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'Caring,' 'outgoing' student loved swimming, film



Courtesy Jay Rowan (left), with friends Thomas Maffai (middle) and Jake Johnston.

Jay Rowan, whose friends and family recall the University student's steady commitment to justice and to helping others around him, died Saturday

By Ayisha Yahya Reporter

Champion swimmer, budding film producer, dedicated friend and loving son — these were just some facets of Jay Rowan's vibrant personality.

Rowan, a University sophomore, died Saturday in an accident on the Deschutes River.

According to reports from the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, Rowan and his

friend Eric Kane were floating down the Deschutes River in inner tubes when Rowan plunged over Awbrey Falls. Kane made it to the riverbank, but Rowan, 20, was trapped underwater below the falls, where divers found his body about 5 p.m. Saturday.

But Rowan's spirit still lives for those who were closest to him.

"The night before, we played two games of chess," said John Rowan, Jay's father. "I won one and he won one." He said his son was an exceptional chess player, adding that the family had gone to watch the movie "Seabiscuit" together earlier that afternoon.

The elder Rowan said he knew Jay was going rafting the next day and he asked him to be careful. Judy Rowan, his mother, said she

saw him for the last time Saturday morning.

John Rowan said his son was very caring and taught people to care for each other.

"It would be hard to find someone who didn't like Jay," he said.

Jay Rowan certainly cared: Last April, one of his friends, Jake Johnston, was detained due to an immigration misunderstanding as he was returning to the United States from Mexico. Rowan worked tirelessly to get Johnston out of the San Diego Correctional Facility where he was being held. He wrote to different legislators throughout the state and gathered more than 800 signatures from University students in a petition calling for

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Vehicle collision probe continues; DPS officer quits

DPS officer Michael Bonertz resigned after three years with the department following a July 21 collision between the patrol vehicle he was driving and the bicyclist he pursued

By Jared Paben Freelance Reporter

The Department of Public Safety officer who reportedly hit a bicyclist with a patrol vehicle has resigned, officials said.

DPS Administrative Lieutenant Joan Saylor said she didn't know why the former officer, Michael John Bonertz, resigned. She said Bonertz had worked with DPS for three years, and that he had no record of disciplinary action. The department's investigation into the July 21 incident is continuing, she added.

Bonertz's listed phone number is disconnected; he could not be reached for comment.

After reviewing a Eugene Police Department report, the district attorney's office said it won't file charges against the officer. The EPD report concluded that Bonertz hit 26-year-old Donald Tean Garipey with his patrol vehicle as Garipey attempted to flee from the officer about 4 a.m. on July 21. The district attorney's office will not file charges against Garipey either, it said.

Despite the decision, debate still surrounds the incident. Bonertz said in the report the collision was not intentional, but Garipey contends the officer intentionally hit him.

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TAG, YOU'RE IT!



Jessica Waters Emerald

University junior Tawnyia Graves enjoys the weather by playing a game of tag with her 1-year-old daughter, Kaitlyn, on the lawn behind the EMU.

Summer graduates slated to walk in 'more intimate' ceremony

The Office of the Registrar expects to hand out more than 1,000 diplomas at Saturday's graduation

By Ayisha Yahya Reporter

Bars of "Pomp and Circumstance" will again echo across campus Saturday as hundreds of students take part in summer graduation ceremonies. The ceremony, to be held at the Quadrangle Memorial near the Knight Library, will begin at 10 a.m.

As of Tuesday, 948 students have

applied to graduate, Office of the Registrar's Assistant Registrar Jim Blick said. Blick added that the office expects to confer about 1,050 degrees and certificates, including 605 bachelor degrees, 281 master's, 56 doctoral degrees, two law degrees and 106 certificates.

The numbers were a moving target, however, since the department was still reviewing applications for eligibility, he said.

"These are the applicants; whether they'll actually be awarded their de-

grees is another question," he said.

Last summer, the University conferred 592 bachelor degrees and 331 graduate degrees.

University Librarian Deborah Carver is set to give the commencement address, titled "The Hard Question — It's a Good Thing." Carver, who was the Oregon's Library Association's Librarian of the Year in 1999, will speak on the importance of libraries in education and the value of life-long learning.

Most students who graduate in the summer are those who have course

work left to complete from the previous school year.

"A large population that walks and participates in the summer ceremony is Master's of Education students because they're not done until this time," Family Programs and Commencement Director Rachel Johnson said.

While students who had only a few credits remaining to complete their degree were previously allowed to take part in the spring commencement and return to finish their last classes in the

summer, they now have to wait for the summer commencement.

"We no longer have a 'ceremony-only' application," Graduation Specialist Tina Hammock said.

She said that beginning in winter of 2003, students who had not completed their total required credits had their applications pulled aside. She added that students with leftover credits could still don their caps and gowns and walk in the main ceremonies, but they wouldn't have

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