

Building college resilience and student success through a scholarship of landscape processes: where nature and culture intersect

Destination College of Arts and Sciences

LCC's unique position within a diverse landscape surroundings offers authentic opportunities for students to achieve desired CLO's while strengthening community partnerships

Outdoor living laboratory

Undergraduate Research

Settings that offer real world opportunities for students to participate in data collection and analysis that informs planning, management and scientific research.

Current uses/projects

BIOLOGY & EARTH ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE Classes have well established projects:

Phenology (timing of organism responses to weather patterns)

Wildlife use in terrestrial and aquatic habitats

Pollinator diversity

Wild turkey seed dispersal

Zooplankton studies in wetlands

Carbon sequestration

Many others-student selected topics

Science Undergraduate Research Day

3rd Annual SUGR Day:

Jun 1, 2017

10am-2pm with noon Panel

Best practices in teaching and learning

Research experience/ service learning

Equity in opportunities for underrepresented students

Improves habitat (Sustainability mission of the college)

Local scientific research that enhances biological resilience and local biodiversity

Proposal: Offer Institutional Infrastructure of Research

Plan strategically for a profitable self-sustaining research facility utilizing our adjacent natural landscapes

Supports resilient community, local job market, and SOTL best practices through collaboration

Taphonomic Research Facility

Taphonomy

Term coined in 1940s by vertebrate paleontologist Ivan Efremov, who described it as the transition of animal remains from the biosphere to the lithosphere.

Has been expanded greatly since this time is often described as the laws of death and burial from its Greek roots – taphos “burial” or “death” and nomos “law”

Multidisciplinary field, including geology, paleontology, anthropology, archaeology, forensic science, biology, chemistry, paleoecology, geomorphology...

Facility

- 1 - processing animal/faunal remains for building skeletal collections at colleges, universities, and museums
- 2 - specific research projects (access limited to researchers -students, faculty, visiting researchers)
- 3 -forensic research and training (more security, limited access active case work or studies)

Facility needs and costs

Phase 1

Land with a variety of microenvironments- can be all together or in separate areas

Phase 2

Fencing
Cameras
Heavy equipment operation
Additional road access

Phase 3

Building with running water and electricity
Vehicle

Disciplines

Anthropology
Archaeology
Geology
Zoology
Biology
Botany
Chemistry
Criminal Justice
Forensic Science
Mortuary Science
Entomology

Interested Partners

UO
OSU
OSP Fish and Wildlife
Forensic Laboratory in Ashland
Law Enforcement

International Association of Forensic Nurses
Portland State University
Wildlife Safari
Oregon Zoo

Similar facilities

Currently 7 outdoor decomposition research facilities (human decay)

- University of Tennessee Knoxville (1971)
- University of South Florida (2017)
- Southern Illinois University (2010)
- Sam Houston State University Texas (2010)
- Texas State University (2008)
- Western Carolina University (2006)
- Colorado Mesa University (pigs 2012, Humans 2013)
- Pennsylvania and Wisconsin are in the process
- Also recently opened, Australia and Amsterdam

Novel Funding Opportunities

- Researchers using collection
- Researchers using facility
- More students
- Short courses
- Law enforcement
- Cadaver dog handlers
- Field schools
- Nurses (forensic)
- Grants

- NIJ
- AFS
- LE \$
- NSF
- Other university grants

BLM

Donations- wanting to be part of something (buy sections of fence.....) land in trust

SWAG

Which Land?

Considerations?

CORPS- (Center of/for) ORegon Posthumous/ postmortem Studies

MORTIS- Multidisciplinary ORegon Taphonomic Investigative Studies (MORTIS)

