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Beall Hall celebrates anniversary

■ **MUSIC:** The University hosted a reception for the performance hall

By Kristine Sohnrey
Higher Education Editor

The University celebrated Beall Concert Hall's 75th anniversary Thursday night.

Beall Concert Hall, the only local performance hall for years, was praised for its acoustics and for contributing to development of the arts in Eugene.

"Beall Hall is the pedagogical heart of the School of Music," said Professor Leland Roth.

The hall was built in 1921 with assistance from the Alumni Holding Company and the Board of Regents, who leased the land from the University for the music school, said University Archivist Keith Richards. Ten years later the School of Music became part of the University.

Architect Ellis Lawrence modeled it after the Boston Symphony Hall, Roth said.

The Hall hosts more than 200 performances annually and is



MATHEW STIFFLER/Emerald

Keith Richards, the University archivist, addresses a crowd of approximately 150 people Thursday night for Beall Hall's 75th anniversary.

used daily by the School of Music, said Anne Dhu McLucas, dean of music.

After the speeches, the Chamber Music Series hosted a reception with past photographs and

memorabilia. The Toulouse Chamber Orchestra then performed with flutist Michael Dubost. The Oregon Art Commission proclaimed Beall Hall an Oregon architectural treasure.

Coming Out Week celebration begins

■ **FESTIVITIES:** Rally at noon is just the beginning of this week's activities

By Kristin Bailey
Student Activities Editor

Today, most Americans will walk in and out of their closets deciding what they want to wear. But today also marks the walking out of another kind of closet for thousands of men and women across the country.

It's not clothes lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people will be affirming — it will be their lifestyles.

Today is National Coming Out Day, a day when University students and community members can walk through a closet door in the EMU Courtyard as a symbolic gesture that asserts their sexual identities.

"It's a day that gives people courage," said Christina Thompson, a University student and former events coordinator of the ASUO Lesbian Gay Bisexual Alliance. The celebration will in-

RELATED STORY

■ The office of Student Life offers both support and educational services for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered students/BA

clude drag queens, speakers, music, an open microphone and information tables. A week-long schedule of events has been planned to celebrate National Coming Out Week, beginning today and wrapping up next Friday.

Organizers said the events are meant to give people a welcome place where they can openly express their sexuality.

"In high school, I didn't have a voice," Thompson said. "There was no one there for me to talk to. Here I have a voice, and I want to push it as far as I can. As far as Coming Out Day, it really sets the stage of wanting to be an activist. It gives momentum."

Since coming out, Thompson said her momentum has continued, allowing her to be open with others about her sexuality.

Peter Larson, a University student and LGBTQA volunteer, said he

has also felt the momentum caused by Coming Out Day — a momentum that eventually changed his life.

"Coming Out Day has been important for me because it gives a good context and a good situation to tell people around me," he said. "It's helped me actively sit down and have a talk with people. It was scary at first, but at the same time it was very liberating. It was the hardest thing I've ever had to do, and it was also the most wonderful."

Although Coming Out Day is namely a chance for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered students to be visible, the straight community can also benefit from today's activities, Larson said.

"Coming Out Day is not just an opportunity for gay student to meet other gay students and make contacts," he said. "It can help the straight community to see we're here, and we're students just like they are and we can use their support, too."

The Coming Out Day rally will begin at noon this afternoon.

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