

# Morse's legacy lives on at UO

■ The Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics provides an avenue for research and debate on key issues

By Kara Winters  
for the Emerald

He believed in fighting for his principles despite conventional thought, and above all else he believed people should rise above politics to find the greater good.

Today, deceased U.S. Sen. Wayne Morse's legacy lives on through the Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics at the University School of Law.

"The slogan that really sums Wayne Morse up is 'principle above politics,'" said Margaret Hallock, the faculty director of the Wayne Morse Center. "We operate in the tradition of Wayne Morse, so we try to incorporate that."

Hallock added that she thinks Morse would be proud of the center.

"As long as we're taking on important topics, taking strong moral and principle stances that are in his tradition of progressive politics, I think he'd approve," she said.

The Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics officially opened its doors in November 2000. Short of being a year old, the independent center devotes itself to interdisciplinary research on critical issues of law and politics. The center expands upon the Wayne Morse Chair of Law and Politics that, established in 1981, serves as a living memorial to the former dean of the University School of Law.

"Wayne Morse was unquestionably a man who was not afraid of tackling a difficult question," law school Dean Rennard Strickland

## Schedule

The Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics will offer several public events this fall for its two-year theme, "Race, Class, and the Criminal Justice System."

### Oct. 5-8:

**Eugene Weekly Film Festival**  
**Bijou Art Cinemas**, 492 E. 13th Ave.

### Oct. 23:

**Symposium: Understanding the Context of Race and Criminal Justice**  
— The New Reparations Movement

7-9 p.m., Knight Law Center, Room 175

### Oct. 26:

**Forum: Racial Equity in the Criminal Justice System**

9 a.m.-4 p.m., Portland State University

### Nov. 1:

**Community Roundtable Discussion**

7-9:30 p.m., Churchill High School, Eugene

For more information:

(541) 346-3700

morsechair.uoregon.edu

said. "I don't think there's any question that he casts a very long shadow over the law school and center's activities."

Through inquiry and debate, Strickland said Morse left University members with a willingness to

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Jennifer Greenough  
graduate student

ask the questions that needed to be asked and to challenge commonly accepted dogmas.

"The center is very effective at extending Morse's legacy," said Jennifer Greenough, a University graduate who will start law school this fall at Cornell University. "Through their activities, atten-

tion is brought to current critical issues that impact lives."

Greenough, who worked for the Wayne Morse Center as a student liaison, said during Morse's political career, he voted in accordance with his conscience rather than along political party lines.

The center offers a revolving professorship to teach on key topics. Past themes have examined global labor issues, human rights, constitutional law and the role of representative government.

"We want to make sure that the center rotates among disciplines and that we constantly update it with new themes and activities," Hallock said. "That's why we created this type of center. It's somewhat unique."

During the academic years 2001-02 and 2002-03, the center's theme will be "Race, Class, and the Criminal Justice System."

One of the Morse Center's guests will be Charles Ogletree, a scholar from Harvard University and a critic on race and justice who works to explore issues within the American justice system.

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