

Super Collider provides super experience

By Jen Ellison
Oregon Daily Emerald

How was the universe formed? University physicists are working on a device that may answer this question and many more.

University physicists have received grants totaling \$962,000 to conduct research for the production of the superconducting Super Collider, a 54-mile underground ring that surrounds the city of Waxahachie, Texas.

The purpose of the collider is to accelerate protons, which are particles smaller than atoms, through the ring, causing them to collide at near light speed and break up into even smaller particles.

Physicists expect the creation of previously unknown matter to take place as a result of the collisions, answering a number of complicated questions surrounding the Earth's formation.

The University is involved in designing the detectors inside the collider that will determine the presence of the new parti-

cles.

University physicists Jim Brau and David Strom are working on the production of these detectors, called silicon trackers. The trackers are made of the same substance as computer chips — silicon.

Silicon is a crucial aspect in the project because millions of sensor lines can be placed in a small area of the substance, which makes it a precise sensor.

"The readings of where the subatomic particles go after collision and what the new particles are made of will be very precise with the use of silicon," Strom said.

Many University undergraduate and graduate students benefit from the research they do on the project, Strom said.

"It's a real opportunity for these students to work with the most modern and up-to-date equipment," Strom said. "It would be a lot harder and more expensive for them to learn this stuff in a regular

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laboratory."

Physics undergraduate David Mason believes the opportunity to work on this project is giving him strong experience.

"I've learned a lot more working here in the lab than I've ever learned in my classes," Mason said. "I'm not knocking my classes. This project has reinforced everything I've learned and more."

Particle physicists believe the Super Collider may answer questions about the origins of the universe and lead the world into another wave of technological advancement, said Robin Stringfellow of

the Texas National Research Laboratory Commission.

The Super Collider is also expected to help with cancer research, further technological advances to make faster computers and the creation of a new plastic used in medical equipment that can be sterilized without hazardous chemicals.

The University has been involved in the research for the project for more than three years. It has been developing the theory of what a Super Collider can do for humankind in five to 10 years, Strom said.

More than \$2 billion has been invested so far in the collider, which is expected to be finished in 1999. The total price tag will be \$8.2 billion, according to the Texas National Research Laboratory Commission, the Texas agency for the Super Collider.

The production of the Super Collider has employed 45,000 business contracts in 48 states, 120 universities in 34 states, and 15,000 direct and indirect workers.

Gently down the stream



Photo by Anthony Forney

Samantha and Tony Smith enjoy some rare April sunshine Wednesday, feeding ducks while taking a leisurely canoe ride at Alton Baker Park.

Students praised for rescue efforts

The Eugene Department of Public Safety presented two University students with the Citizen Service Award Wednesday night in the City Council Chamber.

Brian Wilson and Curt Frazier were honored for their extraordinary actions in emergency situations.

Wilson rescued a man from the Willamette River last December and Frazier applied chest compressions to a man who suffered cardiac arrest.

Frazier, a senior in leisure studies, was assisting a scuba diving class last Jan. 6, a night that would demand more of him than usual.

While preparing for class, he heard shouting in the locker room. Suddenly, a staff member came running out, calling for the help of anyone who knew CPR.

Frazier ran to the aid of scuba instructor Ed Rogers, who was trying to resuscitate Robert Hodam.

Hodam, who has been a cardiac surgeon in Eugene for 23 years, had suffered sudden cardiac arrest and had fallen unconscious to the floor.

Hodam thanked Frazier after the awards ceremony Wednesday night.

"It was a team effort. That's what saved his life — team work," said Frazier.

New magazine to publish in June

By Jen Ellison
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A new addition to the University's student publications will appear this June as a one-shot pilot project.

The magazine, titled *Flux*, is run by a staff of 14 journalism students and two journalism professors, Tom Wheeler and Bill Ryan, who serve as advisers.

In addition to the permanent staff, 10 student freelance writers and a freelance photographer have contributed to the magazine.

The goal of the magazine is to give journalism students magazine experience as close to the real world as possible, Wheeler said. The students run the entire publication, from editorial to art to publishing.

Although Wheeler said he is there to give professional advice and suggestions, the students have final say on every square inch of the publication.

Flux also serves as a showcase of student journalism. It will touch on all forms of journalism studied at the University including magazine features, public service announcements and possibly student produced advertisements, Wheeler said.

It all began in 1991 when the journalism school hired Wheeler to start the magazine. Wheeler served as the

editor-in-chief of *Guitar Player* magazine for 10 years and guest lectured at universities in the San Francisco area.

"I was hired to start a magazine," Wheeler said. "That was the only guideline. I went to faculty members and students to get input on what they wanted in a magazine. I went from there."

Managing Editor Lynda Westcott, a returning student, related her past work experience with what she does at the magazine. She said it's similar to having a real job.

"You have to be creative to find solutions to problems," Westcott said. "The answers aren't in a textbook and a teacher isn't giving you assignments. You have to be self-motivated and disciplined."

The hours are long and the process is demanding, but Editor-in-Chief Maja Wolff said she wouldn't trade it for the world.

"I really enjoy getting to work with other students," Wolff said. "In classes you are focused on yourself and you compete against everyone else. Here you all work together for a common goal as a team."

Associate Editor Rivers Janssen agreed with Wolff.

"It is so different from working on a newspaper, for example, where the

writer only works with the editor who only works on his or her department," Janssen said. "You're thinking about how the whole thing will look — copy and layout."

Flux will be published only once, this June, because of a lack of permanent funds, Wheeler said.

Wheeler received \$7,500 from the Strategic Plan Action Fund, which grants money for programs that enhance undergraduate education. An additional grant of \$5,000 was donated by Bill Lane, a member of the family that once owned *Sunset* magazine.

The staff of *Flux* will use these funds to produce about 5,000 copies of the magazine. They will be distributed around the University and to other universities around the nation.

Flux will contain stories on a variety of topics, including AIDS on campus, a sample of a graduate student's literary journalism, a personality profile of a Native American screen actor and the homeless.

The project is open to journalism students with priority given to students in the magazine sequence.

"We are trying to keep this a journalism production," said Wheeler. "But I'm open to looking at things from other students."