SITE SEEING:
Snapshots of Historical Archaeology in Oregon
January 18–December 31, 2013
Serving the Mission

By Jon Erlandson, Executive Director

With help from the national American Alliance of Museums (AAM), we have embarked on an Organizational Museum Assessment Program (OMAP), a major step in the AAM accreditation process. An early part of that process is a long and detailed self-study that helps the AAM and an expert external reviewer evaluate our current facilities, funding, structure, staffing, successes, and shortcomings. Overseen by me but coordinated by Patty Krier and Ruth Keele (with help from Pam Endzweig, Yousef Al’Rahmani, and Denise Sorom), the OMAP self-study has been an invaluable tool in strategic planning for the MNCH.

Through a series of exercises with various audiences (museum staff, advisory council members), we learned that relatively few of the participants had a clear idea of what our museum mission is. This led me to think that discussing the MNCH mission in our newsletter might help spread the word. The current mission statement can be found on the MNCH website (natural-history.uoregon.edu), and states the following:

The University of Oregon’s Museum of Natural and Cultural History protects significant collections, enhances knowledge, and encourages stewardship of human and natural history through research, preservation, and education.

This is a condensed version of a much longer mission statement that served the museum well for decades, but was somewhat ponderous in today’s world of punchy marketing and branding slogans.

Several of our exercise participants pointed out that this short description encapsulates our core mission in one concise sentence, but lacks a geographical reference or details about the variety of our education, preservation, and research activities. When asked about the focus of the MNCH’s research, collections, and educational programs, I often use the analogy of a smooth stone dropped in a still pond. Our stone always drops in Oregon, with ripples radiating outward, gradually decreasing in size and intensity as they encompass the Pacific Northwest, western North America, the Pacific Rim region, and the wider world. As Oregon’s primary repository for anthropological, archaeological, biological, geological, paleontological, paleoecological, and other historical and natural history collections, our center of gravity will always be Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. As an Association of American Universities and Pac-12 university museum, however, the research and collecting of faculty and staff members and students often extends to far-flung corners of the world, which provide a diverse array of collections that help educate UO students and the general public about the wonders of the dynamic world we live in.

As we expand, consolidate, and improve our facilities, we better serve you and the mission of the MNCH, the UO, and the state of Oregon by preserving, protecting, researching, and interpreting the deep history of the people, landscapes, and ecosystems of Oregon, the Pacific Northwest, and the world. Once again, thank you for all your support.

Go, Ducks!

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University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History

Jon Erlandson, Executive Director
Patricia Krier, Director of Public Programs and Development
Thomas Connolly, Director of Archaeological Research
Pamela Endzweig, Director of Anthropological Collections
William Orr, Codirector of Condon Collection
Greg Retallack, Codirector of Condon Collection

FIELDNOTES
Published by the Museum of Natural and Cultural History
Jon Erlandson, Editor
Denise Sorom, Managing Editor
Patricia Krier, Contributing Editor
Lori Howard, Designer
Scott Skelton, Copy Editor
You Talked, We Listened

More Than 1,000 Voices Help Shape the New Explore Oregon! Exhibit

Since last March, the museum has held twelve focus groups, collected 206 survey forms, conducted 110 interviews, observed 213 groups of visitors interact with the space, and collected more than 400 Post-it notes in the exhibit. Thanks to this feedback, the museum is adjusting the final exhibit design to increase graphics, decrease text, and better define scientific terms. The exhibit will also include more hands-on features and offer ways for visitors to get involved in the local efforts to preserve and steward our natural and cultural resources.

Mel Aikens Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Mel Aikens, director emeritus of the MNCH, was recently honored at the Great Basin Anthropological Conference with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to the archaeology of the far western U.S. According to David Zeanah, former president of the Great Basin Anthropological Association, Aikens was selected due to his “lifetime of scholarship and service and in recognition of his significant contributions to our understanding of the prehistoric peoples and cultures of Utah and Oregon.” Congratulations, Mel!

Campbell Basketry Gift

Beth Campbell, longtime museum supporter and former Eugene City Council member, and her husband, Bob, a retired UO economics professor, recently donated their outstanding collection of Pacific Northwest and Northern California Native American baskets to the museum. Collected during monthly outings with three friends (they dubbed themselves the “junk ladies”) during the post–World War II era, Beth was able to acquire the baskets before their value and quality were widely recognized. We are extremely grateful for this generous gift. It adds to the MNCH’s considerable collection of baskets and strengthens the museum’s mission.

Ethiopian Collection Grows

Bill and Marty Hall of Portland recently expanded the MNCH’s holdings in Ethiopian ethnographic objects. The gifts supplement those already given by Bill’s parents, Ambassador William O. Hall and Jayne Bowerman Hall. Ambassador Hall served under Lyndon Johnson from 1967 to 1971 as the attaché to Ethiopia when Emperor Haile Selassie was in power. During that time, Jayne systematically collected pieces throughout this visually stunning culture. In the late 1980s, Jayne, a UO graduate, donated the major part of this collection to the MNCH in honor of her late husband, also a UO graduate. The latest gifts are from Jayne’s (d. 2009) estate and will complement the pieces already in the Anthropological Collections Center.
Serving the Mission: A Success Story

By Patricia Krier, Director of Public Programs and Development

Working at this museum has been in some ways like a Horatio Alger story, from rags to riches. When I started working at the MNCH in the late 1970s, it had its own “fiscal cliff” with closure looming as a campus museum, redefining itself as a state museum, and securing funding to move across the Millrace next to Autzen Stadium as part of the Oregon Museum Park. (Ultimately, the only museum to make this move was the Science Factory.)

We stayed on campus, not as a cohesive museum but rather as distinct units. Collections were governed by the respective academic departments, with the public programs and research divisions standing alone. However, there were certain dedicated people who understood the need to maintain the collections, the research, and the educational interpretation. They intuitively understood the mission. There were also those who were savvy about state mandates and federal funding. These were the people who kept the museum alive, who managed to convince the higher administration to build a new museum on campus (1987), even though it was sited on the far side of campus next to a graveled parking lot.

The picture started to change more rapidly with additions to the outside (1996) and the inside (2002–5) as well as east of the museum (2009), with more to come (2013 and beyond)! Today we are located at the official welcoming gates of the campus and surrounded by a new basketball stadium, a global residence hall, a law school, the Many Nations Longhouse, and an alumni center.

Some would call it miraculous; we do know for sure that it took a lot of time, risks, and hard work. All along there was the sense that we were doing the right thing, saving Oregon’s history and—as Jon has described the ripple effect—saving other regional and national ones. Today our museum is growing in many directions, and with this comes the need to grow financially. That trajectory is in a sharp incline—up, but we know that a lot of work and maybe a few miracles will be needed as we seek to maintain and sustain our mission: research, collections, educational outreach, and stewardship.

Sandal Society Membership

This winter, the MNCH is introducing a new way members may show support for the museum: the Sandal Society. For $1,000 a year, you may be a part of a corps that will be helping fund special gifts that are part of the museum and university educational mission. Members of this new group will receive all benefits for existing membership categories, and an added bonus of determining how their gifts will be spent through voting. Possibilities might include DNA testing for a year, underwriting a museum exhibition catalog, and buying much needed storage and research equipment. For more information about how to support the MNCH, please contact Patricia Krier at pkrier@uoregon.edu or 541-346-5089.

PaleoIndian Endowment Challenge

In early October, a member of the museum’s advisory council made a challenge to the museum: a $250,000 gift dedicated to the PaleoIndian Endowment, created to support archeological research, publication, and field school work specifically in the Great Basin region of Oregon but extending throughout the far western U.S. The caveat: a one-year expiration date. Our goal: to match, dollar for dollar, in order to double the gift. MNCH archaeologists are leaders in this field—your support can keep it that way!

Above: Luther Cressman’s work at Paisley Caves in the 1930s established the MNCH as a leader in PaleoIndian research.
Exhibits

Site Seeing: Snapshots of Historical Archaeology in Oregon

**JANUARY 18–DECEMBER 31, 2013**
From a nineteenth-century working-class family in Portland to a Chinese mining community in Jacksonville, this exhibit tells the stories of five historic sites recently excavated by museum archaeologists.

**Opening Reception:**
Meet the Archaeologists!
**FRIDAY, JANUARY 25**
5:00–6:00 p.m., member preview
6:00–8:00 p.m., public reception
Free admission

**Historical Archaeology**
Historical archaeology in Oregon is defined as excavation and research of sites since the first official Euro-American contact, which in Oregon dates to Lewis and Clark's exploration in 1805.

**JACKSONVILLE & KAM WAH CHUNG**
Chinese Immigrant Experiences
Jacksonville and John Day, Oregon

**PORTLAND PRIVY**
A Private View of Portland
Portland, Oregon

**STEVEN'S CEMETERY**
Forgotten Pioneers
Springfield, Oregon

**BEATTY CURVE**
A Klamath Homestead
Beatty, Oregon
Silent Spaces: Photographs by Jon Meyer

MARCH 6–JULY 21, 2013

OPENING RECEPTION: FRIDAY, MARCH 8
5:00–6:00 p.m., member preview; 6:00–8:00 p.m., public reception • Free admission

Eugene artist Jon Meyer has journeyed through a vast, barren, sagebrush-covered region to photograph the ruins of Hovenweep and Chaco Canyon. Meyer’s work explores the dramatic landscape, the craftsmanship of its ancient structures, and the solitude and contemplation he experienced while creating this body of work.

Nick Sixkiller

THROUGH JUNE 30, 2013

Nick Sixkiller, a Eugene resident and enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Tribe of Oklahoma, plays a significant role in local radio and powwow culture. The exhibit features handmade drums, a beaded microphone, clothing he wears as a powwow MC, as well as albums he plays on Indian Time, his Thursday evening radio show on KRVM.

ONGOING EXHIBITS

Oregon—Where Past Is Present

A look at the deep history of Oregon, from the artistry and technology of its first peoples to the dynamic processes that shaped its landscape.

Scientific at the Core

Activities introduce you and your family to the fundamentals of scientific inquiry. Be a scientist for a day in our interactive laboratory!
Family Programs

Little Wonders

**Stories and Activities for Prekindergarteners**
First Wednesday of the month, 11:00 a.m. Free admission.

**January 2**
*The Button Box* by Margarete S. Reid.
An imaginative boy explores the many wonders of his grandmother's button box. Children will sort various buttons from other items, play a game, and explore why people collect things.

**February 6**
*Mammoths on the Move* by Lisa Wheeler and Kurt Cyrus
Join a pack of woolly mammoths as they trek south for the winter. Children will examine an ancient mammoth tooth replica and make their own mammoth to take home.

**March 6**
*Ducks Don't Get Wet* by Augusta Goldin
Learn all about our duck friends during this rainy time of year. Children will try waterproofing feathers with vegetable oil and make their own feathered friend to take home.

**April 3**
*Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge* by Mem Fox
Illustrated by Julie Vivas
Through his friendship with the aging Miss Nancy, a young boy learns about what it means to have memories and to lose them. Children will make their own memory box to take home.

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Darwin Family Day: Monkeying Around!

**February 10**
11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Join us at the MNCH for a day of fun to celebrate Darwin's birthday. Enjoy birthday cake, activities about animals and nature, and a performance by the MNCH Marionettes (Wink, Sassy, Cami, and Captain Craggy).
Family Day is only $5 per family or free for museum members. New family memberships are half price on Family Days.
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- **Free Admission Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**
- **Guided Tours at 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.**
- **Volunteer training, 3:00–5:00 p.m.**

1680 East 15th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon • 541-346-3024 • natural-history.uoregon.edu
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- Free Admission Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Guided Tours at 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.

Open Wednesday through Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
K–12 Programs

Archaeology
No School Day
Monday, April 1
9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
School may not be in session but the learning and fun doesn’t have to stop! We’ll be exploring archaeology and paleontology during a full day of activities. Ages seven to eleven. Cost: $40 per child, $35 per child for MNCH members. Add $10 per child for supervised child care until 5:00 p.m.

School Tours: Learning at the Museum
School tours are free of charge this year thanks to the Donald and Coeta Barker Family Foundation!
K–12 classes are invited to visit the museum to explore and participate in fun activities while learning all about Oregon’s history and future. Early applicants for scholarships for bus transportation are given top priority. School tours are available Tuesday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Visit the website for more information.

Museum of Natural and Cultural History Classroom Visits
Let the museum come to you!
Specially trained museum representatives lead a fifty-minute program that correlates to the Oregon Department of Education’s new Common Core State Standards. Teachers can choose among four topics. Visit the website for more information.

A GIFT WITH IMPACT
During last September and October alone, the MNCH served 574 students at the museum and 615 in classrooms from the Eugene-Springfield community as well as regional areas such as Coos Bay, Clackamas, and Lincoln City. Thank you to the Donald and Coeta Barker Family Foundation for helping us introduce the natural and cultural history of Oregon to the next generation!
Community Programs

Darwin Days: Primate Perspectives

110 Knight Law Center

Once again, the MNCH joins the international science community to celebrate the birth of Charles Darwin. Be a part of this worldwide tradition by joining us for a Darwin Day event. Admission is free.

What’s Love Got to Do with It? Sex for Social Bonding in Bonobos

Wednesday, February 13
5:30 p.m.
Join us for a toast to Darwin and birthday cake
6:00–7:00 p.m.

FRANCES WHITE, Associate Head and Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Anthropology; Director, Institute of Cognitive and Decision Sciences

Bonobos, unlike male chimpanzees, are peaceful animals that often resolve disputes with sexual behavior rather than aggression. Join Frances White as she discusses the relationships between fighting, sex, and social bonding among wild apes, and how this influences our understanding of human evolution.

North America’s Last (Nonhuman) Primate

Wednesday, February 20
6:00–7:00 p.m.

BARRY ALBRIGHT, Department of Physics, University of North Florida

By 28 million years ago, there was only a single species of primate left in North America. The area now occupied by the John Day Valley of central Oregon appears to have been where it made its last stand. Barry Albright explores how and why primate population dwindled in North America over a 30 million year period.

Evolutionary Guides to Conservation Strategies

Wednesday, February 27
6:00–7:00 p.m.

NELSON TING, Department of Anthropology, University of Oregon

Understanding past evolutionary processes can help guide current conservation strategies and prevent further losses in biodiversity. Nelson Ting’s research on endangered African monkeys offers two examples of how this can be accomplished through the use of genetic methods.

Site Seeing: Snapshots of Historical Archeology in Oregon

Opening Reception: Meet the Archaeologists!
Friday, January 25
5:00–6:00 p.m., member preview;
6:00–8:00 p.m., public reception
Admission is free.

Silent Spaces: Photographs by Jon Meyer

Opening Reception
Friday, March 8
5:00–6:00 p.m., member preview;
6:00–8:00 p.m., public reception
Admission is free.

Identification Day and Roadshow
Saturday, April 27
1:00–4:00 p.m.
Bring your mysteries to this popular annual event. This event is free for MNCH members; regular admission rates apply for the public.

Open Wednesday through Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Get Involved

Student Spotlight: Nick Pothetes

Going on his third year as a Visitor Services staff member, Nick Pothetes’ positive attitude and helpful approach with visitors exemplifies the type of customer service that we value at the MNCH. As a senior majoring in digital arts and journalism and a talented photographer in his own right, Nick hopes to return to the Portland area to pursue a job in the creative field after graduation. Admittedly out of his element in the scientific realm at the museum, Nick fondly recalls the day he learned that a coprolite was “not a fancy gem, but a fossilized poop!” Nick, we wish you all the best as you prepare for graduation this spring. Thank you for your dedication to the museum!

Seeking Puppetry Skills

Help animate the Museum of Natural and Cultural History Marionettes! If you or someone you know is interested in learning to puppeteer, contact Jules Abbott at jabbott@uoregon.edu.

Join Us!

Museum membership has its rewards!

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

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

- **Supporter**—$100
  - Enjoy the previous benefits plus:
    - Four complimentary guest passes to share
    - New! Reciprocal benefits with the North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) program.

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

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

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Mail with payment to the University of Oregon Foundation, 1720 E. 13th Avenue, 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!
Anthropological Collections in the Service of Our Mission

By Pamela Endzweig, Director of Anthropological Collections

I was struck by one particular finding of the mission exercise discussed in the director’s column: most interviewees saw their jobs reflected in almost every aspect of the mission—research, preservation and education. That can certainly be said for those of us who manage collections. Preservation of our material heritage is of course our primary function and we have specialized knowledge and training to carry out this responsibility. I can also say from thirty years in this position that we have been blessed with a succession of directors who recognized and continue to accept the responsibility as well as the cost of carrying out this part of our mission. The elements of physical preservation—environmental control, security, space, and furnishings—do not come cheap.

Beyond the objects, we also preserve the record, be it archaeological field notes or information on who a family heirloom was handed down from and when. It is the object’s documentation that is key to its full potential for research and education; coprolites (i.e., human feces) from a documented archaeological context at the Paisley Caves have helped to rewrite the scientific story of humans in North America. Without that context, this story would not be told.

The critical role of collections stewardship is to facilitate and often negotiate between the central goals of our mission. Our advocacy is necessary to ensure that research and education can take place without jeopardizing the survival of the object. In some cases it means that an object does not go on display, or that specialized mounts must be fabricated by the exhibits staff. Loans to other institutions are contingent upon their demonstrated ability to provide the conditions needed to ensure an object’s safety. As is often the case, balancing multiple objectives to achieve common goals is the true measure of our success.

Visiting Researcher Uses MNCH Bird Collection

By Jennifer Phillips

Jennifer Phillips, a University of California at Davis PhD candidate, recently conducted research with the UO MNCH bird collection. As part of her dissertation, she is investigating the relationship between bird coloration and climate, specifically why birds are darker in areas of higher humidity, a pattern called Gloger’s Rule. The vast majority of species follow this pattern, but underlying causes are poorly understood. Suggested causes include resistance to feather-degrading bacteria, thermoregulation, camouflage, and the promotion of evaporation. Each predicts some species to follow Gloger’s Rule more closely.

To measure the coloration of birds, she uses two methods, spectrophotometry and photography. Spectrophotometry measures the reflectance of a bird’s feathers. A spectrophotometer (or spec) emits a beam of light onto a specimen. Some portion of that light is reflected back to the spec, which gives a graph of the reflectance across the bird-visible spectrum. This is important because many species of birds can see into the ultraviolet range, unlike humans. Photography is also used in order to measure the pattern of coloration. Since the spec only measures a small area, it doesn’t capture the pattern of the coloration as well as photography can. By using both approaches, Jennifer is able to measure both the precise coloration of the bird as other birds see it and the pattern of the coloration.

Oregon and the greater Pacific Northwest are important in her study. This area has some of the strongest humidity gradients in the United States, if not the world. This allows Jennifer to study birds that live only tens of miles apart but have very different colorations. The museum collection confirms its importance by allowing Jennifer to examine birds across the humidity gradients in Oregon.

Above: Jennifer Phillips during her research visit in June. Below left: Phillips studied the feathers of the song sparrow (Melospiza melodia), among many others, during her research.
Research and the Museum’s Mission

By Tom Connolly,
Director of Archaeological Research

The museum’s mission includes research, preservation, and education. In contemplating this column, I had imagined addressing our role in each of these mission goals, but found I was simply not able to separate them.

As many of you saw in our recent annual report, museum staff members published dozens of articles, books, and book chapters over the past year or so. These are the products of research, but also serve to educate other scholars and the general public. Not included in this count are nearly fifty technical reports so far this year to various agencies (Department of Transportation, Oregon State Parks, Federal Highway Administration, and others) that relate to our daily work of identifying and evaluating cultural sites, and assisting our agency partners in protecting, managing, and understanding them. Some of this work is reflected in publications, shared in public lectures, or presented in roadside or trailside interpretive signage, but much is driven by the underlying preservation efforts.

Over the past two decades, staff archaeologist Dennis Jenkins has led the world-class Northern Great Basin archaeological field school. In recent years, this has expanded to two and sometimes three concurrent sessions, with the involvement of staff archaeologist Pat O’Grady. These sessions have trained hundreds of students. Many are now conducting their own independent research, or are responsible for policy and funding decisions affecting research and preservation of heritage resources across the country. These education programs cannot be separated from the underlying research that drives it.

Of course, many of the cultural sites we deal with on a daily basis are not ones on which we do extensive research. I’ve had discussions with staff members and agency partners this morning (it is 10:00 a.m. as I write this) regarding an early twentieth-century wooden water flume unearthed during a utility project in Roseburg, a segment of wagon road through the Columbia River Gorge, a homestead site near Salem, an ancient rock shelter site in Harney County, and a probable pit house site on the John Day River. An important part of our mission involves decisions about how we manage heritage resources that we face losing to development, vandalism, erosion. Our mission includes ensuring that future generations have both a deep knowledge and tangible elements of their history, so that they also have an opportunity to conduct their own research and reach their own understanding of their heritage.

Documenting a 4,000-year-old occupation site on the John Day River.

Julia Knowles taking a GPS position on a CCC-built pillar along an abandoned segment of the original Columbia River Highway.
MNCH Mission: Linking Preservation to Stewardship

By Edward Davis,
Fossil Collections Manager

How does the Condon Fossil Collection protect significant collections, enhance knowledge, and encourage stewardship? The first priority of any research collection must be research: enhancing the general knowledge base of humankind. Protecting collections and encouraging stewardship flow logically from this goal. The fossils we hold are irreplaceable, as each specimen is a record of a single individual organism at one point in space and time; we can never capture that same organism again. These specimens can tell us about ancient ecosystems and they can tell us about the evolutionary processes that have shaped the diversity of life. However, they can only tell their whole stories if the physical specimens are properly maintained and connected to their collecting records. The collecting records—field notes, maps, and legal documents—are the precious links that provide the space and time context for the specimens, and are as important for science as the specimens themselves.

So, if we want to enhance knowledge now and into the future, we must make our best efforts to protect the collections we have and encourage all Oregonians in stewardship of resources we have yet to find in the field. These linkages through research also contribute to the educational mission of the museum: how better to encourage stewardship than through teaching about the many wonderful natural processes we understand through study of the collections? Oregonians have access to one of the best fossil records of the age of mammals in the United States, and the collections at the MNCH preserve the depth and breadth of that record. As researchers here investigate the role of evolving grasslands in the changing climates of the last 30 million years, or explore the way whales have evolved in the waters off the Oregon coast, or the way rodent species evolved as forests gave way to those same open grasslands, we paint vivid pictures of the past. Those pictures allow us to bring that past to life for visitors to the museum. As we all have noted in our respective divisions, research, preservation, and education are inextricably linked through all actions of the museum, and the key to that linkage is connecting people (researchers, visitors, summer campers, and all) to the physical objects: connecting them directly to that single, wonderful history of life.

New Fossil Cabinets: A Stroll through Time

With the generous help of the University of Oregon Office of the Provost, we have ordered another range of twenty-four cabinets, and we have also been granted another three cabinets (and extra museum drawers) by the Oregon office of the Federal Bureau of Land Management. We have moved almost all of our vertebrate collections into new steel cabinets, simultaneously reorganizing them into stratigraphic order, the order they were preserved by geologic action over time. It is now possible to take a stroll through time as you walk through our collection vault: starting at one end with our Mesozoic ichthyosaurs and dinosaurs, working your way through giant brontotheres from the Clarno Eocene, past the earliest baleen whales and ancestral seals from the Oligocene of the Oregon coast, through the evolving horses living in the opening grasslands of the Miocene, and even into the eerily modern animals of the Pliocene and Pleistocene Fossil Lake.
Past and Presents Featured Artist

Patricia Montoya Donohue: Tradition, with a Twist

Eugene basket maker and ceramic artist Patricia Montoya Donohue uses local materials to create one-of-a-kind baskets, bark pouches, and ceramic sculptures. She states, “In my work, you’ll see a great emphasis on the use of natural materials gathered and harvested in Oregon. Using tradition with a bit of a twist, I often vary techniques that I have learned from other cultures.” New this winter, the museum store will carry her series of ceramic heart sculptures adorned with antique keys and barbed wire.

Support local artists and the museum’s educational programming with a purchase in the museum store.

Past and Presents: The Mary

Lee Ward Museum Store, is open Wednesday through Sunday, 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Members receive a 10 percent discount. Admission is always free to the store.