SQ3Tsya’yay: Weaver’s Spirit Power by Susan Pavel

On view in the Galleria through January 29, 2012
Moving Forward

By Jon Erlandson

Five years ago, we completed an ambitious strategic plan to govern the growth and consolidation of the Museum of Natural and Cultural History for the next ten years. Approved at the highest levels of the UO administration, it called for a three-phase, $10 million expansion. Halfway through that decade, despite a deep and painful recession, we are pleased to be on schedule and on budget. As this issue of Fieldnotes goes to press, we are finishing moving materials out of several outbuildings and into our new Anthropological Collections Center. We just opened a fourth exhibition—a beautiful show on Coast Salish weavings—in our lovely new Galleria. We have renovated our old anthropological collections vault into public education space and we recently received permission from the UO to move forward with the detailed design and installation of our new hall, which will showcase Explore Oregon, an exhibit devoted to the natural and geological history of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest.

Shortly after receiving permission to proceed with this exciting new exhibit hall, we learned that we had received a prestigious Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant for $150,000. With this grant, we now have more than $1 million in hand for design and installation of the new exhibit hall, which will allow us to share much more of our amazing fossil and other natural history collections with the public. Over the next eighteen months, the IMLS grant will help fund a series of prototypes featuring components of the new exhibit hall. We are working closely with Presentation Design Group and Robertson Sherwood Architects to complete the designs and installation. The prototyping process will be an interactive one, with our next three exhibits dedicated to designing and testing the stories to be presented in Explore Oregon, and gathering feedback from the many communities we serve, on campus and off.

Our strategic plan also calls for raising a dollar in endowments for each dollar we raise for capital projects and current programs. Here again we are on target, especially after a recent and incredibly generous $2,500,000 estate gift from longtime supporters Jean R. Pedersen and the Alan and Jean Pedersen Family Trust (see page 4). Along with other gifts, we are now more than halfway to our goal of raising a $10 million endowment to support and sustain the museum’s outstanding research programs, collections care, exhibits, and educational outreach. Fulfilling this goal will help ensure that the MNCH serves a diverse array of communities—UO students and faculty and staff members; K–12 students; adult community members; visiting researchers and tourists; local, state, and federal agencies; Oregon’s Native American tribes; and more—for generations to come.

Moving forward, we are profoundly grateful for all your support. We couldn’t do it without you!

We Want You (to Help Create Our New Exhibit)!

Opening March 2013

Our new Explore Oregon exhibit, devoted to the natural and geological history of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest, is scheduled to open in 2013. Next March, thanks to funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, we will present the first of three prototypes featuring key components of the Explore Oregon exhibit. The prototypes will allow us to test the design and content of the exhibition with visitors, ensuring that the final design is as effective, engaging, and informative as possible.
Pacific Northwest Artists Gallery

Four Women—Four Views: From the High Desert

Through February 26, 2012

Four artists from Central Oregon—Pam Jersey Bird, Patricia Clark, Judy Hoiness, and Ingrid Lustig—portray the dramatic landscapes where they live from their unique perspectives. Each artist expresses herself in an individual visual language, but they all share a profound connection to the land and water of Oregon. The artworks are not just about making art, but are expressions of reverence toward Oregon’s unique land and curiosity of how it functions and changes.

Pam Jersey Bird, Waltzing Water 1, acrylic on canvas.

Judy Hoiness, Impressions of the Columbia River, acrylic on board.

Ingrid Lustig, Ghost Bird, mixed media on canvas.

Galleria

SQ3Tsyá’yay: Weaver’s Spirit Power by sa’hLa mitSa (Susan Pavel)

Through January 29, 2012

SQ3Tsyá’yay (“cut-see-ya-ya”) is the written form of the words that mean “weaver’s spirit power” in the Twana language. Weaving has always been important to Puget Salish people. Those individuals who are gifted in weaving produce beautiful blankets used as clothing and worn on ceremonial occasions. The blankets can be symbolic of a person’s wealth and status. Study the basic techniques, materials (including rare mountain goat wool), and processes of Salish weaving and try your hand at weaving on a loom.

Changing Exhibits Gallery

Face to Face with Masks from the Museum Collections

Through February 19, 2012

Masks have been part of the human experience throughout recorded history. In almost every culture, age, and region of the world, the mask has been used to mark important changes in our personal status and to protect us from forces larger than ourselves. Visitors can explore what masks are and how they function in societies through interactive displays. Visitors can also create their own masks and take a souvenir photo in the photo booth.
Moving Forward: How We Continue to Grow

By Patricia Krier

So many changes have occurred in the years I’ve worked at the museum. Like any organization, we have had successes and challenges, but as I look back over my thirty-plus years here, I marvel at how far this institution has come. Mostly our growth has been sure and steady, and the key to that has been to think sustainably: How can we maintain what we have and yet continue to grow?

Multiple streams of revenue are the key, including state funds, membership, grants, direct and estate gifts, and endowments. We have set up endowments for each of the museum’s mission components: research, collections, and interpretation. For endowments, the principal is invested to create a regular source of interest income. As we spend only the interest, an endowment is a kind of “in perpetuity” fiscal planning—planting a tree today that provides shade and beauty for future generations.

We have also succeeded over the years through grant writing; to the National Science Foundation for archaeological and paleontological research, National Endowment for the Humanities for traveling exhibits, the Ford Family Foundation for digitizing collections and museum expansion, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for digitizing Don Hunter’s marvelous collections and for moving artifacts and specimens into our new collections center.

In July the museum received another award from the IMLS, a Museums for America grant to help us design, evaluate, and install five key components of our new Explore Oregon exhibit. This project will allow us to expand and diversify our educational exhibits, showcase more of our outstanding collections and research, and build partnerships with a variety of communities to (1) increase scientific literacy; (2) link the past, present, and future; and (3) foster a sense of stewardship for our natural world.

This federal grant, along with other gifts from $75 to $75,000 and more, have put us at the $1 million mark for the exhibit hall. Over the next eighteen months we are moving forward, thanks to all of you!

An Extraordinary Gift Supports MNCH Mission

The MNCH is delighted to announce that a $2.5 million estate gift has been made in the name of Jean R. Pedersen to the Museum of Natural and Cultural History. We hope to use this gift, the largest private gift in the museum’s history, to create endowment funds for each of the museum’s four divisions: research, public programs, collections, and operations. With this gift, the MNCH is more than halfway toward its goal of raising a $10 million endowment.

With our recent expansion and plans for additional expansion over the next five years, the stable income from endowment funds ensure that the MNCH can sustain its growth and continue to realize its mission to protect collections, enhance knowledge, and encourage stewardship of human and natural history.

Because this gift is one-half of the total estate gift of $5 million—the other half is designated to intercollegiate athletics from the Alan and Jean Pedersen Family Trust—we would like to thank our colleagues in the development office who assisted us in this process: Hal Abrams, Jesse Visser, and Paul Weinhold of the UO Foundation. Thank you for your efforts and advocacy. Most of all, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Jean R. Pedersen and the Alan and Jean Pedersen Family Trust for their outstanding generosity.

About the Pedersens

The history of Jean Pedersen’s relationship with the museum is closely intertwined with her seventy-five-year friendship with a longtime Museum Advisory Council (MAC) member, Beth Campbell. Beth, Jean, and Jean’s husband, Al, were high school classmates in San Francisco in the late 1930s. Al and Jean headed to the University of Oregon as undergraduates in 1939. Al played football and enrolled in the College of Business, while Jean joined the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority and studied at the School of Architecture and Allied Arts.

In 1941, Al joined the Navy as a pilot and was stationed in Norfolk, Virginia. The couple married in November 1943 in New York City, where Jean and Beth were roommates. Beth was married the month before to Bob Campbell. Beth and Jean served as maids of honor to one another during this special time.

After the war, Al and Jean settled in Los Altos, California, where they raised three children and ran a business in farmland ownership and management in the Salinas Valley. Beth and Bob headed to Eugene, where Bob accepted a position as a professor of economics at the UO and Beth became an active member of the community. While the Pedersens had already begun supporting the UO, it wasn’t until Beth became a MAC member that they began supporting the MNCH. The Pedersen’s first major gift to the MNCH was in 1999, when they pledged $100,000 to support the creation of the Oregon—Where Past Is Present exhibit.

The Pedersens and Campbells have maintained a lifelong friendship and we are honored by their support.
In Memoriam: Brian Lanker, 1947–2011

Brian Lanker was an artistic genius whose ability as a photographic storyteller is world-renowned. A Pulitzer Prize winner, his work in National Geographic and Sports Illustrated was celebrated, as were his iconic portraits of Bill Bowerman, Steve Prefontaine, Mick Jagger, and many more. He moved to Eugene to work for The Register-Guard early in his career, and continued to live here when he wasn’t traveling on assignment. Brian gave two very special gifts to the MNCH:

1. Shall We Dance: a premier showing of his works on dance in America. What began as an article for National Geographic documenting the diversity of dance, expanded into a book with a foreword by Maya Angelou. In 2009, Brian turned it into an exhibit that was the first show in our new Galleria. With Lynda Lanker’s blessing, we sold many of the signed and framed photographs, raising more than $6,250 for our new natural sciences exhibit hall. We still have a number of these one-of-a-kind prints for sale at the museum. If you are interested in purchasing a print, visit natural-history.uoregon.edu/lankerphotos.

2. 10,000 Years of Shoes: Brian’s second gift is an extraordinary book of photos of shoes, with essays on feet and footwear by Kenny Moore, Petr Hlavacek, Jon Erlandson, and Tom Connolly. Inspired by our 2008 exhibit for the Olympic Team Trials in track and field, Walk a Mile in These Shoes, Brian volunteered to help us produce a book on the deep history of shoes, from our famous Fort Rock sandals to Nike’s latest models.

When Brian died, the book was nearly finished. With the help of many friends, the book is now being printed and should be out for the holidays. Thank you, Brian—your gifts, life, and art will inspire us forever.

In Memoriam: B. King Martin, 1921–2011

King Martin, a longtime Friend of the Museum, died on July 4, an apt day for a patriot. A flight engineer during World War II, King received the Distinguished Flying Cross and his crew flew over the USS Missouri for the 1945 ceremony celebrating the end of the war in the Pacific. A graduate of the UO, King majored in architecture and opened his own firm in Eugene. A lifelong Oregonian, he loved it all—the landscape, the people, and the history. His wife, Janet Bean Martin, is a descendant of Thomas Condon and has volunteered at the MNCH for years. She asks that memorial gifts be made to the Museum of Natural and Cultural History, the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, or the Family YMCA.

MAC on the Move

Last November, the Museum Advisory Council (MAC) put forth a $75,000 challenge as part of our seventy-fifth anniversary. This November, we are at the $67,000 mark and we hope to complete this challenge by December 31. Thank you for all your support!

The council is expanding its membership to twenty, adding four outstanding new community members: Alec Dakers, Rosaria Haugland, Donovan Mack, and Lee Michels. They joined the MAC on October 11 for their first council meeting. We also look forward to welcoming Ann Thompson to the MAC next spring.

When Donna Woolley, a charter member of the council, died last spring, the MAC stepped up to do something special to honor Donna’s long service to the MNCH. They pledged funds to build a new acquisitions case for the lobby that will highlight objects recently donated to the museum. It will give visitors a chance to see that something new is always happening in the museum, where the past is always present.
Four New Books Highlight MNCH Researchers

This fall four new books feature the work of MNCH archaeologists, the latest in a long line of excellent publications that highlight the museum’s research. Oregon Archaeology, Northwest Coast: Archaeology as Deep History, 10,000 Years of Shoes, and An Archaeology of Desperation will all be sold in the museum store, where members can receive a 10 percent discount. Get a jump on holiday shopping while supporting our educational programs and keeping up with our cutting-edge research.

Oregon Archaeology
Oregon State University Press
512 pages, $29.95

This outstanding book, completely revised and updated from earlier editions of Archaeology of Oregon, is by former MNCH director Mel Aikens and MNCH archaeologists Tom Connolly and Dennis Jenkins. Oregon Archaeology summarizes the human and natural history of Oregon’s four major geographic regions (the Coast, Willamette Valley, Columbia Plateau, and Great Basin). It traces more than 14,000 years of Native American history in Oregon, as well as the clash of cultures caused by historic European exploration and American settlement. From Paisley Caves to the Portland Basin, don’t miss the opportunity to learn more about the long human history of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest.

Northwest Coast: Archaeology as Deep History
SAA Press
183 pages, $24.95

Written by Madonna Moss, MNCH curator and UO anthropology professor, this book provides a concise summary of current knowledge about the archaeology of the Northwest Coast, extending from northern California and the Oregon Coast to southeast Alaska. Famous for its complex fisher-hunter-gatherer cultures and elaborate artistic traditions, Moss shows that the Northwest Coast has a much deeper history that may extend back to the initial colonization of the Americas. Published by the prestigious Society for American Archaeology, this book is a must-read for anyone interested in the archaeology of the Pacific Northwest and the long and fascinating history of its fishing peoples.

10,000 Years of Shoes: The Photographs of Brian Lanker
University of Oregon Press
120 pages, $34.99

This amazing book originated with our 2008 exhibit, Walk a Mile in These Shoes, created for the Olympic Team Trials in track and field that marked the resurgence of Eugene as Track Town U.S.A. After seeing the exhibit, Brian Lanker, Eugene’s Pulitzer Prize–winning photographer, volunteered to photograph the shoes for a book featuring Oregon’s famed 10,000-year-old Fort Rock sandals, other shoes from around the world, Bill Bowerman’s role in developing specialty sport shoes, and his collaboration with Phil Knight in building one of the world’s most successful corporations based on the sale of athletic shoes and apparel. Edited by Jon Erlandson and Sarah McClure—and including essays by Tom Connolly, Erlandson, Petr Hlavacek, and Kenny Moore—10,000 Years of Shoes explores the form, function, history, and diversity of shoes, with stunning photos that will activate your sense of wonder.

An Archaeology of Desperation: Exploring the Donner Party’s Alder Creek Camp
University of Oklahoma Press
384 pages, $34.95

This book summarizes recent archaeological research related to the tragic tale of the Donner Party, pioneers who were stranded and lost in the Sierras in the winter of 1846–47. Famous for historical accounts of cannibalism among the survivors, remarkably little is known about what actually happened to the starving families of the Donner Party. Based on 2003–4 research by a UO and University of Montana team, the book uses the tools of history, archaeology, osteology, and social anthropology to explore the myths and mysteries of Donner Party members at Alder Creek Camp. Julie Schablitsky, coeditor and contributor, is an MNCH historical archaeologist, and the book includes contributions by UO alumni Don Hardesty and Gwen Robbins.
Moving Forward Collaboratively: From Collections to Exhibitions and Back

By Pamela Endzweig

One of the things I like about working in museums is the teamwork that goes on, often behind the scenes and invisible to the public. Our recent exhibit, Face to Face with Masks from the Museum Collections is a perfect example.

Preserving rare objects and making them available for research and display is often a challenge. Each time an object is brought out of storage, it is at risk from damage due to changing environments, improper handling, or theft. This requires close collaboration between collections staff members with specialized preservation knowledge and exhibits staff members who are responsible for displays.

Exhibiting the masks now on display raised typical questions: How can masks be shown in the position they were worn without risk of tumbling off their pedestals onto objects below? How can they be fully supported without visually impacting their beauty? How can fragile woven pieces be braced, and what is to be done about loose parts that can detach if suspended under their own weight?

For this display, each mount was customized to fit the shape and consistency of the mask in question. Most of the supports are made of plexiglass—chemically inert, bendable, and transparent. Where needed, there is added padding to protect sensitive fibers and immobilize the mask. The choice of display angle depends on the vulnerability of the object—those at greatest risk lie flat or are viewed at a very low angle while those that are sturdier can afford to rest on their chins. Almost every item is—often invisibly to the viewer—tethered to its support to protect it from mild shaking. Nearby construction workers give us a heads-up when larger vibrations are anticipated.

The next time you visit our museum, remember the effort that goes into sharing these special pieces without jeopardizing their long-term safety!

Recent Acquisition: A Weaving with a Story

Rarely do objects more than a century old come with much information on their source. This made the Navajo weaving donated recently by UO alumna Judith E. Wood all the more exciting. The piece was passed down in Wood’s husband’s family from his great-grandfather, Dr. Thomas Laughlin Craig Sr., a physician who practiced at Fort Defiance, Arizona, from 1881 to 1896. Along with other Native American blankets and baskets dispersed in the intervening years among family members, this weaving was given to Dr. Craig by his patients in lieu of cash. Its presentation to the MNCH represents a legacy to Wood’s husband, Wiley Wood. We hope that its detailed provenance will help us research further into this special heirloom’s history.

For an image of this weaving and others in the MNCH Collections, visit our web galleries at natural-history.uoregon.edu/collections/web-galleries.
Moving Forward: Making Room for More

Since spring, we have been busy with a variety of research, collections, and public outreach activities. One of the most exciting activities has involved reorganizing and rehousing Condon Collection fossils, a project made possible by the Bureau of Land Management’s purchase of twenty-one archival-quality steel cabinets to upgrade the storage of fossils from federal lands. With a recent purchase of twenty-eight more cabinets with funds from the Office of the Provost and the MNCH director’s endowment, we now have forty-nine new cabinets to replace old and irregular wooden storage units. In the process we are reorganizing collections both more efficiently and by geological time period. As this effort continues, we anticipate having more space for newly acquired collections.

Speaking of new collections, Greg Retallack and Jon Erlandson recently visited the Southern Oregon Historical Society (SOHS) in Medford, which is refocusing its mission and collections after drastic budget cuts. As a result, we are transferring approximately twenty boxes of SOHS fossil, mineral, and other natural history specimens to the MNCH. These include more than eight hundred bird eggs that complement our extensive avian collections. Recent gifts to the Condon Collection also include several petrified wood specimens from the Eocene’s Fisher Formation near Pleasant Hill, donated by Chris Butler and Deborah Jellison of Creswell. Also received was a crocodile vertebra from the Clarno Formation donated by Larry Binney of Medford and woolly mammoth tusk and bone fragments from Marion County donated by Howard Rutschman of Silverton.

In late September, Bill Orr continued his work at the King’s Valley Fossil Site with help from numerous volunteers and members of a Linfield College biology class. The site once again produced a wealth of Late Pleistocene mammal and plant remains, including numerous ground sloth ossicles and bones, which reveal details about Willamette Valley environments in the Late Pleistocene.

This summer, Edward Davis visited the American Museum of Natural History in New York as part of a study of arthritis in modern and ancient rhinoceros skeletons. Did you know that even young rhinos have serious arthritis problems? With Samantha Hopkins, Edward Davis also excavated additional remains of the famous sabertooth salmon (*Smilodonichthys*), including about a seventy-centimeter section of an articulated vertebral column and part of the skull. Samantha and Edward also spent ten days working in the Juntura Formation in eastern Oregon.
News and Notes
Changing Faces

This summer, we said goodbye to two outstanding MNCH employees: Cynthia (Cindi) Budlong, who retired after twenty years of service as our exhibits coordinator; and Sarah McClure, assistant director of public programs, who moved with husband Douglas Kennett to Pennsylvania State University. We are deeply grateful to Cindi and Sarah for all their excellent service—both will be greatly missed, but we wish them all the best as they explore new opportunities and challenges.

Four new and enthusiastic faces have joined the museum team in recent months:

Carol Tobias joined the museum staff in April as the facility coordinator and much more! Carol staffs the museum public space two days a week, coordinates the volunteers’ schedule, and maintains visitor services and office policy and procedures. You will see her friendly face stationed at the museum’s main office desk where she greets walk-in guests and keeps the office and our facility running smoothly.

Jules Abbott became our education coordinator in September. As an educator, Jules is passionate about creating a deep connection between students and content. Through guidance-based education, she strives to inspire students of all ages to their highest learning potential while always including laughter along the way. Prior to joining our staff, Jules worked for the Willamette Resources and Educational Network at the West Eugene Wetlands Education Center creating and implementing educational programs and coordinating volunteers.

Denise Sorom, who until recently was a development officer for the UO College of Arts and Sciences, joins us as our new marketing and communications specialist. With a master’s degree in arts administration from the University of Wisconsin, Denise worked in marketing and membership at Rochester Art Center in Minnesota, an institution where she later served as executive director. She brings a wealth of experience and expertise to her new job at the MNCH and we are delighted to have her on board.

Lauren Willis, who stepped in last year to fill the vacancy of education coordinator, is now working in that role as community education coordinator and graduate teaching fellow. Lauren is working on her PhD in anthropology.

Out and About

Judi (J. P.) Pruitt, assistant director of visitor and member services, recently attended the Western Museums Association conference in Honolulu. J. P. copresented a workshop on museum store management that focused on day-to-day operations, visuals, inventory, and staffing. Attendees left encouraged and excited. Aloha and mahalo!

Ann Craig, head of exhibitions and education, attended the Association of Science-Technology Centers conference in October hosted by the Maryland Science Center in Baltimore. The conference focused on how organizations such as the MNCH evolve and adapt to plan for sustainability and growth.

Pat O’Grady, an archeologist in the MNCH research division, taught one component of the Northern Great Basin archaeological field school at the Sheep Mountain Clovis site this summer, completing a fourth year of research. He also ran test excavations in September at Rimrock Draw Rock Shelter near Riley, which will be the focus of the 2012 field school operations. Pat presented “Medicine Wheels in Oregon? Archaeological Evaluation and Inquiry into Two Large Stone Circles and Related Features in the Northern Great Basin of Southeastern Oregon” at the Plains Anthropological Conference in Tucson in October with coauthors Scott Thomas, Corey Plank, J. D. Lancaster, and Katy Schulte.
After School, Totally Cool: Museum Archaeology Club

Eight sessions
Wednesdays, January 11–February 29
3:30–5:30 p.m.
Open to third- through fifth-grade students

Learn and play in this fun after school club that explores archaeology and paleontology with hands-on activities. Kids will play detective in “cultural scene investigations” where they will examine artifacts, bones, and fossils; make their own beads to take home; and get behind the scenes to see some of the museum’s coolest fossils—like a giant mammoth tusk and the famed sabertooth salmon. For more information or to register, contact Jules Abbott, 541-346-1694, or jabbott@uoregon.edu. Class fees are $110 for the general public and $95 for MNCH members.

Volunteer Spotlight: Is Trevour Home?

Hi, this is Carol at the museum. Is Trevour home?” This phone call was made so many times over the summer months that the museum’s facility coordinator, Carol Tobias, memorized Trevour Stuart’s phone number. Trevour worked countless shifts as an exhibit hall interpreter while many of the museum’s volunteers and students were away for summer break. He began volunteering to fulfill high school credit for his degree at the Network Charter School and quickly became an essential part of the museum’s education team. “He is so enthusiastic that others are instantly motivated to learn more about the exhibits,” says Carol. Visitors will often seek Trevour out at the end of their visit to thank him for his conversation and expertise.

Trevour has become a specialist in the archaeology and paleontology of the Pacific Northwest. He is articulate, responsible, and professional. Thank you, Trevour, for your interest and dedication to the museum!

Campers William Thrapp, Kaelan Valentine, and Ronson Imfeld reconstruct pots from fragments in an effort to understand the work of field archaeologists.

Volunteer Trevour Stuart is at home in the Oregon—Where Past Is Present exhibit.

Summer Camp Success!

Archaeology Summer Camp was full of fun. Highlights included learning how to excavate through digs conducted in the courtyard, making animal masks, meeting our marionettes, and making puppets to take home. Brenda Brainard conducted a weaving activity and campers hunted for real fossils by the Willamette River. The four- to six-year-old group paraded as fossils, singing (to the tune of “I’m a Little Teapot”) “I’m a little fossil, small and stone. Once was a plant leaf, once was a bone. Scientists will dig us from our home! I’m a little fossil, small and stone.”

Registration for next summer’s camp begins in March. Mark your calendars!
Calendar of Events

Past and Presents
Holiday Preview
Tuesday, December 6, 5:00–7:00 p.m.
Join us for early holiday shopping and a book signing by the authors of Oregon Archaeology, 10,000 Years of Shoes: The Photographs of Brian Lanker, Northwest Coast: Archaeology as Deep History, and Archaeology on the Alaska Peninsula: The Northern Region, Fifty Years Onward. Enjoy refreshments and support museum education programs by shopping the museum store, Past and Presents. MNCH members receive 10 percent off purchases.

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

Wednesday, December 7
Animals in Winter by Henrietta Bancroft and Richard G. Van Gelder. Animals in winter do many things to survive and stay warm. Learn about the fox, woodchuck, and pica, and make your own winter habitat.

Holiday Open House Weekend
Saturday and Sunday, December 17–18, 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Admission is free with canned food or cash donations for Food for Lane County. Warm cider and cookies will round out the weekend of exhibits and shopping. Prepare for the holidays and help support educational programs by shopping in the museum store.

Free Admission on Wednesdays;
Tours on Fridays
The museum offers free admission to the public each Wednesday. Experience the museum with a guided tour. Tours are offered each Friday at 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. and are free with admission.

Holiday Hours
The museum and offices will be closed on Thursday, November 24, for the Thanksgiving holiday. We are thankful for our members and supporters of the museum. Have a safe and wonderful holiday.

Student Spotlight: Valerie Spooner

As a UO senior studying anthropology and folklore, with a community arts minor, Visitor Services student staff member Valerie Spooner’s interests combine very well with her work at the museum. “I’m fascinated with the past, and I love how with archaeology we can learn about how people actually lived their day-to-day lives.” During the last year, Valerie has worked as an exhibit hall guide, museum store associate, and admissions host, and she also is an important part of our development and office team. “I love working at the museum because it’s so full of life and learning. Every time I come to work, there is something new to see.”

Beyond working at the museum, she is an active member of the UO student volunteer group, MNCH Ambassadors, which works to raise awareness of the MNCH on campus. When she is not hard at work sharing the museum with the community, she enjoys making medieval period garments, sewing, and knitting. “It’s fun to look at old drawings or artifacts and try to recreate them. It’s the perfect mix of history, problem solving, and art.”

On life after graduation, Valerie comments, “I’m hoping to work in a museum here in the Pacific Northwest, and to get into exhibit development and event planning. Maybe someday I will get into preservation of artifacts and work on textiles.” We appreciate Valerie’s diverse skills and interests and look forward to another year with her on staff.

Winter Solstice Celebration
Friday, December 16, 5:00–8:00 p.m. Admission is free with canned food or cash donations. Help fill the Food for Lane County cupboards. Enjoy music, performances, and crafts for the entire family. Memberships will be available for half price during this event. Consider giving one as a gift!

Valerie Spooner in Past and Presents, the museum store.
Shop Where Your Dollars Matter!

A purchase from the museum store is a gift to the museum and its educational programs!

PAST AND PRESENTS

the museum store

Buy two books and get a third at 50 percent off!

New titles by MNCH archaeologists available at Past and Presents:

Northwest Coast: Archaeology as Deep History by Madonna L. Moss

Oregon Archaeology by C. Melvin Aikens, Thomas J. Connolly, and Dennis L. Jenkins.

Archaeology on the Alaska Peninsula: The Northern Region, Fifty Years Onward by Don E. Dumond

Not valid on sale or consignment items. Cannot be combined with other discounts. Expires December 31, 2011

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