

# 2009 GENIUS AWARD RECIPIENTS

*SCIENCE IS EXPLORATION, IT IS QUESTIONING, IT IS THE APPLICATION OF IMAGINATION.*

*Michael White, author of Leonardo: The First Scientist*

Leonardo da Vinci's advances in art, anatomy, engineering, music, architecture, and philosophy have inspired thinkers for centuries. The themes of **inspiration**, **innovation** and **creativity** featured in the upcoming exhibit, **Da Vinci—The Genius**, are deeply compatible with OMSI's ongoing mission to nurture Oregon's dreamers of every age and interest.

In this spirit, we are honored to recognize Oregon's own da Vincis with the Genius Award. This select group is comprised of Oregonians who have made substantial innovative contributions to their respective fields. Their accomplishments inspire all of us to continue our quest of learning, exploration, and discovery.



## KENTON GREGORY, M.D.

Kenton Gregory is one of very few people in the world with both the engineering expertise to develop innovative laser treatment devices and the medical knowledge to apply these devices in treating patients. A cardiologist and engineer, Dr. Gregory is the first person in medical history to treat heart attacks with lasers, using a laser system that he invented. He was also the creator of the HemCon Bandages, an innovative wound dressing that effectively and safely seals wounds and stops bleeding. Director of the Oregon Medical Laser Center at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center, Dr Gregory has established research programs to find new ways to diagnose and treat cancer, to fuse tissues with lasers rather than sutures, and to use biomaterials to replace arteries and other tissues. He is an exceptional example of the Renaissance genius that da Vinci defined.



## MICHAEL CURRY

Michael Curry has achieved an international reputation as a master of puppetry and kinetic theatrical design. He creates iconic, exhilarating, profoundly moving performance experiences for global entertainment brands, such as the Walt Disney Company, Cirque Du Soleil and Universal Studios, as well as many international opera and stage companies. Curry owns and operates Michael Curry Design Inc. The events that he has created—including New York City's epoch 2000 Millennium event and the opening and closing ceremonies of the 1996 and 2002 Olympics—reveal a stunning imagination for our time.

## ANNETTE VON JOUANNE

Annette von Jouanne is inspired by challenges. As a leader of the Wave Energy program at Oregon State University and director of the Wallace Energy Systems & Renewables Facility, von Jouanne is engaged in cutting-edge research on wave energy, and in particular, the Oregon coast as one of the most promising areas in the country to harness this power. The potential is huge—wave energy packs a wallop compared with wind or solar—but so are the obstacles: the equipment must generate electricity while withstanding the marine environment in general and Oregon's monstrous winter ocean surges in particular, all without damaging the environment. How can it work? It's the kind of question that inspires von Jouanne and is reminiscent of da Vinci who asked questions about everything.



## WILLIAM YUAN

William Yuan is a thirteen-year-old Beaverton student and creator of a new kind of 3-D solar cell that works for visible and ultraviolet light. In 2008, he was awarded a \$25,000 fellowship from the Davidson Institute for Talent Development for his innovative research. Yuan's involvement in the First LEGO League (FLL), an international program designed to get kids excited about science and technology, sparked his research in renewable energy and nanotechnology. During his FLL research and community outreach, he realized the importance of renewable energy for future generations and began to focus on solar cells. Like a modern-day da Vinci, he is passionate about science and technology because he believes these areas hold the keys to the future.