

Direction Service betters lives

The program provides resources and assists people with disabilities and will host a fundraising event Friday

Ducks & Co.

Lindsay Sauvé
Family/Health/Education Reporter

As a graduate student in special education, Marshall Peter was looking for an alternative to substitute teaching, which was a career he didn't have his heart in. He soon discovered, however, that the University was creating a new program, designed to assist people with disabilities, called Direction Service.

Peter, who is now the executive director of the program, was hired as a case coordinator more than 25 years ago, but little did he know it would eventually become his life's work. He is one of many alumni who have found careers in the community, owning or operating businesses next door to the college that trained them.

Direction Service was created in October 1976 as a demonstration project under a grant from the Bureau of Education for the Handicapped. The project was intended to provide more efficient outreach to families with disabled children by combining resources from schools and other agencies.

"People come as wholes, and the idea behind (Direction Service) is to treat issues by combining one or more agencies," said Dick Zeller, co-director of the University's Technical Assistance and Consulting Services.

In 1982, the organization established itself independently from the University. Much has changed since the program began, including the creation of the Counseling Center, which offers services to adults and children with disabilities and their families.



Jessica Waters for the Emerald

Executive director of Direction Service Marshall Peter says the program is kept alive through volunteers and staff members.

Despite the changes, the program's mission to "assist people with disabilities and special needs to live the fullest lives possible" has continued to be their inspiration.

"Historically, people with disabilities were seen as helpless and dependent," Peter said. "We're trying to assist them and provide information on how they can be powerful and independent."

Direction Service is sectioned into four departments that provide assistance on varying levels. Consortium for Appropriate Dispute Resolution helps parents and educators solve conflicts, while Case Coordination works directly with families in assessing their needs and providing resources. Direc-

tion Service also provides information, which is available to adults, children and families with disabilities.

But state and federal budget problems may potentially hamper the services they provide to the community, especially since they rely on a portion of their funding from the government.

"A few weeks ago, I had real concerns about whether our case coordination program would continue," Peter said. "We are very vulnerable right now, and if we cease to exist, there will be fundamental erosion within the community."

In light of budget woes, Direction Service will be holding its first Celebrity Roast on Friday, May 30, at

the Doubletree Hotel in Springfield, with the hopes of raising extra funds.

Direction Service also receives grants from organizations such as the United Way and is kept alive with the help of volunteers and staff members that are "already paid much less than they're worth," Peter said. Many staff members at Direction Service are graduates of the University's Special Education program, he added.

"The special education program at the University is exceptional," he said. "People come out of the program very well prepared to work in special education."

Contact the reporter at lindsaysauve@dailymerald.com.

Preservation

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The University is one of the only schools on the West Coast that offers the program, which has worked hand-in-hand with ASHP.

"Most of the preservation in this state has come out of the University of Oregon," said Chris Bell, a graduate student in the program and an organizer of the week's events. Bell is also helping coordinate a historical photo scavenger hunt, which challenges students to identify different obscure bits of campus that appear in photos in the Emerald every day this week.

Professor Emeritus Don Peting said preservation is essential to keeping America's history intact.

"We preserve literature and ways of life, and we also preserve important aspects of our built environment — things that remind us of the way life was before," said Peting, who directed the graduate program of historic preservation for more than 10 years. "Not every building needs to be saved, not every building is important. But there are some buildings that need to be preserved. Who, for instance, could imagine destroying Timberline Lodge?"

The campus is home to some of the older buildings in Eugene. Deady Hall was finished in 1876, and together with its northern neighbor Villard Hall, the two are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the highest designation any building can achieve.

"They were our campus — that was it. There were no trees; it was a farmer's field," Peting said. "In the 19th century, people from town came here for theatrical events and special presentations."

Ken Guzowski, a senior planner

Community Historic Preservation Week events

- Free movie screenings in 115 Lawrence at 7 p.m.
Wednesday: "Fountainhead"
Thursday: "David Macauley's Castle"
Friday: University of Oregon Walking Tour with Don Peting at 5 p.m., then screening of "Animal House"
- Shelton-McMurphy-Johnson House tours throughout the week 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and Mother's Day Tea
- Campbell House open house and Mother's Day Tea on Sunday 1-4 p.m.
- East Skinner Butte Historic District self-guided Historic Homes Tour on Sunday noon-4 p.m.
- Wayne Morse Ranch tours, ice cream, and cake on Sunday 1-4 p.m. Features National Public Radio's Claude Offenbacher in readings at 1 and 3 p.m.
- Lane County Historical Museum, open every week Wednesday-Friday 10-4 p.m., Saturday noon-4 p.m. \$2 adults, \$1 seniors.

SOURCE: Associated Students for Historical Preservation

with the city of Eugene, was an adjunct faculty member at the University for eight years and now works for the city to preserve historic places in Eugene. He said there's at least 150 historic buildings in Eugene, and he works to make sure older buildings aren't instantly junked or scrapped.

"It's important to maintain history for the future," he said. "It helps express a continuum for Oregon's history. We're up to 1953 now — that's a genre of architecture that isn't valued or appreciated."

ASHP president Carin Petersen said historic preservation also helps the environment.

"It's sustainable to keep on using buildings instead of building new ones," she said.

Goodson agreed.

"If we tore down every building just because it wasn't in use anymore, we'd be in a world of hurt," she said.

Contact the news editor at brookreinhard@dailymerald.com.

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