
Inside Oregon

FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON COMMUNITY

July 23, 2007

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cultures, to encourage academic study of the roles they play in global conflict resolution, and ultimately to promote world peace.

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the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

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Cultural Organization.

The chair will enable the university to collaborate with high-level, internationally recognized researchers and faculty members at academic institutions in North America, Europe and other regions of the world. Eventually, the university plans to establish a Center for Transcultural Studies, Interreligious Dialogue, and Peace on campus.

Steven Shankman, director of the Oregon Humanities Center, will serve as the first chair holder. Shankman, who is a University of Oregon College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor, said the program is critically important. It also speaks to the quality of existing programs, said Dave Frohnmayer, university president.

"We are extremely proud that the first chair awarded for this program in the United States has been given to Steven Shankman," Frohnmayer said. "This is a testament to the work that is being done on this campus in the areas of conflict resolution, peace studies and international scholarship."

The university will establish a program that will allow students to earn a UNESCO-sponsored certificate in Transcultural Studies and will offer programs in ethics, peace studies, comparative religion, comparative literature, philosophy and conflict resolution. In addition, the university will host a 2008 meeting of all the chairs in UNESCO's Intercultural Dialogue Program.

The UNESCO chair is a significant opportunity for the UO, Shankman said.

"In a world where sectarian violence threatens us at so many levels, we are required to learn as

much as we can about the world's cultures and religions if we are to live in peace," he said.

The selection of Shankman further establishes the UO as a global institution, said Senator Gordon Smith, R-Ore.

"It is entirely appropriate that the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO has recognized the quality of the University of Oregon by establishing Professor Steve Shankman as a UNESCO Chair," Smith said. "The University of Oregon -- and the region as a whole -- will see even greater instances of international exchange, dialogue and discussion as a result of this development."

UNESCO contributes to peace and security in the world by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science, culture and communication.

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better than Holmes, Brady said.

"We are honored to have an innovative person like Robin in this position," Brady said. "Her vision, experience and drive will play a key role in ushering in an exciting new era at the University of Oregon."

As vice president for student affairs, Holmes will be responsible for supporting students from orientation through graduation. She will oversee the Career Center, the Counseling and Testing Center, the Office of the Dean of Students, Erb Memorial Union, the University Health Center, University Housing, the Department of Physical Education and Recreation and the Office of Student Life.

Holmes, a licensed clinical psychologist, has worked at the UO for 15 years. She has served as the chief psychologist for the campus, ensuring the psychological and emotional well-being for students, staff and faculty. Earlier this year she was one of 39 senior faculty and administrators in the country to be named an American Council on Education Fellow, a program designed to foster growth among those who show great promise in higher education administration. As part of the fellowship, Holmes will leave Aug. 1 for a five-month stint at the University of California, Berkeley. During that time, Mike Eyster, director of housing, will serve as the acting vice president for student affairs.

"I am excited to serve the University of Oregon in new ways," Holmes said. "This new position will challenge all of us within the University to develop new and innovative ways to ensure student success at the University of Oregon. I am especially excited to work more collaboratively with my colleagues in academic affairs, as we find

new ways to seamlessly ensure academic
excellence both in and out of the classroom."

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The festival concluded earlier this month with the stratospheric strains of Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, but before the music even started, the cheers resounded through Silva Hall in standing applause for outgoing cofounder and executive director Royce Saltzman.

In a pre-concert ceremony, University of Oregon President Dave Frohnmayer conferred upon Saltzman the official title of Executive Director Emeritus. New leader John Evans takes the reins as the festival looks ahead to its 39th season, June 27-July 13, 2008, with a concentration of great works by its guiding light, J.S. Bach.

At the gate, the festival recorded another year of box office growth, reaching nearly \$420,000 in sales--an increase of 16 percent from 2006 -- and attracting an international audience of more than 31,000.

Visitors came from 34 states and six foreign countries to participate in nearly 50 events in the Festival's 17 days. Among the concerts they heard were the sold-out Oregon debut of piano sensations The 5 Browns and a live concert recording of Haydn's Mass for Theresa, which will be issued next spring as part of a commemorative package to herald the 200th anniversary in 2009 of the great composer's death.

In all, 475 musicians from the U.S., Europe, Asia, Canada, and South America took part in concerts.

In addition to enjoying the music, audiences contributed nearly \$6 million indirectly to the economy, through shopping, hotels, meals, sightseeing, and being welcomed as temporary residents of the area.

"I am very happy with the festival this year," said Helmuth Rilling of Stuttgart, Germany, the festival's artistic director. "It was a great artistic success, performed at the highest level. Although in some ways it is sad that Royce is moving on, we can look forward to new leadership with John Evans, and the expectation of great achievements in the future."

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Karema Abdul Raheem Bokhary (pictured, left), a science and English education specialist, was one of three educators from Saudi Arabia to visit the University of Oregon in July.

Leslie Opp-Beckman (pictured, right), a senior instructor in the UO's American English Institute, was one of many UO educators to discuss the potential faculty and student exchanges, scholarly networking, and online distance education opportunities.

Along with Bokhary, Hussah Al-Saif, a general

director of education in Saudi Arabia, and Fatma S. Al Kherajii, a special education teacher, visited the campus.

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The sculpture -- reminiscent of the organic shapes

of leaves -- will complement the surrounding architecture, and link the various outdoor spaces through what project creator, North Carolina artist, Thomas Sayre, calls "visual echoes." They will serve as bridges between the natural and man-made worlds on several levels. With a height of ten to 12 feet, they will act as architectural mediators of scale between the humans and buildings around them. They also span the organic/industrial chasm, with one side rough and patterned from the earth, the other slick and polished.

Sayre hopes the structures will act as reminders of the earth's essential elements according to many societies -- earth, air, wind, fire, and a fifth element which consists of a combination of the other four -- and serve as opportunities to continually experiment with space and composition. He writes that the installations should "connect with the ancient past and the contemporary university through which we are still trying to discover the elements of the universe and how we fit into them."

Residents will be able to enjoy views of these sculptures from their room windows, but all will benefit from their presence. With some located on a major path through campus, their presence will be a welcome addition to the campus as a whole.

The public art installation for the Living-Learning Center is a series of Earthscape sculptures by Sayre. The sculptures will be installed in August.

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Individual tickets are \$5 for everyone older than 2 years. Admission is \$4 per person for groups of 10 or more. Tickets are available at the parks on days of performances. For more information or to arrange group reservations, call 541-346-4192. Bring a blanket and enjoy a performance in one of the area's city parks. Rain checks will be given in case of inclement weather.

The plot follows best friends William and Janet as

they play in a world that lets them be whatever they want to be. They join with friends Richard and Vickie to explore their dreams and feelings. The four friends dress up as characters and create fantastic planets where they discover the thrill of being themselves, even if it means being different.

"In a society where there is so much expectation for kids to be what parents and friends want them to be, this show reminds us that children have their own beautiful dreams and aspirations," said James Engberg, director. With contributions from legends such as Judy Blume, Carl Reiner and Shel Silverstein, "Free To Be... You and Me" is full of music and fun.

Mad Duckling Summer Theatre is made possible through the support of the Associated Students of the University of Oregon.

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