

IN BRIEF

Live images of campus are now available online

A tentative public relations plan for the University includes displaying video footage of a busy campus area on the Internet.

The University has begun experimenting with a campus webcam, which can be viewed at webcam.uoregon.edu.

"What you see there is only an experiment," Director of Network Services Dale Smith said, emphasizing that he knows the webcam does not currently work well with certain types of computers or Web browsers, and is trying to correct that problem.

Smith said the webcam could serve as a public relations tool for the University and that prospective students could use it to view the campus online.

"We're sadly behind many other campuses in providing live images of our campus," Smith said.

For example, Oregon State University's webcam site, webcam.oregonstate.edu, features eight separate campus webcams and is linked to the Eugene TV station KEZI's Web site.

The University camera, positioned on top of Prince Lucien Campbell Hall, provides a view of the quad between Chapman Hall and the Lillis Business Complex.

"It seemed like a spectacular view," Smith said.

Another advantage to the 10-story-high location of the current webcam is that it has minimal privacy

concerns. Implementing a street-level camera that would produce recognizable images of people would require legal advice, Smith said.

"I defy you to tell me who's walking down there," Smith said. "They're little baby ants."

Smith said that if money and interest in the webcam program increase, more webcams may be added to campus.

"If the ASUO wanted to buy a webcam and stick it somewhere, I'd be happy to entertain that," Smith said.

— Eva Sylwester

ONAMI receives millions in federal funding

The Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnologies Institute, a collaboration between universities, industry and government research in the Pacific Northwest, will soon receive close to \$6 million in federal funding for its three main projects, according to a U.S. Senate press release.

ONAMI's Inherently Safer Nanomaterials and Nanomanufacturing initiative, led by University chemistry professor Jim Hutchison, will receive \$1.7 million.

"The work will follow the ongoing efforts to merge green chemistry and nanoscience to produce nanomaterials and nanomanufacturing methods that minimize their impacts on human health and the environment," Hutchison wrote in an e-mail.

ONAMI's other initiatives, Miniature Tactical Energy Systems and Nanoscale Metrology for Nanoelectronics, will receive \$1.5 million and \$2.5 million respectively.

These grants were part of a total of \$67.3 million that U.S. Congress awarded to defense-related projects in Oregon. Other grants included in the package, which now moves to the

White House for final approval, were \$2 million for research on cognitive neuroscience and genetics at the University's Brain, Biology and Machine Initiative, and \$1.5 million to Oregon Health and Science University for nanotechnology research.

The Senate Appropriations Committee had requested \$11.5 million for ONAMI and \$109 million total, the Emerald reported in October.

"Our soldiers will spend the holidays defending America and we serve them best by providing the resources and the equipment they need," Sen. Gordon Smith (R-Ore.) said in the Dec. 22 statement. "Oregon firms play an important role in supplying technology and support for our troops fighting the War on Terror."

— Eva Sylwester

New year could see slower spending, moderate growth

WASHINGTON — People may feel less inclined to be big spenders this year as the housing market slips from its lofty perch. These two developments are seen as producing slower, though still respectable, economic growth this year.

That is the picture emerging from economists, most of whom are projecting growth to top 3 percent in 2006.

Many analysts are hopeful the high-flying housing market will scale back at a moderate pace, boding well for a safe landing. A crash of a sector that has reliably supported consumer spending and economic activity for five years running could imperil the entire economy.

Rising interest rates and the toll of high energy bills also will play a role in the expected belt-tightening this year, economists say.

—The Associated Press

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COMMENTARY

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University Health Center



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FPEP
The federal grant providing free contraception and family planning services for qualified students has been extended at the Health Center until October 2006. Call 346-2770 or fill out the online application at <http://healthcenter.uoregon.edu> to see if you qualify.

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HEALTH HAPPENINGS