

## *In the OPASsphere –August 12, 2008*

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*A service of the Oregon Pre-Engineering & Applied Sciences Initiative (OPAS) funded by ETIC*

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### *Events – Announcements*

- **New OIT President Christopher Maples --**  
[http://www.ous.edu/news\\_and\\_information/news/080108.php](http://www.ous.edu/news_and_information/news/080108.php)
- **A Community Conversation: Diversity in the CS Classroom, August 19, 2008** at North Salem High School. A collaboration of the OPAS Initiative and the Techstart Education Foundation. A limited number of **stipends** are available for this all-day workshop which will review best practices to foster diversity in the classroom, and hear from exemplars Don Kirkwood and Don Domes. Develop a plan to implement some of these practices in your local environment, and apply for a limited number of **minigrants** (<=\$1000) to support that effort. **For more information or to sign up email Jo Oshiro at [jo\\_oshiro@ous.edu](mailto:jo_oshiro@ous.edu) or call 503.821.1139 as soon as possible.**
- **Botball educational robotics competition informational meeting:** Tues, August 26, 3:30 pm  
Portland State University, Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science  
1930 SW 4th Ave, Suite 500 (Deans Office Suite Conference Room)  
For more info check out [www.botball.org](http://www.botball.org) or contact Steve Goodgame, Executive Directory of the KISS Institute for Practical Robotics via [sgoodgame@kipr.org](mailto:sgoodgame@kipr.org).

### *Funding*

- **NEA Foundation Student Achievement Grants --** The NEA Foundation Student Achievement Grants are provided to improve students' academic achievement by engaging them in critical thinking and problem solving that deepen knowledge of standards-based subject matter. The work also should improve students' habits of inquiry, self-directed learning, and critical reflection. **Maximum Award:** \$5,000. **Eligibility:** practicing U.S. public school teachers, public school education support professionals, and faculty and staff members at public institutions of higher education. **Deadline:** Oct. 5, 2008. **For more information:** [http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/StudentAchievement\\_Guidelines.htm](http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/StudentAchievement_Guidelines.htm)
- **28 Colleges and High Schools to Use Personal Robots in Class**  
[http://chronicle.com/wiredcampus/index.php?id=3224&utm\\_source=wc&utm\\_medium=en](http://chronicle.com/wiredcampus/index.php?id=3224&utm_source=wc&utm_medium=en)

### *Equity*

- *Breaking Barriers: Oregon community forums on college access and success:*  
[http://www.ous.edu/state\\_board/workgroups/pnc/files/PCBarriers.pdf](http://www.ous.edu/state_board/workgroups/pnc/files/PCBarriers.pdf) This 2007-08 report of the Oregon State Board of Higher Education Committee on Student Participation and Completion is the result of public forums in 2007-08 and an October 2007 statewide symposium on key barriers to student participation and success in Oregon postsecondary education. The

*The OPAS Vision is that all Oregonians have the opportunity to choose and successfully pursue engineering or applied science as their field of study and career, thereby helping Oregon's industries contribute to state economic needs, and innovate and prosper in the global economy.*

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*Breaking Barriers* report will be a guide for the Oregon University System's action agenda in the area of student success over the next biennium, and in the years ahead, to move the state forward in getting more students of underserved populations into and through college.

Arising from the outreach on student barriers reported here, a key part of the Board's current action agenda is the Student Participation and Completion Committee's Policy Option Package, *Taking Back Oregon's Future*, a proposal to be considered in the Oregon University System budget by the Governor, for the 2009 Legislative Session. This proposal is also posted on the OUS website at [http://www.ous.edu/state\\_board/workgroups/pnc/files/PCcommitteePOP.pdf](http://www.ous.edu/state_board/workgroups/pnc/files/PCcommitteePOP.pdf)

The *Breaking Barriers* report is a compendium of the valuable outreach and research completed by the Committee in 2007-08, work which we are currently continuing and expanding. If you have any questions about this publication or would like printed copies (limited availability), please contact Di Saunders or Endi Hartigan in the Oregon University System Chancellor's Office (503-725-5700).

- *In support of this work, there will be a new OUS Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Success Initiatives starting September 1. Expect more news then!*

### ***Articles***

- **Unique OIT health major receives financial boost**, *Portland Business Journal*, 8.1.2008

-- A bill just introduced by U.S. representative David Wu would help Oregon Institute of Technology fund the expansion of its health informatics degree, the first of its kind in the nation. OIT, along with other higher-ed institutions, would be able to apply for National Science Foundation grants to help train the 10,000 health informatics professionals that Wu says need to be trained and working by 2010. OIT's program, which it offers in Beaverton and Clackamas, is brand new, and will award a bachelor's of science degree. For now, just 10 students are enrolled, and program director Dr. Michael Kirshner says he'd like to expand it to 50 students over the next several years. ... Health care informatics jobs are well-paid, at \$45,000 to \$75,000 for new graduates. For more:

<http://www.bizjournals.com/portland/stories/2008/08/04/newscolumn1.html>.

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- **Amazing games**, *Klamath Falls Herald and News*, 7.30.2008, by Ryan Pfeil -- Jonah Tappan envisioned a warrior with a sword used to slay ogres, elves and other fantasy creatures. But this warrior is not in a short story Tappan wrote. It's in a video game he is programming. "I'm still in the beginning stage," said Tappan, a 13-year-old Ponderosa Junior High School student. "He's already moving. We're not supposed to be that far ahead." Tappan joined other Klamath County area middle and high school students this week for Amazing Games, an annual video game programming camp hosted by Oregon Institute of Technology.

Led by OIT faculty and graduate students, the camp's instructors hope camp participants take with them more than an increased appreciation of video games.

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“That’s sort of the cover to have everyone stay involved in technology,” said Jay Bockelman, a software engineering instructor at the OIT campus in Portland. “It doesn’t matter if they’re doing programming, electronics, science or math. (It’s) to find excitement around technology-related activities. It’s an easy way to get them hooked.”

***Programming basics*** -- Using the program Game Maker, camp officials teach game programming basics to the students. Instructors and advisers also give a basic introduction to which fields students interested in programming should study and why. Physics, math and art are all important to a professional video game designer, Bockelman said. Bockelman said classes are planned, but instructors are flexible in their lessons. They leave time for students to collaborate with their peers and experiment with the programs.

“We do have an agenda of what we want to get across each day, but we’re not that rigid on how it happens,” Bockelman said. Student games have been different so far. Kiahloni Henry, 16, a Klamath Union High School junior, has a game whose main character is very different from Tappan’s muscled barbarian: A hamburger with a goal to fly through space and get points by collecting French fries and milkshakes.

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- **All my relations’**, *Mail Tribune*, 7.31.2008, by Stacy Barchenger -- Richard Brown has attended Southern Oregon University's Native American Youth Academy so often that many people know him by his family nickname, "Peanut," instead of his given name. “This is the thing I look forward to all year," said the 16-year-old Portland youth, who's marking his seventh session at SOU's annual American Indian cultural awareness program. Forty-three American Indian students from grades seven through 12 gathered this week on the SOU campus for the academy, also known as "Konaway Nika Tillicum," or "all my relations" in the Chinook jargon, a basic vocabulary shared by many tribes. More: <http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080731/NEWS/807310325/-1/NEWS12>

### ***Classroom Resources***

- **U.S. Department of Education's Teacher Initiative - FREE**  
The federal government offers a treasure trove of teaching and learning resources. Where can you find them? FREE: <http://www.free.ed.gov>. FREE organizes more than 1,500 lesson plans, primary documents, science animations, math challenges, and works of art, literature, and music from the Library of Congress, Smithsonian Institution, National Archives, National Science Foundation, NASA, National Institutes of Health, National Gallery of Art, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Park Service, U.S. Geological Survey, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and other federal agencies. Search resources by [subject](#) or by [topic](#)

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