



Photo by Andre Kanieri

The ROTC program has given many students an opportunity to attend the University and learn valuable leadership skills.

ROTC work just begins

Program gives students a viable option

By Lisa Christensen
Emerald Contributor

While other University students are recuperating from stressful finals, ROTC student Meredith Fox will be spending the next six weeks training and taking classes.

Fox, an interior architecture major from Portland, will participate in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps Advance Camp this summer. The camp allows students to apply leadership skills learned in the classroom in a practical situation.

Currently, there are 60 students in the University's ROTC program. ROTC students represent all class levels and include a wide variety of majors.

Lt. Col. James Hinton, head of the military sciences program, said ROTC was established at the University in 1919. The ROTC program has

remained active ever since, except for a period during World War II when officers were needed to serve in the war.

ROTC was established to provide the Army with college-educated officers. During the first two years of the program, freshmen and sophomores take military science classes designed to teach "basic leadership and ... an idea of where the military fits into society," Hinton said.

Military science classes are open to anyone, regardless of whether they are in the ROTC program. Even if students choose not to continue with the program, these classes make them informed citizens, Hinton said.

Military science classes are structured much the same as other classes, but they "spend a lot of time studying leadership. The subject matter is completely different than other

classes," Fox said.

"You do the basic format and structure of the U.S. Army; map reading, tactics, military history," Fox said.

Until their junior year, students in the program make no formal commitment to the Army.

Hinton said the dropout rate in the program is low, but the ROTC program has low numbers of students to start with. Most of the students who begin the program stay with it because they feel committed to it.

But in the third year of the program, interested students may enter the commission program and begin taking the advanced courses. These courses tend to be more involved with leadership, military applications and tactics.

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BRAND

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both himself and the University have been achieved.

"This year has been a transition year, a transition that was difficult and time consuming," he said. "We are entering a new decade for higher education and need to be in the forefront."

Brand said he is pleased with the progress that has been made on the affirmative action front, and that the University now has better relations with alumni and private donors.

Improving relations with the Oregon Legislature and faculty salaries are two areas of concern that Brand will focus on in the future.

"We are at a turning and critical point," Brand said. "The fruition of the planning process that will position the University

in the future."

Brand said \$5 million conditionally granted to the State System of Higher Education to help pay faculty salaries is an important first step toward solving the salary problem plaguing the University.

The \$5 million will enable the University to keep up with the yearly inflation rate.

"We need to be able to make progress, but this far all that we need," he said.

Brand said the only way to really approach to problem is through a \$60 million package covering two years that would bring faculty salaries to a level comparable to the mean for salaries across the nation.

"If we get near the mean we can excel," Brand said.

He said other qualities of the University will make up for the lower salaries if the University gets near the average faculty salary.



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