

Seniors sent off with speeches, grab bags

■ The EMU Amphitheater buzzes with conversation, ska music and pizza

By Serena Markstrom
Oregon Daily Emerald

The air smelled like pizza and sounded like music Thursday as seniors ate, mingled, reminisced and took final photos with the Duck mascot at a send-off party sponsored by the Alumni Association.

The annual event took place in the balloon-decorated EMU Amphitheater and gave students a two-hour break from classes and studying.

This year, Liz Smith, incoming vice president of the Student Alumni Association, was in charge of coordinating the event. Though it took a lot of organization, Smith said she had a lot of support.

"It's a fun event to put on," she said.

The Accelerators, a ska band that played original songs and

covered some favorites like Billy Joel's "My Life," entertained the crowd of hundreds of seniors who generally agreed it was good that there was an event put on just for them and their hard work.

"I think it's nice they finally gave us something for spending four years and a lot of money here," said Michael Perkins, a political science major, who added that he enjoyed talking to people about their progress in school.

"It's crazy to see all these people graduate who I never thought would make it."

Students expressed mixed feelings about the grab bag they received, which contained a magnet, a pen and a compact disc case, all marked with the Alumni Association insignia.

"It's cool you get free stuff, but when my brother was here they got pint glasses," said Emilie Lavin, who will graduate in the fall with a degree in psychology.

The grab bag didn't fly with Jeremy Burbank, who finished classes after winter term and will

graduate with a degree in business administration.

"I think it kinda sucks," he said.

Other than the gift, however, the senior send-off was fun for Burbank.

"I'm having an excellent time mingling and seeing people for the last time," Burbank said.

Another senior, Annelise Norton, said she would have appreciated a different type of music.

"It's a good atmosphere, people are friendly, we're enjoying ourselves. But it doesn't compare to the party I'm going to have for graduation."

Students also said they were glad to see so many people show up because they may never see them again.

"It's really nice to be around friends that I have known since freshman year," said Hong Tran, who will graduate with degrees in political science and sociology.

Students halted their conversations to listen to University Presi-



Catharine Kendall Emerald
Students were able to enjoy pizza and live music by the ska band The Accelerators.

dent Dave Frohnmayer and University Vice President Duncan McDonald say a few words.

McDonald, who was attending his 25th senior send-off, said students will miss the University after they graduate.

He then gave a pitch for the Alumni Association saying it was a good way to stay connected to the school.

Frohnmayer said it was a good sign for the graduates that the weather cooperated.

University, state seek environmental sustainability

■ Protecting and preserving the environment can help the economy, experts say

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

With strong environmental programs such as the nationally renowned campus recycling service, the University and the state of Oregon are considered by many as international pioneers in establishing sustainable measures for the future.

Gov. John Kitzhaber issued an executive order May 17 that demands state agencies to adopt greater sustainability practices and to meet economic goals by 2025. The main objectives of the order are to increase economic viability for all Oregonians and improve the efficiency of energy, water and land use.

"Sustainability means using, developing and protecting resources at a rate and in a manner that enables people to meet their

current needs and also provides that future generations can meet their own needs," the governor's order states.

Dr. John Baldwin, director of the University's Institute for a Sustainable Environment (ISE), said the state is an international leader in establishing more efficient environmental policies.

"Oregon, more than any other place in the U.S., has made the commitment to properly develop economic sustainability and conserve what's here."

With its strong emphasis on environmental protection, the University has also established itself as a leader of sustainability, said Christine Thompson, a planning associate in the University's Office of Planning.

"The University has done an awful lot, especially in recycling and transportation," Thompson said. "We're way beyond most universities, but there's still more we can do."

Throughout the past decade,

the University has made huge strides to promote better sustainability practices, including the creation of the ISE and the University Recycling Program, which was named the best school recycling program by the National Recycling Coalition in 1997.

Karyn Kaplan has been one of the major contributors to making the campus more environmentally friendly. As the manager of the campus recycling program and head of the Environmental Issues Committee, Kaplan said she is glad to finally see more support for environmental concerns being generated.

"Other places are doing it," Kaplan said, "but Oregon is a strong leader in presenting reasonable solutions."

Not only is protecting the environment a good idea, it's cost beneficial and will eventually lower taxes too, Kaplan said.

"We don't want to waste the valuable resources we have; we want to invest for the long term."

In terms of the physical layout of the campus, Kaplan said that University is great at promoting the use of bicycles, as evidenced by the small number of parking spots for automobiles.

The Campus Planning Committee (CPC) has also developed guidelines for better sustainability; the group hopes to have a final version of its Environmental Policy Position Paper completed by this fall, Thompson said.

In a recommendation to University President Dave Frohnmayer, the CPC said the University has done incredible work to promote sustainability in many facets.

Stronger enforcement policies, however, need to be implemented in order for the University to reach its goal — to be a world leader in creating and maintaining sustainable solutions.

"Every little thing that everyone does makes a difference," Kaplan said.

On Tuesday, the CPC will meet at 3:30 p.m. in the EMU Metolius/Owyhee Room..

Sustainability plan

The governor's executive order calls for the development of programs that meet the goals of environmental sustainability by 2025.

The University is already in line with the executive order with many of its own sustainability measures and groups, including:

- The Institute for a Sustainable Environment
- The Environmental Studies department
- "Green" chemistry, which looks to reduce the use of toxic chemicals
- The Campus Comprehensive Environmental Policy
- Campus Recycling Program
- Office of Environmental Health and Safety

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