

# Honors Students in Special Collections and Archives: A Long History of Experiential Learning

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Oregon State University Libraries

Honors Education at Research Universities Conference

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# Objectives of this Talk

- Examine the case study of Special Collections and Archives in the OSU Libraries as a fruitful environment for experiential learning by OSU Honors students.
- Trace changes in the relationship between OSU Honors students and Special Collections/Archives that came about as a result of institutional shifts within the OSU Libraries.
- Discuss new infrastructure created to further Honors experiential learning in the OSU Libraries Special Collections & Archives Research Center.



1996:  
Rebel



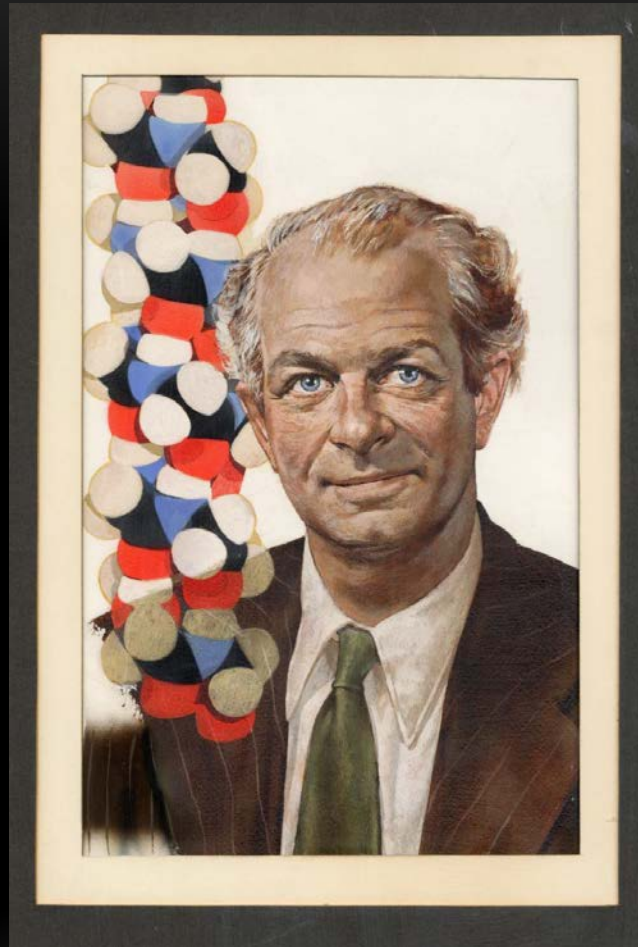
2001:  
Supervisor

# Special Collections: 1999-2011

## Context

- Small staff: Administrator, Projects Director, Webmaster
- No dedicated professional reference staff – reference desk staffed entirely by students
- Student Staff: 2 FTE
- Repository for a few dozen archival collections
- Heavy focus on Linus Pauling

# Linus Pauling: 1901-1994

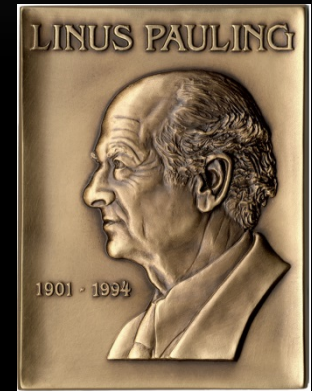


# Early Relationship with the University Honors College

- Honors Chemistry Class
- Improved Efficiency in Hiring
  - UHC effectively serves as a pre-screen for high-caliber student employees
  - Assumptions about Honors students:
    - Intelligent
    - Motivated
    - Able to work independently
    - Strong written communications skills
    - Strong oral communications skills ???

# Experiential Learning in Special Collections

- 100% of Reference Desk staffing
  - Able to do because of small number of archival collections
- Special Events
  - 2001 and 2007 conferences
  - Biennial Award Event
- Drop-in Tours
- Specialized skillsets, especially Graphic Design





# Experiential Learning (Continued): Technical Support for Digital Initiatives

- Digitization all done in house
- Students support:
  - Scanning
  - Metadata
  - Transcription





# Experiential Learning (Continued): Linus Pauling Day-by-Day

Linus Pauling  
1901-1994

Day-by-Day

May 18, 1940

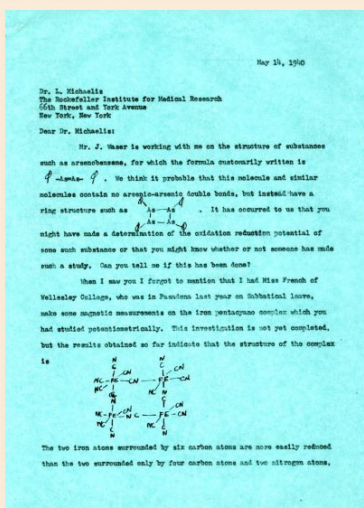
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Letter from Linus Pauling to Leonor Michaelis, May 14, 1940. Page 1 [Larger Images](#) / [More Information](#). 2 pp. [View Transcript](#)

## Activity Listings

- AHP writes cheque to "Nancy Bowin." \$10.00. [Filed under LP Biographical: Business and Financial, Box 4.015, Folder 3]
- Letter from Dr. Frank T. Gucker, Jr., Department of Chemistry, Northwestern University, to LP RE: Requests LP inform suitable candidates of a post-doctoral research assistantship in chemistry. Explains detail dilution of amino acids. In a post-script notes that they also need graduate assistants. (Note in left margin: "Howell?") [Letter from LP to Gucker [June 6, 1940](#)] [Filed under LP Correspondence: Box #140.5, file #140.5.1]
- Letter from Dr. J.G. Kirkwood, Acting Chairman, Cornell University, to LP RE: Apologizes for the confusion surrounding Hughes and promises that he or Prof. Papish will write when the matter has been discussed with him or other staff members. [Letters from LP to Kirkwood [May 16, 1940](#), [May 28, 1940](#)] [Filed under LP Correspondence: Box #198.12 file:(Kirkwood, John G.)]
- Letter from LP to Dr. L. Havas, Royal Biological Institute, Hungary. RE: Invites him to speak at Caltech during his summer trip to the U.S. next fall or summer. Notes Prof. Zechmeister informed LP of Havas trip. #165.5, file:(H. Correspondence, 1940)]
- Letter from LP to Industrial and Engineering Chemistry RE: Submits a want advertisement for a spectroscopist. [Filed under LP Correspondence: Box #182.2, file:(Industrial and Engineering Chemistry - Correspondence, 1940)]
- Writes cheque to "The New Yorker." \$7.00. [Filed under LP Biographical: Business and Financial, Box 4.015, Folder 3]
- Writes cheque to "Nancy Baumen? idely?" \$10.00 [LP Biographical: Business and Financial 4.072, folder 72.1]

< May 1940 >						
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

# Experiential Learning (Continued): The Pauling Blog

[Home](#) [About Us](#) [Creating The Pauling Catalogue](#)



## THE PAULING BLOG

[Entries RSS](#) [Comments RSS](#)

### Research Funding Opportunity



Accepting Applications:  
[The Resident Scholar Program at Oregon State University Libraries](#)

### Today in Linus Pauling: April 17

**Wrote these Manuscripts:**  
*The Chemical Bond and Solid-State Physics*, April 17, 1970.

*Memorial of Sterling Brown Hendricks*, April 13, 1902 - January 4, 1981, April 17, 1981.

*An Analysis of a Randomized Double-Blind Study of the Effects of Giving Vitamin C to Patients with Advanced Colorectal Cancer and then Stopping the Vitamin C and Administering Chemotherapy*, April 17, 1985.

### Campbell, Pressman, Pauling and the Binding of Antibodies

Posted on April 9, 2015 by [sarc](#) | [Edit](#)



Drawings of the interaction between an antibody and azoprotein by Linus Pauling, 1940s.

Dan Campbell first collaborated with Linus Pauling on a fellowship at Caltech in 1940, during which time the duo tried to explain how antibodies are formed. At the time, Pauling believed that antibodies were proteins in-the-making that needed to bind to antigens in order to fold and complete their structure. If this principle was correct, Pauling thought, it might be possible to create artificial antibodies by simply denaturing proteins and allowing them to bind and refold in the presence of antigens.

Despite the fact that Campbell's initial test results cast doubt on his collaborator's theories, Pauling went ahead and published his ideas on how antibodies work, hoping that further research could support his paper. Thus began a lengthy study of antigen-antibody binding in which Pauling and Campbell attempted to develop a complete theory. Along the way, Dan Campbell's research at Caltech would become very important to the Institute as well as to Pauling.

In 1943 a Caltech research fellow named David Pressman agreed to join Campbell and Pauling in their study of immunology. Starting with work that had previously been

### Online Resources

**OREGON experience**

[Watch "Oregon Experience - Linus Pauling,"](#) (winner of a 2012 Northwest Regional Emmy)

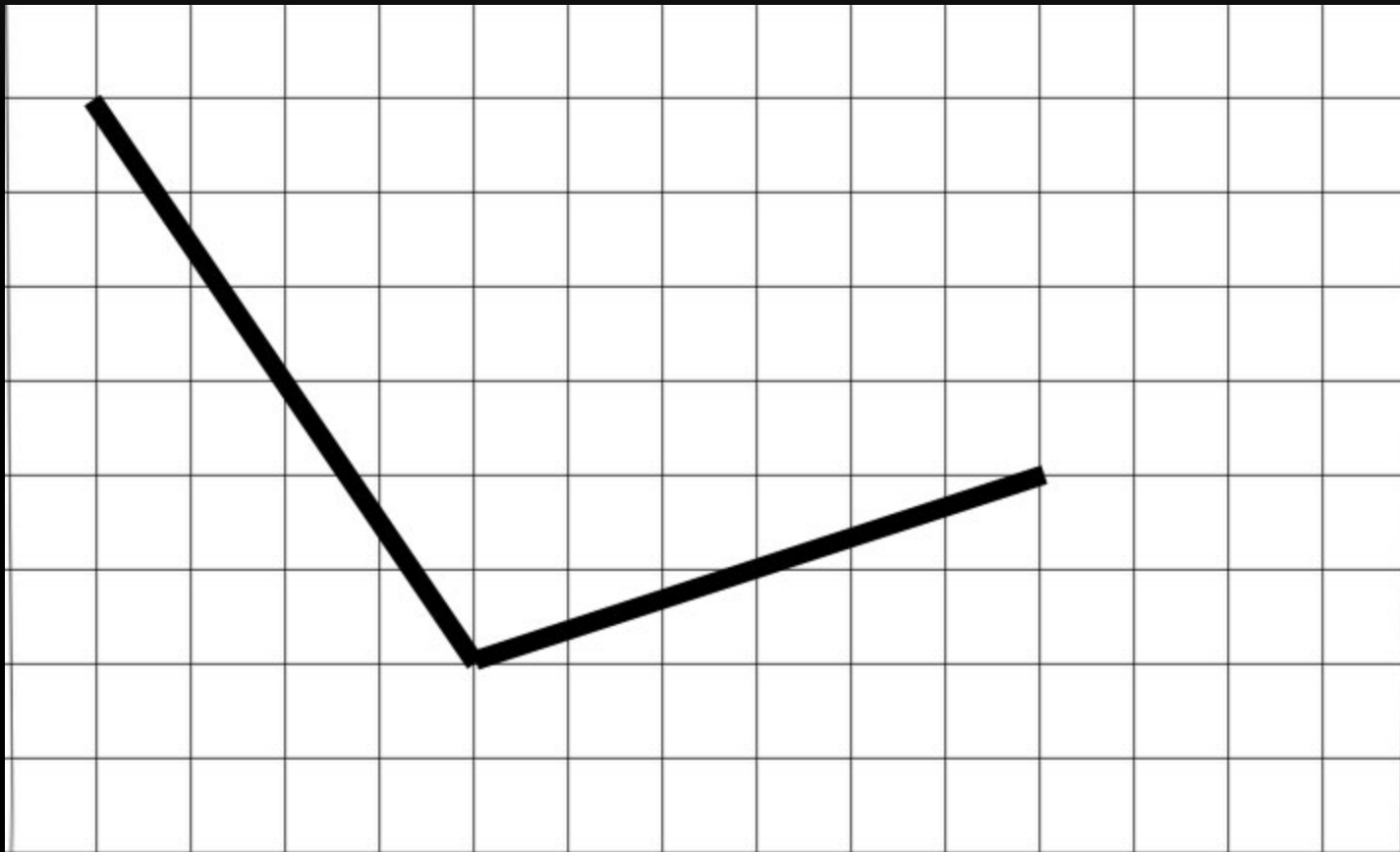
**NATURE**  
THE LIFE OF LINUS PAULING  
[Read Force of Nature, now an e-book!](#)

**LINUS PAULING ONLINE**  
[Click: A portal for all things Pauling](#)

### Archives and Special Collections

[Confessions of a Curator](#)  
[Hanging Together](#)  
[Oregon Multicultural Archives](#)

# Special Collections & Archives Research Center (SCARC): 2011-Present



# SCARC: Context

- Created from a merger of the Special Collections department with the University Archives. (2011)
  - Two departments had existed for a combined total of 75 years, and had developed own specific cultures, despite doing similar types of work.
- SCARC Staffing:
  - Ten faculty and professional staff
  - 4+ FTE student staff
- More than 1,200 archival collections
- Five major collecting areas: OSU History, History of Science, Natural Resources in the Pacific Northwest (including Hops and Brewing), Multicultural Communities of Oregon, Rare Books
- More and trickier reference inquiries
- Heavier foot traffic in the reading room

# SCARC: Broad Shifts in Student Duties


- Direct support for individual faculty rather than generalized departmental support
- Support for reference services, rather than majority responsibility
- Shift in focus to arrangement and description (1,200 archival collections vs. a few dozen) and away from digital initiatives (mostly now centralized elsewhere in the library)

# A Diminished Presence of Honors Students in SCARC

- Why?
  - No legacy of hiring from the Honors College for the University Archives
  - But More Importantly: OSU History students actively sought out employment with SCARC
    - “Archives” in the name of the department ➡ struck History students as a more natural organization to seek out when looking for experience (as opposed to “Special Collections”)
    - Economic downturn ➡ students more eager to seek out volunteer opportunities during college years, with hopes of getting a leg up once graduated.
      - As a result, a new hiring model emerged quite unexpectedly: new student assistants hired from the department’s existing pool of student volunteers (mostly History students) as opposed to being recruited from outside of the department.

# Reinvigorating the Connection with the UHC

- The UHC Student Archivist Position(s)
  - Funded equally by the UHC and the Library
    - One position in 2014-15, two in 2015-16
    - Open only to UHC students
  - Requires selected students to present quarterly workshops to UHC students introducing them to SCARC's resources and discussing the practice of archival research
  - Has reopened the UHC recruiting pipeline
  - An excellent opportunity for both UHC and Library donors




The University Honors College &  
Special Collections &  
Archives Research Center

*Partner to Offer the Position of*  
**Student Archivist**

This position represents a collaboration between the University Honors College (UHC) and OSU Libraries' Special Collections & Archives Research Center (SCARC). The UHC and SCARC have a long-standing relationship that has allowed Honors students and faculty to engage in world-class archival resources like the Ava Helen and Linus Pauling Papers. Over the years, many SCARC student employees have come from the UHC, gaining valuable experience in archive description, access and preservation. The UHC remains committed to connecting students to these valuable employment opportunities and to supporting the appointment of a selected student to the prestigious position of Student Archivist.

Additional Information on the program and the application procedure is available at  
[www.oregonstate.edu/dept/honors/SCARC](http://www.oregonstate.edu/dept/honors/SCARC)





# Outcomes for Students

- For Honors Students – a richer experience
  - Many UHC students are not in the humanities and would not otherwise be exposed to the archival enterprise
    - One student actually changed her career path
- For all students – an improved skillset
  - Oral and written communication skills cannot help but be enhanced
  - Often will have a tangible product to show for their work
- The case of the Library Awards survey



## Office Manager

Oregon State Libraries - Special Collections  
October 2002 – June 2006 (3 years 9 months)

## Research & Cataloguing Staff

Linus Pauling Special Collections  
December 2004 – May 2006 (1 year 6 months) | Corvallis, Oregon Area

## Archivist

OSU Special Collections and Archives Research Center  
September 2010 – June 2013 (2 years 10 months) | Corvallis, Oregon Area

Differing interpretations of what they did...

# Thanks!

Chris Petersen

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