

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

Vicki S. McConnell, State Geologist

NEWS RELEASE: August 1, 2007

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“Quake-safe” tours of 2 university buildings August 23, 24

Portland, Oregon: Media representatives are invited to tour “Quake-Safe” buildings at Oregon State University (OSU) and Western Oregon University (WOU) August 23rd and 24th. The tours are sponsored by Oregon University Systems Chancellor’s Office and the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

OSU’s Nash Hall and WOU’s Humanities & Social Sciences Building are in the process of being seismically strengthened thanks in part to a \$2.6 million grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

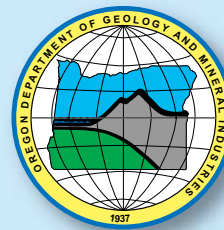
Called an Earthquake Building Rehabilitation Grant, the FEMA funding provides 75% of the total project costs to complete the seismic readiness work on the two buildings. This is the second such grant received from FEMA to seismically upgrade public university buildings in Oregon. In 2004, the state received a \$3.8 million FEMA grant for two buildings at Portland State University, and a building at Oregon Institute of Technology.

The Quake-Safe tours will focus on the ongoing seismic upgrades taking place in both buildings and representatives from each university, FEMA, Oregon Emergency Management (OEM), Oregon University Systems, (OUS), the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) and architects and contractors from the project team will be on hand to answer questions.

OSU’s Nash Hall, designed in 1968 before stronger building codes were in place in the state, includes classrooms, large labs, and offices that serve hundreds of students faculty and staff on a daily basis.

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OSU's Nash Hall was designed and built before stricter building codes were put in place to protect buildings from earthquake damage.

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The Quake-Safe tour of Nash Hall will be August 23rd, 9:00 AM, Memorial Union, Oregon State University campus, Corvallis. Please RSVP by August 16 to Neva Beck at (971) 673-1554 or email: geneva.beck@dogami.state.or.us

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Special guests at the Nash Hall tour include OSU President Ed Ray and Oregon Senate President Peter Courtney.

The Humanities & Social Sciences Building (HSS) at WOU was built in 1964 to provide classroom and office space after the 1962 Columbus Day storm caused catastrophic damage to historic Campbell Hall, limiting use of that building. HSS houses the Creative Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences programs at WOU.

The Quake-Safe tour of the Humanities & Social Sciences Building will be August 24th, 9:00 AM, Columbia Room, Werner University Center, Western Oregon University campus, Monmouth. Please RSVP by August 16 to Neva Beck at (971) 673-1554 or email: geneva.beck@dogami.state.or.us

Special guests at the Humanities & Social Sciences Building tour include WOU President John Minahan and OUS Chancellor George Pernsteiner.

Oregon University System comprises seven distinguished public universities, reaching more than one million people each year through on-campus classes, statewide public services and lifelong learning. For additional information, go to: <http://www.ous.edu>

The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries is an independent agency of the State, and has a broad responsibility in developing a geologic understanding of natural hazards. We then make this information available to communities and individuals to help reduce the risks from earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, floods and volcanic eruptions. We assist in the formulation of state policy where an understanding of geologic materials, geologic resources, processes, and hazards are key to decision-making. The Department is also the lead state regulatory agency for mining, oil, gas and geothermal exploration, production and reclamation.

To join the Quake-Safe tours, please RSVP by August 16 to Neva Beck at (971) 673-1554 or email: geneva.beck@dogami.state.or.us

Learn more about Oregon's geology by going online at:
<http://www.OregonGeology.com>



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