

# Wyden pushes nanotechnology research

The University has the tools to become a nanotechnology hub with new legislation supporting long-term research

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Environment/Science/Technology

At a science conference in 1959, the famous physicist Richard Feynman asked, "Why cannot we write the entire 24 volumes of the Encyclopaedia Britannica on the head of a pin?" He then offered \$1,000 to the first person who could write a page from a book onto a space smaller than the period at the end of this sentence.

With the advent of faster computers and incredibly powerful microscopes, Feynman's "small scale"

challenge matured into a revolutionary new science that could become a trillion-dollar industry within the next 10 years.

Nanotechnology — the development and use of technology at an incredibly small scale — is one of the hottest tickets in science, and University researchers may soon take center stage.

New legislation introduced by Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., would create a National Nanotechnology Research Program to support long-term nanoscale research and development.

In an economic summit in December, Wyden said, "Oregon has the tools, the facilities and the talent to emerge as a nanotechnology hub."

Chemistry graduate student Marvin Warner agrees.

"The environment at the U of O right now is one of active collaboration," Warner said. "We're building an arsenal of the appropriate technology to basically see at the nanoscale."

Seeing and thinking at the nanoscale is an incredibly challenging feat — a nanometer is one billionth of a meter. For example, a human hair is 100,000 nanometers wide, and a ten-yard-touchdown run is more than 9 billion nanometers long.

From medicine to exotic materials, experts estimate nanodevices and nanoparticles could revolutionize the way we live. For instance, advances in nanotechnology could yield nanosensors to find and fight environmental pollution, or could lead to stronger and lighter building

materials for space travel.

Chemistry Professor Jim Hutchison said researchers at the University of Oregon and Oregon State University are in a unique position to make nanoscience dreams come true. Hutchison said a partnership has developed to combine the University's expertise in nanoscience with Oregon State's already-existing microtechnology studies.

Hutchison said the collaboration will be called the Multiscale Materials and Devices Center. Such a project, he added, could potentially create new products and spur economic development in Oregon.

"The reason nanoscience is so important is because there are fundamentally new properties found in materials that small," Hutchison

said. "It's not about the smallness, it's the way properties change at the nanoscale."

Physics Professor Heiner Linke said at small scales, the laws of physics, chemistry and biology merge. The strength of nanotechnology at the University rests in the strong connection between different departments, he added.

"We can do some amazing things right now. As a field we have learned how to position atoms where we want them," Linke said. "The challenge is to develop techniques to build more complexity with the same accuracy."

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

## News brief

### Task force plans neighborhood forum

The West University Joint Task Force met Thursday evening to plan an open forum focused on bringing the community together.

The meeting, which took place from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Central Presbyterian church, also covered presentations from the Lane County Prevention Coalition and ideas on possible land zoning strategies.

According to the task force, the forum — taking place Feb. 25 from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the church — will allow people to share their concerns about the West University neighborhood.

"We're not just going to provide people with community building ... we're also going to listen to their ideas," co-facilitator and Associate Vice President for Institutional Affairs Jan Oliver said.

ASUO community outreach coordinator Jesse Harding said he hopes the forum will also help with student apathy, because students "don't feel they get heard."

Brinda Narayn-Wold of the Lane County Health and Human Services and the Lane County Prevention Coalition gave a presentation on preventing possible community problems such as teen pregnancy, underage drinking and drug use. She also introduced strategies to reduce underage drinking such as increasing regulations, involving local media and creating meaningful

criminal justice responses.

Finally, co-facilitator and acting Assistant City Manager Jim Croteau talked about different land zoning ideas to help make West University a more unified neighborhood. The land west of the University is a high-density residential area for students.

The task force also hopes to develop a user-friendly database where students can research potential off-campus housing. Students would be able to see pictures and find information on landlords and the crime rates in the area.

The task force's next meeting will take place Feb. 13 and will focus on housing code issues.

—Ali Shaughnessy



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In his speech to Congress after 9/11, the President said: "We have seen their kind before. They are the heirs of all the murderous ideologies of the 20th Century. By sacrificing human life to serve their radical visions, by abandoning every value except the will to power, they follow in the path of fascism, Nazism and totalitarianism."

The so-called "peace movement" today is led by the same hate-America radicals who supported America's totalitarian enemies during the Cold War. They marched in support of the Vietcong, the Sandinista Marxists and the Communist guerrillas in El Salvador. Before that they marched in behalf of Stalin and Mao. They still support Castro and the nuclear lunatic in North Korea, Kim Jong-Il. They are the friends in deed of Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein.

What prompts American radicals to make common cause with such monsters? The answer is obvious: They share a common view of America as the "Great Satan." They believe that it is America — not tyrants like Saddam Hussein — that inflicts misery and suffering on the world. The targets of the 9/11 terrorists were Wall Street and the Pentagon. These were the targets of American radicals long before.

In the perverse minds of the so-called "peace" radicals, America is the "root cause" of all the root causes that inspire the terrorists to attack us. "America is to blame for what is wrong in the world. The enemy is us."

Today, as we battle the Axis of Evil, which threatens us with weapons of mass destruction, these familiar mantras are rising on college campuses from coast to coast. Just as they did in the Cold War past.

During the Cold War, the radical "peace" movement bullied right-thinking Americans into silence. Our government lost the ability to stay the course in the anti-Communist war. The result was the Communist slaughter of two-and-a-half million peasants in Indo-China after the divisions at home forced America to leave.

Once again, the hate America left is attempting to silence right-thinking citizens. It is attempting to divide the home front in the face of the enemy. Even as we go to war. It is stabbing our young men and women in the back even as they step into harm's way to defend us. It is attempting to paralyze our government again and prevent it from securing the peace.

We can't afford to let this happen. The time has come for those who love freedom and who appreciate the great bounties of this nation to stand up and be counted.

David Horowitz  
President Center for the Study of Popular Culture

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