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University anticipates high enrollment for next year

■ If enrollment continues to increase at a fast rate, it could be up to 23,000 by 2005

By Katie Ellis
Oregon Daily Emerald

The fall 2002 application deadline for prospective freshman hit on Feb. 1, and as the number of applicants increases, the University is expecting next year's total enrollment to be the largest ever.

The University had 8,600 freshman applications for fall 2001, and director of admissions Martha Pitts anticipates as many as 10,000 applications for the freshman class of 2002. Pitts said a definite number will not be available until early March, but the University usually accepts no more than 3,200 students for the freshman class.

"We are getting close to hitting our optimum size," Pitts said.

Jim Buch, associate vice president of enrollment, said projected total enrollment could reach 20,000 students next fall. If the increases continue at this rate, Buch predicted that enrollment could reach 23,000 by 2005.

Enrollment at the University hit 18,000 in the late '80s, but dropped in the early '90s when the number

of Oregon students began to decrease after Ballot Measure 5 went into effect. Approved in 1990, Measure 5 reduced Oregon property taxes, which were the state's primary method of funding education. At the same time as in-state enrollment was dropping, the number of students from California began to increase, but the numbers were not enough to offset the decreased number of Oregon students. In 1993, enrollment gradually began to increase. Between 2000 and 2001, enrollment rose from 17,135 to 18,411, marking the most significant increase in the last four years.

Rather than placing limits on enrollment, the University is looking for alternative ways to accommodate students. With the number of students on the rise, the University is implementing different strategies to avoid overcrowded classes and to more fully utilize its resources.

The University began to look for ways to maximize the number of available rooms and to extend teaching hours when Gilbert Hall was closed for renovations. According to University facility services, the building, which houses 21 classrooms, will be closed for almost three years.

Forty percent of students take

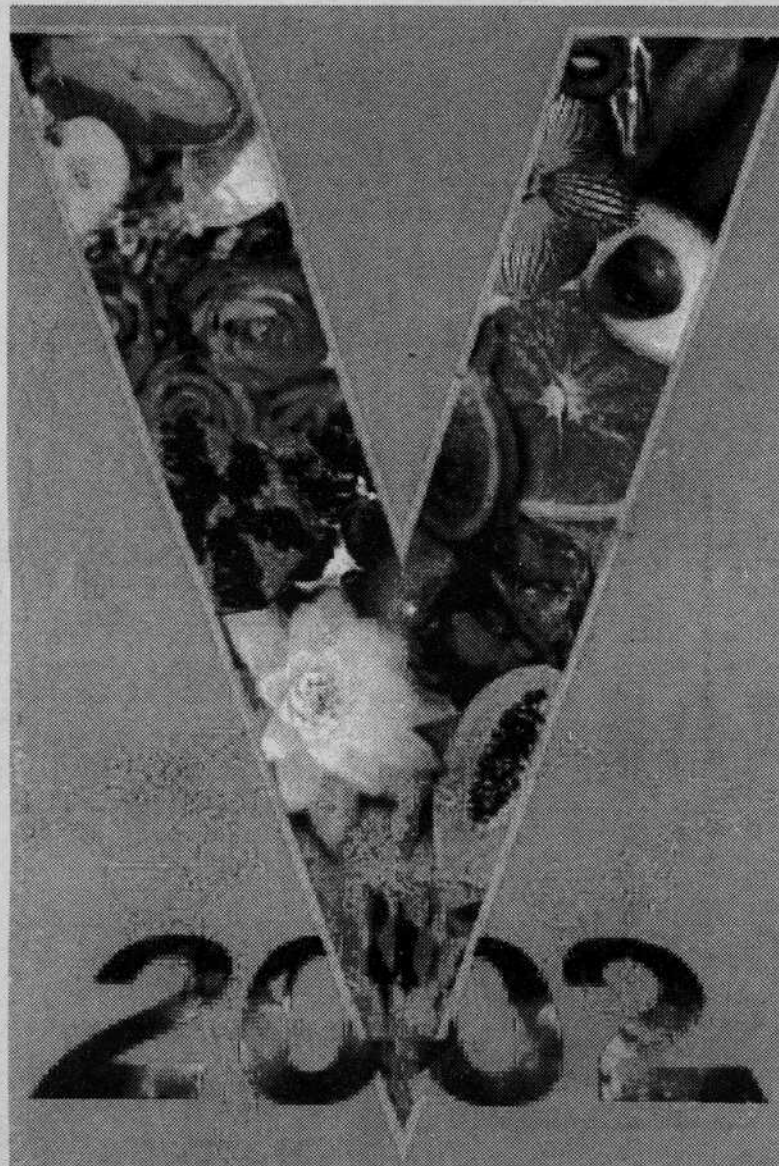
classes between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., but assistant registrar Gayle Freeman said it is becoming necessary to extend teaching hours to accommodate the majority of students.

Beginning winter term, the University registrar implemented a scheduling protocol system to more efficiently organize and schedule class times. One of the new developments involves expanding available class hours by asking departments to extend their teaching hours.

"Extending the teaching hours will allow more students to take more classes," said University registrar Herbert Chereck. "The University cannot handle the majority of students taking classes between those limited hours."

The University is exploring other ways to improve scheduling procedures in order to cater to the increasing number of students rather than directly limiting enrollment. "We are an access-oriented university," Pitts said, "and our goal is to serve as many Oregon students as possible."

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Blood banks see drop in donations after post-Sept. 11 collection glut

■ Blood banks look at ways to avoid over-collection and encourage repeat donors

By Ben Hughes
for the Emerald

After seeing the nation's blood supply peak after the Sept. 11 attacks, blood banks now worry about a trend of low donation numbers, especially in rare blood types.

During the first eight months of 2001, blood collection agencies nationwide averaged 342,000 units, each of which is nearly a pint, of donated whole blood and red blood cells each month, according to the National Blood Data Resource Center, which surveyed about 50 percent of American blood banks. In response to the Sept. 11 attacks, the nation answered the call and blood collection rose 38.4 percent to 473,000 units. That number dropped for three straight months until bottoming out in December at nearly 320,000 units.

"It is imperative that the entire blood industry and the American public recognize the growing need for blood donations," said Dr. Jerry Squires, vice president and chief scientific officer of biomedical services at the American Red Cross.

Locally, the Lane Memorial

Blood Bank is also seeing a decline, according to Christine Stockdale, the blood bank's spokeswoman.

"LMBB usually has an adequate supply of blood in inventory to meet the needs of patients in the Lane County hospitals," she said, pointing out that the bank keeps a six-day supply of blood, while "the majority of the nation's blood banks carry a two-to-three-day supply."

Presently, however, LMBB is experiencing a shortage of one or two blood types because of heavy usage by patients in local hospitals.

Right now type O positive is 30 percent below and type A positive is 22 percent below what LMBB considers safe levels, Stockdale said.

Blood banks are still trying to find solutions to problems that arose from over-collecting blood after Sept. 11, including the unforeseen cost of collecting and disposing of blood that would never be put to use.

"The two primary lessons learned from the Sept. 11 disaster include the need to control collections in excess of actual medical need and the need to ensure that facilities maintain adequate inventories to prepare for disasters," according to an American Association of Blood Banks report.

Although outdated products are an unavoidable part of blood banking, the American Red Cross felt a big dip in available product in last two months.

"The American Red Cross discarded close to 50,000 units of blood that had been donated post-Sept. 11 due to the fact that red blood cells have a shelf life of only 42 days," Stockdale said.

The AABB, ARC and LMBB are all searching for and finding ways to eliminate over-collection and supplement the nation's shortage of repeat and one-time donors.

"Many of our regular and long-time donors are now reaching the age where they are unable to give, either because of health problems or passing away. It is essential for us to recruit younger people, especially high school and college students," Stockdale said.

Karen Lipton, chief executive officer of AABB, said, "The best preparation for the next disaster is to ensure that we have adequate blood inventories on our shelves every day in all locations across the country."

The next blood drive at the University will be held Monday, Feb. 18. Registration will be in the main lobby of the EMU.

Ben Hughes is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

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