EXPLORE OREGON!

SPRING 2014
Volume 32 • Number 1

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UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
Exploring Oregon and the Arctic

By Jon Erlandson, Executive Director

This spring marks two major milestones in the continuing growth and evolution of the UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History. The first will be the grand opening of our beautiful new exhibit hall, Explore Oregon!, devoted to the geology, paleontology, and natural history of our state and the broader Pacific Northwest. When I became director almost nine years ago, several MNCH supporters told me that we needed to expand our public exhibition space and increase the museum’s coverage of natural history. In opening the 2,755-square-foot Explore Oregon! hall, we fulfill my promise that we would do both. For the past two years, our staff has worked closely with scientific advisors from across campus, Presentation Design Group, Robertson Sherwood Architects, and hundreds of community members to design, prototype, build, and install the new exhibit. Explore Oregon! examines the state’s deep and dynamic history, linking past, present, and future in a message of stewardship and sustainability. I hope you’ll join us in celebrating the exhibit’s completion during our May grand opening events.

The second milestone is the transfer and integration of the Jensen Arctic Collection into our museum vaults and exhibit spaces. The collection comes from the Paul H. Jensen Arctic Museum at Western Oregon University (WOU), where it has served the public since 1985. Several years ago, WOU made the difficult decision to cease operation of the Jensen Museum due to funding challenges. For eighteen months, I worked with Jensen supporters to find a way to keep the museum at WOU or in the Monmouth-Albany area. Those efforts ultimately failed, however, and as the official repository for state-owned anthropological collections, the MNCH agreed to adopt this important collection. The move was supported by UO president Mike Gottfredson and WOU president Mark Weiss, by the Jensen’s board members, and by the state legislature through the offices of Representative Nancy Nathanson and Senator Peter Courtney. Thanks to this support, we are purchasing archival-quality cabinets to safely store the collection, and we hired Jensen Museum curator and Native Alaskan Roben Itchoak to continue her good work with these thousands of objects from Alaska and other Arctic regions. The materials represent a major new addition to our extensive anthropological collections from Alaska. Together, they will make the MNCH home to one of the largest Alaskan-Arctic collections in the “lower forty-eight.” In early May, we will open a preliminary exhibit to share the highlights of the Jensen Arctic Collection with you and the public.

We look forward to seeing you in the museum this spring. Many thanks for your ongoing support!
Crafting a New Exhibit

By Edward B. Davis, Fossil Collection Manager

Explore Oregon! is a landmark development for the MNCH and the audiences it serves. The new exhibit hall doubles the museum’s public exhibition space, offers state-of-the-art displays on the natural forces shaping the Pacific Northwest, and represents an unprecedented expansion of the museum’s natural history offerings.

I’ve spent so many hours working on Explore Oregon! that the (nearly) final product fills me with a sense of paternal pride. Our goals have been to present the most up-to-date scientific knowledge, and to meaningfully engage our visitors in the dynamic processes of evolution, geology, and climate change. I am confident that the final exhibit will be successful on these counts.

My confidence is rooted in the exhibit’s research-based design. Explore Oregon! is directly shaped by educators’ research into the ways that museum visitors most effectively learn. The exhibit’s sections on evolution are one example: Previous studies made clear the importance of using tree diagrams to show how different organisms evolve from a common ancestor. These branching diagrams help illustrate the complexity of evolution and avoid the misconception that evolution progresses toward a goal. Other insights from published research concerned the shape and orientation of these trees: The branches should be presented as brackets rather than in the V shape used in scientific papers, and the trees should be oriented from left to right, aligning with the way we read English text. You’ll see insights like these reflected throughout the new exhibit.

Explore Oregon! has also been directly shaped through prototyping—a highly interactive process that enlisted museum visitors as partners in designing the exhibit. As many of you remember, visitors to Explore Oregon! in the Making were invited to test sample displays and provide feedback through surveys, focus groups, and comments posted on sticky notes throughout the gallery. The prototyping showed, among other things, that visitors were very curious about what causes extinction. In response, we added details to the trees to explain the ecological changes leading to extinction events.

As an evolutionary biologist, I am especially excited about the evolution displays in Explore Oregon!—and I was pleased to present the design of these displays to other scientists and science educators during the February 2014 North American Paleontological Congress. In the end, each part of the new exhibit has been fine-tuned to effectively engage the museum’s diverse audiences. As one of the proud “parents” of Explore Oregon!, I look forward to celebrating its grand opening with you this spring.

“Each part of the Explore Oregon! exhibit has been fine-tuned to engage our diverse audiences.”

MNCH Paleontologists Share Results of Oregon 2100 Climate Study

At the February 2014 meeting of the Oregon Academy of Sciences, Condon Collection codirector Greg Retallack and fossil collection manager Edward Davis presented the results of a study assessing local effects of rising carbon dioxide levels. The study, titled Oregon 2100: Projected Climatic and Ecological Changes, makes predictions about Oregon’s future based on paleontological data combined with computer-generated climate models. “Oregon has an extensive fossil record from a period when carbon levels were as high as they’re expected to be by 2100,” said Retallack. “These records help validate computer models and paint a picture of what the future holds.”

Visit Explore Oregon! and learn more about how fossils can help predict the future in a time of rapid climate change.

A tropical fossil soil in the south Salem Hills, dating to 16 million years ago—the last time carbon dioxide levels reached those predicted for the year 2100.
Jensen Collection Joins MNCH’s Alaskan Holdings

By Pamela Endzweig, Director of Anthropological Collections

In his lead article, Jon Erlandson discusses the museum’s adoption of the Paul H. Jensen Arctic Museum’s collections, formerly at Western Oregon University. He also mentions our preexisting Alaskan holdings, of which I would like to say a bit more.

It is not widely known that the MNCH houses extensive Alaskan archaeological collections, acquired and studied by researchers based in the UO Department of Anthropology. At the heart of these collections are more than 4,700 artifacts from Aleutian Islands archaeological sites, recovered by William Laughlin and his students during the late 1940s and early 1950s. In addition to these archaeological collections, Laughlin acquired two skin-covered Aleut kayaks—probably the last of their kind made by Aleutian Native people in the traditional manner.

During his tenure as UO anthropology professor and museum director, Luther Cressman paved the way for further work in Southwest Alaska. The lion’s share, conducted by MNCH director emeritus Don Dumond and his students, began in 1960 and continued into the 2000s. Because of the way archaeological collections are catalogued, it is difficult to quantify these scientific holdings. However, an inventory conducted by the museum for Katmai National Park in 2000 counted 16,638 items from thirty-one sites. This does not include a substantial number of specimens from U.S. Fish and Wildlife lands and elsewhere. Boxes containing Alaskan archaeological bulk materials—such as flaking debris, soil and carbon samples, and animal bone—number more than 260, with each box containing a volume of almost one cubic foot! Much of this material comes from public lands and belongs to government agencies for which we provide permanent care and management of cultural resources.

These archaeological objects are not static collections. From DNA analysis to obsidian sourcing studies, they continue to be a focus for research, and the subjects of numerous publications by Don Dumond and other researchers.

In addition to archaeological artifacts, the museum houses more than six hundred Arctic ethnographic items entrusted to us by private donors. These objects range from mukluks and masks to ivory carvings and baleen baskets. The Jack High collection is one of the largest in this category; it includes 300 items, a third of which are attributed by name to a specific artist. Anthropology graduate assistant Anna Sloan has begun research to track down the artists or their descendants, in conjunction with her museum studies degree. Stay tuned for more on this project!

The Jensen Arctic Collection represents an exciting expansion of our large and actively researched Alaskan holdings. As we work to safely transport the Jensen Collection to its new home, we are pleased to introduce this wonderful addition in our upcoming exhibit, Highlights of the Jensen Arctic Collection, opening in May.

Humanoid mask, Yup’ik, Alaska

Riding the WAVE in Collections

When anthropological collections director Pam Endzweig visited the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian in 2006, she was impressed by its mobile lifts, which could safely and easily move people and objects in and out of aisles, and to and from tall shelves and cabinets. Eight years later, the MNCH has acquired its own WAVE (work assist vehicle) just in time for our upcoming cabinet upgrades, which will involve the replacement of older wooden units with archival-quality, powder-coated steel cabinets. The WAVE will make the process much more efficient and help keep people and artifacts safe!
EXPLORE OREGON!

300 million years of Northwest natural history

*Explore Oregon!* showcases the dynamic forces shaping our landscapes and ecosystems. Discover the giant sabertooth salmon and other amazing animals from Oregon’s past, and take part in a dialogue about climate, conservation, and our future.

**GRAND OPENING**

**UO Campus**

**Community Reception**
Friday, May 30
Noon–1:30 p.m.
Free admission for faculty, staff, and students

**Grand Opening Night**
Friday, May 30
5:00–6:00 p.m. for museum members
6:00–8:00 p.m. for the public
Free admission

**Open House Weekend**
Saturday and Sunday, May 31–June 1
11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Free admission
Exhibits

**ATLAS**

*Atlas of Yellowstone*

Mapping the story of the world’s first national park

**FRIDAY, APRIL 4 THROUGH SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2014**

Explore Yellowstone’s dynamic beauty through maps and other works of art from the 2012 atlas published by the University of Oregon.

**Opening Reception and Book Signing with the Editors**

Friday, April 4
5:00–6:00 p.m. for museum members
6:00–8:00 p.m. for the public
Free admission

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**CONTINUING EXHIBITS**

**Oregon—Where Past Is Present**

Experience Oregon’s history, from the dramatic events that shaped its landscape to the artistry and technology of its first peoples.

**Site Seeing—Snapshots of Historical Archaeology in Oregon**

From a Chinese apothecary in John Day to a pioneer cemetery in Springfield, this exhibit tells the stories of five historical sites excavated by museum archaeologists.

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**Highlights of the Jensen Arctic Collection**

**OPENS FRIDAY MAY 9**

Journey into the unique cultures and ecosystems of the Arctic. Recently adopted from Western Oregon University, the Jensen Collection represents one of the largest assemblages of Arctic material in the United States, and a valuable record of life in a rapidly changing region. *Below: Ivory dance masks, Jensen Arctic Collection*

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**TRADITION KEEPERS—A Project in Partnership with the Oregon Folklife Network**

**Cornhusk Weavings by Kelli Palmer and Joy Ramirez**

**FINAL DAY: SATURDAY, JUNE 14**
Community Programs

Telling the Yellowstone Story
With James Meacham and Alethea Steingisser, InfoGraphics Lab, UO Department of Geography
FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 5:30 P.M.
Join the editors of the Atlas of Yellowstone for a journey through the past, present, and future of this iconic region of the American West. From plentiful wildlife to dynamic landscapes, this illustrated gallery talk will explore the features of Yellowstone that helped lead to its designation as the world’s first national park.
Admission is free.

ID Day Basketry Workshop
Local Red Cedar—Woven, Twined, and Twisted
SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 1:00–3:00 P.M.
Join Brenda Brainard—weaver, Native American storyteller, and enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians—for this basketry workshop. Learn weaving, twining, and twisting techniques, and create your own small basket using red cedar and saltwater sedge.
Space is limited to ten participants and preregistration is required. Register online at natural-history.uoregon.edu/education-and-events/workshops or call (541) 346-5019. $20 for MNCH members; $30 for the public.

Identification Day 2014
SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 1:00–4:00 P.M.
Get ready for ID Day 2014! Bring your mysteries to the museum during this popular annual event, and our scientists will try to identify them. No appraisals will be given. Admission is free for MNCH members; regular admission rates apply for the public.

Art and Culture Weekend
SATURDAY JUNE 14–MONDAY JUNE 16
11:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M.
One campus, two museums, free admission! In celebration of UO Commencement, the MNCH and the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art offer free admission to grads, dads, families, and friends throughout the weekend and on Commencement Day.

Mount Pisgah Wildflower Festival
SUNDAY, MAY 18
10:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M.
Visit the museum’s booth at this annual springtime celebration!

Open Tuesday through Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
### April 2014

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<td><strong>Identification Day and Road Show</strong>&lt;br&gt;Bring your mysteries to the museum on <strong>Saturday, April 12</strong>. Admission is free for MNCH members!</td>
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<td>National Volunteer Week: April 6–12</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<td>Appreciation luncheon for MNCH volunteers. Noon–1:30 p.m.</td>
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**Atlas of Yellowstone Reception**<br>The reception begins at 5:00 p.m. for members and 6:00 p.m. for the public on **Friday, April 4**.

| 4    | Free First Friday<br>Atlas of Yellowstone reception |     |     |     |     |
| 11   | Little Wonders, 10:30 a.m. Telling the Yellowstone story, 5:30 p.m. |     |     |     |     |
| 12   | Free First Friday<br>Atlas of Yellowstone reception |     |     |     |     |

### May 2014

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<td><strong>Bring Mom to the Museum!</strong>&lt;br&gt;The MNCH welcomes moms and their families to our exhibits on <strong>Mother’s Day, Sunday, May 11,</strong> 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Mother’s Day, free admission</td>
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<td>Mount Pisgah Wildflower Festival, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.</td>
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**Explore Oregon! Grand Opening**<br>Join us on **Friday, May 30** for the Explore Oregon! grand opening reception. The reception opens at noon for the campus community, 5:00 p.m. for museum members, and 6:00 p.m. for the public. Enjoy free admission during the Explore Oregon! open house weekend on **Saturday, May 31, and Sunday, June 1**.

| 1   |     | 2   | Free First Friday | 3   |     |     |
| 7   |     | 8   | 9 Little Wonders, 10:30 a.m. Highlights of the Jensen Collection on view | 10  |     |     |
| 15  |     | 16  |     |     |     |     |
| 23  |     | 24  |     |     |     |     |
| 30  |     | 31  |     |     |     |     |

*Daily exhibit talks at 2:00 p.m.—included with admission*
June 2014

1 Explore Oregon!
   Open House Weekend, 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

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6 Free First Friday

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11 Explore Oregon!
   Educator reception, 4:00–6:00 p.m.

13 Little Wonders, 10:30 a.m.

14 Tradition Keepers final day
   Art and Culture Weekend

15 Art and Culture Weekend

16 Commencement: Free Admission to the MNCH

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July 2014

New! July Little Wonders
We’ve extended our popular preschoolers’ program into the summertime. Join us the second Friday of the month for stories and hands-on fun.

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4 Independence Day: Museum open
   Free First Friday

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11 Little Wonders, 10:30 a.m.

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Daily exhibit talks at 2:00 p.m.—included with admission

Open Tuesday through Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Stories and Activities for Preschoolers
Second Friday of the month, 10:30 a.m.

Learn and play at the museum! You and your child are invited to join us for stories and fun including crafts, songs, games, and museum exploration. Admission is always free for MNCH members. Regular admission is $5 per family (up to two adults and two children).

April 11
Not a Stick
by Antoinette Portis
Explore digging sticks and other artifacts.

May 9
Over in the Arctic: Where the Cold Winds Blow
by Marianne Berkes, illustrated by Jill Dubin
Paddle, kick, and howl along with Arctic animals.

June 13
Gopher to the Rescue! A Volcano Recovery Story
by Terry Catasus Jennings, illustrated by Laurie O’Keefe
Have some explosive fun with volcanoes.

July 11
Charlie the Caterpillar
by Dom DeLuise, illustrated by Christopher Santoro
Discover the life cycles of butterflies and other wildlife.

Explore Oregon! Educator Reception
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 4:00–6:00 P.M.
The museum invites educators to an exclusive tour of our new natural history exhibit. Enjoy refreshments, network with other educators, and learn about our 2014–15 Explore Oregon! programs designed for K–12 classes. Admission is free.

Oregon Explorer! Adventure Backpacks
Family backpacks are a great way to explore the museum! Pick one up on your way in—they’re free with the price of admission and full of fun activities that will help make the most of your child’s visit. Take a giant sloth or sabertooth salmon with you as you solve mysteries and uncover clues throughout the museum.

MNCH Summer Camps
Inspire your child through our summer camp programs. MNCH campers explore Oregon’s diverse heritage, landscapes, and ecosystems through a variety of fun activities. Space is limited—register early!

AUGUST 4–8
Session 1: Adventures in Archaeology!

AUGUST 18–22
Session 2: Go Deep! Explore Ancient Oregon
Camps run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day. Cost per session is $195 for museum members and $245 for the public. Visit our website for details.
Exhibit Talks

2:00 P.M. DAILY, TUESDAYS–SUNDAYS

Get the most out of our exhibits with an exhibit talk. The museum offers a daily talk in the exhibit halls, each given by a trained volunteer. Talks are included with the price of admission.

Calling All UO Students

Join the MNCH Ambassadors for Trivia Nights

WEDNESDAYS, APRIL 9 AND MAY 14
6:00–8:00 p.m. at the Buzz Café, Erb Memorial Union

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28
6:00–9:00 p.m. at the museum

The MNCH Ambassadors are a group of enthusiastic students who happen to have a passion for trivia. They invite all UO students to join them for Trivia Nights this spring. From sports and entertainment to natural history and science, the Ambassadors will challenge you to show what you know. Admission is free.

Past and Presents Features Woodcrafter Joe Verret

Yew, walnut, cedar, cherry—these are just a few of the species that Joe Verret uses to create his unique wooden crafts. While Joe has long been interested in woodworking, it wasn’t until he retired from his career in salmon and trout fisheries that he started pursuing the craft in earnest.

“I tracked down every bit of wood I could get my hands on, recycling leftovers from carpenters or salvaging pieces from blow-downs.”

Joe enjoys working with wood because each piece offers unique qualities, keeping things interesting for the woodcrafter. “Getting a piece of wood to become a new object means working with its natural variations,” he says. “It’s like a partnership between myself and the raw material.”

You can support local artists like Joe when you shop at Past and Presents, the Museum Store. The store is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and museum members receive a 10 percent discount on most purchases. Admission to the store is always free.
Get Involved

Volunteer Program Updates

The museum’s volunteer program continues to flourish, aligning with American Alliance of Museums standards for volunteer recruitment, training, and appreciation.

This year, we’ve introduced Volunteer Meet-Ups. These quarterly social events are helping to build a sense of community among our volunteers and providing them with opportunities to share their interests and knowledge. During our spring meet-up, two of our volunteers will give a talk on native plants of the Pacific Northwest and provide fellow volunteers with a guided tour of the Glenn Starlin Native Plant Courtyard.

Our volunteers will be sharing their interests with visitors as well, thanks to the new Exhibit Talks program. Trained volunteers will present these public talks daily at 2:00 p.m., each talk highlighting a specific exhibit feature or group of displays. Enhance your next museum visit with an Exhibit Talk! They’re included with the price of admission.

Join Us! Museum membership has its rewards!

☐ Individual—$40
Membership benefits:
• Free admission to all exhibits and events
• Invitation to exhibit previews
• Membership card and sticker
• Subscription to Fieldnotes, the museum newsletter
• Invitation to Friends of the Museum members-only program
• Priority registration for Friends of the Museum-sponsored field trips
• 10 percent off on purchases at the museum store, Past and Presents
• Benefits at more than 200 museums and science centers worldwide!

☐ Supporter—$100
Enjoy the previous benefits plus:
• Four complimentary guest passes to share
• Reciprocal benefits through the North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) program.

☐ Contributer—$250
Enjoy the previous benefits plus:
• Two complimentary family memberships to give as gifts

☐ Director’s Circle—$500+
Enjoy the previous benefits plus:
• A behind-the-scenes tour by a museum specialist
• Special event with museum directors

☐ Sandal Society—$1,000+
Enjoy the previous benefits plus:
• You get to choose the museum activities your contribution will support

☐ Family—$50
Enjoy the previous benefits for two adults and up to four youths

Name______________________________
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E-mail____________________________

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard
Account Number__________________________
Expiration Date__________________________
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Mail with payment to the University of Oregon Foundation, 1720 E. 13th Ave., Suite 410, Eugene OR 97403-2253 or join online at natural-history.uoregon.edu.

For more information, contact Judi Pruitt, judip@uoregon.edu. Allow at least two weeks for your membership packet to arrive. Thank you for supporting the museum!
By Tom Connolly, Director of Archaeological Research

In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson instructed Meriwether Lewis to make a scientific record of his journey west. Accompanied by his friend, William Clark, and the small, federally funded Corps of Discovery, Lewis was to “take observations of latitude and longitude, at all remarkable points . . .” and to painstakingly describe the waterways, flora, fauna, landscapes, and people that the corps would encounter over the course of its expedition.

Lewis and Clark’s charge—to explore, observe, record, and share—is echoed in the museum’s new exhibit, Explore Oregon!, which invites visitors to investigate the deep natural history of the Pacific Northwest.

This spirit of exploration is equally evident in the UO Archaeological Field School, a program established in 1937 by Luther Cressman and still directed today by museum archaeologists. In the summer of 2014, Pat O’Grady will once again lead excavations at Rimrock Draw rock shelter in Harney County, while Dennis Jenkins will direct fieldwork at the Connley Caves site in the Fort Rock Basin. Both sites date from terminal Pleistocene–early Holocene times, and are critical in the ongoing quest to chronicle the story of America’s earliest human inhabitants. This work expands on the groundbreaking research done at the Paisley Caves—with its occupation record exceeding 14,000 years—while providing valuable training to the next generation of professional archaeologists.

The Archaeological Research Division’s attention is not solely directed at the ancient past; it spans the full human record, generating insights into more recent history, as well. You may have seen the museum’s exhibit, Site Seeing—Snapshots of Historical Archaeology in Oregon, which features some of our projects from the historical end of the time spectrum. Another focus is transportation history: Research staff members have been locating and mapping some of Oregon’s earliest wagon roads, which were critical to the state’s economy during the late 1800s. We’ve also been actively documenting quarries and camps used during the construction of the Pacific Northwest’s first major roadway—the Columbia River Highway—in the early decades of the twentieth century.

The museum’s mission—much like Lewis and Clark’s—is rooted in the pursuit of new knowledge about our world. The Explore Oregon! exhibit welcomes you to join the mission, to journey into Oregon’s past and take part in an important conversation about its future.

Tom Connolly Honored by the High Desert Museum

Near the end of 2013, MNCH archaeological research director Tom Connolly received the year’s Earle A. Chiles Award from the High Desert Museum of Bend, Oregon. The award program was established in 1983 to raise awareness of contemporary issues in Oregon’s High Desert region, and to honor the professional contributions of an individual whose work has enhanced public understanding of the region’s natural and cultural heritage.

“Two things made Dr. Connolly a worthy choice for the award: his holistic, far-reaching perspective on the Native cultures of the West and his kind, diplomatic approach to projects with multiple stakeholders,” said Janeanne Upp, president of the High Desert Museum.

“Tribal cultural sites can be significantly impacted by public works projects and wildlife and forest management,” said MNCH director emeritus C. Melvin Aikens. “Federal and state agency staff consider Tom a reliably effective partner in minimizing the impacts, and Oregon tribal governments regard him as a trusted advocate for the protection of heritage and religious sites.”

The $15,000 award was presented in Portland on December 3.
Years of Glory: 1978–2014

By Patricia Krier,
Director of Development
and Public Programs (Retired)

When the university contacted me recently to say I had been working at the UO for forty years, I was flabbergasted. Where had those forty years gone? Perhaps I hadn’t noticed the passage of time because I’ve been on such a fascinating ride. It has been my great fortune to work in an organization that contributes tremendously to global research, education, and the preservation of our collective history.

The early years at the museum were ones of struggle: not enough money, scholarship that was exemplary but not widely known or understood, and an economic recession on the horizon. We had our champions, however—community leaders like Glenn Starlin and Bill Bowerman, who believed in this museum. The two saw us through the lean years, making sure a new museum was built when we were told that the old one would be razed to accommodate new science buildings. Sylvia Giustina, another champion, has been with us through challenging times and times of success. In 1986, she took on the fundraising for the new building, and she has been an active museum supporter ever since. So began the trajectory upward—starting in 1987 with a new building styled after a Pacific Northwest Native American longhouse, a native plants courtyard, and the promise of more to come.

I’ve had the privilege of working with four outstanding directors, each contributing in a major way to the museum’s vitality and future. When I consider the fact that I was once this museum’s only full-time employee, while now there is a staff of more than fifty—plus some ninety volunteers—I am amazed and thrilled at our growth. Then there is the physical growth. I have seen our administrative, collections, and exhibit spaces more than double in size. Originally, we had 1950s display cases from the old museum that we squeezed into the only exhibit hall. Now we have several exhibit halls full of interactive displays and touchable objects that encourage critical thinking and prioritize the learning process over “the right answer.” After the grand opening of Explore Oregon!, we will move onto a Paisley Caves exhibit, which will provide a transition between the cultural and natural history halls, as well as the renovation of our permanent exhibit, Oregon—Where Past Is Present.

It is the perfect time for me to retire, but don’t start to miss me yet: I am back on contract for the next year or two to coordinate our accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums. After that, who knows? Perhaps I shall turn into a fossil, or get my own accession number. It would be an appropriate next step.

MAC on the Move

Museum Advisory Council Highlights

Meetings: In October the Museum Advisory Council held its quarterly meeting at the Sunriver Nature Center. Hosted by Jay and Teresa Bowerman, there were morning committee meetings and an afternoon general meeting, but the true highlights were the gourmet lunch that Teresa prepared, followed by a tour of the center and planetarium.

Accreditation: Four council members have signed on to help the museum with its bid for accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums—Ruth Keole, Ty Zeller, David Piercy, and Eric McCready.

Membership on the council: We welcome David Piercy and John Beaulieu; David was the School District 4J deputy superintendent for many years, and John was the state geologist.

We say goodbye to Beth Campbell and Betty Soreng and thank them both for their outstanding service on the council. Not only have they advised us, they have generously bestowed gifts—the Campbell basketry collection and the Soreng gifts of artwork for the museum courtyard.

Adventure with the MNCH

Join the Friends of the Museum for a rafting adventure on the beautiful Deschutes River, hosted by Oregon Whitewater Adventures, on June 20–22, 2014. Make your reservation early! Space is limited to twelve participants. Learn more on our website, or call Oregon Whitewater Adventures at 541-746-5422.
In Memoriam

Beppino Fontana, 1916–2013
An outdoorsman and member of the Obsidians, “Bep” was a familiar figure at museum functions. His love of outdoor landscapes and natural history kept him young and active for many years into his nineties.

Petr Hlaváček, 1950–2014
Petr, a researcher and teacher with the Faculty of Technology of Tomáš Bata University at Zlín, in the Czech Republic, was well known for his study of historical footwear—including that of the famed Terracotta Army in China, and the shoes of Ötzi, the 5,300-year-old man found frozen in the Alps near the Italian-Austrian border. He also researched the museum’s famous Fort Rock sandals, and was preparing for a return trip to the museum for additional work this year.

Jack Overley, 1932–2013
Jack was a consummate university supporter, in scholarship, in volunteerism, and in monetary commitment. We could count on him for just about every museum event, always with a smiling face and something fascinating to say.

Donna Sundberg, 1924–2013
Donna was an active volunteer in the museum store during the late 1980s. Her husband, Norm, was the chair of the MNCH volunteer program at that time, and the two of them have been key supporters of the museum and its programs for many years.

NOTEWORTHY NEWS

MNCH Archaeologists in the International Spotlight

American Antiquity, the flagship journal of the Society of American Archaeology, is widely considered to be the most prestigious archaeological journal in the world. In the past year, MNCH archaeologists have published three papers in American Antiquity, with another one on the way (see below, museum staff member names are in bold). These publications follow a series of five articles published by MNCH archaeologists in Science and Nature magazines—the top science journals in the world—over the past five years. Kudos to these researchers for helping to further the reputation of the museum and the University of Oregon.

Connolly, Thomas J.

Erlandson, Jon M., Jack Watts, and Nicholas P. Jew

Gill, Kristina M. and Jon M. Erlandson

Hockett, Brian and Dennis L. Jenkins

UO Native American Flagpole Project

When UO students return to campus next fall, they may witness the installation of nine flags representing Oregon’s nine federally recognized tribes—right in the heart of campus. If the UO Native American Flagpole Project, which has already raised $30,615, raises an additional $38,372, Oregon tribes will gain a historic cultural presence on campus that will help shape the future of the university. To learn more about the project, contact Gordon Bettles, UO Many Nations Longhouse steward, at 541-346-6262 or gbettles@uoregon.edu.
The MNCH has long stood at the forefront of research in Paleo-Indian archaeology. From Luther Cressman’s work at Fort Rock Cave during the 1930s to Jon Erlandson’s ongoing Channel Islands research, the museum continues to redefine theories about how and when humans first migrated to the Americas.

Five museum archaeologists built on this tradition at the most recent Paleoamerican Odyssey Conference in Santa Fe, presenting a total of two exhibitions, four papers, and three posters during the conference proceedings. Museum director Jon Erlandson presented and published a paper called After Clovis-First Collapsed: Reimagining the Peopling of the Americas.

Other presentations included Dennis Jenkins’s paper, Paisley Caves: 14,500 Years of Human Occupations in the Northern Great Basin, as well as a poster by Tom Connolly, Dennis Jenkins, and colleagues, titled Boundaries in Space and Time: Paleo-Period Textiles in the Northern and Western Great Basin.