The museum continues to evolve. The first draft rendering of the new exhibit hall, “Explore Oregon,” shows the process of how the museum will portray Oregon’s fascinating natural history.
Endowed Gifts Keep on Giving

By Jon Erlandson

In Oregon and the Pacific Northwest, we live in an amazing place and challenging times. It will take faith, optimism, and a deep knowledge of history to meet the challenges that confront us and future generations. Education, scientific literacy, critical thinking, and creativity will also be crucial to meet those challenges effectively. Success will start locally, where the University of Oregon and Museum of Natural and Cultural History are centers for the interdisciplinary training of future leaders in science, business, history, and politics.

Our gift testifies to our belief in the mission of the museum, the global significance of its collections, research, and education efforts . . .

In the last issue of Fieldnotes, I wrote about building a bigger, better, community-based museum on a strong foundation. I wrote of the gratitude my wife (Madonna Moss, UO anthropology professor and MNCH curator) and I feel toward our UO family, friends, and community. At age fifty-five, after years of saving for an uncertain future, our thoughts turned toward giving back to that community and the institutions that have nurtured and sustained us in our professional and personal lives.

This year, after carefully analyzing our resources, we created a revocable family trust that will distribute our estate after we are gone. As college professors, our resources are not vast, but we are deeply grateful to the UO for supporting us, for the fine education it is providing our son, and the many contributions it makes to the quality of life in Eugene-Springfield. Along with supporting our son and the arts, one of our priorities was endowing museum programs: we chose to give 20 percent of our estate to endow research and care for collections at the MNCH. One of the treasures of our local and statewide communities, the museum is a jewel in the crown of the UO. Museum researchers are making fundamental discoveries about the history of our species and our planet. Our gift testifies to our belief in the mission of the museum, the global significance of its collections, research, and education efforts, our faith in the leadership of the UO, and our love for a community that embraced and nurtured us.

Please join us in supporting current and future museum programs by considering a gift to mark the museum’s seventy-five and the university’s 135 years of service to the education and enlightenment of our local, statewide, and increasingly global constituencies.
Seventy-five Years (and More) of Research, Preservation, and Education

By Jon Erlandson and Patricia Krier

This year and next, the MNCH is celebrating its seventy-fifth birthday! The museum has its true origins in 1876, when Thomas Condon was hired as one of the UO’s first three professors and brought his fossil collection with him. We have long counted our official birthday from 1935, however, when Oregon’s Legislative Assembly created the Oregon State Museum of Anthropology (OSMA), AND to 1936 when OSMA was incorporated into a newly formed UO Museum of Natural History. These two events allow us to celebrate our seventy-fifth birthday for two full years in 2010 and 2011. Anthropology professor Luther Cressman was a driving force behind the museum’s creation, along with other legendary faculty members such as Warren Smith, Ralph Huestis, and Leroy Detling.

This year and next, we invite you to join us for a series of lectures, events, and celebrations that honor the contributions of Thomas Condon, Luther Cressman, Arnold Shotwell, Alice Parman, Don Dumond, Bill Orr, Mel Aikens, and many others who helped create and care for the museum, building it into one of the premier research and educational institutions in the Pacific Northwest. We will also celebrate thousands of members, volunteers, donors, and other supporters who have helped sustain the museum through good times and bad.

Honoring the past, we are also looking forward: to creating a museum with a strong and sustainable financial foundation; that continues to lead the way in understanding, preserving, and interpreting the deep human and environmental history of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest; and provides engaging and relevant public programs for a variety of audiences in today’s global society. Please join us in building a bigger and better museum that serves our many communities and contributes to the reputation of the UO as Oregon’s flagship university, its only AAU university, and a center for innovative and interdisciplinary approaches to creating a better future.

Museum Renovations and Reopening

In August, the museum reopened after six weeks of interior renovations. The remodeling, funded by The Ford Family Foundation, converted our old collections vault and workshop into public space suitable for the installation of a major new exhibit hall dedicated to the geology, paleontology, and natural history of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest.

These new galleries will double our exhibition space, allow us to put more of our amazing fossils on display, and create a circular flow through the museum that will enhance our visitors’ experience. Other changes—supported by grants from the Oregon Cultural Trust and other donors—included remodeling the museum’s entryway and reception desk, education room, museum store, public restrooms, and hallway gallery.

The renovations were expertly supervised by George Bleekman (project manager, UO Facilities Services) and Cindi Budlong (assistant director of exhibitions), with assistance from numerous MNCH staff members. We are also grateful to Robertson-Sherwood Architects and McKenzie Construction for their outstanding work. Visit the museum soon and see the exciting results!
Barbara Bowerman was a true Renaissance person—a story-teller extraordinaire, a historian with a sense of purpose, and a supporter of the arts. She was direct, compassionate, and magical. I first met Barbara in the early 1980s when she and Bill gave the museum its first big gift, a $10,000 check that helped keep a threatened university museum alive and started an upward trajectory that has led us to our current landmark expansion. This was the beginning of a long relationship and a gift that played a major role in the building of a new museum.

Over the years, the Bowermans’ love of Fossil and the John Day area translated into ongoing help and promotion of the museum. They passed on this passion to their son Jay who has served on the Museum Advisory Council for over twenty years.

Last fall, photographer Brian Lanker, artist Lynda Lanker, Metropol Bakery owner Donna McGuinness, and I visited Barbara in Fossil. We talked about Brian’s photographic project on shoes ranging from the museum’s 10,000-year-old sandals to famous Nike footwear. Barbara and Brian cooked while the owners of our B&B served up a special cowgirl breakfast in her honor. We toured son Jon’s ranch on the John Day River adjacent to the notorious Rajneeshepuram community of the early 1980s. Enthralled by the incredible geologic formations rising from the river, we saw history unfold as Barbara regaled us with stories.

A couple of months later I got a phone call from accountant Wade Bell: Barbara wanted to give the museum a $10,000 check for the Brian Lanker project. Bookend checks with so much more in between—thank you, Barbara!

Become a Friend of the Museum of Natural and Cultural History

Where can you see a saber-tooth cat, a saber-tooth salmon, the world’s oldest shoes, and amazing art, artifacts, and exhibits? Where can you send your students or your kids to learn about the deep history and diversity of people and environments in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest? Where can you hear great lectures on archaeology, geology, geography, paleontology, and much more? Where can you join a group of like-minded people dedicated to a better understanding of human history and our natural world? Where else can you celebrate a birthday for two years running?

Starting this fall and continuing through next year, the museum is hosting several events marking seventy-five years (and more!) as an institution dedicated to studying, preserving, and interpreting the past. If you aren’t a member, please join the Friends of the Museum of Natural and Cultural History and receive your invitation for all the celebratory anniversary events. For further information, call Judi Pruitt, assistant director of visitor services, at 541-346-1671 or send an e-mail to judip@oregon.edu.

In addition to supporting the museum and its programs, your membership includes benefits to more than 200 other museums and science centers worldwide through the Association of Science and Technology Centers, including these in Oregon:

- A.C. Gilbert’s Discovery Village, Salem
- Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum, McMinnville
- Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, Portland
- Science Factory Children’s Museum and Planetarium, Eugene
- ScienceWorks Hands-On Museum, Ashland
- Sunriver Nature Center and Observatory
Museum Advisory Council on the Move

The Museum Advisory Council (MAC) is a dedicated group of museum supporters from around the state of Oregon. This year, a core group of members has been meeting monthly, with quarterly meetings for the larger council. This translates to more interaction with the museum staff, more ideas and involvement, and more needs being met. This summer, for instance, the MAC awarded three scholarships for our archaeology-paleontology summer camps.

The MAC also made a memorial gift in honor of member Jay Bowerman’s mother, Barbara. Their gift will support the publication of our beautiful Brian Lanker book on shoes from past to present. Barbara was a great supporter of Brian’s photography and of this particular project.

As our seventy-fifth anniversary celebration revs up, the MAC is helping plan our November birthday party and another special event for doctors and dentists in 2011. We are tremendously grateful to this vigorous, energetic, and fun-loving group whose sage advice and generous gifts have made a tremendous difference by advising senior museum staff members and galvanizing support for the museum across the state.

Museum Launches New Website!

We recently launched a new, much-improved, and comprehensive website that is more attractive, educational, and user-friendly. Supervised by Sarah McClure, with help from Keith Hamm and numerous museum staff members, this project broadens the impact of the MNCH on campus and around the world. Exhibits, museum calendars, and educational programs are now just a click away. Special thanks to Zack Barnett, Tim Beltran, and Brian Vaughan, Web Communications.

As part of our continuing digitization efforts, the new website includes twenty photo galleries featuring our anthropological, paleontological, and natural history collections. Supported by a grant from The Ford Family Foundation, these galleries help extend our educational outreach statewide and worldwide!

In our research pages, we also provide another twenty-first-century service by listing our UO Anthropological Papers (UOAP) and Museum Bulletin series online. A complete list of sixty-nine UOAP volumes—many of them dedicated to the archaeology and ethnohistory of Oregon—can now be found on our website, with twenty-two out-of-print volumes available free-of-charge to teachers, students, and laypeople.
Thanks for ALL Your Support!

On behalf of the entire museum staff we want to express our special thanks to the many people who help make it possible for our beautiful museum to grow and prosper. Our future is bright thanks to all our members, volunteers, donors, visitors, and other supporters. You are terrific!

Bruce Acheson
Aimee Schauf Addison and Edmond Addison
Patricia Atable and Philip Thomas
Alice and C. Melvin Aikens
Yousef and Hannal Al Rahmani
Dorothy and Frank Anderson
Edith and Bruce Anderson
Kimberly and Patrick Anderson
Regan Anderson
Tamar Andreas
Susan Archbold
Andrea and David Arlington
Jeanne and Edward Armstrong
Karen Artiaco
Phoebe Smith Atwood
Jean and Ray Auel
Jane Austin
Iva Avid
Robert Glenn Bailey and Garrick Bailey
Martin Baille
Donald Baldwin
Virginia and Chandler Barkelew
Phyllis Adams Barkhurst
Tobin Barlow
Sandra Barnes
Sw Meyer Barnum and Thomas Barnum
Sarah and Thomas Bascom
Claire Baskett
Douglas Beauchamp
Norma Beckett
Marcella Bell
Joyce Benjamin and Russell Donnelly
Judith and David Berg
Marcia Berman
Deborah Bernhard and Jerry Leek
Walter Biddle
Kathleen Birkholz
Robert Boettcher
Jennifer Bonner
Teresa Booker
Todd Bosworth
Barbara Bowerman
Teresa and William Bowerman Jr.
Wendy Butler-Boyesen and Martin Boyesen
Vicki Brabham
Linda Bradley
William Brewer Jr.
Gary Bricher and Marilyn Nippold
Charles Brockmann
Cheryl and Gary Brown
Traci and Curtis Brown
Sylvia Bruce
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Cynthia and Dennis Budlong
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James Cloyd and Ann Staley
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Marilyn and Edward Livingston
Diana and Edward Long
Marsha and Mel Long
Doris and Carl Long
Esther and Donald Lindahl
Morena and John Lindahl
Janis and Rod Lindberg
Janet Litin
Michael Litin
Museum News and Notes

Ashley Robinson, our former office and building coordinator, has moved into an accounting technician position for the museum. Susan Smith-Laycock has joined the museum as our new office and building coordinator. You may speak to Susan when you call the museum’s main number as she answers questions and provides support to the public—one of many roles she fills in the busy museum office and public space. Tracey Bell has joined us as visitor services coordinator. In addition Tracey also oversees the daily operations of the museum store, Past and Presents. We are fortunate to have these talented and professional people on our staff team.

The Condon Collection passed a federal inspection in August, renewing its status as a repository for fossils found on federal lands. Federal criteria have become more rigorous in the past two years as a result of a new paleontology law, which enhances protections for fossils from public lands. Collection manager Edward Davis has worked tirelessly for the past eighteen months to meet the new federal requirements. Changes included installation of alarm and sprinkler systems, removing printed archives from the fossil vault, and creation of a procedural handbook for the fossil collection.

As part of their support for upgrading care of the fossil collection, the Bureau of Land Management purchased twenty-one new locking, steel, fossil cabinets for the MNCH. The cabinets, to be delivered in October, will help protect our collections from theft, fire, and water. These cabinets are a good first step, but we will need 125 more cabinets to fully protect our collections.

The Condon Collection welcomes incoming master’s degree student Win McLaughlin. A graduate of the University of the Pacific, Win begins her studies in vertebrate paleontology this fall with Samantha Hopkins, fossil curator. She is the first recipient of the Baldwin Fellowship, supported by the UO Graduate School, the MNCH, and the Department of Geological Sciences. Baldwin fellows work to improve the care of the fossil collection. The fellowship is named for Ewart M. Baldwin, long-time geology professor and benefactor of both the MNCH and geology department.

This summer, J. Arnold Shotwell was given a Director’s Lifetime Achievement Award for his many contributions to the museum. Shotwell, a UO paleontologist and biologist, served as museum director from 1963 to 1971. The award, signed by museum director Jon Erlandson, said: “In recognition and deep appreciation of J. Arnold Shotwell for his many contributions to the growth and scholarly reputation of the University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History. Dr. Shotwell’s service to the museum as director, an avid collector/curator of fossils and biological specimens, an advisor to students, and a steadfast advocate for the museum was critical in its formative years. Furthermore, his collections and groundbreaking paleoecological research created a strong foundation for studies that continue at the museum many years later. For all these contributions and more, we thank you."

During August, the museum hosted its second year of archaeology summer camps for kids. A special thanks to College of Education students Aimee Ankeny and Jack Bouke and volunteer Renee King who acted as teachers for the camp.

Congratulations to museum volunteer Kevin Kurtz on the publication of his second children’s book, A Day on the Mountain.

A New Look

If you’ve visited the museum since our remodel in the public space, you’ve seen the updated admissions desk, freshened up museum store, and streamlined hallway to the galleria. Once inside, you’ll be greeted by visitor services student staff members and volunteers with the common goal of making your visit a pleasurable one. During your visit, be sure to explore the museum store, Past and Presents. Sandwiched between the exhibit halls, the store offers a fresh updated look with new artists, a book nook, and educational items that reflect the current exhibits. Museum members receive 10 percent off purchases, and all purchases made in the store provide support for public programs.
Second Exhibit in the PaleoLab Series Opens

In the past six months over 5,000 visitors engaged in activities offered in the first installation of PaleoLab, learning about the evolution of whales. Many shared that it was fascinating to watch the paleontologist at work, and that they enjoyed participating in an activity where visitors collect fossils and take them through the steps paleontologists use to bring a fossil from the field to the museum. Horses and Grasslands, the second installation in the PaleoLab series, focuses on the co-evolution of horses and grasslands. The earliest known ancestors of horses came to North America from Asia, and as North America’s grasslands expanded, many new species of horse quickly evolved. Small and large species lived side by side, some multi-toed browsers, others grazers with the familiar hooves that we associate with horses today.

Museum Galleria

Yellowstone to Yukon: Freedom to Roam

Showing in the Galleria from October 1 through December 19, this stunning wildlife photography by Florian Schulz combines with a compelling environmental issue—the need to protect the natural corridors that give wildlife the freedom to move through their traditional ranges and maintain healthy populations. Yellowstone to Yukon: Freedom to Roam features images of the Rocky Mountains west from Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming to Canada’s Yukon Territories. This exhibit was developed by the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture and The Mountaineers Books, Seattle, in collaboration with the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative.

Pacific Northwest Artists Gallery

Solitude and Absolute Form—Photography by Jon Meyer

Lose yourself in vivid large-scale photographs that draw you into landscapes of Oregon and the west. This series, on view only until October 31, showcases the region’s natural splendor, from high desert to cold mountain lakes.

Celestial Menagerie—Mixed-Media Prints by Tallmadge Doyle

Multimedia etchings inspired by historical astronomical charts bring symbolic figures of the constellations to life. This mixed-media showing begins November 3.
Student Spotlight: Susie Barney Gets the Job Done (and Has Fun Doing It) in PaleoLab

By Ann Craig

Cataloging thousands of fish and animal bones wasn’t what Susie was used to doing in her pursuit of a bachelor of arts degree in medieval studies at the UO. Susie took a U-turn when she answered a call for students to get involved in the museum’s Participatory Learning Experience (PLE) program.

“I’ve always been really interested in Oregon history, as well as natural and cultural history in general. When this opportunity was announced in a class, I jumped at the chance,” says Susie.

While at the museum, Susie is earning course credit, discovering new interests and skills, meeting like-minded volunteers, and completing essential work—all valuable parts of her UO experience. Susie appreciates the new challenges and the change of pace from her homework routine.

“I like the sense of accomplishment I get at the museum. When I get ready to go home, I always feel like I got a lot done and really helped out,” she explains. To students considering getting involved at the museum Susie says, “Do it! There’s something for every sort of person to do here. And get to know the other volunteers because they’re all great and interesting people.”

Little Wonders

Stories and Activities for Preschoolers and their Families

What do you get when you cross a room full of preschool kids with Mentos, coke, clay and paint? I know what you’re thinking—”A mess!” And you’re right, but it was also a great way to learn about volcanoes.

The museum’s new Little Wonders program has a mission to make learning engaging and fun, even if that means getting a little dirty. We choose storybooks that inspire wonder and activities that teach about our natural world and the cultures of Oregon and beyond.

Join us for the action on the first Wednesday of the month at 11:00 a.m. It’s a great way to spend time with the little wonders in your life and let somebody else clean up the mess.
Calendar of Events

National Fossil Day
Wednesday, October 13, 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Investigate fossils from the museum’s Condon Fossil Collection.

October is Oregon Archaeology Month
Oregon archaeologists dig up history near and far. Join us to celebrate their work and to learn about the latest finds and the implications for understanding our collective past. All lectures are held on Fridays at 175 Knight Law Center, 1515 Agate Street, and begin at 5:30 p.m. Lectures are free and open to the public.

October 15: Revolution in Prehistoric West Africa
Stephen Dueppen, American Council of Learned Societies New Faculty Fellow, Department of Anthropology

October 22: Island of the Blue Dolphins: An Archaeological Time Capsule
Jon Erlandson, Archaeologist and Director, Museum of Natural and Cultural History

October 29: Ancient Salmon and the Columbia River
Virginia Butler, Professor of Anthropology, Portland State University

Little Wonders: Stories and Activities for Preschoolers
First Wednesday of the month, 11:00 a.m.–noon, free

November 3: Those Darn Squirrels! by Adam Rubin, illustrated by Daniel Salmieri
Listen to the fantastic tale of genius squirrels that plot to steal seed from bird feeders. Make a feeder to take home.

December 1: The Shortest Day, by Wendy Pfeiffer, illustrated by Jesse Reisch
Winter Solstice is the shortest day of the year! Learn how this day is celebrated in cultures around the world and make a sun mask to brighten your Winter Solstice.

Horsing Around Family Day
Saturday, November 13, 1:00–4:00 p.m., $5 families, free for museum members
Families play and learn together as they explore the journey of horses from ancient times to today.

Pacific Northwest Artist Meet and Greet
Celestial Menagerie—Mixed-media Art by Tallmadge Doyle
Thursday, November 4, 6:00–7:30 p.m.
Meet Tallmadge Doyle to learn more about her work at this free public event.

Homecoming Weekend Alumni Event
Friday through Sunday, November 5–7, 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., free
Visit the museum and show your game day ticket for a free prize.

Winter Solstice Celebration
Friday, December 17, 5:00–8:00 p.m.
Cultures from around the world are celebrated through music, dance, and activities. Find out more about events and how to become a member at natural-history.uoregon.edu or call 541-346-3024.

JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM

Membership Rates

☐ Individual $40  ☐ Contributor $250
☐ Family $50  ☐ Benefactor $500
☐ Supporter $100  ☐ Director’s Circle $1,000+

Seniors may apply a 10 percent discount to the membership costs listed above.

Clip and mail, or print the application from our website at natural-history.uoregon.edu.

Please sign me up for my tax-deductible annual membership contribution:

Name__________________________

Address__________________________

City__________________________State________ZIP________

Phone__________________________E-mail__________________________

Please make your check payable to UO Foundation-MNCH. Send it with this form to Museum of Natural and Cultural History, P.O. Box 2246, Eugene OR 97403-0346.

For more information about museum membership and benefit levels, call 541-346-1671.
Join the Herd at Past and Presents

Make your dollars matter by shopping at Past and Presents, where all proceeds support the MNCH educational mission and public programs.

Take your trip to the Horses and Grasslands exhibit one step further with the root viewer kit. Learn about the mystery of what happens under the surface of the soil with this fun and easy lesson in ecology. The root viewer allows you to watch the development of three different plants as they grow from seed to full-grown plants. Just add sunshine! For more horseplay, check out our selection of horse evolution and anatomy coloring books as well as our herd of equine-themed toys.

10% OFF A ROOT VIEWER KIT while supplies last

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- Exhibits
- Opportunities

The University of Oregon is an equal-opportunity, affirmative-action institution committed to cultural diversity and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This publication will be made available in accessible formats upon request. Accommodations for people with disabilities will be provided if requested in advance.

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