

## Gargoyles for Computer Science

Two twentieth-century mathematicians have been immortalized as gargoyles on the campus of the University of Oregon.

In keeping with the state of Oregon's "One Percent for Art Initiative," planners of a new science complex at the University sponsored a national competition for architecturally integrated art. Winning artists included Wayne Chabre, of Milton-Freewater, Oregon, whose specialities include copper gargoyles. Chabre's proposal allowed building users to choose the subjects of the gargoyles.

For Deschutes Hall, the new home of the Department of Computer and Information Science, the faculty requested images of two of the principal contributors to the foundation of the discipline, John von Neumann and Alan Turing.

Chabre spent some months researching the subjects, reading biographies and materials accessible to a layman and, with the help of faculty, gathering photographs from public and private sources.

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**Gargoyles representing Alan Turing and John von Neumann adorn the southern facade of Deschutes Hall, new home of the University of Oregon Department of Computer and Information Science. Gargoyle artist is Wayne Chabre of Milton-Freewater, Oregon.**

Readers of the *Mathematical Intelligencer* may be interested in some of the artist's remarks on the subjects:

Von Neumann gave me trouble as far as portraits are concerned. I was looking at pictures of him as an older man. His face is not distinguished but radiates a mischievousness. I wanted that but don't think I quite got it. I probably spent an extra week hammering his head this way and that. But, if you thought too much about what's involved in a portrait, you wouldn't even attempt it.

I saw Turing as kind of opposite of Von Neumann. Not social, not wealthy, not as influential in his lifetime; in fact, he had a hard time making himself understood. But, though I am certainly not a computer scientist, Turing seemed to have had much more of a vision to communicate. As a result, I identified closely with Turing. He went easily.

The gargoyles are made of hammered copper sheet and are each about three feet high. The University of Oregon is located in Eugene, Oregon.

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