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# New bill aims to fund brain research

The University's Brain, Biology and Machine Initiative would receive \$3 million for research if a proposed law passes

By Christina Hur for the Emerald

The Brain, Biology and Machine Initiative at the University may receive \$3 million from recently approved legislation.

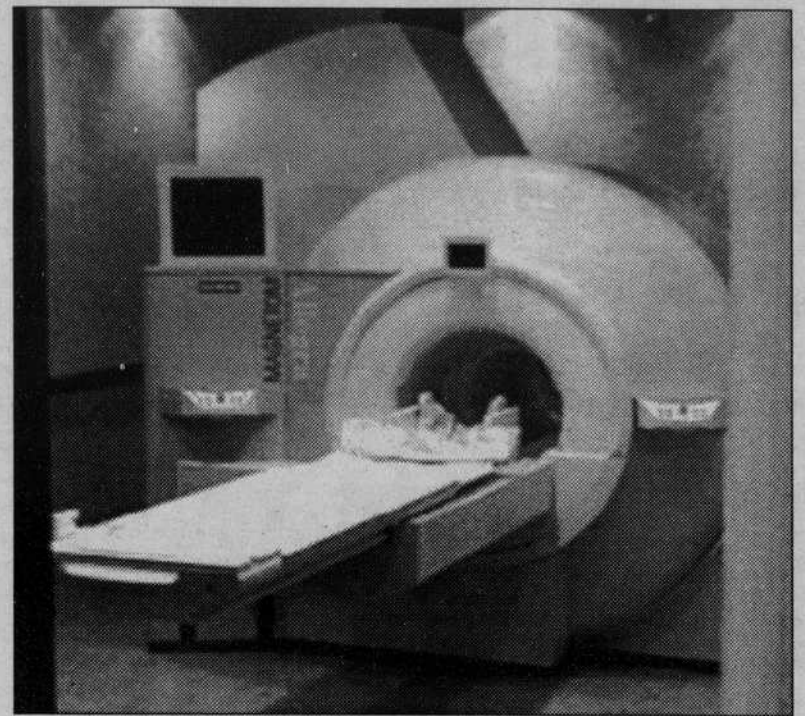
The U.S. House of Representatives approved a defense appropriations bill June 27 that, if it becomes a law, would provide further funding for brain research at the University.

BBMI is a collaborative research effort among several University departments, including psychology, neuroscience, biology and computational science. The program would use the money to further fund brain research.

The recent installment of the fMRI facility is the latest endeavor of the initiative. The fMRI, which improves on traditional MRI machines by observing brain chemistry as well as physical structure, is just the first part of a phased development for the overall project, University Vice President for Research Richard Linton said.

The present earmark of federal funding, if awarded, would be used to develop the Neuroimaging Center and Neuroinformatics Center, said Linton, who oversees BBMI. The Neuroimaging Center is located in Straub Hall, of which the fMRI facility is one part.

The Neuroinformatics Center, the computational science side of the initiative, is yet to be built at the Riverfront Research Park. Previous funding is being used to



Thomas Patterson Emerald

The University's recently installed fMRI machine is the first part of development of the Brain, Biology and Machine Initiative, which may receive a \$3 million federal grant.

help set up the center within the next few months, Linton said, and some of the current federal funding would support and maintain both facilities.

The appropriations bill would allocate another \$3 million for software developed by local high-tech company On Time Systems, Inc. The software, named ARGOS, will more efficiently schedule U.S. Navy ship construction. By automatically manipulating a multiple-year production schedule, ARGOS can cut shipyard labor costs by 10 to 20 percent, saving the Navy \$200 million to \$300 million per year.

Matt Ginsberg, University researcher and CEO of On Time,

said he is pleased that ARGOS may receive more funding. "With this technology, we hope to save the Navy a lot of money," Ginsberg said.

This year's appropriations bill was requested by the Oregon congressional delegation, which includes Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Eugene.

"Peter did a great job getting it through the House," Ginsberg said.

Linton also voiced appreciation and said he hopes that any funds received will establish the University as a model of multidisciplinary collaboration and applications.

Christina Hur is freelance reporter for the Emerald.

## News brief

### EMU Craft Center offers courses, workshops

Since 1973, the EMU Craft Center has served students, faculty and the general public by providing courses like ceramics, woodworking and metalworking.

The Center offers a place for patrons to explore their more creative side while gaining some individual instruction from instructors who are skilled in their respective fields. Some of the more popular classes proffered are the beginning courses

in ceramics, photography, woodworking and metals.

Craft Center Assistant Coordinator Garner Britt said that even in the beginning courses, students begin manipulating materials almost immediately. The one field that takes longer to become hands-on is woodworking — because of safety precautions, he said.

Along with the traditional craft workshops, the center also offers classes like bicycle maintenance, bookbinding, speed quilting and weaving.

In order to enroll in a class, a student must pay a separate fee for

each class. The prices range from \$24 to \$68. Some courses require the purchase of a term pass, which ranges from \$8 to \$20.

"People are constantly raving about the value (of the courses)," Britt said.

The Center also features special events each term. For summer, the 8th Annual UO Stone Carving Workshop was held from June 17-23.

For more information, contact the EMU Craft Center at 346-4361 or visit the Web site at [craftcenter.uoregon.edu](http://craftcenter.uoregon.edu).

— Jenni Schultz

## Budget

continued from page 1

cuts to higher education by helping find more revenue," Pilliod said. "The ASUO had a key hand in getting students (to Salem)."

According to Pilliod, the ASUO will continue lobbying efforts in Salem next year. On its agenda is student access to the Oregon Health Plan, along with continued support for lower tuition.

In the newest budget proposal, University students successfully lobbied for measures to help higher education, including a cap on the 3 percent tuition increase accepted this year by the Oregon University System. Pilliod also said the ASUO supported no change on the childcare block grant, which was included in the new budget.

Sen. Tony Corcoran, D-Cottage Grove, who worked with Pilliod and the ASUO on lobbying efforts, said he received a "tremendous amount" of calls from concerned students.

"The University of Oregon did a great job with leadership," he said. Corcoran added that students calling him were most concerned with the educational endowment

conversion hurting Oregon Opportunity Grants for college students.

"Unfortunately they were unable to help push it out (of the budget proposal)," he said.

Senator Peter Courtney, D-Marion County, worked with students to pass a budget that avoided tuition increases and major cuts.

"All young men and women should have a shot at that bachelor's degree," he said.

Courtney, an avid supporter of inexpensive education, added that student efforts gave \$2 million back to higher education and avoided a possible 10 to 11 percent increase in tuition.

Republican Sen. Lenn Hannon of Ashland said students played a big role in the budget decision and voiced concern to him over higher tuition and access to lawmakers.

Senators on the budget committee also heard student voices while fighting for a new budget.

Committee member Sen. Cliff Trow, D-Corvallis, said many concerned students visited his office asking about budget issues.

"Oregon student lobby did a good job," he said. "They were on-scene and effective."

Trow also said students were

### University budget cuts

Oregon lawmakers passed a plan that may affect the University budget and student access to financial aid:

- \$3 million cut from an information technology fund
- Possible additional \$1.3 million cut from the budget
- Referral to the September ballot a proposal to create a rainy-day fund for education. The fund will be converted from an educational endowment and used for the current budget cycle. If passed, this measure may make Oregon Opportunity Grants less available to college students.

most worried about rising tuition costs and damage to the Oregon Opportunity Grants that could result from the endowment conversion.

While the endowment fund measure could pass if voters accept it in September, legislators did order a cap on the 3 percent tuition increase decided for the 2001-03 state budget, barring any further increases.

Contact the reporter at [janmontry@dailyemerald.com](mailto:janmontry@dailyemerald.com).

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