

University has more to offer than wages

By Alfred Gross
Of the Emerald

In spite of the University's well known funding difficulties, professors continue to enjoy working here and often turn down outside offers in favor of staying.

"The main reason it's worthwhile to remain at the University is because I believe in the integrity of the central administration," says Celeste Ulrich, dean of the human development and performance department. "Most of us don't believe the state of Oregon will allow the University to disintegrate."

Prof. Robyn Dawes, head of the psychology department, agrees.

"I think the University has been run on a very ethical basis," Dawes says. "There's a sensitivity to real needs as opposed to political pressures." One reason Dawes came here was a larger than average salary, and though there have been opportunities to leave, he chooses to stay here because he likes the people.

"I came for the money," says Prof. C. Bennett Pascal, of the classics department. "My real attachment is to the community of Eugene. I find that in Eugene there is not the great gap between town and gown there is in some isolated college towns."

"It's a good community to raise a family," says Prof. Glenn May, history. "There's a modicum of cultural life that all academics would appreciate." The offers May has turned down came from cities that he didn't believe

were right for a family.

"In my own department and institute there are some ideal colleagues — they're outstanding both scientifically and personally," says Prof. Aaron Novick, who started the Institute of Molecular Biology 25 years ago and will be retiring at the end of this year. "The insidious thing is the replacement problem. Without adequate funding we won't be able to bring in young people as older people leave," Novick says.

"I wouldn't want to work any place else," says Prof.

"I love the country, and I love it every weekend out in the mountains. I came here at a financial sacrifice, and I've turned down many offers at more prestigious institutions."

— Economics Prof. Raymond Mikesell

Raymond Mikesell, economics. "I wish we had more money, of course, but I'm amazed, considering the salaries we pay, how good a department we have."

The natural environment is another reason that he and many others enjoy working at the University. "I love the country, and I love it every weekend out in the mountains. I came here at a financial sacrifice, and I've

turned down many offers at more prestigious institutions," Mikesell says.

"I like the trees and mountains and skiing and being close to the ocean," says Prof. Christopher James, finance. He likes being in a town in which "the University is an important influence, but not a dominant one."

"The positive thing is the support that the administration has been giving our department," says computer science Prof. Stephen Fickas, who came here because he wanted a non-California lifestyle. "The state has gotten on a high-tech kick, so they're starting to support us. My morale is high and I think the rest of the department is."

Though funding and salaries are "rock bottom," says Prof. Glen Love, English, he finds the Eugene area "a great place to live and bring up kids and go fishing and running." A lot is owed to Pres. Olum for his leadership, Love says.

"I like the West Coast," says Pres. Paul Olum, originally an "Easterner." "The reason I chose to come here is partly my liking for the West Coast, partly that Oregon is such a nice place."

The faculty's turnover rate "has been very low," Olum says. "We've lost some people, but I don't know that we've lost any more than would be normal."

Most people who are here really like it, however, he says. "They're counting on the budget situation turning around. My great worry is that, if that doesn't happen, there could be a time when people would give up."



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