

State Supreme Court candidate speaks to UO

■ Paul DeMuniz, who was twice elected to the Oregon Court of Appeals, presents his case to campus

By Jeremy Lang
Oregon Daily Emerald

Paul DeMuniz admitted he's counting down the days until the November election.

But the candidate for the Oregon Supreme Court took time out of the last 40 days before ballots are cast to speak to students across campus about law and his political ideology Thursday.

DeMuniz, who was twice elected to the Oregon Court of Appeals, spoke to the Introduction to the Legal Profession class before a very small town hall session with four students at the Knight Library.

Dan Katz, a senior political science major who coordinated the event, said he was a little disappointed with the turnout but was glad the judge had a chance to meet and discuss his legal ideas with students.

DeMuniz gave a speech outlining his background and legal ideology and the students had a chance to ask a few questions.

First-year doctoral student Bill Calderhead asked about the individual rights of the disabled because he works with students in special education.

"I'm interested in the courts and how they work with special ed,"

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Paul DeMuniz
Candidate
Oregon Supreme Court

he said.

Calderhead added that he recently moved from Maryland and wanted to get more information on Oregon politics and the people involved.

DeMuniz is no stranger to Oregon politics. He's spent all of his

life, including high school, undergraduate and law school education, in Oregon. He completed a tour of duty in the Air Force in Vietnam, and said he didn't think twice about returning to the state when he was done.

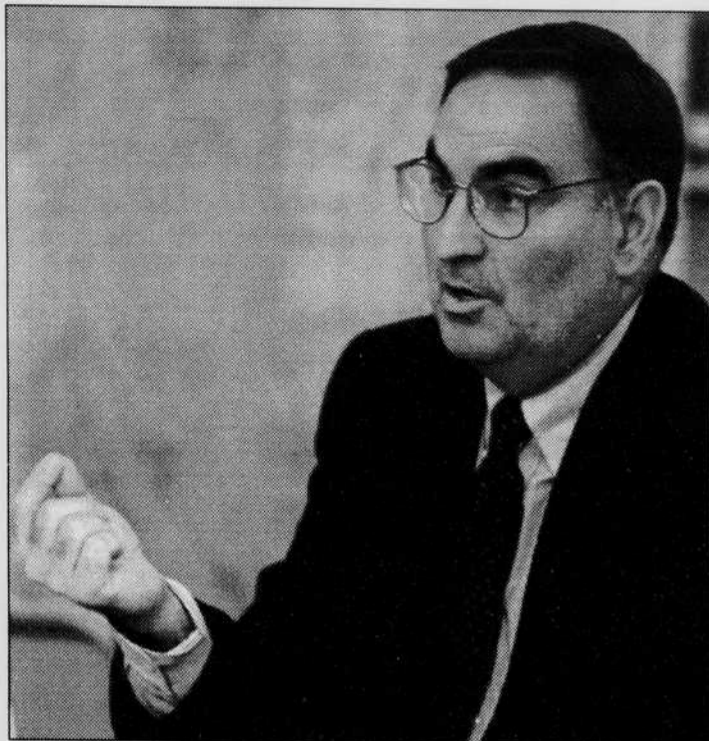
"You always have an identity," he said of living in Oregon. "This is still a place where you can know who is in government."

He added that he keeps coming back for the familiarity and closeness of having his family around.

Before his meeting at the library, he discussed some of the current cases that could affect University students. He said there aren't any cases that specifically pertain to students now, but there are many that have repercussions on students as Oregon citizens.

For example, he said students should be concerned with a recent case that bars people from collecting petition signatures at public shopping centers.

"This has a profound effect on how our initiative process works," he said.



Photographer Emerald

Oregon State Supreme Court candidate Paul DeMuniz emphasizes a point during a speech in the Reading Room of the Knight Library on Thursday.

GTFs

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employees rather than having GTFs pay \$32 per term, which was the original University proposal.

"We recognized that this was a crisis this year because of the dramatic increase in health insurance," said Richard Linton, negotiator committee member for the University, vice provost for research and graduate studies and dean of the graduate school.

Under the new agreement, just like last year, GTFs will be able to choose from a list of preferred care providers. The University will spend \$1.7 million to fully cover individual employees.

"There is a great selection to

choose from," Max Brown, a political science GTF, said. "There is also good coverage for prescriptions and low deductibles."

Many GTFs expressed approval of the outcome of the negotiations.

"I am personally very happy about it," said Sarah Hardgrave, a lead negotiator for the GTFs.

But while many are grateful, there are still worries over what will happen in the coming years.

"I am concerned about how the plan is always on a temporary basis," Carpenter said.

Other GTFs have voiced similar concerns.

"I think it is a good short-term resolution to the problem," Brown

said.

In addition to questioning the stability of the plan, some are beginning to find that the increases are not enough to cover depend-

“The GTFF's primary goal was full coverage for employees. We did manage to negotiate that.”

Sarah Hardgrave
Lead negotiator for GTFs

ents and partners and thus make the plan not worth keeping

Brown said his partner had to be dropped from the plan because she wasn't fully covered.

"We did the calculations and found that she would be better off with an alternate insurance provider," he said.

Hardgrave said she regrets that the new agreement is not beneficial for families and dependents, but coverage for GTFs had to be the priority of the negotiations.

"The GTFF's primary goal was full coverage for employees," Hardgrave said. "We did manage to negotiate that."

During negotiations, a number of GTFs set up tents outside Johnson Hall to help bring light to the issue.

Paul Prew, president of the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation, said he credits the outcome of the negotiations to media cover-

age, faculty support, letters, rallies and political support.

The University receives state funds based on the number of credits that GTFs are registered for. Prew said GTFs, who conduct about a quarter to a third of all undergraduate teaching, had threatened to only register for the minimum number of credit hours, which would have resulted in a large loss of money to the University.

Although the road to reaching an agreement was long, both sides seem to be content with the outcome.

"This does give us one of the best plans in the country," Linton said. "It's also important for recruitment."

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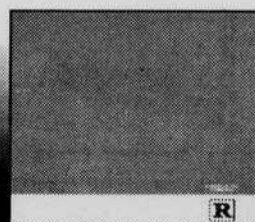
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