

Career Fair offers experience, opportunity

Numerous organizations will be at the winter Career Fair on Wednesday ready to meet students interested in future work

Aimee Rudin
Family/Health/Education Reporter

The University Career Center will hold the winter Career Fair Wednesday. The fair will host numerous corporations, not-for-profit organizations, graduate and professional schools and government agencies from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in

the EMU Ballroom.

Organizations attending the fair include American Express Financial Advisors, Pacificorp, the Internal Revenue Service, The Associated Press and Western States Chiropractic College.

"The Career Fair serves to connect students with employers who have come to the University to hire them," Career Center Director Larry Smith said. "Organization representatives have come to the University to fill openings for jobs and graduate programs because of the quality of our students."

The Career Fair provides an opportunity for University students to meet potential future employers, begin networking in a real-world environment, talk with recruiters and set up interviews.

"I got my initial job because of the fair," University alumnus Sean Whorton said.

Whorton now works for the Lux company as a buyer, but he attributes his rise up the corporate ladder to his first job as an executive trainee at the Bon Marché. The Bon hired Whorton during a career fair he attended his senior year.

"It wasn't my dream job," he said. "But it led to bigger and better things."

The Career Center and University advisers suggest students come to the fair prepared to meet employers and attend interviews.

"It's a great chance for students to get some practice talking to employers and going through the interview process," said Beth Pfeiffer, internship coordinator for the School of Journalism and Communication.

University students who take part in services offered through the Career Center and attend the Career Fair are 30 percent more likely than students who do not utilize the services to receive a job offer after graduation according to a survey of graduating students published by the Columbia National Job Search Study.

Officials at the Career Center recommend that students identify the kind of work they want to do, locate the organizations at the fair that specialize in these areas, then generate a list of employers that they would want to work for.

Kristi Huey, a 2001 graduate, used the event to land her current job as a district manager with E. and J. Gallo Winery.

"It was great," Huey said. "I just went to the fair looking for the best opportunity and I hooked up with the Gallo people."

Huey would recommend that stu-

Career Fair

What: Meet employers, talk to recruiters, set up interviews

When: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday

Where: EMU Ballroom

Find out more about the participating companies at <http://uocareer.uoregon.edu>. From "QuickLinks," select "Career Fairs."

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Larry Smith
Career Center director

dents attend the fair, even if they do not see the company they want to work for on the list.

"It is all about networking," she said. "Even if you don't find the company you're looking for, there are just so many people to meet and contacts to make."

Contact the reporter at aimeerudin@dailyemerald.com.

OSPIRG

continued from page 1

issues was a good idea, and SFC decided to zero-fund the group.

Earl added the student fee allocation process works differently at PSU and several groups are usually zero-funded when first presenting their budgets. This year the SFC has zero-funded at least 24 student groups, either because their budget requests were too high or because they were asking for funding that was not supported under PSU student fee guidelines.

OSPIRG plans to appeal their zero-funding, as is the custom for zero-funded groups at PSU, according to Earl.

"We expect to maintain funding at PSU, but sometimes it takes a couple of bumps along the way to get there," said Ben Unger, campus program director for OSPIRG.

Unger added all five established chapters of OSPIRG are expected to contribute money to help fund the start-up of a new chapter at OSU because that university's fee allocation process will not immediately provide funding.

OSU student body President Bridget Burns said the university has had misfortunes in funding outside organizations. She added that OSPIRG has focused its efforts at OSU on lobbying students to subsidize the group before they even know what it's about.

"We're not interested in making a financial commitment to an outside organization that hasn't proved itself as a benefit to our students," Burns said.

Unger said he anticipates that the University of Oregon chapter of OSPIRG will not be zero-funded at tonight's PFC budget meeting, even though they also are asking for a \$150,000 budget. He said that the PFC has a better understanding of what OSPIRG does and why it is important to the University than the PSU committee does.

Unger said even though some of OSPIRG's money goes to pay for things off-campus, such as funding the start-up of a new chapter at OSU,

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OSU student body president

the group's efforts are done on behalf of University students. He added that funding an additional campus organizer would benefit students because he or she would help organize grassroots efforts that University of Oregon students care about.

"I think the PFC sees OSPIRG as a part of the broad marketplace of ideas that student groups bring to campus," Unger said.

OSPIRG's opponents have consistently targeted the group's use of student incidental fee money since it was first launched more than 30 years ago at the University.

Oregon Commentator Publisher Bret Jacobson said the Commentator has a history of opposing OSPIRG's funding. In 1998, a former Commentator writer launched a successful campaign convincing the student body to vote against giving OSPIRG student incidental fee funding and a former Commentator editor filed a federal lawsuit to challenge the constitutionality of OSPIRG's funding.

Jacobson said OSPIRG's fiscal irresponsibility manifests itself in its single-line budget — since other student groups must provide detailed budget requests — and its practice of using student incidental fees off-campus to hire professional lobbyists.

"I don't think you could seriously argue that sending incidental fee money up to a Portland office develops University of Oregon students in any way," Jacobson said. "Unless you're developing a knack for corruption."

Contact the senior news reporter at jenniferbear@dailyemerald.com.

W I N T E R 2 0 0 3

CAREER FAIR

TOMORROW

Career Expo

Oops! I did it again: Interview Blunders
... and How To Avoid Them

Tuesday, January 28 • 3:30 - 5:00pm

Umpqua Room • EMU

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 29

EMU BALLROOM 10AM-3PM

Career Center O UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

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