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## OREGON DAILY EMERALD

The independent campus newspaper for the University of Oregon

## Sundial: UO campus offers many locations for obelisk

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lunar calendars, Nicols said. His successor, Augustus Caesar, put up the obelisk in 10 B.C. It fell over during an earthquake, but the pole was re-discovered during the Renaissance and placed in front of the Italian Parliament building.

About 20 years ago, German archaeologist Edmund Boucher found the obelisk's face while digging in Rome. At that point, Nicols, who knows Boucher personally, got the idea to set up something similar at the University.

Faculty and students from the departments of architecture, art history, art, physics, history, classics and mathematics are now involved in the project, Nicols said.

Tice is handling the architecture end of the project along with associate professors of architecture Virginia Cartwright and Stephen Duff, as well as graduate students Jonathan Dunn and Daniel Goldstein. He said this project is different from others he has worked on as an academic.

"We're hoping it will actually be built," Tice said. "Oftentimes in an academic setting we do things that are not realized."

Many sites are being considered for the obelisk, but Tice said the site being considered most seriously is the lawn between Knight Library and the School of Music.

"The obelisk located on campus may come to symbolize more than itself," Tice said. "I think it is a kind of beacon of knowledge and hope and aspiration."

Construction materials from stone to polished concrete to wood are currently being considered, Tice said.

Margaret Rayfield, a senior history and humanities major, became involved in the project while working as a research assistant for Nicols and said she worked in depth on the aesthetic aspects of the project.

The group working on the project wants the lawn to continue to serve as a recreational spot for students, so the lines that mark the time will have to be unobtrusive and blend into the grass.

Another option under consideration is building the obelisk in the middle of a pond that will serve as a reflecting pool, Rayfield said.

In September 2004, a prototype of the sundial was created on the patio between McKenzie Hall and the Computing Center. Lines were painted on the pavement so that the shadow of an existing light pole would cross them at certain times of day. The white center line represents solar noon and the curved yellow line represents Pacific Standard Time noon.

Fifth-year physics and math major Sandra Penny helped physics professor Robert Zimmerman with the mathematical work to figure out where the lines would go.

"Really, the math is nothing past geometry," Penny said.

Penny said she used a computer program to calculate distance values for various times of day on the 21st day of every month.

"I'm always pretty baffled by things people figured out thousands of years ago without calculators and computers," Penny said.

Contact the business, science and technology reporter at [esylwester@dailyemerald.com](mailto:esylwester@dailyemerald.com)

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