

IN TOUCH with Recycling

Coordinator operates on recycling energy

Jon Davis is one of hundreds of employees at the University Physical Plant, but his job is one of singular distinction.

His title of service operation coordinator does not begin to describe the amount of time, responsibility and devotion involved in paper recycling for the entire University campus.

Oregon Daily Emerald: How did you come to work with the University? Did you create your own job like Karyn Kaplan (Recycling Education Promotion Coordinator) did?

Jon Davis: Well, in essence I did. I was fortunate to be in contact with a company at the right time that was approached for bidding on a contract to do paper recycling for the UO. I was the person that implemented the program that company bid on to receive the contract to do the recycling.

Unfortunately, we had to depend on the market value of the paper resources and shortly after the contract was won the markets fell to an all-time low. It was then determined that that company would have to back out of the contract.

When I saw this was going to happen I thought of everything I possibly could to continue the program with the University. I concluded that, compared to any of the previous recycling programs that I was given any information on, this one was much more substantial, even though there were a minimum of resources to do it. The more I tapped in to the way people across the campus felt about it, the more I was encouraged to pursue it.

So Karyn and I worked closely together to do a formal survey that stated, among other things, that people wanted to have a substantial recycling program for collecting paper across campus. That gave us a lot of ammunition to go to administrative levels. As time went on, Karyn presented acceptable logic for continuing the program in spite



Photo by Anthony Forney
University Service Operation Coordinator Jon Davis said he is inspired by people who want to know more about recycling.

of temporary low markets for paper resources.

ODE: Was all this work done as part of your job at the Physical Plant?

Davis: I was working 40 hours a week at the Physical Plant and doing all this stuff on the sides. I was analyzing the survey and drawing up an analysis report to present to the administrative levels. I did a lot of work at home regarding this, but I was inspired to do it so that was my pay for it.

ODE: How long have you been involved in recycling in general?

Davis: I can remember as early as two or three years out of high school living in San Antonio,

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