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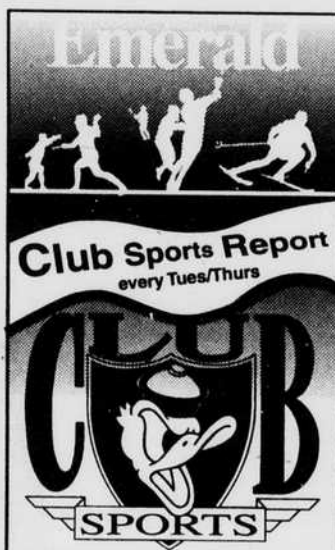
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Graduation 1998

Summer ceremony an option for some

By Jesse Stephenson
Freelance Reporter

You're close to graduation, and your classes are almost finished. But you look at your transcript and realize you are three credits short of graduating. Or perhaps your parents are not able to travel to Eugene in time for the June 13 commencement ceremony.

For those seniors, there is an alternative: a second commencement ceremony occurring after the summer term on Saturday, Aug. 15. While the summer commencement has fewer participants, it is virtually the same ceremony, said commencement coordinator Mary Hudzikiewicz. One difference between the two ceremonies is that the summer commencement will not feature a keynote speaker.

But University President Dave Frohnmayer will speak, and Hudzikiewicz said he gives the same speech at both ceremonies.

Hudzikiewicz said the ceremony is also considered less formal because there are fewer participants, making the summer commencement feel more intimate because everyone is together in one location. The ceremony is traditionally held on the Knight Library south lawn. It also feels less formal because it is just one large commencement without different ceremonies held by each academ-

ic department, she said.

Because there are no individual department ceremonies, the length of the commencement ceremony is reduced, Hudzikiewicz said.

She explained that some who take part in the spring ceremony would be taking part in a three-hour ceremony, plus a second two-hour ceremony held by his or her major department.

The University is one of the few schools in the nation that offers a summer commencement, Hudzikiewicz said. She said that most schools do nothing to recognize graduating students except for the spring ceremony, and the schools that do offer a second commencement typically do not offer them following the summer term. Most schools that do offer the second commencement are on the semester schedule, she said.

"It is something we feel students deserve," Hudzikiewicz said. "They put their time in, and then they have to take a few extra classes in the summer. We think they deserve the recognition they get."

Hudzikiewicz said one reason the ceremony takes less time is because individual awards and honors are not given out at the summer ceremony.

For the spring commencement, she expects to have 20,000 people on campus, including graduates and guests; for the summer commencement, there will be about 3,000 people on campus.

Hudzikiewicz said some international students prefer to graduate in the summer because of travel conditions. She noted that is easier for parents to get visas for the summer commencement.

Although there is a ceremony following the summer term, seniors taking summer classes are still allowed to participate in the spring ceremony instead. Many students prefer this approach.

"I only need to take two classes [to graduate]," said journalism major Patrice Goya. "I'm only taking classes for the first four weeks of summer, and I think it will be fun to graduate with my friends, so I'm going to take part in the spring ceremony."

Even though Goya does have to take a few classes, she does not feel bad about taking part in the early commencement. "I am just taking general credits, and I have all of my requirements done," she said. "I've already done all of the things that I need to get done."

One possible advantage of a summer commencement is the weather, Hudzikiewicz said.

"Some students do make their decisions of when to graduate based on the weather," she said. "Some locations for spring commencement do not have a desirable rain location for commencement, so some seniors do put off graduating until the summer, hoping for better weather."

Hudzikiewicz said weather is not as big a concern as some would think. In the 25 years she has organized commencement ceremonies, it has rained only twice for the spring ceremony and only once for the summer ceremony.

Another difference between the commencement ceremonies is their budgets. Hudzikiewicz said the spring commencement costs approximately \$75,000 while the summer ceremony costs \$4,000.

"The difference is there is less fanfare," Hudzikiewicz said.

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