

Biology professors receive fellowships

■ **GUGGENHEIM:** The prestigious awards will allow the three recipients to travel and continue their research efforts

By Andrew Parmentier
Freelance Reporter

Three University professors recently received Guggenheim Fellowships, which are given to approximately 160 artists, scholars and scientists across the country every year for outstanding research.

All three recipients are faculty members in the biology department and are part of a very small list of scientists from the West Coast to receive the award.

Roderick Capaldi, head of the biology department, said the research these professors have done greatly adds to the experience University students have in the classroom.

"These faculty members, in addition to bringing an incredible enthusiasm to the classroom, provide an excellent environment for undergraduates and graduates to do research," Capaldi said.

Janice Weeks, a neurologist, has been at the University for seven years. She specializes in hormones and how they affect the nervous system and the neurological basis of behavior. She will use the fellowship to travel to the German Cancer Research

Center in Heidelberg where she will collaborate with fellow scientists.

Weeks said that with all of the issues facing students, having faculty of this caliber should be a bright spot within the University community.

"These awards are a testament to the quality of faculty at the University amidst federal funding cuts and legislation that continually work against students," she said.

Philip DeVries, assistant professor of biology, came from the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard less than two years ago to teach at the University.

"As a researcher, I am still getting used to teaching about nature in a classroom," DeVries said.

He teaches tropical ecology and tropical diversity to undergraduate and graduate students and said this grant will allow him to travel and continue his research.

Russell Lande, another fellowship recipient at the University, is a professor of theoretical and applied population in biology. According to his colleagues, Lande is considered one of the premier theoretical evolutionists in the world.

The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation is in its 72nd year, and its fellowships are considered to be among the country's premier academic awards. They are based on past achievements and the promise for future accomplishments.

Woman receives fine, year in prison for faking her own death

ROSEBURG (AP) — A judge departed from state guidelines Monday and sentenced a 61-year-old Winston woman to a year in prison for stealing \$33,000 in an insurance scam that included faking her own death.

"The most I'm supposed to sentence you to is 20 days in jail," Douglas County Circuit Judge Joan Seitz told Marie Gardner. "I just can't swallow that."

Seitz also sentenced Gardner to serve two years of probation and repay the insurance and credit card companies she defrauded.

Garner pleaded guilty March 18 to one count of aggravated theft.

Authorities said she had written false notes from her doctor to her creditors in 1989 claiming she was disabled by the disease lupus and an insurance plan kicked in paying off her credit cards.

The scam came apart later when a compliance officer from the insurance company told

STRANGER THAN FICTION

Social Security she had received a copy of Gardner's death certificate, and the person from Social Security said she had just talked to Gardner.

Neighbors near site of Bill Gates' future home getting rattled

MEDINA, Wash. (AP) — Life isn't always easy near the construction site of Bill Gates' \$35 million future home.

One woman said her house has been rattled, and last week a glass cracked in her china chest. Her neighbor recalls the day 60 cement trucks drove by her house.

But for the most part, neighbors in this affluent suburb east of Seattle across Lake Washington say Gates has gone out of his way to be nice to them.

The Microsoft billionaire has had construction dust washed off their cars, paid for home repairs

and throws an annual party for the neighborhood.

Gates' crews even wash and sweep the street every day.

"I think Gates has bent over backward," said Robert Romano, a physician who lives five houses south of the Gates property. "If someone has a complaint, he's fixed it."

"The crew is nice, and they can't do enough for you," said the woman whose dishes were rattled last week by vibrations from construction.

When a glass cracked, Gates' crew members packed up the rest of her dishes.

They sent her flowers when she was in the hospital and put in a new hot water heater for her when the old one sprang a leak.

Romano says a Gates' crew pumped concrete into his water-front bulkhead and did some landscaping for him at no charge.

Even so, after nearly six years of noise, dirt and traffic, some neighbors have their gripes.

"I'm awful tired of this," said a woman who did not want her name published. "I'll just be so happy when it's finished."

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Be sure that:

- Your name is on the letter
- All events reported are verifiable
- The letter is addressed to Nicole Krueger
- We receive the letter by 4 p.m., May 31

Several submissions will be selected for print. All letters will be edited for grammar and style. Potentially libelous letters will not be printed.

Oregon Daily
Emerald

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What can I do with a GENERAL SCIENCE MAJOR?

A Workshop and Social for current and potential General Science majors:

Tuesday, May 21, 5-6:30pm
Gerlinger Hall

UO Career Center representative, Beth Swank, will provide tips on finding jobs in "hot" areas for General Science majors.

Following, it's time to enjoy refreshments and meet other General Science majors.

For more information, call 346-3288.

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