



Courtesy

Eric Dylan Jones, pictured above in Kenya, Africa, during summer 2001, committed suicide March 21 at the age of 25.

Jones

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He grew up in Salem and graduated from South Salem High School in 1995. He attended Chemeketa Community College, Oregon State University and graduated from the University of Oregon in 2002. Jones was accepted to Rutgers University to study anthropology and travel in western Africa in the summer of 2001. He was still studying anthropology at the University at the time of his death.

Jones was known for his love of reading, writing, food, music and the outdoors, including activities such as hiking and backpacking. Jones also showed a strong commitment to fitness and loved baseball.

"He certainly felt more at home and at peace in the wilderness than on a couch in front of a TV — or just about anywhere," Schwartz said.

As for his dreams and goals, Jones wished to pursue a career in anthropology and wanted to travel extensively to collect ancient art from diverse cultures and unlock the secrets of the past.

"He had a real passion for understanding the complexity of nature and was driven to seek knowledge of the origins of life and the forces that keep us ticking," Schwartz said.

John Lukacs, an anthropology professor and interim department head, had been an academic adviser to Jones for years and said he was shocked to hear of his suicide, especially considering how frequently he and Jones met and worked together.

"I had no clue there was anything going on in other parts of his life," he said.

Lukacs, who was out of town when the beating was reported, said Jones always went above and beyond the college curriculum and was passionately interested in the study of human evolution.

Lukacs said he was quite impressed with the determination and independence of undergraduate Jones when he spent the summer at a high profile field school in Kenya, Africa, a few years ago. Today, Lukacs said he can't help but wonder if he could have helped Jones through his difficult time, had he been in town.

"It's a little disturbing to me," he said. "Our interactions were always more of a one-on-one thing, and I wonder if he just didn't feel comfortable sharing more of his life with me."

Besides his love for African culture and the natural environment, Jones was also devoted to his dog, Jamilla, who Schwartz said was the center of his life.

Before he died, Jones left instructions for his loved ones about what to do with his belongings, and he had conversations with some close friends regarding his hopes and intentions for their futures.

Schwartz said many of Jones' fossils and anthropology books will be donated to the University anthropology department, as he wished. His other belongings have gone to friends, family and non-profit organizations.

"Even as he left this world, Eric inspired me to reach for my greatest dreams," Schwartz said. "To love and respect my life and, above all else, to believe in myself and never give up."

Contact the reporter at caronalrab@dailymerald.com.

ASUO brief

Candidate pool shrinks as ASUO elections near

As the primary election draws closer, the political playing field for ASUO elections continues to thin out, and four more candidates have bowed out of this year's political race.

A total of eight candidates have dropped out of the election, although many candidates who were running for multiple positions had to drop out of some races in accordance with an ASUO rule that says a student can only run for one political position.

ASUO Elections Coordinator Andrea Hall said she has confirmed two new election withdrawals. Trevor

Sehrer will not be running for ASUO Senate Seat 1, a Programs Finance Committee seat, and Brenda Treadwell is dropping out of the race for Senate Seat 3, also a PFC seat. However, competition for these two positions is still fierce, with six remaining candidates running for Seat 1 and four candidates for Seat 3.

"It's pretty standard for a handful of people to drop out," Hall said. "It's very difficult having seven or eight people running for a senate seat."

Two other candidates have told the Emerald they are withdrawing from the election. Garret Hinds said he is not going to run for ASUO president, and Sami Hayden said she is not going to run for ASUO Student Senate Seat 15.

— Jennifer Bear

Campus buzz

Wednesday

Native American families with disabilities (University of Oregon Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Multicultural Task Force with Lee Anne Nichols, Ph.D., R.N. University of Tulsa School of Nursing), 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 201 A, B and C Clinical Services, lunch will be served, 346-2584.

Bike repair workshop (Craft Center), 2-9 p.m., EMU Walnut Room.

Jason Griffithy (guest speaker, sponsored by AAA), 5:30-7 p.m., 177 Lawrence.

Landscape architecture (lecture), 5:45-9:30 p.m., 115 Lawrence.

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