

# PPPM to honor students, alumni

■ The Planning, Public Policy and Management department will celebrate 20 years at the University today at 3:30 p.m.

By LaBree Shide  
Oregon Daily Emerald

After 20 years at the University, the Department of Planning, Public Policy and Management is celebrating its anniversary by honoring past graduates and promoting current students. The celebration will take place 3:30 p.m. today on the Hendricks Hall west lawn with the display of student projects beginning at 1:00 p.m.

The program will feature first-time awards for outstanding alumni achievement and outstanding service to Oregon. Michael Hibbard, the department head, said most of the presentation will also focus on the awards and a new endowment.

"The core of it is initiating and distributing the awards and also the new endowment for the department in memory of Wes Kvarsten," Hibbard said.

Kvarsten is a University alum who passed away in 2001. His family established the new endowment in his memory to support faculty of the department in their research, curriculum design and professional development.

Kvarsten devoted most of his career to planning and public administration work. He was the director of the Mid-Valley Planning Council and Mid-Willamette Valley Council, as well as the Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission.

Others to be honored include outstanding alumni award-winners Kirstin Greene and Steven Wright, and outstanding service to Oregon award-winner Richard Townsend. All have been public leaders in their communities and in their work after graduating from the University.

Alumni are not the only people who succeeding, as current students are still involved in projects, internships and theses. The department gives students the chance to become a part of their

communities and learn to be leaders in the future.

"We hope to connect government to the average person. We prepare those citizens and put them in leadership roles in the public to solve public planning problems," Hibbard said.

Jean Stockard, a faculty member, said the department is great for students interested in planning, public policy and management.

"It is a challenging and rigorous program that requires both work in the real world, with an internship requirement, as well as a senior thesis," Stockard said. "We have admission requirements and it is difficult to even get in."

Hibbard said alumni are scattered throughout Oregon in successful positions.

"It is almost impossible to walk into a public agency in Oregon and not find graduates in leadership roles," Hibbard said. "Students and faculty have shaped public policy in Oregon and around the world."

Current projects from students and faculty include theses and papers proposing models for democracy, Oregon hazard planning, health care issues and environmental projects. There are also new features within the department, including graduate certificates in not-for-profit management. Renee Irvin, a faculty member, said the new certificate is a 24-credit program with courses that specifically deal with management careers in a nonprofit sector.

Irvin said that many students from several departments are interested in the new certificate. "Although the certificate can be a stand-alone post-baccalaureate program, we're finding that University grad students from a variety of departments — international studies, environmental studies, PPPM and others — are adding the certificate to their masters degree for practical career preparation in the nonprofit sector," Irvin said.

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## News brief

### Students plan dinner for graduation pledge

Graduating seniors planning on taking the Graduation Pledge of Social and Environmental Responsibility are invited to attend a dinner reception at 7 p.m. today at the United Lutheran Church. The event includes a free dinner, dessert, live music and guest speakers.

Senior Leona Kassel, one of the students coordinating the event, said the idea behind it is to provide a "forum for people to share their ideas" about how they will use the

pledge in their career paths.

The pledge, which began at Humboldt State University in 1987, reads: "I pledge to explore and take into account the social and environmental consequences of any job I consider and will try to improve those aspects of any organization for which I work."

The pledge is recognized by colleges and universities across the country, but this is the first time in several years the pledge has been incorporated into the University of Oregon commencement.

Volunteers will be present before all graduation ceremonies this year to hand out green ribbons and pins to

graduates who endorse the pledge. Speakers at tonight's event will include Director of Multicultural Affairs Carla Gary, Campus Recycling Director Karyn Kaplan and Joseph Kassel, a naturopath and acupuncturist.

The ASUO, the environmental studies department, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Alliance and the Survival Center are co-sponsoring the event. Students organizing the event are preparing the food, which was donated by the Organically Grown Co-op, Costco and Surata Tofu. The United Lutheran Church is located at 2230 Washington St.

— Kara Cogswell

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