

UO granted funding for zebrafish center

By Amalie Young
Higher Education Reporter

Researchers at the University were granted \$4.3 million by the National Institute of Health to establish a state-of-the-art breeding lab for zebrafish that will serve as a stock center and a resource for other universities and research institutes around the world.

Zebrafish are used for biomedical research because of their vertebrate structure, which mirrors that of other vertebrates — including humans.

The center will go hand in hand with the development of another research facility in Huestis Hall that will house labs for University-sponsored zebrafish studies.

The International Zebrafish Resource Center will be built in a space adjacent to the Physical Plant and will hold a large sperm bank, tanks and research labs. A full-time staff of faculty-level,

professional scientists will be hired to manage the facility, said Monte Westerfield, a member of the University's Institute of Neuroscience and the principal researcher who received the grant.

The state has also contributed \$1.5 million for construction of the facility, and the National Institute of Health requested another \$1 million in funding to complete construction.

"The administration was supportive and instrumental in obtaining state funding," Westerfield said.

The second facility, currently under construction, will be a "pure research" facility and should be complete within the next six months, said Steadman Upham, vice provost for research.

The new labs will provide some jobs and research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students, Upham said.

Panel to address city's racial history

By Tricia Duryee
Community Reporter

One of the first African-American men to come to Eugene was Wiley Griffon. He operated the town's first mode of transportation: a mule-powered street car that took people downtown and to the University area. He died in 1913.

"He was an incredible man who had the respect of the community," said Doug Card, who is organizing the History of People of Color panel discussion to be held Thursday night as part of Historical Preservation Week.

Card also hopes the panel discussion, "The Unwritten History," will increase awareness of a community that has little to no written history.

The event starts at 7 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers, 777 Pearl St., and will feature five speakers from the community who will represent backgrounds such as Kalapuya Indian, African-American, Hispanic and Asian-American.

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Card, a historian and sociology teacher at Lane Community College, will mediate the event.

In his studies of race, he said Griffon, the first African-American, was an exception to the rule.

"From everything I've read, Eugene was a racist community," Card said.

He said the night's discussion is an attempt to rediscover and recognize Eugene's past.

"What the event is trying to do is to bring home awareness of the community in which we live," he said.

Card has been assisting in Historic Preservation Week for the last nine years, but he said almost all of the events were focused on white people in previous years, and that it was finally time to represent people of color.

Card said most people typically see Oregon as a very homogeneous society, but before the state Constitution was signed in 1859 declaring that no free black

men were allowed to live in Oregon, there was quite a diverse community in Eugene.

"My version is that people from Eugene were not hardcore racists," he said. "It was like any other issue today, such as June 1, abortion or even the Riverfront Research Park. In the 1850s, the issue of racism divided the town bitterly as did other issues."

Mark Harris, an alcohol and drug counselor at Lane Community College, will speak more on African-American history in Eugene. City Councilman Bobby Lee will address the city's role in historical racism. Jim Garcia, director of the University Office of Multicultural Affairs, will address the Hispanic community's issues.

According to Card, it's important to revisit the past in search of finding out relevant issues for the present.

"It is the best to focus on local issues," he said. "We can't make a difference in Bosnia, but we can in the affairs of a little town."

Train hits man near campus

By Jesse Sowa
Community Reporter

A man was in critical condition and undergoing surgery at Sacred Heart Medical Center late Tuesday afternoon after being struck by a train behind the Black Angus Restaurant on Franklin Boulevard.

Police said the man, whose name is being withheld, suffered severe leg and internal injuries at about 2:10 p.m. after he stepped onto the tracks and laid down in front of the on-coming Union Pacific train, the engineer of the train and other witnesses told police.

The engineer said he immediately applied the brakes when he saw the man and sounded the horn in an effort to alert him that the train was traveling in his direction. The man did not respond to the warnings, the engineer said.

Paramedics arrived at the scene within four minutes of the accident and immediately transported the man to the hospital by ambulance. The man responded to questions from emergency medical personnel at that time.

Police hope to question the man on Wednesday should his condition allow. Police and train officials are continuing an investigation of the accident.

No further information was available.

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ET ALS

The International Peer Assistants are showing the Chinese film "In Expectation" at 6:30 p.m. in 100 Willamette. For more information, call 346-7425.

The Outdoor Program is holding an outdoor-equipment swap at 7:30 p.m. in the EMU Ballroom. For more information, call 346-4365.