

STUDENTS

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sure because the criteria for being a "nontrad" — having children, transferring from another school or being older than the typical student — are often difficult to track or gauge.

He did say that Gwynne and Watson's situation is a common one, noting that he has seen students drive from Roseburg, Salem and Florence every day to go to school here. Many of them are even forced to spend the night if the weather is bad or if they don't have time to drive back and forth. Gwynne and Watson know firsthand how difficult it can be for nontraditional students to pay the bills and raise a family while attending school.

Their grades are also suffering from the extra pressure.

During his last term at Chemeketa Community College — where both Gwynne and Watson earned Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer degrees — Watson held a part-time job on campus and a part-time job off campus, was heavily involved in student gov-

ernment and took 24 credits.

"He still got a 4.0 GPA," Gwynne said, adding that she too pulled A's and B's.

When he came to the University last fall, Watson realized his AAOT degree was a "complete waste of time" that grossly under-prepared him for studies at the University.

"This term we're taking 16 credits with weekend part-time pizza driver jobs, and this term is overwhelming," Watson said. "This is not a sustainable practice. Our GPAs are suffering."

Gwynne said the most difficult part of school is the over-abundance of required reading. Yet, they've managed to turn the inconvenience of a grueling commute into a useful time for studying by reading to each other as they drive.

"We just find little squish times when we can read to each other," Gwynne said.

For Watson and Gwynne, paying the bills is especially difficult. They support Gwynne's 16-year-old daughter Breanna and the couple's four-year-old son Dreyan.

To deal with the financial demands

of higher education, the couple has started recording and typing class notes for University Disability Services, bringing in about \$100 per term, Gwynne said. She also said they're going to start auctioning things on eBay to bring in a little extra money.

"Our typical pattern is to work like crazy during the summer and then try to do a collage of small things for small incomes when we have the opportunity," Watson said.

Another part of their life that often suffers with their busy lifestyle is their family, which Watson describes as "remarkably close."

Gwynne said they don't have a lot of quality time with their children except for the occasional evening. While Breanna and Dreyan come down to Eugene with their parents on the weekdays, all of them are usually occupied with reading and studying.

Burns explained that juggling jobs, family and school can be difficult for many nontraditional students, which is why the Nontraditional Student Union is needed. The group helps students find money and arrange child-

care, as well as provide other resources for nontraditional students.

He also said feeling like an outsider is a common problem.

"For a nontraditional student to come to this University as an older student feeling like a sore thumb — that is a psychological barrier that we have to deal with," he said.

But the apparent age barrier between traditional and nontraditional students didn't discourage Watson. He decided his two-year forestry degree from Chemeketa wasn't going to be good enough and he needed to go back to school.

"That forestry degree opened opportunities for me to be a seasonal, part-time, entry-level state forest ranger in charge of cleaning (Port-A-Potty) cans in three state parks in Wisconsin and one in Nebraska, with tens of visitors every year," he said. "So, I decided that life needed to be better than that. We both went back and got our AAOTs so we could come here as juniors."

Contact the people/culture/faith reporter at jaredpaben@dailyemerald.com.

PROVOST

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viewed, Vice President for Student Affairs Anne Leavitt said.

Vincent served for four years as LSU's vice provost for academic affairs and campus diversity. He said in a telephone interview that he looks forward to visiting Oregon, adding that if he is hired, his main goal will be "making sure that diversity issues are front and center on campus."

In the meantime, some say the position should have been filled already.

ASUO Multicultural Advocate Mark Padoongpatt said, he feels the process is taking too long and the administration is making too many decisions that lack a perspective on diversity issues. He said the longer the University waits to fill this role, the more it seems like the administration isn't concerned with these issues.

"In order to be able to claim to be a diverse campus, you have to prioritize issues of race and diversity," he said.

Moseley said the importance of the position warrants thoughtful decision making.

"It's more important to get the right person than to fill a position quickly," he said.

Office of Multicultural Affairs Director Carla D. Gary agreed.

"It would have been nice to have this sooner ... but I'm more concerned that we do it and that we do it well," she said.

Leavitt said one of the main rea-

sons the position has not been filled is because someone with the right qualifications is difficult to find.

"This is not a position that exists on just any other campus," she said, adding that if a campus does have a similar position, the person who holds it may be too established to want to leave.

The search committee for the position comprises seven faculty and staff and two students, but some campus groups feel students should be better informed of the search.

ASUO Multicultural Center Program Advisor Steve Morozumi said he thinks students should play more of a role in the decision making process.

"We think that the process should be more open and inclusive," he said. Morozumi also wonders what kind of accountability the position will hold.

"We're hoping for the best, but it's kind of wait-and-see skepticism," he said.

Padoongpatt agreed that students need to play a larger role in the hiring process. He said he met with one of the candidates last spring when students were given the chance to ask questions, but only a few students attended.

He said the University should do a better job of informing students of the search to fill the position so they can be more involved.

"Students need to at least be involved in a panel or questioning the individuals who are applying for this position," he said.

Contact the higher education/student life/student affairs reporter at chelseaduncan@dailyemerald.com.

ASUO

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Starkweather said he advised Foster to keep the statement fair to both parties involved in the incident and to be careful not to take sides. When it comes to crisis communications, Starkweather said the key is to be honest, accurate and quick.

Starkweather said a press statement should be released before the media

has to ask for it, however.

"Ideally, you want a statement out before anyone knows about it," he said. "You want to be proactive."

Starkweather added that timeliness shouldn't overshadow the honesty or accuracy of a press statement, saying all three are needed.

Contact the crime/health/safety reporter at alishaughnessy@dailyemerald.com.

Today's crossword solution

C	L	A	M	D	U	L	L	A	L	T	A	R
H	A	L	O	F	I	N	D	E	R	I	E	T
A	M	I	D	F	I	N	D	S	H	A	N	E
M	A	N	I	F	E	S	T	M	E	O	W	E
P	R	E	F	E	R	T	E	A	R			
				I	N	S	P	I	R	E	E	A
P	A	C	E	D	E	L	A	T	E	B	O	O
E	V	A	D	E	R	R	O	D	T	H	E	T
N	E	T	R	H	I	N	E	H	U	T	C	H
N	C	O	S	A	L	A	S	K	A	N		
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S	M	O	O	T	H	R	E	D	E	E	M	E
C	O	B	R	A	T	O	E	D	R	E	N	O
A	R	I	E	L	W	A	R	E	E	R	S	T
M	E	S	S	Y	O	D	O	R	D	Y	E	S

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