

Scholarship preps students

■ The McNair Scholars Program allows graduate students extra time and money to work on research projects

By Anna Seeley
Oregon Daily Emerald

Graduate student Michele Rutheiser began her first day of graduate school with an idea of what it was going to be like — because of the McNair Scholars Program.

Rutheiser is one of 19 students who participated in the program last year. McNair students attend workshops throughout the year and work on graduate-level research projects that they present in a symposium during the summer. Students are paid a \$2,800 stipend for their research.

Offered annually, the McNair Program's aim is to help qualified students prepare effectively for graduate school, McNair coordinator Gail Unruh said.

He added that the program is especially meant to increase education opportunities for low-income students, first generation college students or members of a traditionally underrepresented group in graduate school.

Rutheiser said the program was a good experience, but a lot of hard work.

"Overall, I enjoyed my experience, though many program-related activities made balancing my schedule quite challenging," she said. "Nonetheless, it was well

worth my time and effort."

The McNair program was named after Ronald E. McNair, who was the second African-American to fly into space and one of six members aboard the space shuttle Challenger, which exploded shortly after lift-off in 1986. Funding for the program began in 1988 and has since been offered at universities nationwide, but it was introduced to the University in 1999.

Unruh said a big portion of the program includes optional research projects that students present with the help of faculty advisors. The program is open to all majors, and research topics range from science and mathematics to journalism and psychology. Abstracts from previous projects are now available for viewing at Academic Learning Services.

"The research is really the key to the program," Unruh said. "In a sense, everything they do there is kind of modeling the work they will be expected to do as graduate students, so it is kind of the backbone to the whole effort."

Students accepted in the fall will attend workshops in the winter and begin searching for research ideas, he said. But most of the research is done in the summer.

Not only do students get to see firsthand what graduate research is like, but they also benefit from the program in other ways, Unruh said. For example, the program's workshops assist students in completing graduate school applications and interviewing for gradu-

McNair Scholars Program Information

What: Informational meeting about the program, and a place for interested students to pick up application forms

When: 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 9

Where: Grayson Hall

Applications are due Nov. 2.

Source: Gail Unruh,
coordinator of the McNair Scholars Program

ate school, he said.

He added that graduate schools across the country offer incentives to applicants who have completed the program, such as graduate level tuition awards and GTF positions set-aside specifically for McNair students.

"I was offered full-tuition scholarships and graduate teaching fellowships at two of the universities to which I applied," former McNair student Diane Teeman said.

Teeman, who is now a graduate student, added that she also received financial assistance in studying for and taking the Graduate Record Exam and waivers in applying to graduate school.

"I didn't realize how exceptionally advantageous it would be to be a McNair Scholars Program participant," Teeman said. "It would take pages to tell you all the program has done for me."

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purchased on the spot market. An economic downturn likely means less energy will be purchased.

The University instituted a \$30 energy surcharge in student incidental fees last spring and hopes the culmination of the fee and more vigilant conservation by University students and officials can cover the rising cost of scarce energy.

Moseley said the fee could drop if energy costs drop, and it will

never be more than \$30 each term. In fact, schools can't raise the surcharge above that rate because the Oregon University System gave its seven schools, including the University, a price ceiling for the fee.

"There is a level in the current operating budget that they can enact the surcharge up to a certain level," OUS spokesman Bob Bruce said. "Up to \$30 per term."

— Eric Martin

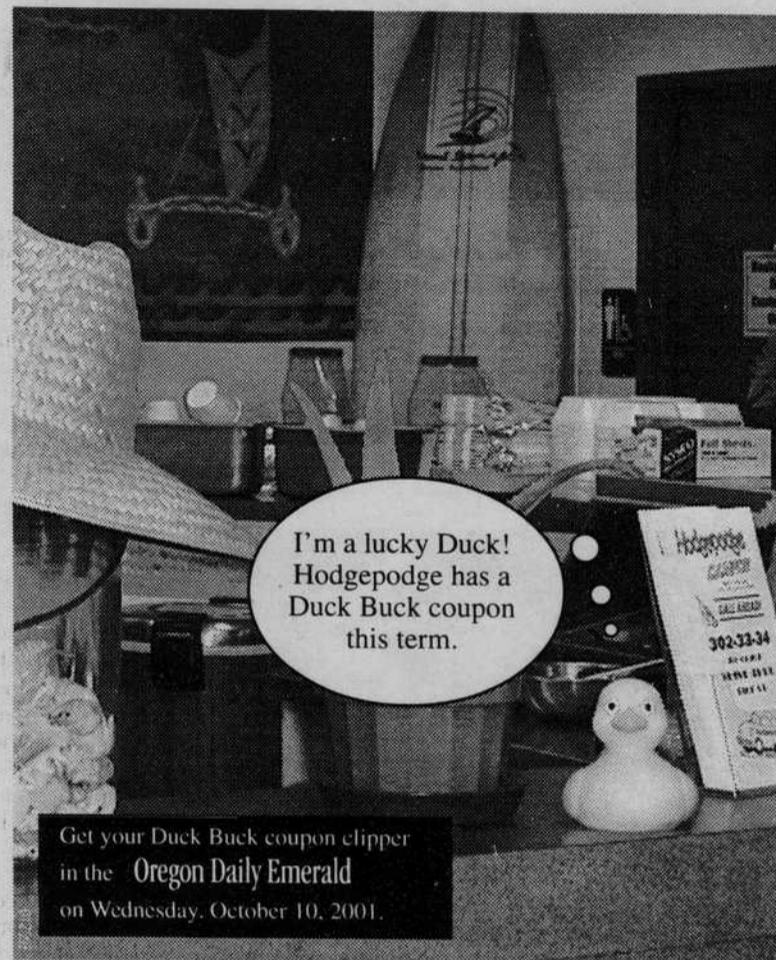
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CRIME WATCH

(Reported from Sept. 26 to Oct. 1)

Theft

Wednesday, Sept. 26, 12:13 p.m.:

DPS officers received a report of a stolen backpack from the EMU.

Wednesday, Sept. 26, 5 p.m.: DPS

officers received a report of theft from a vehicle at Westmoreland family housing.

Monday, Oct. 1, 1:45 a.m.: A female

student reported her bicycle stolen on Alder Street.

Monday, Oct. 1, 10:25 a.m.: Officers

received a report of a bike theft at the Department of Public Safety.

Monday, Oct. 1, 3:10 p.m.: DPS

officers received a report of a backpack stolen at the Knight Library.

Monday, Oct. 1, 6:43 p.m.: A student

reported a wallet stolen at Lawrence Hall.

Monday, Oct. 1, 9:23 p.m.: A student

reported a wallet stolen at the Student Recreation Center.

Vandalism

Tuesday, Sept. 25, 8:50 a.m.: DPS

received a report that a window was broken at Prince Lucien Campbell Hall.

Friday, Sept. 28, 8:42 a.m.: DPS

received a report of damaged vehicle tires at the PLC parking lot.

Wednesday, Sept. 26, 12:31 a.m.:

DPS received a report of damaged doors at Lawrence Hall.

Substance Abuse

Thursday, Sept. 27, 1:10 a.m.: A

liquor law violation was reported at the Agate Street crosswalk.

Friday, Sept. 28, 2:39 p.m.: Officers

confiscated drug paraphernalia at Westmoreland family housing.

Saturday, Sept. 29, 12:49 a.m.:

Officers contacted four people for possession of less than an ounce of a controlled substance at H.P. Barnhart Hall, formerly the University Inn.

Saturday, Sept. 29, 1:46 a.m.:

Officers contacted six people for minor in possession of alcohol at H.P. Barnhart Hall.

Sunday, Sept. 30, 12:01 a.m.:

Officers contacted one person for open container at the Agate Street and 13th Avenue intersection.

Sunday, Sept. 30, 12:32 a.m.:

Officers contacted three people for possession of less than an ounce of a controlled substance and alcohol violations at H.P. Barnhart Hall.

Sunday, Sept. 30, 12:51 a.m.: Officers

contacted three people for possession of less than an ounce of a controlled substance at Humpty Lumpy lawn.

Sunday, Sept. 30, 1:44 a.m.: Officers

contacted one person for open container at the Bean Hall turnaround.

Sunday, Sept. 30, 2:49 a.m.: Officers

contacted four people for possession of alcohol at the Walton Complex.

Monday, Oct. 1, 1:36 p.m.: DPS

officers took drug use paraphernalia from Bean Complex for destruction.