

# OREGON DAILY EMERALD

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## Design begins on ONAMI building

The University's underground building is underway as SRG Partnership begins plans

BY EVA SYLWESTER  
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

The Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnologies Institute — a collaborative research effort between select Oregon University System institutions, private companies and government labs — is closer to getting its underground building on the University campus.

The underground building will be located between Huestis Hall and Deschutes Hall.

The Campus Planning Committee reviewed the location this summer.

The building will be underground to keep the lawn as green space and to minimize the impact above-ground noise and vibrations can have on the sensitive research inside, chemistry professor Jim Hutchison and University Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies Rich Linton told the Emerald in May.

Linton wrote in an e-mail that the architectural firm SRG Partnership has been hired to design the new building.

SRG Partnership, which has offices in Portland and Seattle, has taken on many projects related to universities and science and technology institutions in the Pacific Northwest. It designed the University's Lillis Business Complex and renovated McKenzie Hall and the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, according to its Web site.

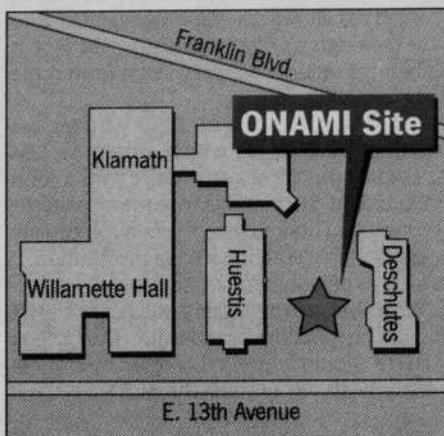
SRG representatives have met with campus administrators and faculty representing the core planning group to develop designs that will come to the Campus Planning Committee for review and approval, Linton said.

"The current plan is to move through the design and approvals processes over the course of the next academic year, with site preparation to begin next summer and the opening of the new facility in about two years from now," Linton said in an e-mail.

"Our concentration at the moment is on understanding the program that will go into the building and analysis of the site and budget," SRG Partnership principal architect Dennis Cusack said in an e-mail. "We don't have any sketches yet and probably won't for several weeks."

The new building will be one story, Charlene Lindsay, a project manager for facilities services at the University, said in an e-mail. It will house research

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PARKER HOWELL | EDITOR IN CHIEF

A new underground building for ONAMI will be built between Deschutes and Huestis halls.

## Ramadan holiday in Eugene

Members of the Muslim community reflected on the meaning of Ramadan upon its beginning



NICOLE BARKER | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Doctoral student Hasnah Toran and University graduate Nargas Oskui discuss the traditions of Ramadan, a monthlong Islamic holiday that began Wednesday.

BY BRITNI MCCLENAHAN  
NEWS REPORTER

Ramadan is a different holiday in Eugene than it is in an Islamic country such as Malaysia, where graduate student Hasnah Toran is originally from.

In Malaysia, restaurants close during the day and there are traditional food markets during the month of Ramadan, Toran said.

"Ramadan in Eugene is so different than celebrating in an Islamic country," said Toran, a College of Education doctoral student. "Fasting in Eugene really makes me miss my family in Malaysia. In Malaysia, the night is so alive. There's lights everywhere. People put lights on their homes, some electric — like Christmas lights — and others are traditional lights made out of bamboo."

Ramadan, a month-long Muslim holiday that began Wednesday at sundown, is a time of blessing, charity and reflection for Muslims around the world. It's a time for cleansing the body and soul and getting closer to Allah, the Arabic word for God, by praying, fasting and giving to others.

"There's a distinct calmness during Ramadan," said College of Education master's graduate student Nargas Oskui. "There's a feeling of warmth that you don't

experience all year."

Ramadan is a time to practice self-restraint and patience by not smoking, eating, drinking, having sex or fighting, especially during daylight hours.

"It's a time to recharge your battery and connect with the community," Toran said.

"During this time, there's a great feeling of solidarity," Oskui said. "We're all fasting; we all have the same common goal. We empathize with each other and set aside all material thinking."

Iftar is a meal that breaks the daily fast in the evening during Ramadan and is often shared with others. Iftar can be difficult for students to balance with their academic schedules. "Sometimes I had to break my fast in class," Toran said. "It made me so sad when I had to break my fast with a cereal bar or a snack in class. I would think, 'I don't want to have Iftar in class.'"

During Ramadan, students here have to balance their spiritual lives and academics.

"Over here, you go to a mosque to do your prayers and then rush to class," Toran said.

Oskui and Toran said that during Ramadan they feel blessed to participate in fasting, charity and prayer.

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## Professor studies toxic algal blooms

Biology teacher Michelle Wood is researching Pseudonitzschia, toxin-producing algae, to help predict when shellfish will be safe to eat

BY EVA SYLWESTER  
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

A University biology professor is working with satellite technology to make seafood safer.

Michelle Wood is part of an effort to develop detection methods for toxic algal blooms, which are ocean growths that can turn ordinary seafood poisonous.

She and Oregon State University assistant professor of biological oceanography Peter Strutton are studying growths of Pseudonitzschia, a type of one-celled algae that produces a substance called domoic acid.

When birds and mammals eat fish, especially shellfish, that have consumed Pseudonitzschia, the side effects range from an upset stomach to permanent short-term memory loss to death because the domoic acid from the fish's tissues crosses into the bird or mammal's brain and interferes with nerve-signal transmission.

Most of the adverse events involving domoic acid on the West Coast involve birds and non-human mammals, Wood said, adding that people swimming in water with Pseudonitzschia in it or people swallowing mouthfuls of such water are not in immediate danger.

"You pretty much have to eat a very concentrated amount," Wood said. "It kind of takes concentration by something else eating them."

Wood said biologists at the University of California at Santa Cruz suspect the aggres-

sive behavior by a flock of sea birds in Santa Cruz that inspired Alfred Hitchcock's movie "The Birds" may have been the result of Pseudonitzschia-induced brain damage.

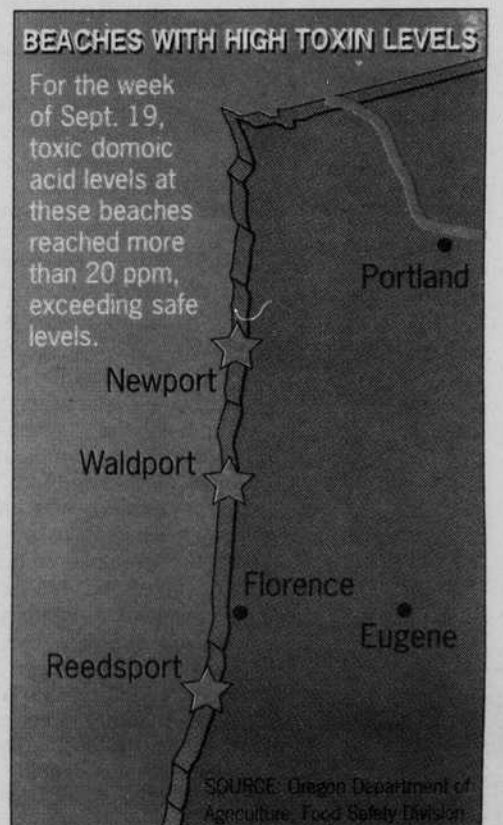
Oregon Department of Agriculture officials monitor the water along the Oregon coast for domoic acid concentration and, based on the findings, prohibit or allow the harvesting of shellfish.

Currently, razor clam beaches from Newport to Waldport and Reedsport to Coos Bay are closed because of their high levels of domoic acid. Anything exceeding 20 parts per million is considered unsafe.

A Sept. 28 statement on the Oregon Department of Agriculture Web site said: "These levels are still declining from 200 ppm seen at the peak of this summer's toxic algae bloom. Razor clams accumulate the toxin in edible tissue. It can take several months for the clams to purge the toxin."

"That's good, but it's sort of a retroactive way of looking for this," Strutton said, reacting to the department's reports. He explained that the goal of his and Wood's research is to be able to predict harmful algal blooms with satellites and give health officials advance warnings.

The research, funded by the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, uses data from satellites maintained by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The satellites determine the color pigments present in the ocean by measuring light wavelengths from the surface of the ocean.



SOURCE: Oregon Department of Agriculture, Food Safety Division

CHRIS TODD | GRAPHIC ARTIST

The satellites provide a "bird's-eye view of the topography of the ocean," including various streams and rivulets within the water, Wood said.

Sensors on the satellites also collect data regarding the temperature of the ocean.

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