Moving Forward

By Jon Erlandson, Director

The spring of 2014 was an incredibly busy season at the UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History—with multiple exhibit openings, new public art installations, and record-breaking crowds.

We kicked off the season by welcoming visitors to the *Atlas of Yellowstone* exhibit, featuring the work of UO geographers Andrew Marcus and James Meacham. Several weeks later, we opened *Highlights of the Jensen Arctic Collection*, displaying some of the wonders of Arctic cultures and ecosystems through an important collection adopted last year from Western Oregon University. We also opened a new *Geophotography* exhibit showcasing the gorgeous photographs of Oregon and other Western landscapes taken by UO geologist Marli Miller and her students. We installed two beautiful hammered copper sculptures by Wayne Chabre—a wolf and a bald eagle—on our courtyard pavilions, complementing the existing raven, bear, and salmon sculptures that have become emblems of the museum and some of the favorite works of art on the UO campus. Last but not least, at the end of May—after several years of planning, design, prototyping, and community feedback—we held the grand opening of our fantastic *Explore Oregon* hall, which doubles our public exhibition space and substantially increases our coverage of the Pacific Northwest’s natural history.

The response to these developments has been remarkable: Media representatives from around the state have focused their attention on the museum, an unprecedented number of visitors have joined us to celebrate our growth, and our membership has grown significantly.

We’re not content to rest on our laurels after all of these exciting changes. As you’ll read throughout this issue of *Fieldnotes*, the MNCH staff is building on the momentum and actively pursuing new avenues of growth. We are preparing for accreditation through the American Alliance of Museums—a distinction held by less than 10 percent of the nation’s natural history museums. We are planning a major update to our existing cultural history hall, *Oregon—Where Past Is Present*, while also developing plans for other exhibits on Oregon’s heritage. We are continuing upgrades to our collections storage facilities, moving the remaining Jensen Arctic Collection from Monmouth to Eugene, and fundraising for our next expansion phase—all the while continuing our long tradition of groundbreaking archaeological, historical, and paleontological research.

We want to continue building a museum that makes you proud. You can add to this forward momentum by renewing your membership, visiting the museum, supporting our growth through giving, and sharing your enthusiasm with your friends.

If you haven’t yet been to the museum to see all of the recent changes, I invite you to come, explore, and enjoy them soon. We look forward to seeing you, and we thank you for your continuing support!
By Tom Connolly, Director of Archaeological Research

Much of the Archaeological Research Division’s work serves public agencies—such as the Oregon Department of Transportation and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department—that require assistance in protecting cultural resources. The range of projects is both challenging and invigorating, and is a constant reminder of the diverse legacies that have imprinted Oregon’s cultural landscape.

One current project involves documenting traces of early wagon roads that originated in the Columbia River Gorge area. In another, we are using ground-penetrating radar to identify graves in a forgotten pioneer cemetery in Albany. In south central Oregon, our research team is investigating sites located near an ancient obsidian quarry, and in the northwestern part of the state, we are searching for a documented Tillamook village on property recently acquired by the Nature Conservancy.

Recently added to this diverse array is a project undertaken at the request of the Archaeological Conservancy, a nonprofit organization that acquires and preserves culturally significant sites found on private lands. The project, which is taking place at the site of a Polka Dot agate mine in central Oregon, is raising some interesting challenges—and some surprising evidence—related to ancient industry and commerce in Oregon.

The site was recently uncovered when the agate mine’s operator exposed two shafts cut into the agate, both of which had been buried by slope scree. The shafts had been cut into the chert rock—one up to fifty feet deep—by native people in ancient times. Hammer stones and worked stone pieces were also found.

Stone tools were critical to the routine cutting, scraping, and piercing tasks undertaken in ancient societies, and high-quality stone was a widely traded commodity. Archaeologists have made extensive use of geochemical sourcing to track the courses of trade stone—especially obsidian, since individual obsidian sources tend to have unique trace element signatures that can reveal both point of origin and final destination. From this we know, for example, that Oregon obsidian regularly traveled well into British Columbia through ancient trade networks.

Chert tool stone has been subject to less intensive study than obsidian. Because of its inherently greater chemical variability, tracking it across the landscape is more challenging. A first step in studying the ancient geography of the dispersal of chert is to chemically characterize the material. At the mine site, we took stone samples from a variety of locations along the massive chert seams. Soon we will have these samples analyzed for trace element chemical profiles. This will help us to determine just how “trackable” the material is.

Another line of inquiry concerns the dense deposits of charcoal found on the slope below the cave mouths. These deposits suggest that fire was used to assist the ancient miners in breaking the stone. By examining the distribution of the tree species represented in the charcoal, we hope to learn more about the effort invested in mining the tool stone.

Several archaeological chert quarries have been reported along the Columbia River, but no systematic study has been made of the magnitude of the mining efforts or the geography of the chert trade. The industrial-scale mining exhibited at the central Oregon site is surprising—and it opens both a new avenue in the study of ancient Native American commerce, and a new appreciation for its sophistication.

Honoring an Oregon Hero

At Explore Oregon’s grand opening reception, MNCH executive director Jon Erlandson presented the 2014 Director’s Lifetime Achievement Award to C. Melvin Aikens, director emeritus. The award recognizes Aikens’ remarkable leadership as museum director (1996–2005) as well as his scholarly achievements, which helped to establish the museum and the University of Oregon as centers for research on archaeology and ancient environments in Oregon, North America, and Northeast Asia. Congratulations, Mel Aikens!
Your Ever-Evolving Museum

By Ann Craig, Interim Director of Public Programs

What do you get when you combine a remarkable fossil collection with the innovative ideas of scientists, artists, educators, and people who just plain love natural history? Answer: our new Explore Oregon exhibit hall. Last spring, the grand opening of the new hall brought more than 1,800 visitors and 100 new members to the MNCH. Since then, visitors of all ages are continuing to embrace Explore Oregon as a source of enjoyment, wonder, and discovery.

We are grateful to the hundreds of you who helped develop Explore Oregon by leaving your comments, joining in focus groups, and answering interview questions. We also look forward to your continued participation: From sharing your memories of the Mount St. Helens eruption to posting tips and photographs of your favorite Northwest destinations, the exhibit is full of opportunities for you to take part in conversations about our landscapes and ecosystems—and how to care for them, both now and in the future.

We are eager to build on the momentum of Explore Oregon and have a number of exciting projects in the works. Among these is an exhibit devoted to the peopling of the Americas—a major area of expertise within our Archaeological Research Division. The exhibit will feature Paisley Caves in south central Oregon, where museum scientists have uncovered evidence of one of North America’s oldest cultural traditions. Another area will showcase more recent historical sites, providing fascinating views into nineteenth- and early twentieth-century communities in Oregon. Together, these displays will help illuminate Oregon’s long cultural history and inspire stewardship of its very rich collective heritage.

Alongside these projects, plans are in place to expand our rotating exhibit space, increasing opportunities to display the museum’s ever-growing collections. We will also make major updates to our permanent cultural history hall, Oregon—Where Past Is Present, improving accessibility and lighting throughout.

In the coming winter, we’ll invite you to participate in a new round of discussions to help us develop the new exhibits. Watch for opportunities to join the conversation and help shape the future of your museum beginning in January 2015. As we move forward with the new exhibit plans, we are also launching innovative educational programs designed to attract broader audiences. New hands-on programs for K–12 classes, outdoor adventure trips focused on geology and natural history, and a brewpub conversation series featuring timely scientific topics are just a few examples of what’s in store.

Stay tuned for updates as we continue on this exciting path of steady and thoughtful growth. We thank you for your support and look forward to your participation as we move forward together.

Thanks to Pacific Continental Bank

During the winter and spring of 2014, more than 400 children from K–12 schools visited the museum thanks to support from Pacific Continental Bank. Scholarship funds provided free admission and bus transportation, greatly expanding access to the museum by students from around the state.

Pacific Continental Bank will provide additional scholarship funding in the fall of 2014. Call 541-346-1694 or e-mail mnhtours@uoregon.edu for more information.
Hit the road and experience Oregon’s dynamic geology

Tour colorful landscapes through photographs and maps from the new edition of *The Roadside Geology of Oregon*, written by Marli Miller, UO senior instructor of geological sciences.

**Opening Friday, November 7, 2014**

Annual Members Meeting and Reception: 5:00 p.m.
Public Reception: 6:00–8:00 p.m.
Explore the forces shaping Oregon’s landscapes and ecosystems. Discover the giant sabertooth salmon and other amazing animals from Oregon’s past, and take part in a dialogue about climate, conservation, and our future.

Highlights of the Jensen Arctic Collection
Journey into the unique cultures and ecosystems of a rapidly changing region.

Atlas of Yellowstone
THROUGH OCTOBER 19
Experience Yellowstone’s beauty through maps and other works of art.

Site Seeing—Snapshots of Historical Archaeology in Oregon
From an immigrant neighborhood in Portland to a forgotten cemetery in Springfield, this exhibit tells the stories of five nineteenth-century sites excavated by museum archaeologists.

Geophotography
Students from the UO Department of Geological Sciences spotlight Western landscapes in this striking collection of photographs.

Scientific at the Core
Visitors of all ages can be scientists for a day in this fun, interactive laboratory.

Oregon—Where Past Is Present
Discover 15,000 years of Oregon culture, including the world’s oldest shoes.
MNCH Summer Camps

AUGUST 4–8
Session 1: Adventures in Archaeology

AUGUST 18–22
Session 2: Go Deep! Explore Ancient Oregon

$195 for museum members and $245 for the public.
Space is limited and preregistration is required.
Visit our website for more information, or call 541-346-1694.

Fall Festival
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 11:00 A.M.–3:00 P.M.

A day of fun for kids and kids at heart! Join us for music, crafts, trivia, and treats, and help us create a collaborative community mural. Fall Festival is $8 per family (two adults and up to four children) and free for members. Not a member yet? Sign up during Fall Festival and receive a 50 percent discount on your new membership!

National Fossil Day

A day of activities and exploration for K–5 classes
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15
9:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M.

$40 per class; preregistration is required
Scholarships available
Teachers are invited to register their classes for a day of hands-on learning and scientific investigation. Student groups will meet paleontologists, make fossil prints, sort and identify fossils, and learn about the most interesting fossils in Oregon. For more information and to register, contact Robyn Anderson, 541-346-1694, mnhtours@uoregon.edu.

Play in the Rain Day at Mount Pisgah Arboretum
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 10:00 A.M.–3:00 P.M.

Get out in nature—rain or shine—and explore fun activities for the whole family. Visit the Museum of Natural and Cultural History’s booth and make your own animal-track fossils to take home! Admission is free.

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

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<td><strong>GO, DUCKS! Weekends</strong></td>
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<td>Free admission to the museum during UO Ducks home game weekends throughout the 2014 football season: August 30–31, September 6–7 and 13–14, October 2 and 18–19, and November 1–2 and 22–23.</td>
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<td>Go, Ducks! Weekend: Free admission</td>
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<td>Volunteer applications will be accepted September 2 through September 30. Visit our website for details.</td>
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<td><strong>27</strong> Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day Live! MUSE Clues Launch</td>
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<td><strong>Fall Festival, 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.</strong></td>
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Daily exhibit talks at 2:00 p.m.—included with admission

1680 East 15th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon • 541-346-3024 • natural-history.uoregon.edu
### October 2014

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<td>7 New Volunteer Training</td>
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<td>10 Little Wonders 10:30 a.m. Archaeology Lecture: Donald Grayson 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>16 New Volunteer Training</td>
<td>17 Archaeology Lecture: Lain McKechnie 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>26 Road Trip! The Roadside Geology of Oregon Opens November 7 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.—Annual members meeting 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.—Public reception Experience the state’s fascinating geology and meet Mari Miller, PhD, author of The Roadside Geology of Oregon.</td>
<td>27 Thanksgiving: Museum closed</td>
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*OCTOBER IS OREGON ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH*

The MNCH celebrates with its annual Archaeology Lecture Series, taking place the first three Fridays in October at 5:30 p.m. The lectures are free and open to the public. Join us!

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### November 2014

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

New volunteer training, 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Go, Ducks! Weekend

Open Tuesday through Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Community Programs

Dog Days of Summer

Celebrate National Dog Day!
TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 5:30–8:00 P.M.

Dogs and their humans are invited to join us on the museum’s south lawn for a celebration of all things canine! Make your own dog toys, get to know some of the area’s dog-friendliest businesses, and at 7:00 p.m., explore the fascinating story of dog evolution with paleontologist Edward B. Davis. Bring a picnic dinner and enjoy this free outdoor event, cosponsored by Greenhill Humane Society.

Smithsonian Magazine
Museum Day Live!
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 11:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M.


Twenty-First Annual Archaeology Lecture Series

Fish, Fangs, and Flora
Animals and Plants in the Archaeological Record
Fridays in October, 5:30 p.m.
175 Knight Law Center, 1515 Agate St., Eugene
Free Admission

The Archaeology of Herring
October 3
Pacific herring is a cultural keystone species for Alaska Natives and First Nations across the Northwest Coast. Madonna Moss, UO professor of anthropology, presents archaeological evidence spanning 10,000 years and what it means for herring conservation, Alaska Native subsistence rights, and fisheries policy today.

Sabertooth Cats, Dangerous Plants, and the Early Peoples of the Great Basin
October 10
A number of North American archaeological sites show us that humans were hunting large mammals during the Ice Age. Why doesn’t this pattern appear in the Great Basin region, where humans clearly coexisted with megaflora? Donald Grayson, professor of anthropology at the University of Washington, looks to the “armed and dangerous” plants of the arid West for a possible explanation.

Domestic Dogs and Other Canids on the Northwest Coast
October 17
Dogs are the earliest and most widespread domesticated animal in the Americas, yet archaeologists know little about their distribution along the Pacific Northwest coast. Join Iain McKechnie, a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada fellow at the UO, for a discussion of emerging evidence surrounding the roles of dogs in Pacific Northwest cultures.
News and Updates

Go Deep at Past and Presents, the Museum Store

If you’ve visited the new Explore Oregon exhibit, you know about the giant sabertooth salmon that swam in Oregon waters millions of years ago. Help share the story of this amazing animal with your very own Explore Oregon T-shirt, featuring artwork by Ray Troll.

A purchase at Past and Presents, the Museum Store, is a gift to the museum and its educational programs. Admission to the store is always free, and MNCH members receive a 10 percent discount.

New Public Art in the MNCH Courtyard

In May, the museum hosted a community celebration of three permanent art installations in the Glenn Starin Native Plant Courtyard. The new pieces include two large-scale, hammered copper sculptures by Washington artist Wayne Chabre, as well as a Western red cedar table and benches handcrafted by local artist Tim Boyden. Donated by the Soreng family, the works reflect the museum’s longstanding commitment to enhancing public spaces with works by Pacific Northwest artists.

The copper sculptures—one depicting a wolf, the other an eagle—join three other Chabre works already adorning the museum’s exterior, including a raven, bear, and the iconic salmon at the building entrance. The table and benches, situated in a shady corner of the courtyard, are dedicated to the memory of Eugene philanthropist John Soreng, and to his conservation efforts in Oregon.

Internship Information Session for UO Students

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2:00–3:00 P.M.

UO students from all majors are invited to explore participatory learning experiences (PLEs) at the Museum of Natural and Cultural History. Students can gain valuable hands-on experience and earn one upper-division credit per term. More information is available in the “Get Involved” section of our website.
Get Involved

Interested in a Volunteer Position?

New volunteer applications will be accepted September 2 through 30

If you have a passion for history or science, enjoy working with people, and have energy and enthusiasm to share, museum volunteering might be for you.

New Volunteer Open House

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 3:00–4:00 P.M.

Prospective volunteers are invited to learn about opportunities at the museum during this free event. Visit our website for more information.

Join Us! Museum membership has its rewards

- **NEW MEMBER**
- **RENEWING 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

- **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 can choose to fund DNA testing, MNCH collection improvements, or an exhibition publication with your donation

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Name 1________________________

Name 2________________________

Address________________________

City________________________

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Phone________________________

Visa □ MasterCard □ Discover □ American Express

Account Number________________________

Expiration Date________________________

Signature________________________

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!
Moving Forward and Honoring the Past

By Pamela Endzweig, Director of Anthropological Collections

The museum’s forward momentum is evident in the future plans and projects discussed throughout this issue of *Fieldnotes*. It is also evident in our longstanding partnerships with Oregon’s Native American tribes, and in our combined efforts to preserve Oregon’s heritage for generations to come.

Last spring, I attended the opening ceremony for the Chachalu Tribal Museum and Cultural Center of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. It was an honor and a privilege to join in celebrating this accomplishment after many years of effort on the part of the tribal community and its supporters.

My visit had a specific purpose beyond sharing in the event: I was the courier of two very special baskets from MNCH collections. Attributed in our records to “Old Kitty” and identified as Rogue River in cultural affiliation, the baskets were purchased by Mrs. Isaac L. Peterson—for just over two dollars—in 1896 at Grand Ronde. A few years ago, they attracted the attention of Grand Ronde tribal member Stephanie Wood, a then anthropology student at UO. Stephanie mentioned the baskets to tribal council member Kathleen Tom, thinking they might have been woven by Kathleen’s ancestor, Kitty Tom. In April, Kathleen contacted me and requested that the baskets be present at the Chachalu opening. Neither she nor her father had ever seen Kitty’s baskets.

A group effort ensued to establish the identity of “Old Kitty.” Grand Ronde tribal historian David Lewis, PhD, determined that, as late as 1872, there were at least three Kittys at Grand Ronde. By 1895 only one appears on the annual Bureau of Indian Affairs roll: Kitty Tom. According to Lewis’ research into census data and other historic records, “Kitty Tom was of the Rogue River people and was born about 1803. She was of Chief Jo’s band of Takelma Indians. . . . She discusses being removed to the Table Rock Reservation and lived there for a year. She came overland to Grand Ronde in 1856.” The 1914 census roll indicates that Kitty Tom died on June 25, 1914, at which time she would have been about 110 years old.

According to the basket donor’s handwritten ledger, Old Kitty was a “sharp trader at Grand Ronde.” Lewis found 1906 and 1911 depositions she gave regarding tribal ancestry (Applegate Report, Siletz deposition), the contents of which suggest she was still very “sharp” at more than 100 years old.

Additional corroboration of Old Kitty’s identity was provided by basketry expert Margaret Mathewson, PhD, who confirmed that both baskets are consistent with Rogue River weaving—one being very typical and traditional, and the other reflecting reservation influence. All of this information supports the association of the two baskets with Kitty Tom.

The rest is history, as they say. The baskets were displayed at the opening along with selections from Chachalu’s extensive holdings, and many members of the Tom family were present to “meet” the baskets for the first time. The program notes for the opening ceremony explain that “the Grand Ronde people needed a place where we could honor the past and build for the future.” The MNCH is pleased and proud to lend its support to this endeavor, helping to preserve Oregon’s rich cultural heritage and bring it to life for future generations.
Fossils Moving Forward

By Greg Retallack, Codirector, Condon Collection

The new Explore Oregon exhibit is now complete, sharing Oregon’s rich fossil record and the deep and amazing history it reveals. Now the museum’s Condon Collection staff turns its attention toward a new chapter: Our vision for the future is to preserve our entire fossil collection using state-of-the-art storage facilities and safeguards, and to make our collections more broadly accessible online. Both tasks have been ongoing, but there is much yet to be done.

Thanks to funding from the state legislature, we have been able to purchase the last of our new dust-proof cabinets, and we are hard at work reorganizing our fossil vault. By the end of summer 2014 we hope to have our collections of Oregon fossil vertebrates and plants in order. The collections of Oregon invertebrate fossils and our large comparative collection would be next, but there is a challenge before us: The vault does not appear to be large enough. Despite improved efficiency from new cabinets, we have more specimens than we can actually fit into the physical space. For some years we have had conceptual plans for a museum expansion with fossil and biology vaults. This expansion becomes increasingly important as we move toward accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums.

Our new digitized data system for the museum’s fossil, rock, and biological collections represents a great leap forward in preserving vital scientific records, and a version is now available to the public on the web. For the future, we plan to have a complete online catalog, including specimen photographs and lists of fossils from different localities in Oregon. We have so many treasures and untold stories in our collections, and they deserve to be more widely known—not only for professional paleontologists and other scholars, but for schoolchildren and dedicated amateurs as well.

Another aspect of our online access project will be a revived Bulletin of the Museum of Natural and Cultural History, which, in keeping with the twenty-first century, will be available in print and online in an open-access format. The Bulletin was a popular and well-cited series until its discontinuation due to funding challenges in the 1970s. The new issues will include technical accounts, such as a monograph on fossil deer recently completed by Condon Collection adjunct curator Eric Gustafson. They also will include general works, such as Oregon 2100: Projected Climatic and Ecological Changes, which was recently presented by Greg Retallack, Dan Gavin, and Edward Davis to the Oregon Academy of Sciences meeting in Eugene.

As we continue to move forward with these projects, we extend our thanks to the Oregon legislature, the University of Oregon, and the museum’s members and donors. Your generous support is essential as we build our capacity to safeguard and share the amazing collections in our care.

In 2008, the Condon Collection was housed in outdated wooden cabinets and other storage devices salvaged from laboratory remodels.

Ranges 4 and 5 of the Condon Collection, now stored in air-tight steel cabinets. The Condon Collection currently has 123 such cabinets; an additional thirty-six will be added by the end of 2014.
In the spring of 2014, the MNCH embarked on the process of securing accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums. An important mark of distinction in our field, AAM accreditation offers high-profile, peer-based validation of a museum’s operations and impact. It increases credibility and value to funders, policymakers, community members, and peers—and it’s a powerful tool to leverage our continued growth.

Currently we are working on the core documents verification process, which articulates our mission and confirms that our policies and procedures reflect national standards and best practices. In addition to statements of our mission, vision, and guiding principles, the core documents include a strategic plan, a code of ethics, a collections policy, and a disaster-preparedness plan. Once completed and submitted to the AAM, the core documents will pave the way for the internal study and external review phases of the accreditation process.

Frank A. Ford Collection

In 1930, a collection of archaeological and geological specimens was donated to the University of Oregon by UO graduates Pauline ’14 and Edsall P. Ford ’13, in memory of their son, Edsall V. Ford. The collection, which included a variety of obsidian points and blades from Oregon and many more artifacts from Ohio, had been gathered by Edsall P. Ford’s father, Frank A. Ford, beginning in the latter half of the 1800s. It was added to the museum’s collections in 1945.

Last spring, the museum’s Anthropological Collections Division was honored by a visit from Susan Cook, Frank A. Ford’s great granddaughter. Following up on a story related by her grandmother, Susan had reached out to the museum in the hope of locating the collection and gaining an opportunity to view it firsthand. She visited in April and was able to examine her great grandfather’s collection for the first time.

“It’s always a treat to hear from the family members of the museum’s donors, and to help them connect with the collections like this,” said Pam Endzweig, director of anthropological collections at the MNCH. “It’s a wonderful reminder that our efforts at the MNCH not only preserve our larger collective heritage, but also provide opportunities for people to connect directly to their family histories.”

In Memoriam

John Denis McCarthy, MD
1930–2014
A devoted father and husband, accomplished physician, and long-time friend of the museum, Denis McCarthy will be greatly missed. In his volunteer service to the museum, Denis never did anything halfway. He put a great deal of effort and enthusiasm into educational outreach—and into the role-playing and storytelling he did to engage museum visitors. A particularly memorable example was a tour he led at the museum, when he dressed in full western gear—including chaps—and spoke to the history of the Old West. Denis also volunteered for track meets at Hayward Field, and like Bill Bowerman, he often encouraged spectators to go across the street to the museum to learn about the history of our state. He even escorted several of them over personally, just to be sure they didn’t miss the opportunity! A true Renaissance man, Denis was deeply interested in history, literature, and people—and always happy to join in conversation about the many things that interested him. We are fortunate to have known him.

George Bundy Wasson, PhD
1935–2014
An elder of the Coquille Tribe, George Wasson was an important figure at the University of Oregon, helping to found the Native American Student Union and build the Many Nations Longhouse. He earned his doctorate in anthropology at the UO in 1996, writing dozens of articles about Pacific Northwest and Coastal Native Americans. He was also instrumental in forming the Southwest Oregon Research Project, a team of students and researchers who gathered historical data from the Smithsonian Institute and Library of Congress to develop a comprehensive account of South Coast Indian contact with Euro-Americans. The collection is now housed at the UO Libraries. George will be missed, and his remarkable contributions to the history of Oregon’s Native American tribal communities will be greatly appreciated for generations to come.
In May, the museum joined a weeklong competition among Eugene- and Springfield-area employers to see who could log the most alternative commute miles to work. The annual Business Commute Challenge, organized by Lane Transit District’s Point2point program, is designed to reduce single-driver car commutes and inspire the use of more sustainable transportation options year-round. By the week’s end, Team MNCH saved more than 170 miles of single-driver car commutes and prevented 140 pounds of transportation-related carbon dioxide emissions.

MNCH business manager Yousef Rahmani was one of the 2014 BCC prize winners, recognized for his enthusiastic participation during the BCC wrap-up party on May 22. “I was honored to win this prize on behalf of the museum,” he said. “As a staff, we regularly take advantage of the many alternatives to solo driving, and it’s great to be part of this effort to inspire more sustainable commuting practices throughout the community.” Congratulations, Yousef!