

Students can access Museum of Art's exhibits

■ The museum isn't scheduled to reopen until 2004, but staff members say the general public can still view the artwork

By LaBree Shide
Oregon Daily Emerald

The campus Museum of Art building stands silent.

Students, faculty and the public have not had access to the building for more than a year and won't again until 2004, but the museum staff said they want students to know that though the building is closed, the museum is still open in other ways.

Museum Director Del Hawkins said that with the help of University student volunteers, the staff continues to do presentations around the community in schools and retirement homes.

"All operations are continuing. We're still teaching," Hawkins said. The only thing that is not the

same about the museum is the lack of a building.

The museum closed to allow the \$13 million remodeling process to begin. Construction bids have been made and construction is expected to start in the fall. Public Relations and Marketing Coordinator Katie Sproles said the wait will be well worth it.

"The museum's exhibition space will nearly triple, allowing us to display more of our wonderful and diverse collection," Sproles said.

Since the museum closed the staff has been busy packing the artwork, Hawkins said. There were 12,500 works of art at the museum, and some had multiple parts. Each piece had to be packed individually and inventoried.

"There are about 20 steps for each piece of art — it was a year and a half of packing," Hawkins said.

The art is still available to a certain degree. Because of the storage

technique, the art can be easily found and viewed. Hawkins called it "semi-storage." Some of the art isn't going into storage, but is being lent to other museums during construction.

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Katie Sproles
public relations
and marketing coordinator

Associate Director Lawrence Fong said the museum has been lending art to other museums throughout Oregon. "As we packed up our museum, including our art collections, we engaged several re-

gional art museums about lending works that would support their programs," Fong said.

University collections can be viewed at several locations, including the Portland Art Museum, the Hallie Ford Art Museum and the Boise Art Museum. "It was important for the public to view these artworks and support collaborating with regional art museums," Fong said.

Packing is not the only thing that the museum staff has been involved with. The education department is active with the "Artreach" program, and courses are still being taught. "Our Artreach program, internships and course offerings in art history and in arts have helped us maintain contact with students and faculty," Fong said.

Students and faculty will have to get used to the way the museum is being operated because the opening of the museum has been pushed back to winter 2004. Hawkins said

the original opening was scheduled for almost a year before then but circumstances slowed the process. "Because of the recession it took longer to raise funds," Hawkins said.

Hawkins said he realizes it's detrimental to students when the museum is closed but hopes students will make up for the loss once the museum reopens. "It is heartbreaking to be closed. We realize we are missing almost a generation of students," Hawkins said. "We hope when we reopen, students will visit more than once."

Sproles said the University can expect a top-of-the-line museum once construction is completed. "Students and faculty can look forward to enjoying a major cultural resource that will serve the campus and the larger community for the rest of the century."

E-mail reporter LaBree Shide at labreeshide@dailymerald.com.

News brief

UO Ad Team places second

The University Ad Team took second place Thursday in a national student competition in Miami, Fla.

The team took a risky approach in suggesting that Bank of America, the client for the contest, drop all brand equity to boost business in its investment services.

Erin Marshall, a senior in public relations, said team members were disappointed. "But, we also are really proud that we went as far as we did," Marshall said. "We got a lot of positive feedback from agencies and from the judges."

Southern Methodist University won the contest, University of Minnesota at Twin Cities got third and UCLA placed fourth.

BSU intends graduation to be better than ever

■ The Black Student Union's annual graduation ceremony, said to be improving year after year, will be held June 14

By Caron Alarab
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Black Student Union will host its annual graduation ceremony at 7 p.m. June 14 in the Willamette Atrium. Coordinators of the event say this year will be better than last year because more than just BSU students will participate.

This year, 30 graduates will walk in the ceremony, but not all are members of the BSU or are undergraduates.

Sophomore Haben Woldu, a

BSU graduation co-coordinator for the second year in a row, said she is proud to see the event extend to other organizations on campus.

"What makes this celebration much more unique is the diversity of the participants this year," she said. "We have tried to reach way beyond our union to other student union groups."

The difference in types of degrees, as well as the variety of participating student organizations, plays an important role in the ceremony. Graduate student Khaleelah Rahsaan graduated from the University in spring 1999. A native Oregonian, she will walk with the class of 2002 at the BSU graduation, and her hope for fellow graduates and

other students of color is simple.

"I hope that people will have the luxury of pursuing a career that makes them truly happy," Rahsaan said.

But contentment isn't found in all the preparations for the ceremony. Because of the time of year and the BSU members' busy schedules, Woldu said it's been hard getting people to help with the event. She is one of three individuals "doing the work of 10," she said.

"I am really disappointed at the lack of volunteers this year," she said.

On the other hand, Woldu said she appreciates the help and support of her fellow co-coordinators, Dominique Beaumonté and Abolade Majekobaje.

Beaumonté, a junior, agreed that it's hard to get volunteers at this time of year, but he said he is pleased to see the event change with each class.

"Every year our ceremony gets better," he said. "We are hoping to just add to all the great things that we did last year when we moved into the Willamette Atrium."

The keynote speaker will be Johnny Lake, an active member in the community and a nationally recognized speaker who the ceremony's coordinators hope will inspire and motivate the graduating class.

E-mail reporter Caron Alarab at caronalarab@dailymerald.com.

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