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Research funding grows

Most of the \$75 million of federal funds went to studies of neuroscience and molecular biology

Arwen Ungar Freelance Reporter

Federal funding for research at the University reached an all-time high of more than \$75 million for 2001-02, according to an annual University report. Funding for the year was nearly 30 percent more than the 2000-01 fiscal year.

The three agencies providing the largest amount of funding are the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Education and the National Science Foundation, said Rich Linton, vice president for research and graduate studies at the University.

The institutes of neuroscience and molecular biology received the most grant money, followed by the psychology department.

"The increase in funding is attributable to a combo of federal agencies receiving an increase in budget, and our faculty being successful in receiving grants," Linton said. The added funding also could provide money for new buildings, and will allocate more money for faculty pay.

"The increase in funding certainly makes budget cuts less of a problem," said Gary Chaffins, director and contracting officer for the office of research and administration. He said faculty research gains the most funding, but it is also used to hire undergraduates to work in offices and to assist in teaching needs.

Bill Cresko, a research associate at the University, said he was excited that more funding would soon be available.

"It's a nice surprise," Cresko said. Cresko researches the stickleback, a fish he hopes will turn out to be as valuable a tool as the zebra fish.

"Because of federal funding, we've been able to start research projects and gather information that we wouldn't have been able to do otherwise," Cresko said. About 10 to 15 undergraduates work in the lab. The funding also allowed Cresko to buy fish tanks, train new students and may include some renovations.

The money will allow researchers to concentrate on science rather than thinking of ways for scrimping and saving, Cresko said.

"Without external funding, none of the equipment would be here, except the space," Cresko said.

"This is huge for undergraduates," Marc Rothgery said, a biology major working on his honors thesis. "We have the opportunity to get a real science background in the labs."

Tracy Norris, a postdoctoral research associate who received a grant last year, is working on the desiccation tolerance in a group of photosynthetic bacteria known as cyanobacteria. "Grants allow researchers like myself to be able to study the basic questions of science that have led to almost all technological and medical advances," Norris said.

Arwen Ungar is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

Foster

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computers. He was a driving force in the development of sequential imagery and visual design programs; these courses became the foundation for the multimedia major.

Along with his involvement in the art department, Foster also cultivated an interest in teaching cross-disciplinary studies. He taught classes in architecture and art education and in the Clark Honors College.

After his retirement in 1990, Foster continued his involvement with the University. He maintained contact through substitute teaching and guest lecturing. Former student David Guynes established the David G. Foster endowment fund to en-

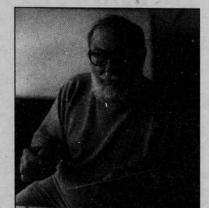
courage innovation and creativity in the fine arts.

Foster grew up during the Depression and served as an officer in the U.S. Army during World War II. He attended Willamette University, along with the University and the prestigious New Bauhaus, which later became part of the Illinois Institute of Technology. Foster also started Iron Rose Studio, a production house for short films and publications.

Foster exemplified change and embraced new technology with vigor and enthusiasm. During the 1950s, he bought one of the first Volkswagens in Eugene and later converted a VW van into a fully functional computer graphic workstation.

"He called the computer an instrument of change," said O'Connell. "He said it wasn't like a toaster or a radio. He just kept evolving as the world changed."

Professor Emeritus David Foster is survived by his sister, Genevieve



Courtesy

Luck; and three nieces, Dianne Bass, Judy Morse and Susan Roberts.

Memorial contributions can be made to the David G. Foster Endowed Fund, payable to the University of Oregon Foundation, P.O. Box 3346, Eugene, OR 97403.

Aimee Rudin is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

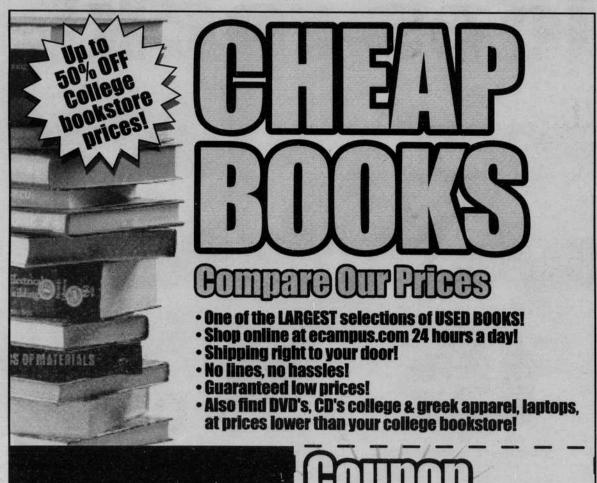


Courtes

Professor Emeritus David Foster, who taught at the University for more than three decades, works with a video synthesizer, a tool he used to teach students in his motion graphics class how to create special effects.

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