

Computer conference marks the University's 'leading edge'

By Diana Elliott
Of the Emerald

More than 2,000 people, including 500 University students, are expected to attend the third annual Pacific Northwest Computer Graphics Conference at the Eugene Hilton Monday and Tuesday, according to Paul Katz, conference manager.

The conference, hosted by the University Continuation Center, is the largest of its kind in the region.

And hosting such an extensive seminar in Eugene is good for the University, Katz says.

"First of all, the information disseminated is valuable to students, professors and professionals within the community," Katz says.

Ten University departments, from architecture to biology, are currently using computer graphics programs, according to Katz. And he believes that computer graphics soon will be infiltrating into other departments as well.

Aside from the educational aspects of the conference, Katz says that the seminar is good for University public relations.

"It lets the region know that the University of Oregon is on the leading edge of the computer graphics industry," Katz says. "It shows that we're ready to be involved, ready to do research, and ready to work computers into our system."

But the conference is by no means just for members of the University. Last year it attracted

950 people from around the world representing fields such as landscape architecture, graphic design, medicine, the sciences, land planning, computer-aided manufacturing, cartography, business and communications.

The purpose of the conference is to provide opportunities to exchange information, discuss applications and

computer graphics applications, as well as several 90-minute workshops each afternoon.

Among the workshop speakers will be Art Paradis, president of Dynamic Graphics, Inc., Berkeley, Calif., who will discuss interactive surface modeling.

James Alexander, who is a software engineer at the Tektronix Computer Research Lab in Portland, will explore the development of "Small Talk" language systems. And Kenneth O'Connell, head of the University's fine arts department, will demonstrate and discuss opportunities for graphic arts in microcomputing.

In addition to the presentations and workshops, there will be an exhibition of non-commercial computer graphics works, including drawings, photographs, slides and video/disc shows, at the convention center.

Also, graphics manufacturers, designers and consultants will demonstrate the latest computer graphics hardware and software at an extensive trade exposition in the convention center.

Non-registrants are invited to tour the non-commercial exhibit at no cost. There will, however, be a \$3 admission fee to the trade exposition and a \$5 admission fee to Monday evening's film and video show. For information call the Continuation Center at 686-4231.

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—Paul Katz

identify potentials for sharing resources, says Gene Bressler, University landscape architecture professor and conference chair.

"The University of Oregon is committed to the support and enhancement of scholarly and applied work in the development of computer graphics," Bressler says. "This year's conference is one of many programs intended to encourage advancement of high technologies in various fields in Oregon."

The conference will include presentations by six leaders in

Foreign friends just next door

By Julie Freeman
Of the Emerald

Students at the University can have an "international experience" without ever leaving the country, or even Eugene for that matter.

The American English Institute is sponsoring an International Friendship Program, which matches a University student and a foreign student in the AEI, for the term.

"The goal of the whole program is to let each person have an international experience at home," says Kim Bott, student coordinator.

The program has been in existence for less than a year, but has provided an excellent opportunity for foreign as well as American students to learn about different cultures, says Jackie Uhler, faculty adviser for the AEI.

The AEI is an intensive English language training program for foreign students who come to learn English or simply improve their English skills, and possibly go on to the University or other academic institutions in this country.

"The Friendship Program is a great opportunity for all kinds of students, especially those involved in any kind of international studies," Bott says.

This term Bott hopes to match 25 to 30 American students with AEI students who come

primarily from Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

Orientation meetings were held earlier this week to allow students to indicate any specific interests they have or what country they would like to learn about to help in the matching process.

"After the match-up, we encourage the new friends to spend time together once or twice a week just doing things like visiting the art museum, going for a walk on campus or talking," Bott says.

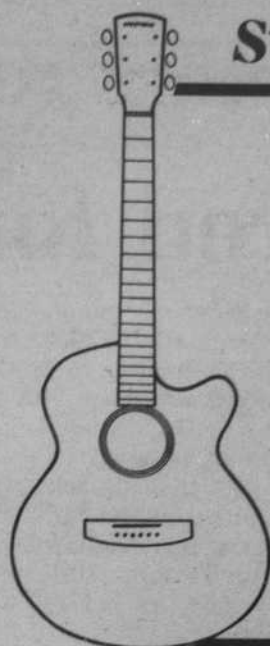
There are also plans for AEI-sponsored activities such as dances and trips during the term.

"Our foreign students really want to meet American students, but don't always know how to," says Uhler, who points out that AEI students are somewhat isolated because they don't have classes with other University students.

But, Uhler says, everyone involved in this type of program benefits from it.

"There seems to be an increasing awareness of the importance of cross-cultural communication and understanding in society today," she says.

Although the orientation meetings have already taken place, student volunteers are needed throughout the year. Interested students should contact the AEI at 686-3945.



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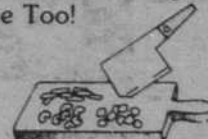
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