

Researchers mapping state

□ Geography department documents Oregon for U.S. survey

By Sarah Clark
Emerald Reporter

About 55,000 significant geographic names exist in Oregon — including those of lakes, towns, mountains and campgrounds — and members of the University geography department are documenting each one for the U.S. government.

University researchers are analyzing nearly 2,000 topographical maps of Oregon, entering every place's name, latitude, longitude, township and other location information into a computer program designed by the U.S. Geological Survey.

"This project is not a field-work project," said geography Professor Bill Loy, who oversees the project. "But we have such a fine collection of maps here in Condon Hall that it's really a good place to work."

When completed, the results will become part of a giant national computerized database of place names called the Geographic Names Information System.

The national manager of the GNIS project, Roger Payne, is visiting the University today to look over the geography department's work.

Payne will deliver a free public lecture from 4 to 5 p.m. in Room 106 Condon about geographic research using the GNIS. Refreshments will be served at 3:30 p.m. in Room 108 Condon.

The geography department is working with the Oregon Historical Society in Portland to get the genealogy of Oregon's places. Consequently, the GNIS will contain names of present locations, and locations that no longer exist.

The geography department has been working on the project since 1984. The U.S. government asked each state to participate in the task after the U.S. Geological Survey tried to document the entire country by themselves. The University won the bid for the job.

The geography department is not receiving payment for the work, Loy said. However, he said the department has an agreement with the Oregon Historical Society to compensate work-study students and researchers.

Geography research assistant David Marentette, four geography undergraduates and one volunteer from Springfield are hoping to finish the task by fall 1993.

Rome Poracsky, a senior geography major working on the project, said the project is worth the effort put into it.

"Us slaving over our desks for two hours a day will make so many more people's lives enjoyable in the future," Poracsky said. "Oregon is such a diverse state geographically. There are so many places people don't know about."

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— Rome Poracsky,
senior geography major



Charlotte Winter, a second-year graduate student in industrial relations, studies in the Chiles Center.

Photo by Dylan Coulter

Grad students hope to see payoff

□ Tuition increase has caused decrease in school's graduate students

By Tammy Batey
Emerald Associate Editor

Gita Joshua, a University doctoral student, said she's earning an advanced degree in French because of her thirst for knowledge.

"I'm just doing it for myself," said the 26-year-old Joshua. "I just thought I had it in me."

In contrast, Scott Hanley, 30, a doctoral student studying American history, said he needs an advanced degree to get a job as a university professor.

"There are enough Ph.D.s out there," Hanley said. "They're not so scarce that the universities need to be taking people with just a bachelor's in history."

Joshua and Hanley have different motivations for attending graduate school. However, they say they believe the extra five or more years they have devoted to earning their Ph.D.s will pay off once they enter the job market.

More people are earning graduate degrees nationally because bachelor's degrees don't mean as much to employers as they used to, said Steadman Upham, University Graduate School dean.

Upham said he calls this trend "degree inflation." More people are getting bachelor's degrees now, so students must distinguish themselves in some way, he said.

Whether students need to earn graduate degrees depends on their field and the position they hope to attain, University department heads and Oregon business lead-

ers say.

Students must get a master's degree to set themselves apart from other applicants, Upham said. In the sciences and social sciences, students must get doctoral degrees because those fields focus on research.

More national students are completing graduate degrees, but fewer students are completing them at the University, Upham said. The number of graduate students at the University has dropped by about 500 from two years ago.

Upham said he attributes this decrease in graduate students to increasing tuition costs caused by 1990's Ballot Measure 5. Upham also said students are taking longer to complete their advanced degrees because they must work to support themselves through school.

In some situations, students are better off spending a few years gaining some experience in the field and postponing graduate school, said Larry Smith, Career Planning and Placement Service director.

"Many students at the UO clearly have graduate programs in mind, but many of them are not clear about which program meets their needs," Smith said, "so the solution is to think about it a year or two. It's better to head into a graduate program pretty clear about what you want to do when you get done."

Different companies require employees with different degree levels. Students need to have a clear idea of what degree level the company requires employees to have "so they're not surprised when the program doesn't take them where they need to go," Smith said.

Dennis Hopwood, Spectra Physics Scanning Systems vice president of human resources, said most of the

Turn to DEGREES, Page 5

WEATHER

Today will bring showery skies with a chance of partial clearing throughout the day. Highs will be near 50.

Today in History

In 1969, Apollo 12 astronauts Charles Conrad and Alan Bean made the second landing on the moon.



MAN JAILED, ANIMALS FREED

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Animal-rights activists are protesting the jailing of an Oregon man who refused to testify before a grand jury investigation about a break-in at an animal-research lab.

About seven people demonstrated outside the Spokane County Courthouse on Tuesday to protest the jailing of Jonathan Paul on contempt-of-court charges Nov. 3.

Paul was ordered jailed by U.S. District Judge Frem Nielsen when the Portland resident refused to testify before a federal grand jury investigation about a break-in at a Washington State University animal research laboratories.

SPORTS

SEATTLE (AP) — Quarterback Mark Brunell of the No. 5 Washington Huskies has his own way of remembering Billy Joe Hobert.

Brunell will have Hobert's old number, "12" written on his right sock for his team's final two games, the Apple Cup and the Rose Bowl.

"Billy Joe has been a very important part of this team, and we'd sure like to have him out there with us," Brunell said. "He's a good friend, too."

Hobert won't be playing Saturday against Washington State in Pullman because the Huskies ruled he was ineligible for obtaining \$50,000 in personal loans in violation of the NCAA.