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Week of Welcome smooths transition

Activities focus on
introducing incoming
students to campus
resources in a fun way

By Amy Goldhammer
Oregon Daily Emerald

Instead of stressing over books and schedules, students can stress out about whether they will be down from the climbing wall in time to boogie to the funk and jazz band performing Friday evening.

A number of activities and programs have been planned for freshmen, transfer and returning students during the Week Of Welcome before classes begin. WOW will allow students to try their hands at many activities ranging from climbing to white-

water rafting as well as learning how to navigate the "scary" library and even double-check their schedules.

"This gives students a chance before classes start to take things slow," said Kris Winter, director of student orientation programs. "They will be able to find out information about the University they want and need to know."

Many of the programs during WOW are focused on the needs of freshmen and transfer students. These programs and meetings range from informative seminars on financial aid to campus tours. The most important meeting new students who did not attend IntroDucktion should attend is academic advising, Winter said.

Turn to WOW, Page 19B

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ALS offers tutoring, academic advising

More specialized help is
also available through
the Educational
Opportunities Program

By Stefanie Knowlton
Oregon Daily Emerald

Tucked away in the basement of PLC, the Academic Learning Services program may be as unfamiliar as its location.

Although this program has been around for almost 20 years, most students are unaware of its existence.

Designed to help students academically, the ALS program provides free tutors for writing and math in addition to paid private and group tutors for subjects ranging from French to chemistry.

"The point is [for students] to come in early before they get too far behind," said Donna Wong, advisor and recruiter for ALS.

ALS will have an open house on Friday, Sept. 25, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in order to familiarize students with the program and its services.

There are 18 advisors at ALS that offer tutoring services, academic advising and counseling.

The center also offers classes such as ALS 101 "Introduction to University Study" and ALS 102 "Critical Reading" to help students. According to an ALS pamphlet, students should "learn how to maximize the

resources at the University."

In addition, ALS has an Educational Opportunities Program that was developed to help students who may have particular barriers to academic success such as low-income, a learning disability or parents who did not graduate from a four-year college.

Membership in this program guarantees free tutoring in addition to individualized help from the several advisors.

EOP is a federally funded program that can only provide assistance to approximately 375 students.

Wong explained that students who are interested in this program should contact ALS as soon as possible to receive an application due to the limited space available.

Once admitted to the EOP program, students will receive assistance until they graduate from the University.

According to Wong, the goal of the program is "to enhance academic retention and graduation."

Although the program caters to students who are at a high risk of dropping out, it is able to produce retention and graduation rates that are identical to these rates for the University as a whole.

She also explained that everyone needs help occasionally, and students "should not be afraid to come by."

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