



# Public and Government Affairs Update

October 2009

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## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

### Community welcomes UO students

The leaders from the City of Eugene, the University of Oregon and local neighborhoods went door to door in the South and West University neighborhoods on September 29, the first day of classes, to encourage neighborly behavior and demonstrate collaboration.

UO and community leaders welcomed students living off campus back to school and to the City of Eugene. The intent of the event, called "Community Welcome," was to build and strengthen relationships between long-term residents and students.

"University of Oregon students are important members of our community and can have a huge impact in their neighborhoods and the community as a whole," said Mayor Kitty Piercy. "The city warmly welcomes UO students to Eugene. We are happy to help them learn more about the community, and we are very pleased to take this step in partnership with

the university."

The university and the City of Eugene participated in the event to demonstrate how each person plays a part in creating neighborhoods that are respectful of everyone.



UO President Richard Lariviere teams up with Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy and City Manager Jon Ruiz to welcome students to the community.

"Meeting students where they live off campus is a great way to start the academic year," said UO President Richard Lariviere. "As new neighbors ourselves, my wife, Jan, and I appreciate the active participation and support of the City of Eugene and other community partners."

Mayor Piercy and President Lariviere were joined by  
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## FEDERAL AFFAIRS

### UO researcher to testify again in D.C.



Cassandra Moseley, University of Oregon director of the Ecosystem Workforce Program and associate director of the Institute for a Sustainable Environment, is headed to Washington, D.C. to testify on October 29. She will appear before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources committee to provide some analysis of a bill that would change the ways the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management can contract for forest management activities. Moseley is making her fourth appearance testifying before congressional committees since her arrival at the University of Oregon.

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For more information about this newsletter, please contact Eric Stillwell in Government and Community Relations at (541) 346-5381 or email to [eas@uoregon.edu](mailto:eas@uoregon.edu).

If you are interested in inviting government officials to a UO event, please contact us first. We can help! Give us a call or send an email to [gcr@uoregon.edu](mailto:gcr@uoregon.edu).

## PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS

## “Explore Oregon” offers an arena for civic learning



An Explore Oregon event was held on Friday, October 16, which focused on east campus capital construction projects including the Matthew Knight Arena, the John E. Jaqua Center and the

Cheryl Ramberg Ford and Allyn Ford Alumni Center. The event included presentations and overviews of the projects as well as a tour of the arena construction site.

Hosted by the office of Government and Community Relations, Explore Oregon is a series of stand-alone opportunities for elected officials and community leaders to learn more about various facets of the UO in a way that is customized, convenient and compelling for policy makers.

The October Explore Oregon speakers included Jim Bean, Senior Vice President and Provost; Chris Ramey, Associate Vice President, Campus Planning and Real Estate; Steve Stolp, Director of Support Services for Student Athletes; Mike Bellotti, Director, Intercollegiate Athletics; Jim Bartko, Executive Senior Associate Director, Intercollegiate Athletics; and Kathie Bedbury, Associate Director, Alumni Center Development. Adam Bonner, Arena Superintendent for Hoffman Construction conducted tours of the arena site.

STATE AFFAIRS

## UO to be represented on interim legislative work group

Oregon’s Senate Judiciary committee named participants for the interim campus security and deadly weapons work group on October 9. Doug Tripp, the University of Oregon’s director of public safety, was invited to join the work group along with his peers at OSU and PSU. The UO’s College of Education Professor Jeffrey Sprague was also named.



Jeffrey Sprague

Higher Education is heavily represented in the work group, with gun owner and gun safety advocates also included.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

## Lane County Commissioners meet on campus



*Pictured (l-r): Lane County Commissioners Faye Stewart, Rob Handy, Pete Sorenson, Bill Fleenor and UO President Richard Lariviere.*

On Wednesday, October 21, the Lane County Board of Commissioners held a public meeting on the University of Oregon campus to hear from UO president Richard Lariviere and university leadership on the important relationships and connections between the UO and Lane County.

Panelists included Robin Holmes, VP Student Affairs; Rich Linton, VP Research and Graduate Studies; Charles Martinez, VP Institutional Equity and Diversity; Frances Dyke, VP Finance and Administration, Michael Redding, VP University Relations; Dean Mike Bullis of the College of Education; Lauren Lindstrom from the Youth Transitions Program; Ed Kame'enui of Literacy/ Reading Improvement; Rob Horner of Education Community Supports; Megan Smith and Bob Parker of the Community Service Center, Mike Russo of the Center for Sustainable Business Practices, and Cassandra Moseley of the Institute for a Sustainable Environment.

The Commissioners also toured the Lorry I. Lokey Laboratories and heard more about the UO's high tech extension from CAMCOR's Dave Johnson and Chris Larson.



*Pictured (l-r): CAMCOR's Dave Johnson, Lane County Administrator Jeff Spartz, and Commissioners Rob Handy, Pete Sorenson, and Bill Fleenor.*



FEDERAL AFFAIRS

### National Science Foundation political science research funding threatened

The United States Senate continues consideration of H.R. 2847, an appropriations bill which includes research funding important to the University of Oregon, but the failure to garner the 60 votes needed to invoke cloture prompted Democratic leaders to postpone action on the measure.

Of particular concern to the university research community has been an amendment offered and discussed at length on the Senate floor by Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK). He proposes to eliminate funding for political science research at the National Science Foundation (NSF). The Coburn amendment could come up for a vote when Senate consideration of the bill resumes this week. The University of Oregon joins other universities and higher education associations in opposing the Coburn amendment.

During Senate floor discussion, Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), chair of the Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Subcommittee, noted that the latest recipient of the Nobel Prize in Economics was political scientist Elinor Ostrom, whose grants from NSF "helped her lay the groundwork" for her Nobel Prize-winning research. She added that the Defense Department thinks enough of social science research at NSF that it is providing \$8 million to fund 17 projects under the Minerva Initiative. "If one of those studies helps one policymaker make one decision to save one Marine," she said, "I think it is worth the 8 million bucks, and I am willing to put it in the Federal budget."

A number of higher education organizations and institutions have contacted senators urging them to oppose the Coburn amendment. For example, under the leadership of the American Council on Education, 11 higher education associations, including the Association of American Universities and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, sent a [letter](#) of opposition to all members of the Senate on October 8; the American Political Science Association also has initiated a [campaign](#) to oppose the amendment.

The Senate bill would provide \$6.917 billion for NSF. The House-passed bill provides \$6.937 billion for NSF.

FEDERAL AFFAIRS

### \$12.3 million in Recovery Act grants land at UO, so far

At the start of October, thirty-four grants totaling \$12.3 million had come to University of Oregon researchers under the federal government's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

ARRA funding for scientific research includes funds for the National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation. Of the 34 grants, 18 are from the NIH, 14 from the NSF and one each from the U.S. Geological Survey and AmeriCorps, a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service, through Oregon Housing and Community Services.



The individual awards range from \$9,292 to biologist Chris Doe for a summer educational program to \$1.1 million to physicist Jim Brau for the search for gravitational radiation.



As of the start of October, UO researchers had submitted \$99.4 million in proposed projects under ARRA, according to data compiled by the university's Office of Research Services and Administration.

The majority of UO requests remain in the review process. More than \$30 million of the pending proposals focus on research facilities needs, ranging from information technology to genomics.

"We are most grateful to the Obama administration and to the U.S. Congress for recognizing the critical importance of ARRA investments in research and education as a cornerstone to our country's economic competitiveness," said Rich Linton, Vice President for Research and Graduate studies. "I have been especially gratified by the unprecedented response of our faculty in seeking these new research funding opportunities that not only support jobs in our community today, but also lay a foundation for future economic growth. Despite the immense competition for ARRA funds nationally, I am confident that the UO will continue to attract new federal investments in basic and applied research."



CAMPUS NEWS

## UO budget update

University of Oregon President Richard Lariviere and Senior Vice President and Provost Jim Bean held a campus community town hall meeting on October 21 to update faculty, staff and students on the university's budget.

In the current budget year, the Oregon University System has allocated \$64 million to the University of Oregon. The state allocation, which includes federal stimulus money, amounts to 9.5 percent of the university's overall budget. Without the federal stimulus funds, state funding amounts to just 8.5 percent of the university's budget.

The budget still faces several challenges. A statewide election will be held in January seeking approval from Oregon voters for the measures passed by the legislature earlier this year. If the tax increases are overturned, it could result in another significant rescission to the OUS system. The legislature scheduled the election for January to allow legislators time to respond to the results of the election during their special session scheduled for February. This time the Legislature will have 18 months left in the biennium to resolve those budget issues. Last year's rescissions were done with only weeks left in the biennium.

The next state economic forecast is scheduled for December.

CAMPUS NEWS

## Facebook seminar draws large crowd



A Facebook seminar moderated by Director of Advertising Susan Thelen from the office of Marketing and Brand

Management drew a crowd of more than seventy-five participants in the EMU's Fir Room on Wednesday, October 21.

Panelists included Kelli Mathews, co-founder of Verve Northwest and instructor at the UO School of Journalism and Communication; Zack Barnett, UO interim director of web communications; and Debbie Williamson-Smith, public relations and marketing for the UO's [Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art](#).

The seminar touched on the institutional Facebook and social media being used at the university and generated a discussion on how departments can determine whether Facebook is right for them, and the background and help to make a plan for moving forward.

For those who missed the seminar, the powerpoint presentation can be viewed online [here](#). Additional information can be found on the [UO Advertising and Media](#) Facebook page.



## The highest honor bestowed on a scientist

University of Oregon Psychology Professor Emeritus Michael Posner received the National Medal of Science from President Barack Obama at the White House on October 7. Posner was one of nine eminent researchers chosen to receive the award this year. The National Medal of Science is the highest honor bestowed on scientists by the United States government.



On the left: Professor Posner with his family at the White House.



On the right: Professor Posner is greeted by President Obama and bestowed the National Medal of Science in a White House ceremony.



## The Ducks need you!



*New web page launched for UO Advocates*

The University of Oregon Alumni Association's website has a new look and some new features, including an advocacy page where individuals

can volunteer to become advocates for the University of Oregon. Check it out at: <http://uoalumni.com/advocates>.

The new advocacy page leads to an online registration form where interested people can [sign up](#). Advocates will be notified from time to time when advocacy opportunities arise — from writing letters-to-the-editor to contacting policymakers, or participating in events. [Sign up today!](#)

You can also become a fan of the UO Advocates Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/UOAdvocates](http://www.facebook.com/UOAdvocates).

## Community welcomes UO students

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many other leaders for the walking tour including: Associated Students of the University of Oregon (ASUO) President Emma Kallaway, Eugene City Councilor Alan Zelenka, City Manager John Ruiz and Assistant City Manager Sarah Medary, Eugene Police Department Chief Pete Kerns, UO Department of Public Safety Chief Doug Tripp, UO Vice President for Student Affairs Robin Holmes, UO Dean of Students Paul Shang, UO Assistant Dean of Students Sheryl Eyster, and neighborhood association leaders.

Student involvement was an important aspect of the event. "As residents of the near-campus neighborhood, my roommates and I are happy to know our city leaders and university decision makers are supportive of the safety concerns, neighbor relationships and general well-being of students outside of the classroom," said Kallaway.

### FEDERAL AFFAIRS

## Sustainable Cities faculty visit D.C.

University of Oregon faculty Marc Schlossberg, Robert Young and Nico Larco were in Washington, D.C., in early October for conferences related to transportation planning and livable communities.



*Pictured (l-r) Casual Friday: Marc Schlossberg, Robert Young, Congressman Peter DeFazio and Nico Larco in Washington, D.C.*

During their visit to the nation's capitol, Schlossberg, Young and Larco also met with congressional staff from the Oregon delegation and committee staff from House Science and House Transportation and Infrastructure committees. They were accompanied by Betsy Boyd, the UO's Associate Vice President of Public and Government Affairs. The purpose of the meetings was to talk about opportunities associated with the research portion of the surface transportation authorization now up for its five year reauthorization.

The Obama Administration and Congress share a common interest in new investments in federally funded research, including effective evaluation of initiatives involving transportation, planning and climate change. The University of Oregon seeks reauthorization of the [Oregon Transportation Research and Education Consortium](#) (OTREC) as well as technical assistance programs or other programs that will support research related to sustainable cities.

The [Sustainable Cities Initiative](#) (SCI) at the University of Oregon is a cross-disciplinary organization that seeks to promote research, education, service, and public outreach related to the development of sustainable cities.

### UO Government and Community Relations



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