

HELP FOR THE ACCUSED

Students who are accused of cheating do not have to endure the conduct process alone — the Office of Student Advocacy provides professional representation for students charged with student conduct code violations.

Director of Student Advocacy Hilary Berkman said her office provides a wide range of services to students who are facing charges of cheating. She said the Office of Student Advocacy can inform students of their rights, defend them in informal and formal hearings and negotiate settlements and sanctions.

"Students come here because they really feel wronged by the charges," she said. "I think students need to know that even if they're charged, that doesn't mean they're guilty."

Berkman said one of the most valuable services the Office of Student Advocacy can provide is requesting an incident report for the student, which basically contains the evidence being used for the cheating accusation against him or her.

"It gives the student the opportunity to see exactly what the charges are and find information to rebut," she said.

CHEATING

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only occurred approximately four times in the last four years.

An academic dishonesty violation will have further repercussions for students who want to gain acceptance into graduate school or the American Bar Association, Loschiavo said, because background checks are a part of the admissions process.

However, Loschiavo said student conduct records are completely confidential, and not even a student's parents can gain access to them without the student's permission. The only reason graduate schools and the bar association can take a peek at student conduct records is because their application forms usually require students to sign a waiver to let officials look at the records.

He added that even though an academic dishonesty violation has serious repercussions, it's not something that will haunt students for the rest of their lives.

Students' conduct records are erased six months after graduation, Loschiavo said, and a cheating violation doesn't appear on transcripts or diplomas after graduation. But if it's a repeat offense and the student has a hearing and gets expelled, that will appear on his or her transcript, and the hearing committee can decide to add a notation to the student's diploma.

What about all the students who

cheat and don't get caught?

Many University officials say cheating has negative repercussions even for those students who elude disciplinary action.

Laurie Jones Neighbors, a faculty consultant with the Teaching Effectiveness Program, said many students fail to realize that their purpose in college is to learn. She added that if students cheat, they're really only harming themselves by cheapening the huge investment they've made to their college education.

"That's one reason I can let it go and not Google every paper to death," Neighbors said. "In the end, they've derailed their own learning."

But Loschiavo said one student's decision to cheat doesn't just cheapen his or her education. It also reflects on the University as a whole, and thus cheapens every student's ability to market themselves as a future worker in the job force.

"Your degree is devalued every time someone graduates who doesn't know what they're doing," Loschiavo said.

Jesse Harding, a University student and co-chairman of the Student Conduct Committee, said cheaters don't realize their actions have consequences for other people and can really cause harm. He added that many students have zero tolerance for cheating among their peers.

"When someone else cheats, they feel cheated because they've put in the

work and someone else didn't, but received the same grade," Harding said.

Teaching Effectiveness Program Director Georgeanne Cooper said many students think cheating doesn't hurt anyone but the person who does it, but she said professors are actually pained by the culture of dishonesty that exists in today's universities. She said teachers want to be able to have faith in their students, and it's distressing that they must constantly be on the lookout for cheating.

"It's just a general area of sadness for all of us who teach that it's even an issue," Cooper said. "We want to spend our time teaching, not policing students."

Contact the news editor at jenniferbear@dailyemerald.com.

STUDENTS' DUE PROCESS RIGHTS

- Written notice of the charges
- Right to have an adviser or counsel present
- Right to a formal hearing
- Innocent until proven guilty
- Right to present evidence on one's behalf
- Right to a hearing before an impartial official
- Right to remain silent

GIFTS

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soldier, Austin Randolph, was shot in the chest intentionally to test the effectiveness of the vest, but a cyst formed and he had to be flown to the United States for surgery.

"They gave him only a little time to recover and then sent him back to Iraq," Koski said.

Halverson said he also has a friend serving in Iraq.

The College Democrats are also working with the University bookstore to secure book donations, and they plan to approach the University's ROTC program for help.

"Every one of us is trying to do a little bit on our own," Koski said, adding that the group hopes to have the gift packages sent in time for Christmas, but is still fundraising to pay for shipping costs.

Halverson is soliciting donations and can be reached at Chalvers@gladstone.uoregon.edu.

Contact the campus/federal politics reporter at chuckslotower@dailyemerald.com.

CAMPUS BUZZ

Thursday

Outdoor Program presentation of "Recreational Roadless Areas Under Fire," 7:30-9 p.m., Ben Linder Room, free. Multimedia presentation will highlight three roadless areas in Oregon that are threatened by old-growth logging.

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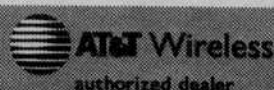
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