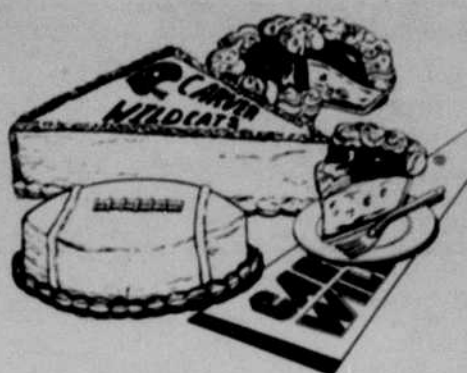


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Gerontology grows up at UO

By Bryan Houston
Emerald Contributor

Of all that she has seen in eight years as director of the University's Center for Gerontology, the one thing that impresses Jeanne Bader the most is the students.

"I'm proudest of our students. They're extremely committed, and they know why they're here," Bader said.

The center, which just turned 20, has both a rich and impressive history.

When it opened, the center was the first academic gerontology program in the Northwest and was among the first of its kind to receive federal support.

The center contributed to the establishment of parallel programs at Portland State University and Oregon State University. Originally, the three centers were to operate together, but they wound up complementing one another instead.

The University's center maintains the largest library collection on gerontology within 1,000 miles, according to Bader.

The original purpose of the center was to provide training and promote academic research in the field of aging. But two years ago, it's directors moved toward a formal decision to do more in-house research.

"The center always had an applied orientation," Bader said.

Now it provides an undergraduate degree, an undergraduate certificate, and several master's programs that graduate students can take advantage of. The academic program became official in 1978.

"We also have a very high ratio of doctoral dissertations compared to the number of doctoral students at the University," Bader said.

The gerontology center's alumni include two of Oregon's

congressmen, Rep. Ron Wyden and Rep. Peter DeFazio, as well as individuals serving in the Lane County government.

As well, many students who have graduated from the center are involved in senior citizen services, meal programs and law services for the elderly, Bader said.

"Seventy percent of our graduates remain in the field of aging," she said.

Most of the organization of the center is attributed to its founders, Dr. Saul Toobert and his wife, Dr. Frances Scott.

The direction for the opening of the center came from former University President Arthur Flemming, who later became the U.S. Commissioner on Aging. When the center opened in 1967, Flemming created a campus-wide executive committee for the center. Its purpose now is to monitor other gerontology programs in the area.

For the first 15 years the center gained almost all of its funding from the federal government. During this period, between 1968 and 1982, the center's staff was composed of six faculty members. When the federal support was cut off in the 1981-1982 legislative biennium, funds for training were eliminated.

Since about 1982, the center has been state-supported through the regular-line University budget.

In addition to full-time faculty members, the center employs Delpha Camp as director of the its Widowed and Family Grief Counseling Program. This program provides counseling for grieving men, women and children.

Volunteers compose the majority of the staff.

The center is a campus-wide program, Bader said. Its voluntary faculty includes educators

from 20 departments on campus.

In addition to teaching courses at the center, faculty members are encouraged to enroll in one called "Perspectives." This night class helps adult children of older parents deal with that situation.

Bader said 58 faculty members are taking the course, about twice as many as usual.

A large portion of the faculty are becoming interested in aging, she said.

The most important course the center offers to students is "Perspectives in Aging 380," Bader said.

Another course, "Confrontations of Death," is an internationally famous course about developing one's own feelings toward the subject of death. It is offered Winter term.

"Confrontations" is one of the most popular courses offered by the center, Bader continued.

Another course that has been discontinued paired students with elderly persons to help the students gain a psychological insight into aging. Bader said the center still gets calls from elderly persons asking if they might someday reinstate this course in the curriculum.

The center's success stems from its library collection and its innovative courses, as well as its service to the state, she added.

"We are now very big in research on aging here at the University, and we will stay that way," she said.

The center will sponsor a faculty conference in January on adult development, addressing the fears of death and how to combat them.

The center's staff also will publish a journal featuring articles from the faculty and alumni on aging.

Veil Continued from Page 4

paper on which he is an assistant managing editor.

"I have trouble with that," Ponder said. "Not only is he withholding information from his newspaper, but also from

the Iran-Contra committee. That information could have been used as verification for some of the things being said there."

Woodward has said that he and the other Washington Post editors decided to withhold publication of Woodward's hospital interview with Casey because it was "too ambiguous."

Another concern of the professors was the use of anonymous sources. Woodward relied heavily on information from unnamed officials.

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