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Students create better environment for local school

■ **PROJECT:** Students of the Design/Build course offered by the University conceive and assemble structures for the community every year

By Andrea DeYoung
 Associate Editor

University architecture students had a chance to apply what they learned in the classroom to a real-life project this summer, while helping a local elementary school.

After going through a Design/Build course at the UO

School of Architecture and Allied Arts, students came up with a plan to help the students at Fox Hollow French School in South Eugene have a better environment to learn about nature and science.

The architecture students are in the process of creating a marshland habitat area and a meadow, and are building walkways and a boardwalk that lead up to a new outdoor shelter and classroom. An irrigation system will be built to help keep the plants alive. When Fox Hollow students and teachers return in the fall, they will plant native vegetation and care for the plants' growth.

The Fox Hollow Parent-Teacher Organization helped raise \$5,000 for the project, and local merchants helped by contributing materials. The University students donated their time and plans for the building of the project.

Each year, the summer design course students work on a project as a community project. In recent years, classes have been part of improvements along the Millrace near the duck pond. Students of the class have built a kiosk and an overlook at Springfield's Millrace Park and a visitors' kiosk and fencing around Dorris Ranch in Springfield.



ANDREA DEYOUNG/EMERALD
 The UO Design/Build class is creating an environmental center, leading to a new outdoor shelter and classroom at a local school.

Promise Keepers: Academic conference is not negative reaction

■ Continued from Page 1

Team leader said some of the Christian group's rhetoric has been anti-gay and anti-women,

In response to these sentiments, various members of the University community have proposed a conference to discuss family values to take place this October.

"I'd like to encourage more academic discourse around family structure, homophobia and sexism," Butler said. Although the planning for the conference is still in the early stages, Butler said she has received positive reactions from the campus community.

"I'm glad the University is supporting us both as people who are interested in creating a conference that would address these problematic issues and as students who feel alienated by parts of what the Promise Keepers represent," she said.

Butler, along with Henry Alley, co-chairman of the faculty committee on lesbian, gay, bisexual concerns, met with Williams last week to discuss the conference. The vice president said he is supportive of bringing such a conference to campus. However, he said his support would not be imperative to the conference's success.

"[My office] doesn't have to approve of these things," he said. "It's not something I have to say 'yes' to in order for it to happen. But it struck me as a real good idea. My role will be to use resources from my organization to work with others to make something happen."

However, the administrative

support of the conference should not be seen as a negative reaction to the Promise Keepers, Williams said.

"I don't think it's accurate to see this as a reaction to something else," he said. "A conference that is organized to serve the issues that come up from the Promise Keeper event is very much what goes on at the University all the time."

The Promise Keeper Action Team originally asked that profits from the Autzen Stadium rental be used to fund the conference. But Williams said he would not allow any of the Promise Keeper revenue, which will go to defray Athletic Department costs, to be designated to the conference.

"We always find ways to pay for things that are important to the University," he said. "But let's not get hung up on the money now. It's like putting the cart before the horse. We'll cross the money bridge when we get to it."

Williams said conference organizers need to work out the logistics of the conference before funding can be determined. Once a budget has been made, financing can begin. Funding can come from a variety of sources, including departmental funds and contributions from student organizations, Williams said.

Although conference specifics have not yet been determined, Butler said it would be inclusive of all levels of academia. In addition to the presentation of papers, the conference will incorporate panel discussions.

Housing: Churches, dorms, families open their doors

■ Continued from Page 1
 approximately 280 Promise Keepers.

"They're just like any other summer conference that we host," says Nick Bacher, summer conference assistant for University Housing. "Compared to football camp, which has 700 residents, there really aren't that many staying [in the residence halls]."

Starting at \$15.50 per person per night for a room without board, the residence halls are providing a cheap alternative to local motels.

Operation Innkeeper officials say Greek houses, such as Sigma Alpha Epsilon have offered to house Promise Keepers by providing room on their sleeping porches at \$25 per person.

"Greek houses were on file as potential lodging space, but they have not been contacted yet," says Elena Fisher, director of Operation Innkeeper.

As the need for housing increases, Fisher says she believes the Greek houses will be utilized.

Churches in the Eugene community are also providing

lodging for the Promise Keepers. Norm Fox, an elder at the Garden Way Church, says they have received more than 100 requests for accommodations. Promise Keepers can sleep on the floor of the church and in tents on church grounds. The church also plans to feed the Promise Keepers breakfast.

"The Promise Keepers usually meet in big cities like Portland or Seattle," he says. Fox also notes that Eugene is possibly the smallest city to ever host a Promise Keeper conference. Because of this, he says they have announced the need for housing to the church congregation. Garden Way congregation members are helping to meet the demand for housing by offering their homes, floors, and backyards for tents and RVs.

Fisher herself is lodging Promise Keepers in her own home.

"I have four bedrooms and a large front yard for RVs," she says. "We thought we were just helping the Promise Keepers, but we're also helping ourselves - it's a wonderful opportunity to give the gift of housing."

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