



Director

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Ryan has already met with campus departments like the Office of Student Affairs to discuss issues that affect students, stating the practice of medicine is a cooperative venture where people work together.

Saying he greatly believes in self-care, Ryan wants students to view the health center as a place they can turn to for health-related issues, even when they are not sick.

I tend to be a big advocate, as I think everyone here is, of health promotion and wellness," he said.

Future projects

Ryan said he hopes to continue providing programs that educate students on wellness. One of his goals is to improve the health center's Web site to provide up-to-date information and links to resources.

The health center already offers programs in collaboration with other campus groups on safe sex, smoking cessation and alcohol abuse. Ryan said the center could develop other topical programs that target specific groups.

"There are a lot of groups that have different needs and we need to respond to that," Ryan said, citing international students as one example.

Ryan will also assist in preparing for the new health center expansion, a 10,000 square-foot addition to the current space, although the details still need to be worked out. When the construction is underway, Ryan said he wants to ensure that the health center is still accessible and comfortable for its staff and users.

Staff reactions

As for the health center staff, many workers are happy so far with Ryan's performance and demeanor.

Assistant Nursing Director Sharon Harbert described Ryan as very professional, accessible and self-assured.

"I believe he will carry on with the mission of the health center to improve the educational experience of the students here," she said.

Medical Records Supervisor Pat McCormick has similar sentiments

"He's hearing what we have to say," McCormick said. "He's taking the time to talk to everyone."

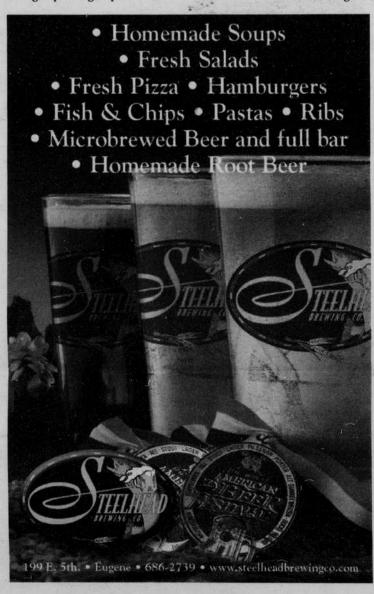


Dr. Tom Ryan provides leadership and support for staff, aids communication between the center and other departments, and explores new ideas for the center.

Ryan's ultimate goal is to serve students.

"We're here for students and we want to be sure that they understand that and know we're here," he said. "And we're not only here when they're sick."

Contact the reporter at ayishayahya@dailyemerald.com

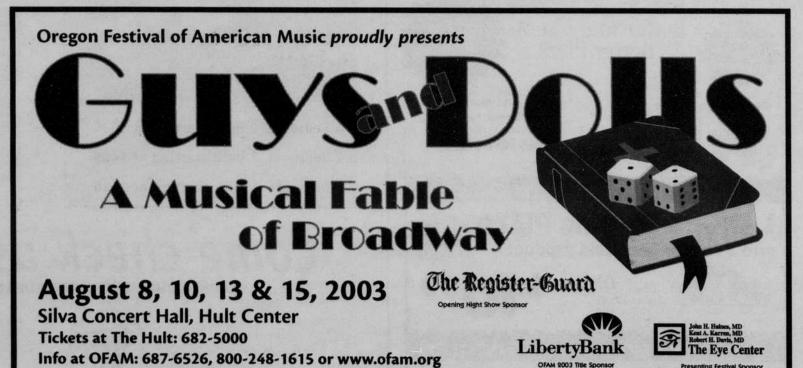




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