

# UO generates Peace Corps involvement

Alumni involved in the Peace Corps place the University among the top 25 schools producing volunteers

**Aimee Rudin**

Family/Health/Education Reporter

The University did it again. The University was ranked among the top 25 volunteer-producing schools in an annual report published by the Peace Corps. The report separates colleges and universities across the nation into three categories: large schools with an undergraduate population of more than 15,000 students, medium-sized schools with populations between 5,001 and 15,000 students and small schools with populations fewer than 5,000 students.

The University, part of the large

school category, was ranked 14th last year with 57 alumni involved with the Corps. The University of Wisconsin led the category with 123 alumni involved.

Robert Richardson, the University's personal Peace Corps contact, said awareness makes University students prime candidates for positions in the Peace Corps.

"This campus and the student body here has a very out-looking perspective," he said. "Students are very aware of the big picture and the activities occurring in the world outside of campus."

Based out of the University Career Center, Richardson is responsible for spreading information about the organization and leading recruiting activities on campus. Richardson has been in Eugene for barely a year, but he said he has been continually im-

pressed by the level of campus and community involvement.

Marc Schlossberg, assistant professor of planning, public policy and management at the University, said the program is a perfect opportunity for students. Schlossberg, who was a Peace Corps volunteer from 1995 to 1997, said the Corps is a great way for students to do three things: see the world, test knowledge and ideals learned in school and learn about themselves.

"When you're away from home, out on your own in an entirely different country, it really gives you the opportunity and the chance to learn about yourself," Schlossberg said. "I think it's a wonderful and unique opportunity. Any student who is interested should look into the program."

The Peace Corps was founded as a government organization in 1961 to

"promote world peace and friendship." Corps members who serve in the program for two years are paid. Approximately 7,000 corps members serve in 70 countries around the world.

Northwest public affairs specialist Jim Aguirre said he believes people in the Northwest particularly identify with the mission of the Peace Corps.

"The Northwest, in general, is Peace Corps country," he said. "We

have a tremendous response out here. People who live out here tend to be interested in community involvement and activism, things the Peace Corps would find upon."

Peace Corps recruiters will hold an information session and slide show about volunteer experiences in Africa today at 6 p.m. in 112 Esslinger.

Contact the reporter at [aimeerudin@dailyemerald.com](mailto:aimeerudin@dailyemerald.com).

Today's crossword solution

C	A	P	P	I	G	O	R	S	E	C	T	S	
A	L	O	E	R	O	B	E	W	A	H	O	O	
B	A	K	E	M	O	V	E	E	R	R	O	L	
O	M	E	R	T	A	I	N	C	A	I	K	E	
T	O	R	A	H	P	A	L	A	T	E	S		
F	E	D	E	R	A	T	E	S	S	T	I	L	E
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G	A	R	B	O	Z	O	S	T	O	P	U	P	
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L	I	V	I	D	N	E	R	O	E	R	G	S	
A	D	E	L	E	G	R	E	W	S	T	E	M	

## Film festival

continued from page 1

cinema is," June said.

She said the festival often reflects the interests of the coordinators. Last year's coordinator was an international studies major. Consequently, the 2002 festival highlighted films from around the world. June's plan was to acquire works from the United States that local filmgoers wouldn't normally get an opportunity to see. In fact, many of the feature films shown this year were produced in the Northwest — a fact June said was not intentional.

In addition to films, the weekend will include panel discussions, along with the Queer Photo Show, which is currently on display in the EMU Aperture Gallery. A reception for the photography exhibit will take place Friday in 180 PLC, following the second screening of "The Business of Fancydancing."

June said that the festival is likely to appeal to a wide variety of tastes.

"We're expecting a diverse crowd," she said. "I think the general public and younger crowds will find more to enjoy this year."

For instance, the film "Group," slated for 6 p.m. on Saturday, is a feature-length mockumentary following 21 weeks of group therapy sessions among eight women. The cast of characters includes a punk rock

amputee, a born-again Christian, a sex rocker, a binger, a hypochondriac, a bigot, a "tramp," an enigmatic woman and their therapist. The film, introduced by directors and producers Marilyn Freeman and Anne de Marcken, features music by cutting-edge rockers such as Sleater-Kinney.

"The Business of Fancydancing," the directorial debut of poet, playwright and author Sherman Alexie, tells the story of a reunion between two Spokane Reservation friends 16 years after their high school graduation.

June said this movie is likely to defy expectations often associated with the festival. Though the film features a number of gay characters, it is one of the few entries not created by an LGBT filmmaker.

"Most of the films in the festival are produced to advance queer cinema," June said. "With this film, the emphasis is primarily on the characters as opposed to the identity of those who produced it."

In addition to the feature-length films, the event will also include a short films program showcasing documentaries, narrative films and animated shorts.

Short Film Jury member Yann Doignon said choosing this year's entries was time-consuming, yet rewarding. The seven-member jury whittled nearly 60 entries down to the 13 shorts that are featured this year.

The jury already awarded its own prizes to a number of films in the shorts program, but audience members will have an opportunity to vote for their own favorites on Sunday at 4:30 p.m. A selection featured in this portion of the festival includes one of Doignon's proclaimed personal favorites — "Hot and Bothered: feminist pornography."

The film, described by Doignon as "amazingly controversial," addresses the complex issue of female sexuality surrounding pornographic films aimed specifically at women.

Students involved in the event say this year's festival will provide an important community service. University Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Alliance Co-Director Austin Shaw-Phillips credits the annual festival with opening many eyes to the queer experience.

"Prior festivals have done a lot of justice to address the many facets of queer life," Shaw-Phillips said. "Anyone interested in being educated about the issues we face should definitely check it out."

However, Shaw-Phillips said enjoyment of the event doesn't have to focus entirely on education.

"Quite simply, it's just an inexpensive way to see some stellar entertainment," Shaw-Phillips said.

Contact the senior Pulse reporter at [ryanbornheimer@dailyemerald.com](mailto:ryanbornheimer@dailyemerald.com).

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