

Social work opportunities earn college credit

Program focuses on kids, 'oldsters,' penal system

By DINA MILES
Of the Emerald

Helping others is important to many students, and a new program at the University allows students with many interests to gain practical helping experience and earn college credit.

The program is called University Year for Action (UYA) and is a grant program funded by the federal government through the School of Community Service and Public Affairs (CSPA). The federal ACTION agency which funds UYA also sponsors VISTA, ACE, SCORE, RSVP, Peace Corps and Foster Grandparents.

By providing work-placement for students in underdeveloped projects and poverty areas, the UYA program aims to satisfy two objectives: to put university students to work in helping problems of the poor and to "assist universities in experience-based learning."

UYA began last April in Oregon with the placement of 19 students and by late June, 20 more students had been added. Currently the program exists only at the University of Oregon, although UYA programs have been developed in other colleges in other states.

Students who participate in the program are placed for 12 months in some type of Lane County community service agency and work four days each week. Coordinators of the program expect the students to center their activities primarily on developing and planning new social projects, or expanding existing services, especially in the areas of children and youth, the elderly and corrections.

The UYA program provides comprehensive health benefits for student volunteers and stipends of \$200 per month.

Nancy Wolfe, a University senior, is currently involved in the program. After working for many months with social helping pro-

grams in Kansas before coming to Oregon, Wolfe wanted to continue her interests in social work. Through UYA, she now spends four days each week at one of three Lane County Youth Centers, which serve as temporary homes for teens.

She spends most of her working time talking with students and teachers about problems in classes or the students' personal needs, checking attendance, and planning schedules for new girls at the center.

"Right now I'm helping the girls work on sewing projects," she said, but added that she also does "whatever needs to be done" at the school-home, which can accommodate eight girls but which currently houses five.

As part of the program, Wolfe's short-term placement position will eventually become integrated into the school's regular personnel, thus providing a permanent job for a new student when her placement ends next June.

Wolfe said she wanted to join the program because she "really wanted to stay in the field — plus I needed the field experience credits. I like it. I've gotten to know a lot about Eugene's social services."

Although the program is funded through CSPA, students who work in UYA need not be CSPA majors, says Bob Morgan, graduate teaching assistant in charge of UYA recruitment. Any student interested may apply for a placement during spring term. The UYA program seeks to place about 38 students this spring and 12 more this summer.

Most students are placed in groups of three to five although single placements are available. Opportunities for UYA work include the Head Start program, the Lane County Jail and the Lane County Mental Health Department. Other students may work in such areas as Parks and Recrea-



Photo by Tonya Houg

Nancy Wolfe, left, shows a friend how to sew as part of her involvement in the University Year Action (UYA) Program. Students in UYA develop and plan new social projects for children, senior citizens and penal systems.

tion or in housing development.

Morgan said the program is open primarily to junior students, who will then be interviewed and screened on such criteria as motivation, maturity and demonstrated skills. Past experience is helpful, though not required.

Students receive 6 hours of credit each term for the field experience and 3 hours credit for a seminar in theory-practice integration in the program. In addition, a 3-hour seminar is required each term which the student will take according to his particular interest and program area. Some students may also do independent study which they have arranged with a faculty member in their program area and receive up to 3 hours credit.

The deadline is Jan. 25 for re-

turning UYA applications, which can be obtained at the Hendricks Hall reception desk. The application and attached reference form must be completed and returned

to Anita Runyan, program director. Students will be contacted later for an interview.

Further information is available by calling 686-3813.

Class given time to 'age'

John Q. Student registered for an anthropology class. It sounded interesting enough — Multicultural Perspectives in Aging, dealing with the social, psychological and cultural facets of aging.

However, he learned only an hour before the first meeting last week that the class was cancelled by the University's Affirmative action office. On Monday, the class was offered again after Myra Willard, University Affirmative Action

director reversed her prior decision to cancel the class.

The course was originally cancelled because the procedure through which its instructor, James Bellis, was chosen failed to comply with Affirmative Action guidelines.

According to those guidelines, course instructors are to be selected from a pool of qualified applicants. The anthropology department failed to utilize such a pool in hiring Bellis, Willard said,

and she therefore cancelled the class.

But when students in the class launched a protest to reinstitute the course, claiming its last minute cancellation violated their rights, Willard agreed to reverse her decision. "It's unfair to penalize the students," for errors committed by the anthropology department, she explained, adding that University Pres. William Boyd will send a letter of reprimand to the anthropology department for the mistake.

EMU Food Service FACULTY CLUB

Weekly menu
will be posted
in the
Faculty Club

Coffee hours:
9 a.m.-11 a.m.
1:30 p.m.-4 p.m.
Lunch served:
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.





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