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Getting the jump on a new career

The Career Center offers
help to students who are
looking for internships

By Teri Meeuwesen
Oregon Daily Emerald

When University graduate Jeff O'Rear started looking for a job in the biology field, he realized everywhere he applied asked for some kind of experience.

"How are you supposed to have experience once you're out of college?" he asked.

The answer for some: internships.

Beth Pfeiffer, assistant director of the Career Center in charge of internships, said students, University officials and the job market are more aware of using internships as a way of getting hands-on experience before entering the job market.

"The community wants someone who knows how to talk the talk," she said. "Most learning is in the classroom, but it's moving to both the classroom setting and the community setting," she said.

O'Rear had an internship last summer at the Institute of Molecular Biology in Streisinger Hall, working with cultures.

"I learned a lot in my lab class-

es that I took, but I've never been in a lab a whole bunch before," he said. "Any time you do something more, you learn more."

With his experience in the lab, O'Rear said he'd like to find a job working on cancer research.

While O'Rear volunteered his time and work to the lab, most students work in internships that offer credit or a salary, Pfeiffer said. But more importantly, students are using internships to get more experience, learn more about themselves and to get "another line on their résumés."

"At best, you can learn that you don't like that career field you thought you wanted to go into," she said.

To find those opportunities, Pfeiffer said, the Career Center and individual departments are good places to start.

"We try to work with departments as close as we can," she said.

When the Career Center gets something that relates to a department, they send the internship over to it, she said.

"But there are alumni, like in the journalism school, that know their department and go straight there to offer their internships instead of through the Career Center," she said.

O'Rear said he found his internship through his professor last spring just by asking if he knew of any internship opportunities.

The Career Center offers on-line help in finding an internship and help in the office in Hendricks Hall.

Finding an internship "is a process you have to go through your whole life," Pfeiffer said.

The average time students should start thinking about and looking for internships is their junior year, she said.

"By that time you should know more about yourself and your career options," she said.

O'Rear said students should start looking into internships as soon as possible.

"You can't get the tiniest job without them," he said. "Everyone wants you to have experience."

For more information about internships, contact Pfeiffer at 346-6009 or the Career Center at 346-3235 or at uocareer.uoregon.edu.

Editor's note: This story is the first in a 10-week series focusing on careers and options after graduating from the University. Teri Meeuwesen can be reached via e-mail at meeuwesen@gladstone.uoregon.edu

Governor denounces state House bill

The legislation proposes
to eliminate affirmative
action in state agencies

By David Ryan
Oregon Daily Emerald

SALEM — Gov. John Kitzhaber held a press conference at the Capitol Wednesday to attack a bill in the Oregon House of Representatives that would end affirmative action in the state's public institutions.

On March 17, Rep. Roger Beyer (R-Molalla) introduced House Bill 3197 to start what he called a dialogue on race-based employment preferences.

Although Beyer is the only sponsor of the bill — usually a sign of weak support from other legislators — the Governor said the bill offended him enough to hold a press conference denouncing the bill.

"This is an unusual conference because I do not take firm stances

on issues before they hit a [legislative] forum," Kitzhaber said. "It's been my policy to inform people of legislation that I find abhorrent. I strongly oppose HB 3197 or any other legislation that seeks to end affirmative action."

Kitzhaber said minorities were worse off in areas such as employment, education and economic opportunities. He said he felt affirmative action was a positive step toward reversing those problems, but people could take two different views on the issue of diversity.

"It can be viewed as a tremendous opportunity, or it can be viewed as a threat, as the governor of California has done," he said.

Kitzhaber said encouraging diversity was the key to building a better Oregon.

But Ross Day, Beyer's chief of staff, said ending Oregon's affirmative action program "was an idea that needs to be at least con-

sidered and debated."

Day said Oregon's affirmative action program especially needed talking about in light of the passage of recent initiatives ending affirmative action in California and Washington.

Day said Beyer introduced the bill as a result of the concerns of his constituents and was not necessarily against affirmative action.

"I'm not saying [Beyer] feels that way; he's just trying to open up debate," Day said. "I would just say that any law that allows someone to choose one person for a job over someone else on the basis of race is a bad law."

That is exactly what Raleigh Lewis, Kitzhaber's affirmative action adviser, said Oregon's system of affirmative action did not do.

"All affirmative action programs in Oregon are based on qualifications rather than race and gender," he said.

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