

# OREGON DAILY EMERALD

An independent newspaper

www.dailyemerald.com

SINCE 1900 | Volume 107, Issue 002 | Thursday, June 23, 2005

## City debates anti-discrimination code

*Eugeneans share their opinions on a proposal to include transgender protection in city law*

BY NICHOLAS WILBUR  
NEWS REPORTER

A public hearing was held Tuesday for community members to share their opinions regarding a proposal to add transgender identity to Eugene's anti-discrimination code. The current city law protects against discrimination for the "actual or perceived" identity of a heterosexual, homosexual or bisexual individual.

The revision would add to the law transgender identity, which the City of Eugene Human Rights Commission defines in their Transgender Issues Packet as "anyone who exhibits characteristics of a gender that does not match their apparent or actual physical sex."

Currently five Oregon cities — Portland, Salem, Beaverton, Bend and Lake Oswego — have

REVISION, page 4



Mayor Kitty Piercy discusses her perspective on several of the gender issues brought up at a public hearing Tuesday.

DANIEL FRIDMAN | FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER

## University loses expert on Muslim Middle East

*Respected Professor of Religious Studies will teach in Virginia*

BY NICHOLAS WILBUR  
NEWS REPORTER

Funding for the first-ever Islamic Studies professor in the University's religious studies department was confirmed the same day the world's attention was on the al-Qaida attack on America — Sept. 11, 2001.

Now, after three years, nine new courses, several symposia, seminars and multi-year programs in the study of Islam, Professor Timothy Gianotti is leaving the University after accepting an offer from the University of Virginia.

The decision to leave came just weeks before the University Senate's five-year plan to increase professors' salaries made headlines. In 2000 the Senate sought outside funding to raise the below-average income of the University professors for fear of losing valuable educators to higher paying jobs.

"I was expected to sit around stroking my beard and researching," Gianotti said about the last couple summers in Eugene, "but I painted a house because I had to make ends meet."

The loss of a highly-respected scholar such as Gianotti is a profound example of the "gradual erosion of academic quality" that faculty and students feared if salaries did not improve (ODE May 31).

Since the 2001 terrorist attacks, Islam and Muslims have pervaded media and politics. Gianotti is a nationally respected scholar whom the government has sought out to help improve relations with the predominantly Muslim Middle East through understanding the potential role of Islamic mysticism in U.S. policy.

Gianotti has worked with faculty members to bring world-renowned scholars to various campus events and organize UO Insight Seminars with Muslim community leaders. He has also given numerous lectures for the campus ROTC and a number of guest lectures in several cities throughout Oregon.

ASUO Vice President Kyla Coy said, "(Gianotti) has been instrumental in my spiritual and personal growth over the past three years." She said she was particularly impacted by Gianotti's class discussions, which were "infused with a kind of passionate spirituality that you never come across at the University."

Despite the sincere appreciation expressed by his students, Gianotti declined responsibility for their growth. He attributes the source of the students' inspiration to their own dedication to the text and tolerant classroom discussion.

"God knows best who the teacher and who the student is; maybe they're both," Gianotti said at a farewell party organized by the Religious Studies Club. He further explained that although he had initially been unsure of the reasons for his assignment in Eugene, an unseen hand had clearly been at work to bring students into his life. Gianotti emphasized this point, saying "I would be ashamed if any of you addressed me as 'professor' after tonight."

Gianotti has sought to draw attention to the relevance of Islam during a time of war in the Middle East. This adds more social responsibility to his job than is present in other positions, he said.

"I stress social relevance in my classes so that students emerge as resources to their friends and family. I am not here to promote Islam,

GIANOTTI, page 8

## celebrating success



TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTO EDITOR

Graduate student Shadiin Garcia (back to camera) bestows gifts of native American poetry to Belinda Hayes, far right, and other Native American graduates of the College of Education (from left) Frank Summers, Vera Pili, Don Moccasin and Maya Littlebird, at a special ceremony June 10 in the Many Nations Longhouse.

*Eleven select Native American College of Education graduates were honored in the ceremony*

BY NICHOLAS WILBUR  
NEWS REPORTER

A special graduation ceremony was held June 10 for a small, select group of Native American graduate students from the College of Education's Sapsik'wala ("teacher") Program. About 150 friends and relatives filled the newly erected Many Nations Longhouse behind the law school to honor 11 Native American students, nine of which were official Sapsik'wala graduates.

"We had a great deal of celebration for each individual, our families and communities, and that doesn't happen in a large crowd after a few speeches" said Cinnamon Bear, a Sapsik'wala graduate and student representative for the Longhouse User Committee.

Having known and worked with each graduate individually over the last couple years, the master of ceremonies, Shadiin Garcia, the Sapsik'wala student support coordinator, was able

GRADUATES, page 4

## University receives local donation to support Korean art

*Farwest Steel gives \$1 million to the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art to enhance collection*

BY YEONG DOO MOON  
FREELANCE REPORTER

The University's Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art is using a \$1 million gift from a local company to create an internship program to enhance its Korean art collection. Eugene-based steel manufacturing company Farwest Steel donated the gift June 13, and it will be used to expand the University's already nationally known Korean art collection.

The funds will support increased programming, exhibitions, publications and student internships as well as a series of annual lectures by prominent artists and Korean art scholars.

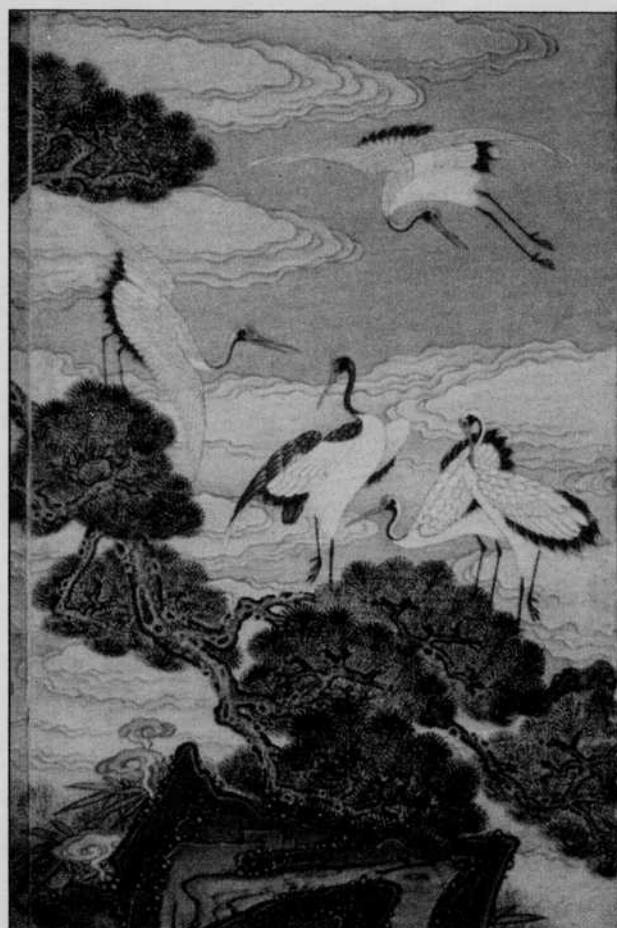
The museum's two Korean art

galleries, The Huh Wing and Jin Joo Gallery, are the only University museum galleries in the United States specifically dedicated to Korean art, museum spokeswoman Katie Sproles said.

"We are thrilled to support an organization that is an important resource for both the University and the community and that enhances the lives of those who live in or visit this area," president and CEO of Farwest Steel Jack Clark said in a prepared statement.

The gift is the product of a strong commitment by co-owners of Farwest Steel, Wan Koo Huh and Dick Johns to give back to

KOREAN, page 3



A segment of The Ten Symbols of Longevity (Shipchang saeng) from the 19th century, during the late Joseon period, is displayed in the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art.

TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTO EDITOR