A Look Back
A Look Back
By Jon Erlandson, Director

As we celebrate recent growth at the MNCH—and look forward to national accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums—this issue of Fieldnotes takes an appreciative look back, acknowledging some key contributors to the museum's creation and success. Among these are two iconic pioneers who laid the museum's foundations—geologist Thomas Condon and archaeologist Luther Cressman.

In 1852, Condon came to Oregon to serve as a congregationalist missionary. A self-trained natural historian and fossil collector, Condon began excavating fossils from Oregon's John Day Basin in 1865. His work in John Day brought national attention to the state's rich fossil record, and landed him an appointment as Oregon's first state geologist. In 1876, he was hired as one of the University of Oregon's first three professors, arriving with large collections of fossils, minerals, and artifacts that formed the foundation of the museum's collections.

As Tom Connolly discusses later in this issue, a major leap forward occurred under Cressman's leadership. He founded the UO's anthropology department and served as the museum's first director from 1936 to 1963. Among other things, Cressman uncovered a cache of 10,000-year-old sagebrush bark sandals from Fort Rock Cave—finds that challenged accepted theories about the peopling of the Northern Great Basin. Recent research at Paisley Caves by MNCH archaeologist Dennis Jenkins has confirmed some of Cressman's controversial claims—long doubted by skeptics—about a human presence in Oregon that spans at least 14,500 years.

After Cressman retired, the museum went through some difficult times and nearly closed. Herbarium collections were transferred to Oregon State University, and most of the geology and zoology collections were transferred to the UO's Department of Geological Sciences. There, geologists William and Elizabeth Orr cared for and expanded these collections for more than 25 years, until they were returned to the MNCH in 2005. In this issue, Condon Collection director Greg Retallack honors the Orr's longstanding dedication and service to the museum.

Even during that uncertain era, the museum's public offerings continued to grow under the leadership of director Alice Parman (1978–1982), who helped establish the MNCH as a leader in educational and interpretive programming.

The lean years continued through the 1980s, but the museum survived thanks to the support and advocacy of champions such as Bill Bowerman, Glenn Starlin, and Sylvia Giustina—and thanks to the leadership of anthropologist Don Dumond, who served as the museum's director from 1982 until 1996. Dumond oversaw the building of a new museum headquarters in 1987 and helped secure the continuation of our Archaeological Research Division. Dumond's successor, archaeologist C. Melvin Aikens, directed the museum from 1996 until 2005, managing the expansion of the museum's office space and staff, the creation of a new museum store, and the building of our signature cultural history hall, Oregon—Where Past Is Present. Aikens was also instrumental in obtaining funding for the museum's Anthropological Collections Center, completed in 2009.

As director for the last decade, I've witnessed tremendous support for the museum from the UO, the Oregon Legislative Assembly, state and federal agencies, and a wide spectrum of community sponsors. From the Offices of the President and Provost to University Advancement, the UO community has been an instrumental part of our ongoing success. Congressman Peter DeFazio and State Representative Nancy Nathanson have been tireless advocates for the MNCH, while generous support from the Ford Family Foundation, Coeta and Donald Barker Foundation, Oregon Community Foundation, Oregon Cultural Trust, and other donors has bolstered our growth and capacity to serve our stakeholders. Thanks to these individuals and organizations—along with our amazing volunteers, staff, and donors—the museum has enjoyed a decade of dramatic growth that is apparent in our collections, facilities, endowments, membership, and overall public visibility. Looking forward and looking back, I thank each and every one of you for helping to sustain the museum through the years.
Honoring William and Elizabeth Orr

By Greg Retallack
Director of the Condon Collection

Our Explore Oregon exhibit showcases the geology and natural history of our state, displaying a wealth of specimens from our extensive rock, fossil, and biological collections. It’s fitting that the exhibit’s 2014 opening was also the occasion for honoring William and Elizabeth Orr with the MNCH Lifetime Achievement Award. The Orrs, after all, are largely responsible for the fact that we have these specimens to display.

The museum fell on hard times in the late 1970s and early 1980s as economic shifts in the state created funding challenges throughout higher education. Thanks to the leadership of then director Don Dumond, the museum’s research division and anthropological collections survived the crisis. However, David Wagner’s meticulously kept herbarium and its nonvascular plant holotypes were sent to Oregon State University, while the museum’s Condon Collection was transferred to the UO Department of Geological Sciences. Fortunately, geologists Bill and Liz Orr stepped in to care for the collection following the transfer.

This was no easy task. Tapping into his experience as a rotating program director for the National Science Foundation, Bill managed to obtain a federal grant that funded computerization of the collection* as well as the compacting rail storage system now in the Condon Collection vault. For many years, the Orrs maintained the collection using their own personal funds from book sales and geological contracting jobs. During the 1980s and 1990s, Bill and Liz also built a dedicated group of volunteers—many of whom still work with the Condon Collection today.

Bill had a distinguished research career working on marine microfossils in the early days of the Deep Sea Drilling Project. Career highlights also include studies of fossil crabs, whales, and the first known Oregon ichthyosaurs. Liz honed her formidable organizational skills as a university librarian. Working as a team, they published their first book on fossils of Oregon in 1981, and then a revision with Ewart Baldwin of his classic book Geology of Oregon in 1992. The Orrs are now well-known for their many books on the fossils and geology of the Pacific Northwest, the latest of which are available at Past and Presents, the museum store.

Even in retirement, and long after the Condon Collection was reunited with the MNCH in 2005, the Orrs continue to volunteer their time at the museum. We owe a great debt to them for their tireless efforts in service of the Condon Collection. Their commitment to preserving Oregon's fossil heritage has helped ensure the collection’s accessibility to researchers, instructors, and the public for generations to come.

*Thanks to the digitization effort the Orrs initiated, much of the Condon Collection is now publicly accessible through the searchable database at paleo.uoregon.edu.

MNCH Volunteers Get Up Close and Personal with the Condon Collection

Early this year, volunteers in the museum’s Public Programs Division toured the Condon Collection with museum paleontologist Edward Davis. Primed by their training as exhibit hall interpreters, the volunteers gained behind-the-scenes perspective on the museum’s work—and on the large and ever-growing fossil collection that feeds our Explore Oregon exhibit.

Davis guided the volunteers through the collections vault and paleontology lab, sharing stories about key fossils, past and present research, and ongoing preservation initiatives.

“The big attractions were the latest sabertooth salmon finds—fossils that are shedding important new light on this species,” said Judi “JP” Pruitt, associate director of public programs.

“Everyone who gets to see newly uncovered specimens like these, so I think the volunteers felt pretty special—which, of course, they are!”
Looking Back—and Connecting in the Present

By Pamela Endzweig
Director of Anthropological Collections

There would be no ethnographic collections at the MNCH were it not for the generosity of those who entrust to us their cherished heirlooms and personal collections. Because the museum doesn’t purchase objects, the continued growth of these collections largely depends on contributions from private individuals and families.

The objects that make up our founding collections often came to us from scientists whose research focused on the objects themselves, or who otherwise encountered the objects during their research expeditions. At the beginning of this Fieldnotes, Jon Erlandson touches on pioneering geologist Thomas Condon, to whom we owe more than 400 anthropological specimens in addition to the fossils for which he is better known.

Don Dumond, former MNCH director, dedicated many years of service to the museum, and together with his wife, Carol, donated almost a thousand objects from Mexico, Japan, Siberia, and other countries. To Theodore Stern, University of Oregon anthropology professor (1948–87) and former MNCH curator of ethnology, we owe important Thai and Burmese collections, which come from societies he studied and wrote about over his lifetime.

But anthropologists and geologists are not the only ones to have contributed their time and treasures. We recently celebrated a gift of Native American basketry from longtime museum supporter Beth Campbell and her husband, UO economics professor emeritus Bob Campbell. We are also receiving baskets and other ethnographic material from Hattie Mae Nixon, well-known to many as a dedicated volunteer at the MNCH and the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art.

More and more, our contributed collections connect us with donors’ family members; seeing their excitement is one of the great rewards of caring for the museum’s collections. I have written about several of these encounters in previous Fieldnotes issues—most recently Grande Ronde tribal council member Kathleen Tom’s quest for her great-great-grandmother’s baskets (Autumn 2014) and Andy Bailey’s visit to view his grandfather’s pottery (Autumn 2012). Readers may also recall the story of Susan Cook (Autumn 2014), who reached out last summer to locate her great-grandfather’s archaeological collection, donated in 1945 by her grandparents, UO graduates Pauline ’14 and Edsall P. Ford ’13. Another family member to contact the MNCH was Tim Marsh, grandson of E. H. East, Baptist medical missionary in former Burma during the early 1900s. Beginning with Tim’s grandmother and uncle in the 1940s, through his aunt in 1997, and continuing with gifts from Tim himself, Reverend East’s family has augmented objects in our collections with documents and photographs that provide rich personal, cultural, and historical context. Now that the Jensen Arctic Collection has joined the MNCH, we have also been honored with gifts from Carol Jensen, daughter of the collection’s founder, Paul H. Jensen. These are only a few examples; there are many more.

Sometimes we also look back by tracking down artists, or descendants of artists, who created objects in our holdings. In rare cases the weaver, carver, or potter was identified and documented by the collector. Anna Sloan, MNCH graduate teaching fellow, is currently using this information to locate families of Alaska Native artists in the hope of gaining a better understanding of certain pieces and to learn more about their creators. It’s one of many ways in which preserving the past allows us to connect to others in the present.
Pub Conversations
First Wednesday of the Month 7:00–9:00 p.m.
Sam Bond’s Brewing Company, 540 East Eighth Ave., Eugene
Free admission

March 4
Irish Music in Irish Lives
With University of Oregon ethnomusicologist Eliot Grasso

April 1
Carnivorous Beetles, Animal Remains, and Other Adventures in the Archaeology Lab
With MNCH archaeologist Patrick O’Grady

May 6
Honeybees and Ecosystems: Facing the Challenges
With Oregon State University entomologist Ramesh Sagili
Little Wonders
Stories and Activities for Preschoolers
Second Friday of the month, 10:30 a.m.

Learn and play! You and your child are invited to join us for stories, crafts, museum exploration, and more. Admission is $5 per family (up to two adults and two children) and free for museum members.

March 13
Hiding in Plain Sight
Learn all about how animals use camouflage.

April 10
Seeds and Plants
Explore the different parts of plants and the many ways we use them.

May 8
Celebrating Families
Why do some animals look so different from their parents?

Be sure to visit Past and Presents, the museum store, while you’re here for Little Wonders. Each participating family gets 10 percent off store purchases (15 percent off for museum members). Past and Presents carries a variety of fun and educational gifts—including the Little Wonders book lineup!

Save the Dates!
MNCH Summer Camps 2015

Our summer camps blend fun activities with meaningful learning. At the museum and elsewhere on the University of Oregon campus, campers ages seven to 11 dig deep into archaeology, paleontology, nature, and history.

Session fees are $195 for museum members and $245 for the public. We offer a 10 percent discount for families with more than one child attending camp. Space is limited; register early at natural-history.uoregon.edu or by calling 541-346-1694.

Oregon’s Amazing Animals
Session 1: August 3–7, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Did you know Oregon was once home to a giant ground sloth, a sabertooth salmon, and a giant beaver? Learn how these and other amazing animals lived in Oregon’s changing environments.

Tools of the Trade
Session 2: August 17–21, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Ever wonder what it’s like to be an archaeologist or paleontologist? Through fun activities, campers will dig for clues, piece together the past, and learn what life was like in Oregon thousands and even millions of years ago.
Community Programs

Saturday, May 2
2:00–5:00 p.m.
Bring your stones, bones, and artifacts—and get real at the museum! Our scientists will discuss and possibly identify your mysterious objects. Enjoy an insider’s view on our collections, and see expert flint-knappers, basket-makers, and other artists at work. No appraisals. General admission, $5; free for museum members.

Public Lecture
Forensic Paleontology
Tim Rowe, University of Texas
Thursday, March 12 · 6:30 p.m.
Global Scholars Hall
1710 East 15th Ave., Eugene

Fossils, like great works of art, can be victims of forgery, fraud, and smuggling—and they sometimes find themselves at the center of highly entertaining incidents in the history of science. Tim Rowe, PhD, will discuss genuine fossils, “genuine fakes,” and the toll that smugglers and forgers take on science and the larger public trust. This event is presented by University of Oregon Phi Beta Kappa. Admission is free.

Fossil Field Trip to the Oregon Coast
Saturday, April 25 9:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.
$25 for MNCH members; $30 for the public
Explore the natural history and fascinating fossil record of the Oregon coast. Led by MNCH paleontologist Edward B. Davis, this small-group field trip will meet at the museum and then head out for hikes along Beverly and Nye Beaches. Wear comfortable, outdoor clothing and bring a sack lunch or cash to purchase lunch. Transportation is provided. Space is limited. To register, contact Lauren Willis at lmw@uoregon.edu or 541-346-3030.

Open Tuesday through Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
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New Volunteer Training, 2:00–4:00 p.m. · Daily exhibit talks at 2:00 p.m. included with admission

1680 East 15th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon · 541-346-3024 · natural-history.uoregon.edu
### May 2015

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**The Real Deal**
Saturday, May 2
Get behind the scenes at the MNCH this month! From artifact and fossil identification to watching local artists at work, the Real Deal offers you an insider’s view of the museum.

**Save the Date!**
4th Annual UO Climate Change Research Symposium
Friday, May 29
Visit climatechange.uoregon.edu for details.

**Gear Up for Adventure at Past and Presents, the Museum Store**

Past and Presents showcases the work of Native American, local, and regional artists and authors, offering a unique array of gifts that reflect the museum’s exhibits and programs.

Our Explore Oregon and Road Trip! exhibits will inspire you to journey through Oregon's colorful landscapes, and we have a great selection of hiking and travel books to guide you along the way! Geology buffs will want to pick up a copy of Roadside Geology of Oregon, authored by UO geologist Marli Miller, while hikers will appreciate our lineup of books by Eugene author and hiking guru William L. Sullivan. From the coast to the Cascades to the Blue Mountains, these guides will help you plan memorable springtime travels through our beautiful state.

Past and Presents is open Tuesday through Sunday, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Museum members receive a 10 percent discount. Admission to the store is always free, and your purchases help to support the museum’s educational programs.

Open Tuesday through Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Highlights of the Jensen Arctic Collection
Journey into the unique cultures and ecosystems of a rapidly changing region.

Site Seeing
Snapshots of Historical Archaeology in Oregon
Explore five historical sites excavated by museum archaeologists.

Oregon
Where Past Is Present
Discover 15,000 years of Pacific Northwest culture, including the world’s oldest shoes.

EXPLORE OREGON
300 million years of Northwest natural history
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.

Restore Oregon
OPENS TUESDAY, MARCH 24
Photographs by students in the UO Environmental Studies Program focus on restoration projects around the state, exploring beauty, harm, and healing in nature.

EXPLORE OREGON
RAY TROLL
300 million years of Northwest natural history
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.

Experience our state’s dynamic landscapes through maps, photographs, and more from the new edition of Roadside Geology of Oregon, written by UO geologist Marli Miller.

The museum now offers free admission to active-duty military personnel throughout the year.

1680 East 15th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon · 541-346-3024 · natural-history.uoregon.edu
New and Redesigned Exhibits on the Horizon

The MNCH exhibitions team is gearing up for a major redesign of our cultural history hall, Oregon—Where Past Is Present. Opened to the public 10 years ago, the space will be updated with new content and interactive displays, as well as improvements to accessibility, lighting, and layout.

Plans are also in place for a new exhibit devoted to first Americans research. The exhibit will feature Paisley Caves in central Oregon, an archaeological site that has captured worldwide scientific attention following a series of excavations by MNCH archaeologist Dennis Jenkins.

Together, these developments will provide our visitors with a richer, more dynamic experience of Oregon’s human heritage. Stay tuned for opportunities to be part of these exciting changes!

A Warm Welcome to Ruth and Mia

The museum’s public programs division welcomes its two newest staff members, Ruth Hyde and Mia Jackson.

Ruth Hyde, the museum’s new volunteer and office coordinator, grew up on the east coast of Australia, but she’s developed a special appreciation for the Pacific Northwest since moving here with her daughter and husband five years ago.

“It’s a uniquely beautiful area,” she said. “I’m excited to be part of a museum that inspires people to enjoy and care for these irreplaceable landscapes.”

Mia Jackson joined the museum’s education team in February, bringing a wealth of experience in early learning, parent and child engagement, and public outreach to her new role as museum educator. She is looking forward to continuing her journey as an educator at the MNCH.

“I want to inspire children to love learning and delve into science; my new position provides great opportunities to do this kind of work.”

Farewell, Ashley!

Ashley Robinson, the museum’s accounting technician, will soon be leaving us and relocating to Salem with her husband and son.

“While I’m sad to leave so many wonderful friends and coworkers, I’m taking some great memories with me, and I’m looking forward to the adventures ahead.”

A member of our staff for more than five years, Ashley came on board during the earliest stages of building the Explore Oregon exhibit hall, and she fondly remembers the excitement—and the dust—of those days.

“I basically worked in a construction zone, with plastic draped over my desk so I wouldn’t get covered with sheet-rock dust, extension cords to power my computer, and a camp light to illuminate my space. It’s been so exciting to be a part of the museum’s growth over these five years, and to witness the development of Explore Oregon all the way to its grand opening.”

The entire staff would like to thank Ashley for her service to the museum, and for being such a valued member of the MNCH family. We miss her already!
Join Us! Museum membership has its rewards

**NEW MEMBER**
- **Individual**—$40
  - Membership benefits:
    - Free admission to all exhibits and events
    - Invitation to members-only exhibit previews
    - Membership card and sticker
    - Subscription to Fieldnotes, the museum newsletter
    - Priority registration for Friends of the Museum-sponsored field trips, workshops, or classes
    - 10 percent discount on purchases at Past and Presents, the museum store
    - Reciprocal benefits with more than 200 museums and science centers worldwide with the Association of Science and Technology Centers

**RENEWING MEMBER**
- **Family**—$50
  - All previous rewards for two adults and up to four youth
- **Supporter**—$100
  - Enjoy the previous benefits plus:
    - Reciprocal benefits with the North American Reciprocal Museum 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 special reception invitation and a behind-the-scenes tour of MNCH collections
- **Sandal Society**—$1,000+
  - Enjoy the previous benefits plus:
    - You get to vote on how your contribution is spent.

To join, 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!

Membership contributions are tax deductible.

Seniors may apply a 10 percent discount to any level.

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Get Involved

**Learn · Inspire · Connect**

**Spring Volunteer Recruitment**
New volunteer applications will be accepted Monday, March 2, through Friday, March 27. Visit our website for details or to download an application.

**New Volunteer Open House**

**Wednesday, March 4**
3:00–4:00 p.m.

Learn about our April volunteer trainings, the rewards of joining our volunteer community, and available positions. Admission to the open house is free.
Celebrating a Contemporary Champion

By Ann Craig
Director of Public Programs

When we look back over the museum’s history, it’s easy to recognize the important contributions of founders like Thomas Condon and Luther Cressman. Perhaps less evident, though no less important to the museum’s ongoing success, are the contributions of our contemporaries—people like Patricia Krier, who still works in the office just down the hall from mine.

Museums have evolved considerably in the last generation. What were once “collections of curiosities” reserved for society’s elite are now modern educational centers that strive to reach broader audiences and make a lasting difference in their communities. This evolution is rooted in the efforts of innovative leaders—leaders with a common passion for making museums relevant and accessible to all stakeholders. The MNCH has had such a leader in Patty Krier. Her vision and efforts have resulted in a Public Programs Division that annually engages thousands of school children, families, and community members. Her commitment to public education, collaboration, and outreach has fundamentally changed what the museum does and has greatly expanded the audiences we serve.

In honor of this legacy, an anonymous donor to the MNCH recently founded the Patricia Krier Education Endowment. Endowments play a special role in sustaining the museum’s financial health, since we spend only their interest while allowing their principals to keep growing. In lean times and in times of plenty, interest earned from the Krier Endowment will allow us to provide transformative educational experiences for people of all ages.

A variety of community partners have joined us in furthering Patty’s vision. For the past five years, Pacific Continental Bank has supported transportation and admission scholarships for school children; these contributions allow students from low-income schools to participate in inspiring museum programs. This year, we are also honored to receive a two-year grant from the Coeta and Donald Barker Foundation—funds that will support a new museum educator position. The museum educator will travel throughout Oregon, bringing dynamic programs about our natural and cultural history to classrooms, libraries, and community organizations across the state.

As we think about the museum’s past and present, I invite you to consider how you might contribute to its future. By giving to the Krier Endowment, you join Patty and our many partners in an ongoing commitment to educational excellence. Visit our website to learn more about the endowment and how you can help to foster its growth.
In 1930, Luther Cressman visited an archaeological site in southwest Oregon, where a farmer leveling a field had exposed ancient burials. It was a transformative visit for Cressman. Soon afterward, he turned his professional focus from sociology—the subject he had recently been hired to teach at the University of Oregon—to archaeology and anthropology.

Over the next few years, Cressman founded the UO Department of Anthropology and helped to establish the Oregon State Museum of Anthropology (OSMA)—which today remains Oregon’s official repository for state-owned archaeological materials. In 1936, OSMA and the Condon Museum, both located on campus, were combined into a new UO Museum of Natural History, which Cressman directed for nearly 30 years.

Until Cressman’s tenure, archaeological research at the UO was generally driven by grant funding and administered through the Department of Anthropology. New legislation in the 1970s—including the National Environmental Policy Act and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act—required agencies receiving federal dollars to consider the effects of their activities on cultural resources. The Oregon Department of Transportation took the lead in meeting this new obligation, and in 1975 entered into a long-standing agreement with the museum to help identify, study, and protect the cultural and historical resources within its jurisdiction.

Thus began what would become the museum’s Archaeological Research Division. Over the years we’ve acquired an exceptional staff and broadened our scope of activities. One key to our growth and financial stability has been our continued focus on cultural resource management in partnership with public agencies and other clients—but grant-funded research is also critical, as is the classroom- and field-based teaching carried out by museum staff members.

Today, the Archaeological Research Division is the most prolific contributor to archaeological research in Oregon. Our archaeologists regularly publish papers in some of the top scientific journals in the world, such as Science, Nature, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, and American Antiquity. In the early 1980s, the Bureau of Land Management asked former museum director Mel Aikens to write the book that became Archaeology of Oregon, published in three popular editions in 1984, 1986, and 1993. Almost 20 years after the last edition, Mel asked museum archaeologist Dennis Jenkins and me to help him write an entirely new volume, Oregon Archaeology, published in 2011. Chronicling the human history of Oregonians from nearly 15,000 years ago to the early 20th century, the book received a 2013 Heritage Excellence Award from the Oregon Heritage Commission.

Eighty-five years ago, Cressman’s visit to that archaeological site changed the course of his career and laid the groundwork for a tradition of excellence that the Archaeological Research Division continues today. Through teaching, publication, public outreach, and cutting-edge research in the field and the laboratory, the division remains a leader in protecting Oregon’s cultural resources and bringing to light new findings about its human past.
In Memoriam
Carol Dumond and Miriam Starlin

The museum lost two exceptional friends recently. Carol Steichen Dumond (1923–2014) and Miriam McFall Starlin (1916–2014) were integral members of the MNCH family for nearly 50 years. Both women will be dearly missed.

Carol, beloved wife of director emeritus Don Dumond, was an accomplished illustrator and sculptor whose work appeared around the state. After studying architecture at the University of Oregon, she established a successful career as a freelance advertising artist in the Portland area. In 1950, she traveled to Mexico, where she met and married anthropologist and fellow traveler Don Dumond. In 1962, the pair moved to Eugene, where he joined the faculty at the University of Oregon. Over the years, Carol partnered with her husband on his research of Native peoples in Mexico and Alaska, contributing maps and illustrations that appeared in both national and international publications. She was a devoted supporter of the museum, helping to raise the funds to build our current facility and photographing all phases of that project for our archives.

Miriam was a gifted writer whose book, Wait a Minute, consists of poems describing life in the Pacific Northwest. She studied English and journalism at the University of Idaho, where she met her husband of nearly 60 years, D. Glenn Starlin. The couple moved to Eugene in 1947, when Glenn began a professorship at the University of Oregon. Along with her husband, in whose honor the MNCH native plant courtyard is named, Mir was a longtime supporter of arts and culture in the community. As a gift for her 80th birthday, Glenn established the Miriam McFall Starlin Poetry Prize, which provides support for promising poets in the UO Creative Writing Program.

After Glenn died in 1998, Mir and her family continued to provide for the care of the museum courtyard, and she took his place on the board of the Friends of the Museum.

Carol and Miriam will each be remembered for their independence, creativity, and talent. We are fortunate to have known and worked closely with them for many years.

Sandal Society Casts Its Votes

The Sandal Society—made up of museum supporters contributing $1,000 or more annually—meets once a year to vote on how their contributions will be spent. This winter, the society heard presentations from MNCH paleontologists Samantha Hopkins and Edward Davis, and from archaeological research director Tom Connolly. With $20,000 in private donations to allocate, the society voted to provide $13,200 to support Hopkins’ and Davis’ field research at fossil beds in eastern Oregon, and $6,800 to support Connolly’s archaeological research in Scotland. Congratulations to all on the funding of your projects!

Welcome Erin Hart

The MNCH is excited to welcome our new associate director of development, Erin Hart. Erin joined the museum in the fall, but she’s no stranger to the University of Oregon, having worked for both University Advancement and the School of Architecture and Allied Arts’ development program. She holds a bachelor’s degree in mass communication from Walla Walla University and a master’s in business administration from UO. We are delighted that Erin has joined us!

Eric McCready Retires

Congratulations to Eric McCready on his retirement from the MNCH and the University of Oregon. As the museum’s senior director of development, Eric has worked tirelessly to build relationships that support the museum and help to further its mission. His career experience over the past 35 years has included teaching, administration in large universities and art museums, and strategic planning, with particular emphasis on fundraising. From the University of Victoria, British Columbia, to the University of Oregon, his distinguished work history has involved the arts, arts management, and higher education. A longtime advocate for the museum and UO, he will continue to serve as co-chair of the Museum Advisory Council and as a member of the UO Campaign Cabinet. We thank him for his dedication and service, and look forward to working with him in his new volunteer capacity.
National Geographic Highlights MNCH Research

Archaeological research by Jon Erlandson on California’s Channel Islands and Dennis Jenkins at Oregon’s Paisley Caves landed in the January 2015 issue of National Geographic. The story, “Tracking the First Americans,” provides readers with a rundown of the various theories surrounding the peopling of the Americas, noting that discoveries by Erlandson, Jenkins, and others have opened fresh debates about how and when humans first arrived.

Some 30 years of work by Erlandson points to settlement by seafaring travelers who predate the early inhabitants known as the Clovis people. Inland, in a series of caves near the town of Paisley in south central Oregon, Jenkins has found evidence from DNA in human coprolites and from stemmed projectiles of a culture that also predates Clovis.

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