

Graduates can remain active within University

By Jennifer Carter
Student Activities Editor

Being an active member of the University community doesn't require being a student.

Through participation in the University Alumni Association, graduates can maintain their ties to the school both socially and professionally.

Kathryn Bedbury, Alumni Association associate executive director, said the organization sponsors a variety of different events in order to meet the needs of alumni who come from populations that differ in age and geography, among other factors. Through these different events, about 14,000 members of the organization serve the University's approximately 130,000 alumni.

"We try to have a diverse slate of alumni events because our alumni are so diverse," she said.

The interests of alumni, like their backgrounds, are also diverse, Bedbury said. Because of this, the association sponsors social events like get-togethers during sports seasons, and professional services, such as its alumni/student mentor program.

University graduates can also participate in new services that the Alumni Association is implementing, such as a career networking program and informational interviews with former Ducks who are active in the desired fields of recent graduates.

Graduates can get involved in these programs through local

chapters of the Alumni Association that are located throughout the country and the rest of the world. These chapters sponsor and implement programs that keep people linked to prospective, current and graduated students, Bedbury said.

"That's what we're here for — to keep alumni involved in the University," she said. "After alumni are gone there's a real desire to stay involved with the University."

Graduates can become members of the Alumni Association at any point in their lives after graduation, she said. Recent new members have included both graduates straight out of the University as well as a member in his 90s who bought a lifetime membership, Bedbury said.

Membership rates vary depending on how soon after graduation people join the Alumni Association. Graduates who buy a one-year membership within a year of their graduation, for example, pay \$25, whereas graduates who buy a one-year membership within three years after graduation pay \$30.

From then on the annual cost of a membership is \$35.

Students who cannot or chose not to buy Alumni Association memberships can still participate in association events, Bedbury said. However, the services they receive are more basic than those that members receive.

Members, for example, are eligible to join a short-term major medical insurance plan called Gradmed.

Grad shares college memory

When I first arrived at the University as a freshman I didn't know a soul, but I found a family in the Oregon Marching Band.

The first two weeks of training flew by, and soon I was ready for my first performance at an Oregon football game.

It was almost time to run onto the field from the entrance tunnels, and the excitement mounted as the drum line slowly marched onto the field. A hush fell over those sur-

rounding me as we waited to begin. Suddenly, we all saw it more than we heard it — the drums had started.

In a rush of adrenaline, I felt myself carried out of the tunnel by the momentum of those around me. We were screaming our heads off as we ran onto the field, and I felt that I would explode with excitement.

It was then that I realized I was proud to be a Duck!

Susan Anderson
1996 Graduate

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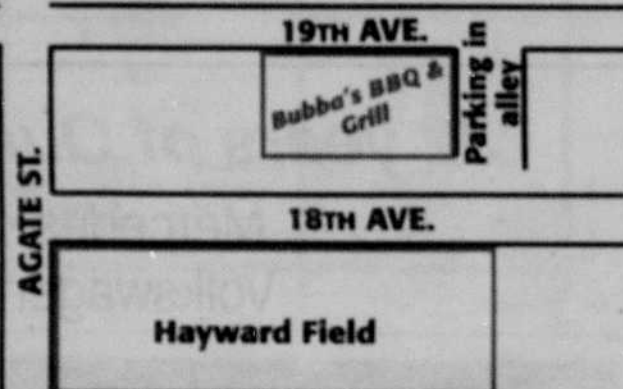
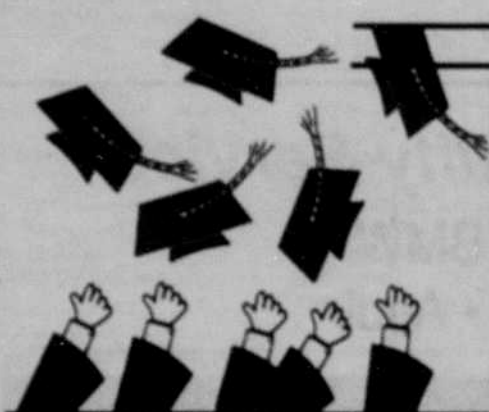
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Anonymous



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