
Inside Oregon

FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON COMMUNITY

August 6, 2007

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scholarships.

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[Full story »](#)

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(Click on photo for larger image.) New York City-based artist Suikang Zhao is working on campus with welding torches to mold and twist steel into art. Messages embedded in the vines reflect the healing that happens in the building, Zhao said.

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The suspended steel designs mark the finishing touches on a \$10.8 million remodeling and expansion project of the building that houses both the university's Health Center and the Counseling & Testing Center. New York City-based artist Suikang Zhao is working on campus with welding torches to mold and twist steel into art. Messages imbedded in the vines reflect the healing that happens in the building, Zhao said. The project is in keeping with a longstanding tradition of public art in Oregon, which in 1977 became one of the first states to devote a portion of construction costs to works of art.

During a visit to the UO in the fall of 2006, Zhao collected messages of healing and wholeness submitted by many in the university community. Submissions were in several languages, ranging from Japanese and Korean to Hawaiian and French. In the project, Zhao is weaving the words into overlapping spirals of letters, which aren't easily read. Instead, visitors will be able to use a key to find the sentiments, such as the word "harmony," which are spelled out in the project. The organic nature of the spiraling steel letters mimics both the interconnectedness and ambiguity of life, said Zhao, who was 29 when he moved to the U.S. from China in 1986.

"The messages in this project can't really be defined or explained. They can only be experienced," he said. "Like much of what

happens in life, this project is ambiguous. There's a rhythm and pattern to it, but like so much in life it can't be defined."

Zhao, a professor of fine art at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, has completed public art projects all over the country, including ones in Denver International Airport, the Portland City Planning and Development Center, and the Phoenix light rail system. A committee with representatives of the students, the UO Health Center, the Counseling & Testing Center, the UO Office of Planning, the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, Boora Architects and the Oregon Arts Commission selected Zhao's proposal from a pool of applications from artists all over the country. The committee worked with Zhao to incorporate input from the community into the final piece.

"We wanted something that creatively reflected a message about the work that goes on in the building," said committee member Anne Mattson, associate director of the Health Center. "We are really impressed with the degree to which this project does that."

Just as observers look for the messages written into the twisted steel, all people must take on similar searches for healing and wholeness in their own lives, said committee-member Gwen Jansen, of the UO Counseling & Testing Center.

"The vines will be thought provoking," Jansen said. "And like all compelling art, the steel sculptures can lead observers to insights and deep feelings in a subtle way."

Zhao, who is working on the project with two apprentices from New York, Pamsan Cheng and Jillian Leedy, and University of Oregon art

student, Reagan Hauswald, will be in Eugene until Aug. 25.

Oregon Revised Statutes require that "not less than 1 percent of the direct construction funds of new or remodeled state buildings with construction budgets of \$100,000 or greater" be set aside for art. Oregon is one of at least 27 states with percent for art legislation guiding the inclusion of works of art in new public construction. In addition to statewide programs, there are more than 130 active public art programs which are managed by counties, cities, boroughs, transportation authorities, redevelopment authorities and private non-profit agencies.

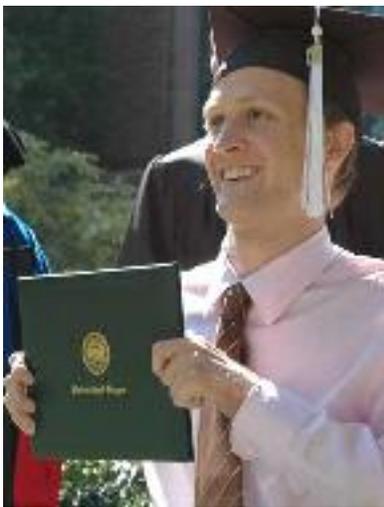
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A random traffic accident in 2002 crushed the cab of Noah Smith's pickup, shattered one of his vertebra and left the then University of Oregon junior a quadriplegic. Almost five years later, Smith is a recipient of the one of the nation's most generous and prestigious scholarships.

The 26-year-old from Hood River was recently named one of 34 students to receive a 2007 Jack Kent Cooke Graduate Scholarship. The award will

fund entirely Smith's studies at the Boalt School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley, where he starts classes this fall.

"It's an amazingly generous scholarship," said Smith, who in 2006 graduated from the UO summa cum laude. "The other 33 recipients are incredible people. Going to law school with no debt is huge. It really gives me a lot of options. I won't have to take a job that doesn't suit me in order to pay off loans. I can do what I want to do when I finish."

Smith, however, isn't sure exactly what type of legal career he wants to pursue. He's interested in environmental law, litigation and public interest advocacy, especially for people with spinal cord injuries. He has twice gone to Washington D.C. to rally on the capitol steps in favor of stem cell research and the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Act, which calls on the federal government to encourage innovative therapies and clinical trials to help treat spinal cord injuries and other types of paralysis. Neither bill has been passed.

"Those two pieces of legislation offer a great deal of hope to those who live in pain, who can't work," Smith said. "The whole country would benefit from these bills."

Advocacy has been a large part of Smith's healing process since his accident. In 2002, Smith was driving back to the UO after Thanksgiving weekend with his family in Hood River when a vehicle headed in the opposite direction on the freeway lost a wheel. The wheel bounced across the median and crushed the cab of Smith's small pickup, shattering one of his vertebra and damaging his spinal cord.

With the help of his younger brother and his

parents, as well as grueling workouts at two facilities for people with spinal cord injuries, Project Walk in Carlsbad, Calif., and the Awakenings Health Institute near San Diego, Smith regained his independence and, remarkably, the use of his hands and arms. A casual observer might not realize he's still considered a quadriplegic.

"I can't control what happened to me," he said. "It was a random accident. But I think I've done a good job taking advantage of the opportunities since then. The injury was not even five years ago, and there's still a lot more to come."

This is the sixth year that the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation has funded the graduate scholarship. Cooke, who died in 1997, left most of his fortune to the organization. He started his career selling encyclopedias, but ultimately owned a variety of businesses, including newspapers, television stations and the Washington Redskins.

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Stu Levy, American, "Gordon Gilkey, Portland Art Museum," n. d., toned gelatin silver print, photography at Oregon Acquisition Fund Purchase. (Click on photo for larger image.)

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of jade quails and two hanging scrolls are also on display.

Photographs added to the collection include three Michael Kenna prints, a Stu Levy portrait of Gordan Gilkey and a piece by Jungjin Lee. Works by Austrian Friedensreich Hundertwasser and American Charles Bryan Ryan are also included in the exhibit.

The JSMA has acquired the works on display over the past four years, either as direct gifts or purchases made with specially designated funds. The original collection, donated by Gertrude Bass Warner in 1921 and containing mostly Asian works, has been augmented over the years with new acquisitions, bringing the museum's collection to more than 12,500 pieces.

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 and \$3 for senior citizens, high school students and non-UO college students with ID. Free admission is given to ages 13 and under, JSMA members, and university faculty, staff and students. For information, contact the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, 541-346-3027.

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JORDAN SCHNITZER MUSEUM OF ART

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SEE. THINK. DO.

The Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art at the University of Oregon welcomes you to a vibrant new museum. After completion of a major renovation and expansion project, the new facility is nearly double in size. Discover dramatically expanded and redesigned spaces including galleries featuring American, European, Korean, Chinese, and Japanese art that are enhanced with a series of special exhibitions and a full complement of inviting programs.

Carl Morris: History of Religions

June 28 - September 9, 2007

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Make the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art your own.

Become a member today!

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Also on View



Tichvine Mother of God (Bogomater Tichvinskaya), Russian, late seventeenth century. (Detail)
[\[full image and credit\]](#)

ON VIEW

Ray Atkeson: Images of Oregon

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Discover New Rotations in the Collections Galleries

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View newly installed works by Guy Anderson, James Lavador, Jasper Johns and Andy Warhol.

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Meteor shower highlights special Sunday program at Pine Mountain Observatory

A potentially spectacular meteor shower during a dark phase of the moon will be the featured attraction of a special viewing program Sunday, Aug. 12, at the [Pine Mountain Observatory](#), perched on a secluded mountaintop an hour's drive southeast of Bend.

The Perseid Meteor Shower, forecast for Aug. 11-13, should be one of the highlights of the summer at the observatory, operated by the physics department of the University of Oregon. Under the right conditions, the annual shower offers observers several shooting stars per minute. The meteors are actually high speed grains of dust burning up in Earth's upper atmosphere.

Every August, Earth passes through the stream of dust left behind in 1862 by Comet Swift-Tuttle, as it sped toward the sun. The comet was observed to return in 1992, supplementing its dust trail, and further enriching the annual meteor shower,

which this year is forecast for Aug. 11-13, with an estimated peak on Aug. 12. This shower is called the Perseids because the meteors appear to radiate from the direction of the constellation, Perseus, in the northern part of the sky. This is an optical illusion, like driving in falling snow, and the meteors will appear anywhere in the sky, not necessarily near Perseus.

The meteors can be viewed most readily with the naked eye. Dark skies such as those at Pine Mountain, greatly facilitate viewing the fainter meteors. Meteor rates will be higher than normal for almost a week and tend to be more numerous in the pre-dawn hours as Oregon rotates to face into the debris trail. The special Sunday program, conducted by the Friends of Pine Mountain, a group of amateur astronomers, begins at approximately 9 p.m.

The observatory will be open through Sept. 29 for visitors to drop in on Friday and Saturday evenings, from dusk until late night, weather permitting. While admission is free, a \$5 donation per visitor is suggested to help defray operating costs.

Viewing begins at dusk and continues throughout the night. Solar viewings take place from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on some Saturdays. Reservations are required for groups of eight or larger. For more information about solar viewing times and group reservations, call 541-382-8331. Group reservations also can be made by sending an e-mail to Mark Dunaway at markpmo@uoregon.edu. School tours are available immediately by

contacting Dunaway for reservations.

Visitors, preferably age 6 and older, should dress warmly as night temperatures at the 6,500-foot elevation often approach freezing, even in mid-summer. A free U.S. Forest Service-operated campsite is located near the observatory. No reservations are required. The sites are primitive, without water. Wood can be gathered at the campground subject to Forest Service regulations. PMO is about 30 miles southeast of Bend. Friends of Pine Mountain warn that visitors have sufficient fuel for their drive back to Bend, and, in addition to warm clothing, they should bring along non-alcoholic beverages and snacks.

From Bend, take State Highway 20 toward Burns; 26 miles from Bend, just past the Millican general store and trailer park, turn right (south) at the green mailbox on the dirt road across the desert and continue to the top of Pine Mountain, a drive of about eight miles. Along this road, a large green University of Oregon sign and a small sign indicating the observatory is five miles ahead will help to confirm visitors are on the correct road. Visitors are asked to dim their headlights as they reach the top of the mountain, and park in the PMO parking lot.

For moving about the area, visitors may carry a shielded (covered with red cellophane, preferably) flashlight; no bright white lights are allowed because such light destroys night vision. If planning to travel to PMO, visitors are urged to check the weather forecast. If the sky is cloudy, the telescopes will not be open for use because

they can be damaged by rain. If lightning is occurring, take precautions and do not proceed up the mountain. Be alert for snow or ice, as well as livestock that may be roaming along the road. Nights without a full moon also offer the best viewing of the night sky.

A gift shop is available at PMO for the purchase of bottled water, t-shirts, sweatshirts, caps and educational gifts. Free star charts also are available. Visitors may bring binoculars, lawn chairs and personal telescopes. Programs are informal and begin as groups of visitors warrant. The primary activity is viewing the skies through the telescopes and hearing explanations from the operators. Except for the special viewing party on Aug. 12, the observatory is closed to visitors Sundays-Thursdays, including holidays.

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FRIENDS of PINE MOUNTAIN OBSERVATORY

Bend, OR

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[Visiting Pine Mountain](#)

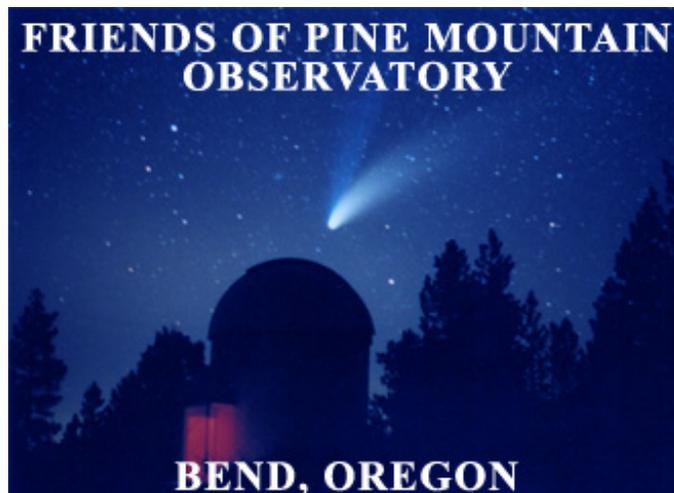
[Classroom Outreach](#)

Latest News

- [Perseid Meteor Shower - August](#)
- [2007 Visitors' Season](#) begins Friday, May 25th.
- [Imaging Workshop](#) for teachers.
- [Calendar](#) of Crew Chiefs and Special events for Summer 2007 posted.
- School groups can make reservations to visit PMO in the Fall, contact [Mark Dunaway](#).

Welcome to Pine Mountain Observatory

Pine Mountain Observatory is owned and operated by the University of Oregon. Designed as a professional astrophysics research facility back in the late 1960s, the Observatory's current prime mission is Public Education. This is



one of the few professional observatories where the general public as well as school groups can come up at nighttime to visit, to see what happens at such a facility, and to view celestial objects through some of the large research telescopes. We also offer a very robust outreach program, bringing modern astrophysics lessons and technologies to many K-12 classrooms throughout Oregon, and training dozens of teachers to perform inquiry-based lessons. Students are encouraged to request and use authentic digital imaging data from PMO's COWCAM camera at the 32" telescope, and from the PIGGY camera on the 24" telescope. We are in the process of designing and raising funds to build an on-site Education Center containing a classroom facility plus several smaller automated research imaging telescopes.

Visiting Pine Mountain

PMO is about 30 miles southeast of Bend, in Central Oregon. Take State Highway 20 east from Bend, toward Burns. 26 miles from Bend, just beyond the tiny Millican store (no gas available!), turn right (south) on the dirt road and follow it to the top of Pine Mountain, about 8 miles. This is about an hour's drive from Bend. Be sure you have enough fuel to return to Bend, and be sure to bring warm clothing and perhaps some non-alcoholic beverages in case you get thirsty.

Friends of Pine Mountain Observatory

The Friends of Pine Mountain Observatory are the corps of volunteer amateur and professional astronomers who provide public interface and a variety of services for the Observatory. Friends members are the trained Tourguides who host the onsite tours. Several of the Friends visit classrooms with our outreach programs, and are involved with the training of teachers. Some Friends provide a great deal of technical support, building and maintaining various pieces of hardware and software for research and educational instrumentation. Many Friends are financial donors. The group, founded by the late Observatory Director, Dr. James Kemp, back in 1978, continues to provide the major "face" of UO astrophysics to Oregonians. We welcome new members, and actively seek volunteers to help staff our summertime Visitors' Program. Annual suggested donation amount starts at \$35, contact Mr. Bob McGown, VP-Membership, bobmcgown@comcast.net to join FOPMO. Contact Mr. Greg Hogue, greg.hogue@gmail.com if you're interested in being trained for the TourGuides/large telescope operators' program.

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In addition, you can enjoy an evening looking at art and listening to chamber music on Wednesday, Aug. 22, at 6 p.m. in the Cheryl Ramberg Ford Lecture Hall. Students from the University of Oregon School of Music will perform. Carl Morris often referred to music when asked what inspired his painting.

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