

Professors' work validated by Guggenheim

■ The prestigious award allows recipients to pursue research projects and other short-term career goals

By Brooke Ross
Oregon Daily Emerald

Two creative writing professors and a biology professor at the University have been awarded grants from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship competition in honor of outstanding work in their respective fields.

The Guggenheim awards are given to scholars and artists based on past and present work. The 183 recipients will receive awards totaling more than \$6 million, which will provide winners with

the opportunity to take time off from their jobs and work on their research and ongoing projects. At this time it is not certain how much money each recipient will receive, but individual awards usually range from \$20,000 to \$30,000.

Ehud Havazelet and Dorianne Laux, associate professors in the creative writing program, and Monte Westerfield, biology professor, were among the winners, chosen from nearly 3,000 applicants.

Havazelet's novels and Laux's poems earned acclaim, and Westerfield was chosen for the award based on his research involving the human nervous system.

Havazelet is currently working on a novel about a Holocaust survivor

growing up in the 60s and 70s with his two sons, and said he plans to use his grant to finish the book.

"What's nice is the program recognizes people in all academic fields," he said. "But I'm proud of our department and the recognition it's getting."

Havazelet said learning to write was a personal struggle he had to overcome.

"I didn't always do it, and I certainly didn't always do it well," he said, "but I always wanted to."

Havazelet said the turning point in his career came when he began studying music in college. He said after a couple years he realized writing was more important to him.

"I finally found the patience to master the craft," he said.

Havazelet said patience is something he stresses to his writing students.

"Most young writers just want to be good immediately, but it doesn't always happen that way," he said.

Westerfield plans to use his grant to continue the research he's been doing for the last two decades.

Past University recipients of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship:

Year:	Name:	Department:	Amount:
1991	Garrett Hongo	English	\$29,000
1992	Robert Grudin	English	\$30,000
1997	Charles Kimmel	Neuroscience	\$30,000
1998	David Crumb	Music	\$34,000
1999	Carlos Aguirre	History	\$30,000

He spent the last 20 years at the University studying nervous system development in humans, and is currently working with zebrafish to study certain human syndromes because the two species have similar genes.

"Discovering new things and making new discoveries is what's exciting," he said.

He said he plans to take off time from the University to continue his zebrafish work in Germany along with some former students.

Laux, who has written several poems and poetry books, was out of town and unavailable for comment.

Garrett Hongo, professor in the creative writing program, was a Guggenheim recipient in 1991 and also hired both Havazelet and Laux.

"They're wonderful writers," he said. "They're both well deserving, and I'm very proud of them."

Hongo, who is from Hawaii, said his award money helped him finish a book he had been working on about his family history. He said he was able to go to Hawaii and explore the volcanoes that he used in his story.

"It was a great career validation and confidence booster for me," he said.

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Columbia River tribes get first spring Chinook fishery in years

By Linda Ashton
The Associated Press

YAKIMA, Wash. — With the largest run of spring Chinook expected since 1938, four Columbia River tribes are engaged in their first commercial fishery in nearly a quarter-century.

The spring forecast is for 346,600 Chinook, the most since record-keeping began. Last year's run came

in at 178,600.

"The tribal feeling is that this is a celebration. This is a real blessing. We've waited a long time," Charles Hudson, spokesman for the Columbia River Inter-tribal Fish Commission, said Wednesday.

Scientists have suggested the high numbers could be attributed to two factors: favorable flows in the Columbia River in 1998 and

1999, when these salmon were migrating to the Pacific Ocean, and subsequent good ocean conditions with cold water and plenty of food.

At last weekend's Celilo Wyam salmon feast near The Dalles, Ore., tribal elders attributed the big numbers to prayer and perseverance.

The Yakama, the Umatilla, the Warm Springs and Nez Perce tribes began the season Tuesday and wrap it up Thursday. Another brief session may be scheduled for next week. Their last spring Chinook commercial fishery was in 1977.

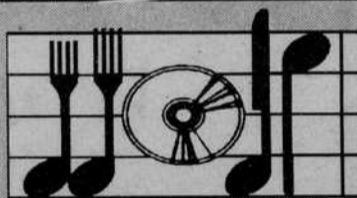
Fishing is under way from the Bonneville Dam east to McNary Dam, involving about 500 fishermen. Most of the harvest will go to wholesale buyers this year.

The tribes, the states of Washington and Oregon and the National Marine Fisheries Service negotiate the harvest levels for fishing on the river, based on the forecasted fish return.

The four treaty tribes are entitled to half of the run legally, "but we are not catching a treaty share," Hudson said. "Because of Endangered Species Act constraints, we are going to catch about 46,000 above Bonneville Dam."

After there's a negotiated biological decision on how many fish can be harvested from the runs, each tribe decides how to allocate their catch for ceremonial, subsistence and for-profit fishing, Hudson said.

Since record-keeping began in 1938, the previous peak run of spring Chinook was in 1955 when 270,000 of them returned to the Columbia River and its tributaries to spawn. The next-largest run was in 1972, with 260,000 spring Chinook. The runs dropped off dramatically after the Snake River dams were completed, Hudson said.



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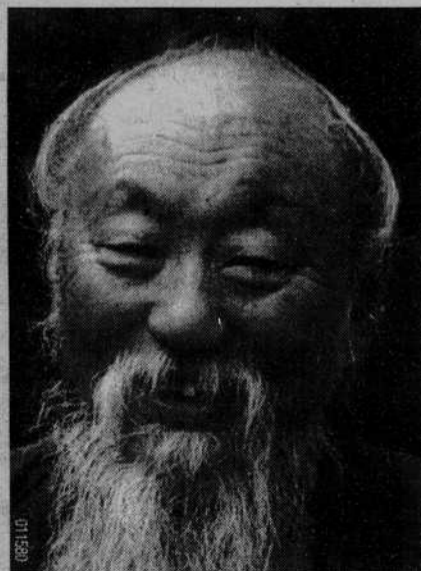
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