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# Inside Oregon

FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON COMMUNITY

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June 25, 2007

## **Paying taxes, according to the brain, can bring satisfaction**



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your local food bank. University of Oregon scientists have found that doing those deeds can give you the same sort of satisfaction you derive from feeding your own hunger pangs.

[Full story »](#)

## **Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art displays murals by**

## artist Carl Morris



The Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art will display "Carl Morris: History of Religions," an exhibition of nine murals created for Oregon's Centennial Celebration. These murals,

which haven't been shown collectively since 1959, will be on view from June 28 through Sept. 9, 2007.

[Full story »](#)

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oak savanna, subtle sunshine falling upon on a tree and a mountain stream glowing in half light.

An exhibit of Search's work, "Mount Pisgah: Refuge for the Spirit," opens Friday, June 29, at the University of Oregon's Museum of Natural and Cultural History, 1680 E. 15th Ave. Opening night will feature a gallery talk by Search at 6:30 p.m. A reception will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. The exhibit runs through Oct. 26.

[Full story »](#)

## Languages must be spoken, preserved by young people



As a teenager, born on Willapa Bay and raised in southwestern Washington, Tony Johnson's elders in the Chinook Tribe passed on to him centuries-old stories of the first ships on the Columbia River. To hear the histories, Johnson frequented nursing homes.

Now much of his focus is on preschools. In about a decade of work with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, Johnson has helped organize preschool program which requires the young students to speak only Chinuk Wawa, a language used a century ago by more than 100,000 tribal members, elders, traders and explorers from northern California to southern Alaska but which, like many indigenous tongues risked extinction only a few years ago.

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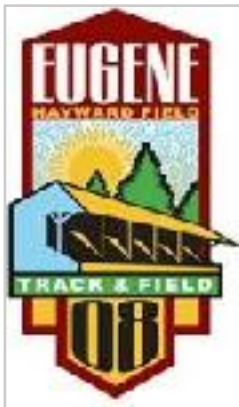
## Four UO students receive prestigious Fulbright awards

Four University of Oregon students have received U. S. Student Program Fulbright awards for international study or research during 2007-08.

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Let the countdown begin until the University of Oregon hosts the 2008 U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials at Hayward Field.

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# Paying taxes, according to the brain, can bring satisfaction



*Bill Harbaugh, Ulrich Mayr and Dan Burghart*

Want to light up the pleasure center in your brain? Just pay your taxes, and then give a little extra voluntarily to your local food bank. University of Oregon scientists have found that doing those deeds can give you the same sort of satisfaction you derive from feeding your own hunger pangs.

A three-member team – a cognitive psychologist and two economists – published its results in the June 15 issue of the journal *Science*. The scientists gave 19 women participants \$100 and then scanned their brains with functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) as they watched their money go to the food bank through mandatory taxation, and as they made choices about whether

to give more money voluntarily or keep it for themselves.

The participants lay on their backs in the fMRI scanner for an hour-long session and viewed the financial transfers on a computer screen. The scanner used a super-cooled magnet, carefully tuned radio waves and powerful computers to calculate what parts of the brain were active as subjects saw their money go to the food bank and made yes or no decisions on additional giving.

Researchers found that two evolutionarily ancient regions deep in the brain – the caudate nucleus and the nucleus accumbens – fired when subjects saw the charity get the money. The activation was even larger when people gave the money voluntarily, instead of just paying it as taxes. These brain regions are the same ones that fire when basic needs such as food and pleasures (sweets or social contact) are satisfied.

"The surprising element for us was that in a situation in which your money is simply given to others – where you do not have a free choice – you still get reward-center activity," said Ulrich Mayr, a professor of psychology. "I don't think that most economists would have suspected that. It reinforces the idea that there is true altruism – where it's all about how well the common good is doing. I've heard people claim that they don't mind paying taxes, if it's for a good cause – and here we showed that you can actually see this going on inside the brain, and even measure it."

The study gives economists a novel look inside the brain during taxation, said co-author William T. Harbaugh, a UO professor of economics and member of the National Bureau of Economic Research in Cambridge, Mass. "To economists, the surprising thing about this paper is that we actually

see people getting rewards as they give up money," he said. "Neural firing in this fundamental, primitive part of the brain is larger when your money goes to a non-profit charity to help other people."

"On top of that," Harbaugh added, "people experience more brain activation when they give voluntarily – even though everything here is anonymous. That's a very surprising result – and, to me, an optimistic one."

However, this latter finding, which offers confirmation to the economic theory of "warm-glow" giving, doesn't necessarily mean that taxes should be lowered and charity relied on more heavily, Harbaugh said. In a voluntary environment, he added, lots of people free-ride and donations fall.

The study, Mayr said, reflects the balancing act that every society must face. "What this shows to someone who designs tax policy is that taxes aren't all bad," he said. "Paying taxes can make citizens happy. People are, to varying degrees, pure altruists. On top of that they like that warm glow they get from charitable giving. Until now we couldn't trace that in the brain."

Neural activation from mandatory taxation, the researchers said, helps predict who will give. "We could call the people whose brains light up more when money goes to charity than to themselves altruists," Mayr said. "The others are egoists. Based on what we saw in the experiments, we can use this classification to predict how much people are willing to give when the choice is theirs."

There remain a lot of unanswered questions, Harbaugh said. "We show that people liked paying a tax that went to a food bank. But suppose the tax

had been unfair. What then? Or suppose that people voted to make other people pay the tax, too? That would help other people even more, so would the voter get a bigger neural reward?"

Harbaugh, Mayr and co-author Dan Burghart, an economics graduate student, say they are not worried about the possibility that governments could use their method to monitor tax evasion, or charities could use it to figure out whom to ask for money. "To do this, we needed a \$3 million scanner, some liquid helium and a few weeks of computer time," Harbaugh said.

"If a participant moved her head," Burghart added, "we had to start all over. It will be a while before this is built into cell phones."

The National Institute of Aging supported the research.

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### **Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art displays murals by artist Carl Morris**



*Carl Morris, Groups Over the Land, from the series History of Religions, 1959, oil on canvas, 8-by-10 feet, gift of the Fine Arts Commission of the Oregon Centennial.*

The Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art will display "Carl Morris: History of Religions," an exhibition of nine murals created for Oregon's Centennial Celebration. These murals, which haven't been shown collectively since 1959, will be on view from June 28 through Sept. 9, 2007.

The exhibit will open with a free, preview reception from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, June 27, at the museum, 1430 Johnson Lane. The Oregon

Bach Festival Trio will perform during the reception.

The 1959 Oregon Centennial Exposition was created to tell "The Oregon Story." One pavilion had the challenging task of representing the history of religious faiths. Carl Morris, arguably Portland's most accomplished painter at the time, was selected to paint mural panels, each over 8-by-8 feet in size.

These murals, appropriately monumental in scale, are a series of abstract symbols represented through Morris' explorations of form, space, light, color and texture. The curator for "History of Religions" is Lawrence Fong, JSMA curator of American and Regional Art.

Also featured are works representing Morris's early examples of figurative and landscape paintings. A visitor to Eugene can view Carl Morris' 1943 Work Projects Administration (WPA) paintings, "Lumbering" and "Agriculture" can be seen at the U. S. Post Office, 520 Willamette St., in downtown Eugene.

"History of Religions" is supported by grants from the Lane County Cultural Coalition, the Oregon Cultural Trust, and the Oregon Arts Commission. Additional support from Brooks and Dorothy Cofield, Dan D. and Kathy K. Harmon, the late Jean Vollum, the Royal Danish Consulate, and the Carl and Hilda Morris Foundation.

Museum hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesdays and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens, high school students and non-UO college students. Free admission is given to ages 13 and under, JSMA members, and university employees. For information, contact the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, 541-346-3027.

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Search, an artist in the museum's Pacific Northwest Artist Series, will display 11-by-14-inch and 16-by-20-inch prints, which highlight the wonder of quiet moments found in the arboretum, a just 20-minute drive southeast of downtown Eugene. This area embodies many riches of the Pacific Northwest -- hiking trails, wildflower meadows and vistas of distant snow-capped peaks of the Cascade Range.

"Taking photos at Mount Pisgah encourages a pause, if only for a small portion of the day, to contemplate what is given naturally and to gain a sense of harmony often missing in our daily routine," Search said.

Museum hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Admission is \$3 for adults; \$2 for seniors and youths ages 17 and younger; and \$8 for families (two adults and up to four children) and free to the public on Wednesdays. Museum members and university faculty and staff members and students are admitted free. For more information, call the museum, 541-346-3024.

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### Languages must be spoken, preserved by young people



*Tony Johnson helped found a language-immersion preschool on the Grande Ronde Reservation.*

As a teenager, born on Willapa Bay and raised in southwestern Washington, Tony Johnson's elders in the Chinook Tribe passed on to him centuries-old stories of the first ships on the Columbia River. To hear the histories, Johnson frequented nursing homes.

Now much of his focus is on preschools. In about a decade of work with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, Johnson has helped organize

preschool program which requires the young students to speak only Chinuk Wawa, a language used a century ago by more than 100,000 tribal members, elders, traders and explorers from northern California to southern Alaska but which, like many indigenous tongues risked extinction only a few years ago.

Johnson presented earlier this month as part of the University of Oregon's Northwest Indian Language Institute's Tenth Annual Summer Institute, which concludes on campus this week.

The UO program gives native language teachers and community members training in language teaching and linguistics. With tribal partners, the institute supports and strengthens language preservation efforts by establishing collaborative, on-going projects, which meet the specific needs and desires of each language community.

The 10-day summer program drew more than 20 experts from around the region and offered a variety of information about language teaching methods, audio tools for recording languages and courses on a pair of ancient languages.

At the preschool on the Grande Ronde Reservation in northwestern Oregon, students and teachers are forbidden from speaking anything but Chinuk Wawa. Often it's the young students who are the strictest enforcers of the rules. Parents must sign a contract agreeing to volunteer at the school, attend adult Chinuk Wawa classes and to make an effort to speak the language at home.

By learning the language, the children also absorb cultural lessons as well. Johnson's young son Sammy attended the preschool and polished his language skills while also picking up other important ideas.

"We were in Canada and drove by a smokehouse. I know I hadn't talked to him about this, but when we drove by, he said in Chinuk Wawa, 'Dad, that's where spirit powers come out, isn't it?'" Johnson recalled. "He knew that because of something built in the language."

In his effort to preserve Chinuk Wawa, Johnson has drawn on similar efforts of the Maori in New Zealand, as well as indigenous people in Hawaii.

"When I first visited a program in Hawaii I was reduced to tears to see all these young people speaking the language of their ancestors," he said.

The day will come soon, Johnson said, when tribal leaders will come from these immersion programs, and language skills will again be treasured by entire communities.

"I hope our kids will be warriors in preserving Chinuk Wawa," he said.

The conference continues through June 28.

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Edwards will build on previous stays in Mali to examine forces that influence commercialization of wildlife products in West Africa. A former Peace Corps volunteer in the country, Edwards later returned as a master's level student to complete an apprenticeship with a fetish maker. He said that the Fulbright award "will contribute to my personal goal of becoming a college professor in anthropology, where I wish to use my experience as a researcher and ethnographer to challenge



students and offer alternative perspectives."

Kashirin will explore the ramifications of Soviet legislation on religious communities in Ukraine. Born in Blagoveshchensk, Russia, Kashirin's cross-cultural and real-life experiences under the Soviet and post-Soviet governments have uniquely qualified him for this research. "My projected 10-month stay in Ukraine — a former Soviet republic and an historical home to large concentrations of Protestants — will give me sufficient time to collect data concerning the Soviet Protestants' communal, cultural, professional and economic life and investigate the various aspects of state-church relations in the region during the Soviet era," Kashirin said.

Frank, who graduated with honors in December, will pursue a master's degree in international economics in The Netherlands. He wants to study international economics because "trade binds us together, providing the economic sustenance for an increasingly interconnected global society," he said. "Having the financial support to complete a master's degree in economics at the University of Amsterdam gives me a wonderful opportunity to further my studies in one of Europe's cultural capitals. It is an incredible honor to be a recipient of the Fulbright award, and I look forward to representing my state and university during my year abroad."

Frantz, slated for a June graduation, received a Fulbright to teach conversational English to university students in Turkey. She has previously taught English to Spanish-speaking elementary students in Iowa and to Greek high school students in Thessaloniki. She will draw on her work and academic experiences "to explain my country and culture to Turkish students who may have little

contextual understanding of America."

In addition, Alison Altstatt, a doctoral student in musicology, was selected as an alternate for the Fulbright award, and received the highly competitive German Academic Exchange Service scholarship. Altsatt will conduct archival research in Erlangen, Bavaria, for her dissertation on the music of late medieval convents.

For more information, visit the Fulbright U.S. Student Program Web site at [www.us.fulbrightonline.org](http://www.us.fulbrightonline.org). Students currently enrolled at the UO should contact the campus Fulbright Program adviser, Kathy Poole, at [kpoole@uoregon.edu](mailto:kpoole@uoregon.edu), for more information. The on-campus application deadline is Sept. 26, 2007. The UO will also hold a workshop to discuss scholarships, including the Fulbright from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. on July 12 in the Fir Room of the Erb Memorial Union. This workshop is free and open to the public.

For more than 60 years, Fulbright student grants have aimed to increase mutual understanding among nations through educational and cultural exchange while serving as a catalyst for long-term leadership development. Fulbright full grants generally provide funding for round-trip travel, maintenance for one academic year, health and accident coverage and full or partial tuition.

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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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