

# UO gets \$2 million from licensing

Licensing agreements are up from 2002-03, and two University projects receive national recognition

BY ANTHONY LUCERO  
NEWS REPORTER

Last year, the University received nearly \$2 million from licensing inventions and became home to two promising creations. The University disclosed 40 new inventions and 28 new license and option agreements, up from 36 inventions and 25 new license and options agreements in 2002-03, according to a University press release.

The University recognized biology Professor Eric Selker for finding the anti-cancer properties of Zebularine, a potential anti-cancer drug, which is currently being tested for human use. The National Institute of General Medical Sciences reported it to Congress as one of the 10

most-significant innovations.

"I hope it has some value," Selker said. "It was just a byproduct of research. It's not what I'd want to be known for."

During a routine lab procedure, Selker discovered he could reactivate certain silenced genes in fungus prone to DNA methylation. Methylation is dangerous in some scenarios because it can silence a gene that may control cell growth or regulate healthy and unhealthy cells. His procedure — picked up by researchers at other

## IN RECENT YEARS

The University has steadily increased its revenues from licensing inventions during the past few years:

|      |               |
|------|---------------|
| 1999 | — \$232,000   |
| 2000 | — \$312,912   |
| 2001 | — \$515,404   |
| 2002 | — \$536,434   |
| 2003 | — \$1,788,985 |
| 2004 | — \$1,920,000 |

Source: Office of Technology Transfer

universities — has slowed down tumor-cell growth from between 32 to 68 percent, according to a Medical News Today article.

"We're not much different from fungus in some ways," Selker said. "The only danger with reactivating cells is that we may reactivate a harmful one."

Another innovation will enable researchers to study the realistic movements of dinosaurs.

DinoMorph is software that assembles a dinosaur by its bone structure and maps skin across the bones to make a realistic portrayal. Using the dinosaur's bone model, the software can then accurately display the creature's movements, making a dinosaur exhibit go beyond just showing fossils to demonstrate how

it moves and even hunts.

Computer and information science Professor Kent Stevens began working on DinoMorph in 1994 as an undergraduate project, when computer science students used it to be creative with code. It has blossomed into a fully developed program that renders accurate animal movement and has spawned a company, Kaibridge, Inc.

"DinoMorph has the potential for a very commercial (application)," Stevens said.

The University is licensing it to museums for educational kiosks. Using the animation for film recreations is among several other possibilities.

"I'm having a lot of fun with DinoMorph because you can really study range of motion with dinosaurs," Stevens said. "Now we can find out using this software about some misconceptions of dinosaurs' movement."

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## IN BRIEF

### Man arrested in Corvallis after allegedly attempting to kidnap OSU student

Oregon State Police arrested an Albany man Thursday on charges of attempting to abduct a 21-year-old Oregon State University student, state police Lt. Gregg Hastings said.

Corvallis police found Aaron James Evans, 21, in a local grocery store parking lot Wednesday night while responding to a report of suspicious activity. Officers determined that his clothing matched the description of a suspect who attempted to kidnap a woman Wednesday morning, Hastings said.

By Thursday, detectives had gathered enough probable cause to arrest Evans on charges of second-degree attempted kidnapping, first-degree attempted sexual abuse and menacing, Hastings said.

Wednesday's incident occurred near 26th Street and Western Boulevard, about two blocks from where 19-year-old Brigham Young University student Brooke Wilberger disappeared last May.

"Because the area where the crime occurred was similar for this attempted abduction and for the previous abduction, and because of the fact this person was arrested related to those charges," police will continue to investigate whether the two incidents are related, Hastings said.

While police called Evans a "person of interest," he has not been established as a suspect, Hastings said.

— Kara Hansen

# Students can still travel overseas this year

BY JESSE DUNCAN  
FREELANCE REPORTER

Cari Vanderkar, associate director of the Overseas Study Program, said it is not too late for students to apply for study abroad programs that commence this winter — the Canberra, Australia program has a deadline in November. Also, Australia's winter is our summer, she said.

Due to student requests, the University is now offering an overseas program in Ireland. Also new this year are study opportunities at universities in Taiwan and Singapore.

University senior and Overseas Study Program peer assistant Kristal Murphy spent the 2003-04 academic year studying abroad in Tampere, Finland. She lived in a renovated hotel with students whose points of origin spanned the world.

"It was fun to be around so many international students," Murphy said. "The Finnish lifestyle is very healthy, and Finnish food is very healthy."

In Finland, Murphy enjoyed pulla, a sweet bun; Karelian pies, a rye

crust with a rice porridge inside; and glogi, a spiced warm drink similar to cider.

Murphy said she was exposed to Finland's sauna culture. Most of the homes and the building she lived in had saunas.

One Finnish winter ritual is to go from sitting in a sauna to diving into a near-frozen lake, she said.

"Any issue that you have, whether it is financial or whatever, can be worked out when it comes to study

abroad," Murphy said. "Especially for Americans, it is important to get an idea of how the rest of the world operates."

## READ MORE ONLINE

For a complete schedule of study abroad information sessions, visit [studyabroad.uoregon.edu/dates/dates.htm](http://studyabroad.uoregon.edu/dates/dates.htm)

While Murphy spent an entire year abroad, the length of overseas programs

varies. Students can earn credits that apply to their major in programs as short as one month.

Students may also apply for a

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