhere in editor John Witte's office: "We recently retired one chair, dubbed 'the arms of Morpheus,' where Allen Ginsberg once perched..."

for their work. An undergraduate Literary Editing Seminar is offered each year, using the magazine as its laboratory. Here, through hands-on work with manuscripts, students are inducted into the mysteries of editing and publishing. They hone their critical abilities and cultivate consensus-building skills. *Northwest Review's* editorial alumnae and interns have gone on to distinguished careers in the book trade. One became the executive editor for the State of Alaska. Another, a senior editor at University of California Press. Still another, the head publicist at Viking.

With subscribers in fifty states and thirty-seven foreign countries, *Northwest Review* advertises the vitality of the Department of English and the University of Oregon. But perhaps its most important service is least obvious — as an outreach to the nation's writers. More Americans than ever before are drawn to the blank page, undeterred by the rejection and frustration that writers are likely to face. Yet a deep yearning is felt in their poems, stories, and essays. Often a young writer has no other serious reader with whom to share his or her work and receive an honest evaluation. Publications like *Northwest Review* fill this need. Each submission is read thoroughly and thoughtfully. When a work must be rejected, we do so respectfully, often including a heartening note. Finally, the editorial staff convenes to critique, discuss, read aloud, and make final decisions on the writing that has generated the most heat. Only sixty authors each year, fewer than 2%, make it through this fearsome gauntlet.

Personal taste cannot realistically be excluded from the editorial process. Editors can be wrong, even spectacularly wrong. Virginia Woolf, to pick but one famous example, declared Joyce's *Ulysses* the literary equivalent of "adolescent scab-picking." An editor working alone is sure to blunder by and by. Accordingly, at *Northwest Review* we have assembled a group of editors who must reach consensus to publish a given work. We have represented among our dozen editors a wide spectrum of backgrounds and literary inclinations, narrowing the odds that we'll miss something, and providing for every work — whether narrative, feminist, formal, or experimental — a deep and insightful reading. Consensus may emerge quickly, or it may be achieved gradually, over an hour or two of fractious deliberations. Our hope is that *Northwest Review* will welcome any and all styles and perspectives, being, as **Carolyn Kizer** described it, "eclectic, but not promiscuous."

The office's battered, over-stuffed furniture bespeaks tradition. With sadness, we recently retired one chair, dubbed "the arms of Morpheus," where **Allen Ginsberg** once perched cross-legged, and puckishly harried

two clueless reporters from a local TV station. Other *Northwest Review* traditions include an art feature in each issue, as well as social and political commentary. Essays on our sister arts — theater, music, painting, and dance — are invited into our pages. But perhaps most notable has been our regular publication of works in translation.

In 1979, the magazine was absorbed in a debate about its future: should it retreat and become a regional publication, or should it continue to be national in scope and range? We resolved the argument by going global. Since that time we have published in each issue features on one or more foreign authors, introduced by a short informative essay. Over the years, we've published works brought into English from German, Spanish, Creole, Chinese, Turkish, Russian, Hungarian, Portuguese, Swedish, Kickapoo, Old English, Polish, Danish, Hebrew, Estonian, French, Lithuanian, Italian, and a dozen other languages. These translation features have encouraged numerous important books, including the (for now) definitive translation of **Garcia Lorca's** *Poet in New York*, by Oregonians **Steven White** and **Greg Simon**, and **Judith Hemschemeyer's** epic translation of **Anna Akhmatova's** *Complete Poems*.

Northwest Review enjoys an influence in the literary world that far exceeds its modest circulation. The National Endowment for the Arts has generously supported the magazine. The State of Oregon has bestowed on it the Governor's Award for the Arts, and the City of Eugene has recognized its "outstanding contribution to the arts" with the Eugene Arts and Letters Award. Our small, cluttered office on the third floor of PLC is a primary destination on any literary tour of the Northwest. The late **William Stafford** described the phenomenon best: "*Northwest Review* is a publication to which the wise, and honest, and literate, may repair!"

Want to read more? Subscription information available at <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~nwreview>



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Outside the Ivory Tower



Bonnie Mann believes philosophy can be a path to social justice.

Almost 25 years ago, **Bonnie Mann** took an Introduction to Philosophy course that redefined her life. The instructor taught a philosophical method based upon the reflection of experience and, throughout his course, challenged his students to explore the particular experiences of injustice, inequality and oppression. When that influential instructor later lost his job, Mann organized a sit-in and hunger strike protesting the decision. "This was my first experience with activism," she says. But it certainly wasn't her last.

After college, Mann spent over a decade working in battered women's shelters, homeless shelters, and ESL classrooms. Committed to working for social change, she mostly focused on women's issues, but also participated in anti-war and anti-

racism movements. "I was profoundly conscious of the way that poverty constrains lives in the U.S.," she says. "[The work] evolved out of a general sense that each of us bears some responsibility in fighting social injustice."

Eventually, though, just as academia led Mann to activism, activism led Mann back to academia. "[As activists,] a crisis-response focus too often prevented us from thinking in any careful way about what we were doing," Mann says. "I craved the kind of careful and rigorous thinking that I experienced in certain academic contexts."

After graduate studies in Germany and New York, Mann joined the UO's philosophy department in Fall 2003 as an assistant professor. She says she was drawn to UO because of its distinction of offering feminist philosophy as a core tradition.

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“My entire focus as a scholar,” she says, “is on tracing, recuperating, developing, teaching a philosophical tradition — feminist philosophy — that is . . . intimately tied to the social movement we call feminism.” Instead of viewing social change and academic work as dichotomous pursuits, Mann sees a link between them. In her work, she seeks answers to the same questions of power, gender and justice that are asked by the feminist movement.

Recently, Mann presented a paper to the *Symposium of the International Association of Women Philosophers*, which critically analyzed the linguistic aesthetics of the “Shock and Awe” campaign in Iraq. Her next paper will deconstruct sex and gender distinctions, using UO women’s basketball games as one example. Mann will discuss “the embodied ‘style’ of the players [versus] that of the cheerleaders.” This fall, she teaches courses including Social and Political Philosophy: Power, War and Gender and Feminism and Philosophy.

After nearly a decade in social services, Mann embraces her return to academia. “I see my work now as a way of doing both things: the research provides the intellectual engagement and the teaching provides the social/intellectual engagement,” she says.

She acknowledges certain tensions between philosophy and politics. “Philosophy has traditionally defined itself in opposition to politics: a life of contemplation was held to be superior to a life of action, thinking was held to be superior to doing.” But Mann still believes, as she did years ago, that philosophy offers a path to social justice.

—MG



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Senior Angela Morrill

Discovering the Personal Connections to Literature

"Before you can make a dream come true, you must first have one."

—Robert E. McNair

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Angela Morrill's interest in cultural and social identities led her to discover the writings of Zitkala-Sa, a Sioux woman whose autobiographical essays penetrated the predominantly white field of American literature.

For **Angela Morrill**, there was a lot of living between Eugene and New York City. In fact, when she began at the UO in 2001, she almost felt that too much had changed since her days as a film student at NYU, where financial problems forced her to choose between studying and surviving. When she returned to school, she was a 37-year-old single mother on a campus where only 12 percent of undergraduates are 25 or older.

"At first, I just didn't feel like I fit in. I didn't know my place," she said. "I felt very isolated." Morrill, who is Native American, qualified for the UO's Diversity Building Scholarship, which gave her the financial boost needed to support herself and her son while she studied. But academically she was still wavering, unable to decide on what major was right for her. Then she discovered the McNair Scholar program, an undergraduate support service that helps minority and low-income undergraduates succeed and mark a path to graduate school.

"[The McNair program] gave me a lot of confidence. It provided a map," she said. "I had no idea that I had this talent for academia." Her involvement with McNair helped her begin thinking about her education in terms of going to

graduate school. With this new outlook on her education, Morrill was able to hone in on the subjects she loved — ethnic studies and literature.

“I found I really enjoyed looking at how theory, history and social sciences intersect,” she said. “I finally had words to describe the things that I thought and felt.”

Instituted at more than 180 universities across the nation, The McNair Program prepares qualified junior and seniors with the skills necessary for graduate study. Astronaut **Robert E. McNair** was the second African American to travel to space and among the six crew members who died when the space shuttle Challenger exploded in 1986. At the UO, McNair is among the three support programs offered by Academic Learning Services.

Through McNair, Morrill was able to direct her academic enthusiasm into a focused project, which McNair requires of all students in preparation for the intensity of graduate research. Her interest in cultural and social identities led her to discover the writings of Zitkala-Sa, a Sioux woman whose autobiographical essays penetrated the predominantly white field of American literature. Morrill’s project, which she presented at the 2003 McNair Summer Symposium and the Undergraduate Research Conference in Indianapolis, examines the complexities of concepts such like identity and culture using post-colonialist theory. Morrill says her interest in Zitkala-Sa also spawned from a personal connection to ethnic identity.

“My own family has a very interesting history in Oregon. We’re a very multi-racial family,” she said. “I’m really interested in looking at all the different ways people identify as Indian.”

In order to better allow students the means to conduct in-depth research, McNair provides students with research grants, travel stipends and helps them cover graduate school application costs. But along with financial support, McNair also helps with the academic, social, and emotional needs of the scholars — many of whom are non-traditional or first generation college students. One way of providing personal support is by assigning each student a faculty mentor in their area of study.

Katya Hokanson, an assistant professor of comparative literature and Morrill’s mentor last year, says the McNair program can be a vital asset to students who have the abilities to enter graduate school but lack the means. “The McNair program is excellent for helping out students who would otherwise find it very difficult to support themselves and to leap the hurdles that can stand in the way of finishing college and attending graduate school.” She said one of the benefits of being a part of the McNair program was watching Morrill develop her academic abilities. “I have watched her become increasingly confident over time and improve all of her skills, and that has been a delight. She is a brilliant student, unafraid to ask questions and willing to upset the status quo.”

Though she has one year of undergraduate study to go, the McNair program has left its mark on Morrill — she says she plans on getting her doctorate

and she's already thinking about where she'll attend graduate school. But whether she finds herself at UC San Diego, Santa Cruz, or Stanford, Morrill is bound to find herself at the rich intersection of story and history: In addition to her graduate work, she hopes to pursue one of her long-time passions — documentary filmmaking.

—LS



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Alumni Fellows

[Pam Coats](#) • [Robert Miller](#) • [Jack Borsting](#)

The College of Arts and Sciences is pleased to announce the 2004-2005 Alumni Fellow Awards. The following recipients will be honored the weekend of November 12, 2004, and will connect with students in an informal seminar while on campus to discuss their career paths and offer advice relevant to emerging graduates.

Seeing Success: Pam Coats

In the almost sixteen years she has worked for the Walt Disney Company, Pam Coats (M.F.A '84, Theatre Arts) has worked on over a dozen movies in a variety of capacities, including *Tarzan*, *Toy Story 2*, *Lilo and Stitch*, *Brother Bear*, and *Finding Nemo*. But the animated film closest to her heart is the 1998 release *Mulan*, which she spent five years producing. Based on one of the most famous legends in China, *Mulan* tells the tale of young girl who masquerades as a boy so she can go to war in her injured father's place. Coats says she takes pride in the empowering message "Mulan" sends to young girls: "They can do anything they want and succeed at it."



Pam Coats '84

A large international audience responded to *Mulan's* message. While less than 5 percent of movies break \$100 million, *Mulan* grossed more than \$236 million worldwide. At the time of its release, *Mulan* had the fourth largest debut of any animated film in history, grossing nearly \$23 million during its opening weekend.

Coats says she still receives comments on the power of the film, particularly from fathers: "Dads like movies that send messages to their daughters telling them they can be anything they want to be."

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Aside from the personal satisfaction of seeing *Mulan*'s message take hold with her audience, Coats' work earned industry honors as well. Her tenure on *Mulan* earned her the Annie Award for "Most Outstanding Individual Achievement for Producing in an Animated Feature Production." The Annie Awards are the highest honor given for excellence in animation.

Now Vice President of Creative Affairs for Walt Disney Feature Animation, Coats supervises the creative development of animated movies in production and pre-production. From finding new material to picking and mentoring the creative artists and story artists who are actually drawing the film, Coats says the directing skills she developed at the UO are put to use everyday.

Coats came to Oregon from the Utah State University, where she received her B.F.A. in Theatre Arts, because there was a "fabulous theater department [that] was well-known for its directing and acting."

Coats' parents thought that she would "never get a real job" by pursuing theater. But, after graduating from the USU, Coats says she did what she had to do to stay connected with the arts — for the simple reason that she loved theater. She started off in Los Angeles working as a real-estate office assistant while doing odd theatre jobs during the evening. Her "evening work" ultimately led to full time theatre work, running box offices and managing a small theatre company.

Eventually, while working for the Los Angeles Arts Festival, Coats was recruited to Disney, beginning in an entry level position on *The Rescuers Down Under* in 1989. However, Coats' talent was soon recognized with promotions to Associate Production Manager and then Production Manager for Development in 1991.

Her initial adventures as a full-fledged producer landed her in Florida, where she worked on the Roger Rabbit short, "Trail Mix-Up." She also executive produced "Runaway Brain," which was nominated for an Academy Award in 1996 for best animated short feature.

Coats moved from the production world to the executive ranks in 1998, when she returned to California to assume the position she currently holds. One of the few women in the leadership position at Disney Feature Animation, Coats' own personal story is in some ways like the story of a young warrior *Mulan*, a woman whose extraordinary devotion to the people and things she cared about forged a unique path to success. . .

"It's important to hang on to your passion," says Coats. "That's what led me here."

—KY

Trailblazing Robert Miller



Bob Miller '64
(Photo: Jim Block)

Ten years after graduating from the UO with a degree in sociology, F. Robert Miller '64 began work with British Petroleum Scicon computing services, where he eventually became CEO. How does a sociologist find his way into business? The same way he finds his way from business into public service: through a fascination with systems and organizations, and an interest in people.

Miller's schooling started out with a broad base at the UO, taking a lot of science classes and then being "drawn in" to social science through sociology. "The good thing about exploring in that way," says Miller, "is that your education teaches you to think

critically, to communicate effectively." He adds that progressing in business means you also need to be able to work in diverse environments with diverse people, a fact to which Miller's own resume — and zeal for travel — attests.

A couple years after graduating, Miller earned a competitive grant for study in Europe while he was enrolled in the International Business program at University of California, Berkeley. Miller says he was also fortunate enough to be supported by PacBell through grad school, then hired by them upon graduation.

"At that time in my life, I was trying to divine what I was interested in," says Miller. Both his social interests and business prowess led him to work for the Rand Corporation a think tank in Santa Monica. His UO studies about urban problems weren't all that unrelated to the human services programs — such as fire and police operations — that he ended up working with at Rand.

"Throughout my career, I've tried to improve the effectiveness of organizations by bringing them a systems approach." So, it wasn't a difficult leap to make, to go from studying social organization to analyzing corporate and government ones.

However, Miller ended up spending the bulk of his career thinking about a completely different system — computers. While working for Scicon, he helped to develop the systems integration techniques for environmental testing, refining the automotive "smog check" process that is now being implemented in twenty states.

After Scicon, Miller worked at the helm of two other environmental services companies. Though he and his staff were continually developing and implementing profitable new hardware and software technologies, Miller emphasizes that "a lot of the detailed technological skills learned are somewhat transitory. It's comes down to effective problem solving, effective communication, and knowing how to motivate and work with and through

people.”

Envirotest became the leading provider of emission inspection services and saw its market capitalization increase from \$30 million to \$275 million under Miller’s leadership.

Now, Miller is blazing a new trail. Though he continues to consult with environmental services companies in his retirement, he’s put his entrepreneurial skills to work for the non-profit sector.

In 2000, he traded his CEO position at Envirotest for one at Entrepreneurs Foundation (EF), a non-profit organization that works with Bay Area technology and life sciences companies to develop community involvement and philanthropic programs as part of their corporate culture.

“It’s about harnessing the talent and the financial resources of the entrepreneurial sector for the good of the community,” says Miller.

Though sometimes newer companies are “scrambling to make their business plan, to stay alive, and get to the next funding milestone,” Miller says that EF has made it appealing for them to get involved in the community.

“CEOs are not myopic. They know that a strong community will be more supportive of their companies. Corporate community involvement can also be successful in retaining employees.”

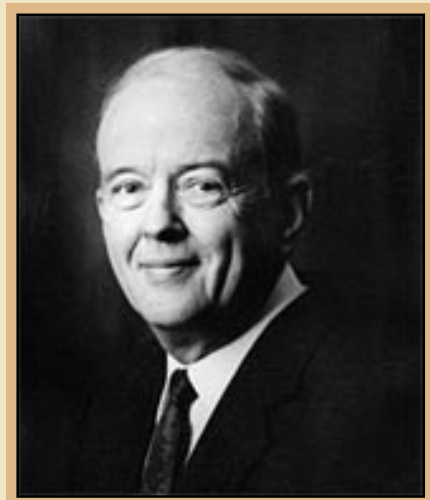
Just as he helped build the growth of the environmental services company, Miller’s “systems approach” to the social sector has also caught on. EF currently works with over 100 Bay Area companies and has spawned affiliate organizations in seven other cities, including Portland.

—JL

Mathematician Jack Borsting Reflects on the Values and Variables of Success

When Jack Borsting, M.A. '52, Ph.D. '60, was asked for advice to students who look to follow his career path, he responded, “My career path has been challenging and diverse with unique opportunities. It is not easy to follow someone else’s career path. Each individual has to structure their career based on their goals and what makes them enjoy their work.”

Since receiving his doctorate degree in mathematics in 1960, Jack Borsting’s career has taken him many places, from the Air Force to the Pentagon to the University of



Southern California.

Jack Borsting '60

Originally from Portland, Borsting received his bachelor degree from Oregon State University (OSU) before coming to the University of Oregon (UO) for graduate work. An OSU professor recommended the UO due to its strength in statistics.

Though Borsting says he's enjoyed every position he's had, he takes the most pride in his time at the United States Department of Defense. In the early 1980s, he was appointed Assistant Secretary of Defense by Presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan. In this position, he served as Chief Financial Officer, running the Defense Department's information and budgeting systems. The Department of Defense has twice honored his work with its Medal for Distinguished Public Service.

Before he was appointed to the Department of Defense, Borsting served as Provost and Academic Dean at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. After the Pentagon experience, Borsting returned to his academic roots as Dean of the School of Business Administration at the University of Miami.

A few years later, Borsting became Dean and Robert Dockson Professor of Business Administration of the University of Southern California's School of Business Administration. After leaving the Dean's position, Borsting became Executive Director of USC's Center for Telecom Management. Now Dean Emeritus, Borsting continues to follow a passion for teaching at USC's Marshall School of Business.

In addition to his academic position, Borsting has made significant contributions to professional organizations in his field. He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Institute for Operations Research & the Management Sciences (INFORMS), the Military Operations Research Society (MORS), and the International Engineering Consortium (IEC). He also has served as past president of the Operations Research Society of America (ORSA) and MORS. Both ORSA and MORS have honored Borsting with their distinguished service award.

He has also been awarded OSU's distinguished service award and he has served on eight public company boards and also several non-profit boards.

Though his career path may be too diverse for future generations to follow, Borsting offered advice for recent college graduates: "Set goals, but look for opportunities. Always be willing to change."

Borsting also suggested that students should strive to stay in contact with their classmates after graduation: "Establishing a long term network of people is very important."

One classmate that Borsting has maintained contact with over the years is Mary Alice Wetzel, a member of the College of Arts and Sciences Advisory Council. "The life long contact that I have had with Jack and his wife, Peggy,

has allowed me to follow Jack's outstanding and varied career," Wetzel said. "He is a great person to honor with this distinguished award because he has used his education to develop not only a varied career but also to participate in many forms of public service."

—KWM with KY

The nominations of your distinguished classmates are welcome! Please send your notes of support to alumnidev@cas.uoregon.edu, or forward materials to the Development Office, UO College of Arts and Sciences, 1245 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403-1245.



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Growth Curve

Strong and Steady

You might not think a Ph.D. in chemistry would set someone on the investment banking track, but in the case of **Gary Hibler '72**, it did. Hibler currently serves as the president and a director for both Jensen Investment Management and The Jensen Portfolio in Portland, Oregon, and directs the management of almost \$3 billion in assets.

Hibler discovered his talent as a grad student at the UO. "I've always enjoyed building things," he says. "I like to make things grow."

But this didn't always happen under the microscope. "I was an operations guy while most of my peers in grad school were theoreticians," he recalls. "I could put the experiment together and build system after system." He did much of this work in **Dr. Petacolas'** laboratory, using laser beams to discover more about molecular structures.

After leaving the UO, Hibler enrolled in a post-doc program at the University of Oregon Health Sciences Center (now Oregon Health Sciences University) in Portland to train in the operations of a medical laboratory business. This led him to work with Portland-based Pathologists Central Laboratory, owned by 23 pathologists.

But Hibler had an eye for growing his position within the company. "I wanted to be part-owner so I started buying stock," Hibler says. When the company sold fourteen years later, Hibler was the largest shareholder.

Hibler then had the opportunity to focus on his strength — operations. "I



As a chemist, Gary Hibler '72 discovered his natural "operations" ability by setting up experiments.

Now he sets up investments, leading one of the top-ranked mutual funds companies in the nation.

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started hiring people like myself but who were more interested in the science side of things.” Hibler in turn focused on finance and marketing, leading the company through approximately seven mergers and acquisitions.

During his time with the medical laboratory business, Hibler recruited Val Jensen to join his board of directors. Jensen ran a regional stock brokerage firm and, after thirty years in the business, had concluded that the people who really made money bought good companies and kept them. Jensen soon recruited Hibler to join him, and together they began to build upon that investment philosophy, one that continues to guide The Jensen Portfolio and Jensen Investment Management, Inc.

Starting out twelve years ago, this philosophy didn’t have a history of success to sell itself. “In the investment business most people want you to have at least a five-year track record,” Hibler says. “There’s no shortcut to creating that.” By 1998, they had established a solid record and hired a public relations firm based in New York, SunStar, to spread the word. “We had a very good story,” Hibler says. “A relatively unique story of how we invest money.”

Soon after the PR campaign began, the market headed south, but Jensen continued to see steady growth. “Our strategy is very conservative,” Hibler says. “We’ve never invested in a dot-com. Wouldn’t even come close to it. After the stock market bubble burst in 2000 everyone was saying, ‘Invest in quality companies.’ But that’s what we’ve always done . . . we’re not traders, we’re long-term business analysts.

Jensen requires that a company post a return on equity of 15% or higher for ten years in a row before it will consider it for the portfolio. Qualifying stocks include *Stryker*, *Pfizer*, *General Electric*, *Johnson & Johnson*, and *Proctor & Gamble*.

The firm’s adherence to its philosophy over the years has remained constant. “You have to understand business. What makes it grow. What makes it tick,” Hibler says. His natural talent for operations has helped him do this: “When we’re investing in a business like Stryker, and Stryker does a new acquisition, I can look at it and understand the difficulties and how they’re addressing them.”

Jensen Investment Management has also grown under Hibler’s leadership. Over the last four years, the firm’s assets under management have grown ten fold and the firm has more than doubled both its number of employees and office space. The firm has also received a five-star rating by Morningstar (an independent investment research group) for the past several years.

“The people of the world know about us now,” Hibler said. “We went out to tell the world who we are and what we do. The world listened. And we’re still on a pretty good growth curve.”

—OH

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Transforming Gratitude to Advocacy

Oregon State Senator Ryan Deckert '93

Political Science alumnus and Beaverton native **Ryan Deckert '93** is grateful that he had access to a quality education at the UO. Now, as Oregon State Senator, he's trying to assure that future generations of Oregon students can say the same thing.

"I just think our economic future is predicated on smart investments in higher education," Deckert said, in an interview after the opening of the Oregon Nanoscience and Micro-technologies Institute, a joint Oregon University System research initiative that the legislature supported in 2003.

As important as it is, access isn't the only educational issue facing the state right now, said Deckert. The legislature needs also to invest in research that's going to stimulate the economy.

Deckert currently serves on legislative committees that address both sides of the fallout from Oregon's disinvestment in higher education: Economic Development and Education. He also chaired the revenue committee for 2003. "I've chosen to use whatever influence I have in the legislature on those committees to reverse a tough decade for higher education," he said.

"We've also got a make or break time, I think, in Oregon as far as insourcing jobs," he said. "The state can play a positive role or negative — we've seen both."

Deckert's own efforts as author of the legislation that will create world-class signature research centers at three Oregon universities earned him the title of "High Tech Legislator of the Year" in 2003. As someone who can speak and write eloquently about topics ranging from nanoscience initiatives to



"My time at the University of Oregon is why I ran for the legislature."

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school lunch programs, Deckert says his social science degree prepared him for his multi-faceted career.

“It prepared me to think critically and find the David Chens of the world [the Oregon venture capitalist chairing the ONAMI advisory board],” he said. “These amazing, smart people are going to lead an economic revival. . . After that, it’s just making good decisions, giving them room to stay here in Oregon and start their companies here.”

Also listed as one of the “Top 100 Democrats to Watch,” Deckert credits his education for encouraging him to follow his passion and be an advocate for the issues he most cares about: “My time at the University of Oregon is why I ran for the legislature.”

Deborah Baumgold’s political theory class is one he still thinks about “all the time.” “I was watching the Country Music Awards and thought of it,” he said. “There are political ramifications in how we present ourselves, and in the kind of things we sing about and think about, and in who we are.”

Other faculty mentors from his home department of political science included **Priscilla Southwell** and **Jim Klonoski**: “[He] inspired me and so many of my peers.”

The Oregon University System as a whole has great presidents and great faculty, he added. “We need to recognize the jewels that we have in higher learning here in Oregon,” said Deckert. “It certainly is a personal mission for me.”

—*JL*



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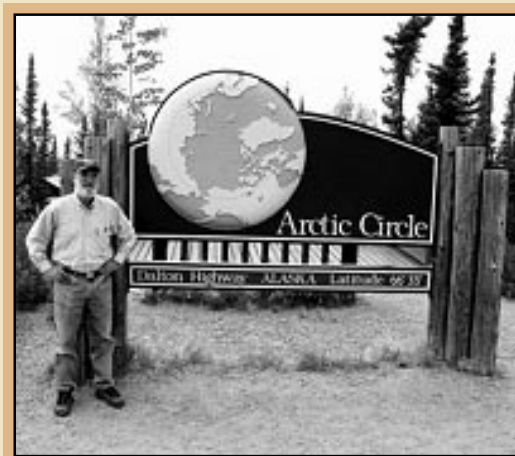
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Unearthing History

Alumnus Investigates the Past to Benefit the Future



Don Hardesty examines archaeological remains in the remote Alaskan interior.

In November 1846, a group of families known as the Donner Party attempted to cross a section of the snow-laden Sierra Nevada mountain range in Utah during a westward migration. The party stalled in severe weather and was stranded with no supply source. To this day, the events leading to the survival of just one-half of the party are shadowed by mystery and speculation of cannibalism.

Donald Hardesty (Ph.D. '72) was a pioneer in his own right when he began applying the concepts and techniques of historical archaeology to this infamous site in 1984.

Weaving the clues left by remains such as burnt bone fragments with geological indicators such as sediment layers, Hardesty and his successors attempt to draw conclusions about the ill-fated party's harsh winter experiences. Today's sophisticated diagnostic methods can help narrow conclusions, but for Hardesty, vignettes such as the Donner Party tell an overall greater story.

"Archaeology, when used interactively with documents and oral histories, is capable of gathering information about and interpreting the collapse and survival of such systems in the modern world that have important implications for critical issues such as planning for sustainable development in the future," he says.

Kelly Dixon is a historical archaeologist and former graduate student of Hardesty's. As recently as summer 2004, she participated in Donner Party research, spending time at the site with archaeologist Julie Schablitsky. She first worked with Hardesty in 1998, although was already familiar with his research.

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Hardesty at the Kennecott Copper Mine.

“By the fall of 1999, I decided that I wanted to earn my Ph.D. with him,” she says. “His books, chapters, and articles became, and continue to be, my most dog-eared.”

The Donner Party dig is just one of myriad sites that lend well to Hardesty’s expertise. While his attachment to the project remains strong, his primary research focus is early mining technology and gold rush settlements in Alaska. The settlements’ remains provide backdrops for his study of early

telegraph systems — specifically, the Washington-Alaska Military Cable and Telegraph System and the intermittent solitary relay stations manned in the early 1900s.

“Archeological remains include buildings, food, clothing, and newspapers, all of which has left a fairly dramatic physical record of life in the remote Alaskan interior,” says Hardesty.

The combined range, depth, and longevity of his research distinguish Hardesty in his field. While his work has brought recognition such as the University of Nevada’s 2001 Outstanding Researcher award, he also teaches courses and divides his summers between field work and field school for archeological methods.

“Don is a prolific scholar who has made important contributions in the realms of cultural ecology, archaeology of gender and ethnicity, and archaeology of colonization and industry,” says **C. Melvin Aikens**, Ph.D., Director of UO’s Museum of Natural and Cultural History and a new faculty member at the time Hardesty was completing his graduate studies. “Don has distinguished himself across a pretty significant range of archeological study, all of it informed by the anthropological perspective.”

Delving into the last 500 years of history is a long way from Hardesty’s undergraduate ambitions in electrical engineering in Washington, D.C. Trips to the Smithsonian Institute inspired his change of major to archaeology; he earned his B.A. from the University of Kentucky in 1964. A graduate teaching assistant position and, more importantly, newly hired anthropology department chair **Albert C. Spaulding**, former director of anthropology at the National Science Foundation, drew Hardesty to UO for his graduate studies. He completed his doctorate after leaving UO in 1968 to accept a teaching position at the University of Nevada, Reno, where he remains. In July 2004, he entered his third year as chair of the Department of Anthropology.

Whether in the classroom, the folds of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, or in

the Alaskan interior, for Hardesty the reward of his work is piecing together enough facts to present as complete a story as can be told about the subject, both for historical preservation and future edification.

“I’m interested in how archaeology is used to help plan for the future,” he says, “especially regarding sustainable development and the direction that we as a human population might take in the future, learning from the recent past and looking at successes and failures in interactions with the larger environment.”

—CL



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