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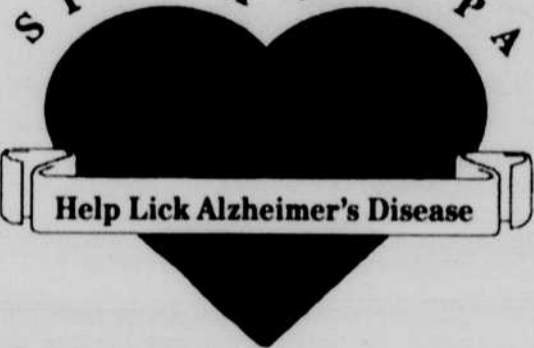
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# Conference aids student unions

By Jenny Beaumont  
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

While most students were seasoning their Halloween traditions in Eugene around the University campus, a small group of students, staff and faculty got a taste of the holiday in Ashland on the Southern Oregon State College campus.

The Association of College Unions-International Region 14 had its annual conference at the college last weekend. The weekend consisted of student, staff and faculty presentations on topics ranging from community service to strategy planning and from goal setting to parliamentary procedures.

In addition, participants were offered a smorgasbord of showcase entertainment. Musicians, comedians and performance artists accented the relaxed atmosphere of the event and were available to speak with attendees and offer promotional material to student programmers.

Founded in 1914, the ACU-I is an opportunity for student unions to gather for studying and improving their organizations, services, programs, facilities and personnel, and assisting in the development of new college unions. More than 900 universities and colleges of all sizes and scopes from around the world are members of the association.

Region 14 currently consists of members from the states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington, as well as the Canadian provinces of Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan. The conference fees are comparably inexpensive and all ASUO organizations and EMU programs are encouraged to attend.

"It's always valuable to meet people who do what

you do," said Debby Martin, who attended the conference and was a presenter this year. "That's why these conferences exist."

Martin is the program assistant for the EMU Cultural Forum and the Student Activities Resource Office program assistant.

The theme of the weekend was "Bridging the gap between fantasy and reality." Keynote speeches about setting and achieving goals, challenging ideas and traditions, and looking toward the future emphasized this theme.

Many specialized conferences exist for programmers in the fields of music and performing arts, club sports and recreation, and computer applications, as well as for people active in student government or management. The ACU-I stands out as the central organization for union members, incorporating all of the specialized fields.

Committee affairs have always incorporated the educational and recreational aspects at both the regional and international level, but past decades have included lesbian, gay and bisexual issues, women's concerns, multi-ethnic and arts-related programming.

Each year the presentations evolve as new members participate, new issues arise, or old ones need revival.

New aspects of the conference have been incorporated as well. Along with the ever-popular College Bowl, there is now a video contest addressing academia and the environment and a visual arts contest giving students a chance to show off their promotional and publicity materials.

"You're dealing with making an experience," Geltner said.

## NATIVE

Continued from Page 1

Robert Easton, co-author of the book, *Native American Architecture*. This text is also used for the University's course.

Roth reasoned that there were several possibilities why a course had not been offered before at the University.

"One, we're dealing with a lack of appreciation for Native American cultures that has unfortunately always existed regarding recording tribal histories and architecture use," he said. "In the past 40 years, research has only begun to scratch the surface concerning how much information there is to find out about American Indian buildings and community lifestyles. It's a complex process of gathering materials in the last few decades at university departments across the nation."

Roth has been extensively researching American Indian building traditions and cultures

since the early 1970s. The second edition of his book, *A Concise History of American Architecture*, will include 10 chapters of the histories involved with Native American architecture buildings.

"I really enjoyed the class," said Nick Yamodis, a 22-year-old senior undergraduate in architecture. "This was the first course that exposed me to all the U.S. regions in which Indian tribes existed."

Several students also commented on the respect for the land and environment American Indian communities traditionally have, both in the past and present.

"Most American Indian cultures did not regard land or materials to destroy or take advantage, they had a utilization process that cannot be found anywhere in modern architecture construction or land use today, which is really terrible," said Terry McNulty, a graduate student in architecture who took the course. "Many

American Indian structures, even now, reveal conventional art, history, mysticism and spirituality like no other culture I've learned of," he said.

Additional keynote speakers and possible travel trips will be included in the course. Also, students have the option to build models selecting the particular era, region and tribe while using as close to natural materials available for construction that American Indians would have utilized.

"If there is one thing I hope all students may learn taking this course, I hope it would be that there are only a few common characteristics among tribes in any region of the U.S. concerning architecture, and that each tribal heritage has a deep ceremonial, spiritual lifestyle reflected in their shelter and community life," Roth said. "After this course, I hope students may view all types of buildings and residential interrelationships in a different light."



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