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)