

Faith groups offer students a spiritual community

CAMPUS FAITH GROUPS

Asian Christian Fellowship
Weekly meetings Thu. 7 p.m. at 276 Education
Welcome barbecue Oct. 4 noon in the EMU Amphitheater
Contact: 971-571-7479 or www.uoacf.com

Buddhists for Peace (Nichiren Daishonin) Campus Student Club
Weekly intro meetings Thu. 7 p.m. at 2160 W. 11th St. Suite E
Contact: Austyn Young (345-8486) or bfpup@yahoo.com

Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship
Office: EMU Room 20
Action teams, weekly meetings and small group Bible studies
Contact: Director Jack Hammond (346-0910) or www.uochialpha.org

Eugene Buddhist Priory
Serene Reflection Meditation (Soto Zen)
Contact: Rev. Oswin Hollenbeck (344-7377) or www.eugenebuddhistpriory.org

First Baptist Collegiate Christian Fellowship
Weekly meetings Sun. 7:07 p.m. for 77 minutes at 1987 University St.
Fall Getaway Oct. 17-19
Contact: Pastor Corey Rose (345-0341)

Koinonia Center - Presbyterian Campus Ministry
Weekly dinner and worship Tue. 5:30 p.m. at 1414 Kincaid St.
Welcome Back Barbecue Sept. 28 4-6 p.m.

Contact: Ann Bowersox (484-1707)
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
Weekly worship Tues. 9 p.m. at 276 Education
Weekly Bible study Thu. (various locations)
Contact: Jon and Mia Kubu (484-1503) or www.intervarsitynw.org/uo.htm

McKenzie Study Center
Multi-denominational Christian Apologetics, intellectual yet practical lectures and discussion
Weekly meetings Tue. 7:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 30 at 1883 University St.

Oregon Hillel
Every Fri. 6 p.m. Shabbat Services, 7 p.m. free kosher dinner at 1059 Hilyard St.
Jewish Community Reception Sept. 25 6-7 p.m. at Alsea Room
Rosh Hashanah Services Sept. 26 6:30 p.m. at Gerlinger Lounge
Rosh Hashanah Services Sept. 27 6:30 p.m. at 1059 Hilyard St.
Welcome Barbecue Sept. 30 6 p.m. at 1059 Hilyard St.
Contact: 343-8920 or www.oregonhillel.org

Wesley Foundation
Weekly Wed. 6:30 p.m. during school year at 1236 Kincaid St.
Simple supper followed by conversation, singing and prayer
Contact: Rev. Jeremy Hajdu-Paulen (346-4694) or www.uowesley.org

SOURCE: University Web sites and faith groups

Groups representing a wide variety of faiths assist students in exploring their religious beliefs on campus

By Deb Allen
Freelance Reporter

University junior AnneMarie Knepper is one of many students for whom faith is an important aspect of their college experience.

Knepper is an avid participant in the Wesley Foundation College Student Campus Ministry, a religious organization on campus.

Last year, Knepper participated in the Alternative Spring Break Experience. The group went to San Francisco to learn more about issues that concern the poor in that city and to participate in community service projects. While there, she spent two days with Project Open Hands to help prepare and deliver meals to patients with late-stage HIV symptoms and other chronic illnesses.

"It was an eye-opening experience," Knepper said. "I found out that 'the needy' doesn't always mean the bum on the street. The bottom line is that they can't get up and make their own dinner."

Many acknowledge the important role faith plays in some students' lives,

and many student groups exist to help fill that need.

"Just because the University is officially secular doesn't mean we're oblivious to the life of the spirit," University President Dave Frohnmayer said. "This is an important time of exploration and growth and we urge students to explore that as vigorously as they can."

Ginny Nilsen, co-president of the Religious Directors Association on campus, explained the purpose of campus faith groups.

"Our goal is to provide the opportunity for students to seek out, investigate and participate in finding like-minded thinkers," Nilsen said.

Ann Bowersox, pastor of Presbyterian Campus Ministry, agreed, saying it is helpful for students to get involved with a faith community.

"It makes the University a little smaller," she said.

The University is also a place to learn about other faiths, bridging the gaps of misunderstanding between religions.

For instance, last spring the Muslim Student Association sponsored a series of lectures for the community titled "An Islamic Perspective of Justice," and it is planning similar events for the coming year.

"After Sept. 11, (2001,) we all woke up to realize that there was a tremen-

dous need to educate the non-Muslim world about Islam; but there was also a second awakening, and that was that there's a tremendous need to educate Muslims about Islam," Assistant Professor of Religious Studies Timothy Gianotti explained during the first lecture.

Graduate student Talal Al-Rahbi added that the MSA provides essential support for Muslim students following Sept. 11, 2001. Last spring's community lectures were intended to rectify stereotypes.

"Under the negative picture about Islam that some news media promote, we Muslims are obligated to correct the misrepresentation and wrong ideas about Islam in the mind of people," Al-Rahbi said.

University students can find a wide range of student-friendly religious organizations on campus. Those seeking a particular faith are likely to find it listed among about two dozen registered with the Religious Directors Association. For more information, students can call Nilsen at 344-5693.

The association will hold its annual Religious Fair in the EMU Amphitheater on Oct. 21 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. where students can find information tables and representatives of the various campus faith-based organizations.

Deb Allen is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

CENTER

continued from page 1B

"It's important for faculty to have access to this facility," Eyster said. "Some courses would be taught there, and we would want to try to attract faculty members who are interesting in a Living Learning Center setting."

The new residence hall would be roughly 142,000 square feet in size.

Eyster said that if the site near Bean is chosen, the building would be smaller and not contain a classroom or offices. He added that the distance from campus would also reduce its academic importance and that the building would be constructed as a regular residence hall, rather than as the Living Learning Center.

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