

Fire department honors those at awards ceremony

Fire Chief Bill Bass promoted several department members

By Jesse Sowa
Community Reporter

The Eugene Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department honored citizens and several department members last Friday night in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Following opening comments by Mayor Jim Torrey and City Manager Vicki Elmer, four department members were formally promoted by Fire Chief Bill Bass.

Those promoted were training Officer Taylor Robertson to district chief in charge of logistics; acting training Officer Steve Strain to district chief in charge of training; Deputy Fire Marshal Mike Thrapp to fire marshal; and Lt. Joe

Zaludek to fire training captain.

Faye Forhan was introduced as the new deputy fire marshal assigned to fire prevention. Forhan most recently worked as a safety compliance officer for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and a volunteer firefighter and paramedic.

Chief Bass and Deputy Chief Matt Shuler, the masters of ceremonies, presented awards to the following recipients:

Dawn Baughman and Alisa Riel, registered nurses at Eugene hospitals, received the Citizen Partnership Award for initiating the Cairns Iris fund-raiser, which resulted in three thermal imaging systems being purchased for the Eugene and Springfield fire departments.

The equipment allows firefighters to locate images in dark and smoke-filled rooms and enables them to rescue fire victims and fight fires more efficiently.

Shuler said the equipment includes a helmet-mounted unit with a binocular-type view that lights up according to the amount of heat coming from items in a room.

"It will cut our search time by 75 percent," he said. "It is a

tremendous advancement for us."

Baughman and Riel recruited donors and held fund-raisers to gather the \$75,000 needed to purchase the equipment.

Shuler said Baughman spearheaded the project after she realized no money was budgeted for the high-tech equipment.

"She was unwilling to accept the answer that we didn't have the money in the budget to make that happen," he said. "She wanted this community to have that equipment available."

Three individuals received a Citizen Service Award for their work and generosity in the local community.

For several years, Anna Stadther, the grandmother of a Eugene fire fighter, has collected stuffed bears, cleaned them up, made clothes for them and given them to fire crews to be distributed to children involved in fire or medical emergencies.

Springfield Yamaha, represented by Charles Tofdahl, was honored for providing two wave runners for the Fire and EMS Water Rescue Unit over the past 10 years. Also recognized was Jerry Burtraw, retiring public works fleet supervisor, for his continued work

in providing fleet services for fire and medical vehicles throughout his tenure in public works.

A unit citation was presented to fire crews who freed a Rexius dump truck driver who was pinned by his vehicle on a steep driveway in south Eugene last May.

Shuler said the truck began to roll and the driver, Dennis Barclay, attempted to jump back into the truck to apply the brake. The truck then hit a curb and tipped on its side, pinning Barclay from the waist down.

"The amazing part of all of that was [the rescue] was accomplished within 25 minutes of [the crew] arriving on the scene," Shuler said.

One of Barclay's legs was damaged more than the other, and doctors feared he might lose it. But they were able to save it using muscles from his other leg, Shuler said.

Barclay presented the citation to District Chief Dan Wirth and Fire and EMS members Scott Graham, Dave Westerfield, Mike Orticke, Jess Hartnett, Paul Blanchard, Randy Taylor, John Walls and Joe Hinkley.

Pete Kugler, police community

service officer, received a life-saving award, and Wirth was commended for his continued dedication to the department's Physical Fitness Committee and his efforts in encouraging fitness for all firefighters.

Also receiving commendations were Sharon Eichorn-McCool for her work on the EMS Committee and Roger Garver for dedication to the development of the Hazardous Materials Response Team.

Ted Boss accepted an achievement award for his years of leadership during the department's move to automation.

Six firefighters were given Driver Safety awards acknowledging their skills when operating both fire apparatus and medic units. Those firefighters were Don Belshee, Mike Christensen, Don Miller, Rocky Nightengale, Dan Short and Dan Stoneberg.

Ken Armstrong and Wally St. Julian were presented Meritorious Service awards for continued work on the Toys for Tots campaign each holiday season. A Meritorious Achievement award was given to District Chief Phil Prince, who was recognized for his contributions to the fire service.

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Professor wins book prize for Soviet policy studies

Jane Dawson received the award at a Slavic studies conference

By Teri Meeuwse
Higher Education Reporter

Political science Professor Jane Dawson received the 1997 Marshall Shulman Book Prize for her book, "Eco-Nationalism: Anti-Nuclear Activism and National Identity in Russia, Lithuania and Ukraine," published in 1996.

The American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies and the Harriman Institute of Columbia University awards the Shulman prize annually for an out-

standing monograph on Soviet and post-Soviet policy studies. In addition to the academic honor, Dawson will receive \$1,000 endowed by the Harriman Institute.

Dawson's book received recognition at the Slavic studies association's annual conference in Seattle.

"I originally heard about it in the fall," she said. "They called me up and told me to keep it confidential, but they wanted to make sure I would be at the annual conference."

Dawson's book examines the rise of the anti-nuclear power movement in the former Soviet Union, its unexpected successes in the late 1980s and its decline after

1991. It compares environmental activism in the former Soviet Union and in the Russian Federation, Lithuania, Ukraine and Armenia after the Soviet collapse.

"[The book] makes a contribution to our understanding of Soviet and post-Soviet evolution by illustrating how divergent structures of incentives affect the shape and behavior of political movements," the association's newsletter read. "Eco-Nationalism is theoretically grounded in a way that [people] who do not care very much about what happens to political movements in particular Soviet republics or post-Soviet states will benefit by reading the book."

During her six years of extensive field research, Dawson made numerous three- to six-month visits to the former Soviet Union. Besides visiting with environmental activists, Dawson also visited the nuclear power stations and their directors "to get both sides of the story."

"It was pretty rough," she said. "I had to be in places that people hadn't been in much before."

Dawson was expelled for being an American citizen, for example.

"The KGB threw me out of a town," she said. "It was among the last days of the Soviet Union so the KGB was still around. I had to be very careful."

Campus groups respond to Clinton's annual address

The ASUO and partisan groups expressed varying reactions to the speech

By Tricia Duryee
Community Reporter

President Clinton said he wanted to make sure politics ended at the schoolhouse door during his State of the Union address on Jan. 27.

But inside the University's doors, the ASUO and College Republicans and Democrats had much to say about it.

"I thought it was almost distressing how he talked about last year's accomplishments," said Morgan Cowling of ASUO Federal Campus Relations. "There was no vision towards the future for higher education."

However, Sari Wisch, co-chair of the College Democrats, didn't see a lack of vision. "Personally, I think it was a well-thought-out speech, which showed his commitment to the country."

Clinton spoke of making the first two years of college available

with HOPE scholarship credits, expanding college opportunity with tuition tax credits and making the largest increase in Pell Grants in 20 years.

However, Cowling said she wanted to hear more specifics and that Clinton was just repeating what he had already accomplished last year. "I want him to show a plan of attack for reauthorization. It was a perfect time to address these issues because it is coming up in Congress this year."

But Melissa Watson, ASUO Federal Affairs coordinator, wasn't going to give up hope. "One thing that is important is to get the actual budget that came out [Monday] to see the actual funding levels. So even though there is lack of vision, it won't reflect [in the budget]."

The ASUO's current federal agenda is to pressure Oregon representatives in Washington D.C. to reauthorize the Higher Education Act of 1965.

Included on their agenda is supporting grant funding, simplifying student loan programs and

strengthening financial aid and work study programs.

Recently, the ASUO met with Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., and Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., to address these concerns. "They were very open to our suggestions. They took fast and furious notes," Watson said. "They don't want to hear from administrators; they want to hear from the students affected."

To make an impact, the ASUO is collecting signatures on postcards stating that the signer is in support of the higher education goals. "Two hundred fifty were signed in three or four hours. That shows how important it is to the students," Cowling said.

Later this week, the ASUO will continue to collect signatures on the yellow cards, which will be taken to Washington D.C. on March 20 for National Student Lobby Day. "We are going to dump them on Wyden's, DeFazio's and [Sen. Gordon Smith's, R-Ore.,] desks," Watson said.

Clinton in his address also mentioned lower education. He proposed the first-ever national effort

to reduce class size in the early grades and to hire 100,000 new teachers who have passed a state competency test.

As for the College Republicans, Chairman Peter Enslow said Clinton did have some interesting things to say about education; however, he doesn't believe the federal government should be involved.

"The Republican stance on this is that everyone is for smaller classes and more teachers; however, federally funded schools are a really big problem," Enslow said. "All decisions need to be made at the local level. The federal government should not play a role in education."

Wisch disagreed: "That is a negative view. The decision is for education to accomplish more. It is more state-based, but the federal government should have a role."

Watson said it was important to make higher education accessible to students without going into too much debt. "We need things to be done to make school affordable and life after school affordable."

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