

Oregon Daily Emerald



Ducks steal victory from Cougars Page 7

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Driving out hunger

University employees hope to meet a 90,000-pound food donation goal by March

By Ayisha Yahya
News Editor

University employees are joining other state employees to fight hunger in Oregon. About 40 different departments are taking part in the annual Governor's State Employees Food Drive, which started at the beginning of the month and runs through March 5.

The statewide drive, which is in its 25th year, is titled "Caring Now ... Hunger Won't Wait!" Donations collected at the University will be donated to local foodbank FOOD for Lane County.

"There is a great need in Lane County and in Oregon generally to feed the hungry," said Office of Governmental Affairs Coordinator Karen Scheeland, who is organizing this year's drive.

Scheeland said the University aims to collect 90,000 pounds of food. Last year the University had set a goal of 65,000 pounds, but donated 113,917 pounds.

Participants can collect nonperishable goods, donate cash, sign up for payroll deductions or raise money in other creative ways. For instance, Scheeland said her office has already sold more than 600 chocolate hearts as part of the fund-raising. Other departments are also selling the candy hearts for \$2.

Some departments come up with interesting sub-themes to get the staff motivated. In the Human Resources and Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity departments, this year's theme is R & B, which stands for Rhythm and Blues or Rice and Beans, according to Human Resources Benefits Coordinator Lisa Plumb.

"Frankly I think it's really embarrassing that Oregon is known as the hungriest state in the nation," Plumb said.

Last year 780,000 Oregonians ate meals from an emergency foodbox, according to the Governor's food drive Web site, www.govfd.org.

Working with Human Resources Benefits Specialist Cindi Peterson, Plumb said the departments sent out invitations for the food drive kickoff shaped like old 45 records. She added that participants can contribute mainly rice and beans products or donate the equivalent of 45 pounds of food or \$7.50.

One dollar can buy six pounds of food, according to FOOD for Lane County.

Since the drive began, the departments have already collected 2,646 pounds worth of



Danielle Hickey Photo Editor

The Human Resources Center in Oregon Hall is one of many University offices contributing to the Governor's food drive. For every dollar donated, six pounds of food can be purchased by FOOD for Lane County.

donations, surpassing last year's total of 1,292 pounds, Plumb said.

In the School of Journalism and Communication, staff members have centered their efforts on a different food: Spam.

As part of its SPAM! Fest 2004 campaign to get donations for the drive, the department will host a "SPAM buffet" Monday, Feb. 16, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Leonard Aaron Lounge in Allen Hall, according to a press release.

The department's Development and External Relations Program Assistant Libby Miskimins said at the buffet, which will mimic the show "Fear Factor," people can sample Spam specialties, such as Spam cheesecake and possibly even Spam sorbet, in exchange for a dollar or canned food donation.

Miskimins said statistics on hunger in Lane

County are shocking.

"It's very likely that someone's neighbor is hungry right now," she said. She added that campaigns like the food drive help to create awareness on hunger issues and help people become more involved in the community.

"We need to reach out beyond the campus community and help the hungry and those in need," she said.

"It's a tremendous benefit," FOOD for Lane County spokeswoman Dana Turell said. "Every year, the University of Oregon is the biggest contributor from the Governor's food drive."

She said the organization distributes about six million pounds of food a year and that about one in five people in the county request an emergency food box.

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MSLF finds fault with University program

A College of Education master's program tailored for American Indians could violate the Constitution

By Lisa Catto
News Reporter

The Mountain States Legal Foundation told University General Counsel Melinda Grier that the College of Education's Sapsik'walá Program violates the U.S. Constitution and the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The Sapsik'walá program is a master's degree program that prepares American Indian students to teach in schools that serve American Indians. The aim of the program is to lower dropout rates and raise test scores at schools with high populations of American Indian students.

MSLF President William Perry Pendley said the use of race or ethnicity as a prerequisite for the program violates the U.S. Constitution.

"Oregon's College of Education is filled with fine students of all races and ethnicities, many of limited financial means, who would love the chance to compete for a scholarship to teach on an Indian Reservation and to give something back to young students there," Pendley said. "These educators of the future should not be told that they are the wrong race to compete for a University scholarship or to teach their fellow citizens."

Law Professor John Bonine said the Mountain States Legal Foundation is going after the wrong entity since the program is funded by the government. He said the group has only sent a letter to the University, and no lawsuit has been filed to push the program to change.

Calls to the MSLF were not immediately returned.

Sapsik'walá scholarship recipients receive tuition and fees, a monthly stipend and a book allowance. To qualify for the scholarship, the applicant must meet certain ethnic requirements, including being a member of a recognized American Indian tribe or band or being a descendant of a member.

The program is part of the University's Native American Initiative, which enhances recruiting and retention of American Indian students and faculty and increases academic support.

MSLF's Web site states the organization is a nonprofit, public interest legal center dedicated to individual liberty, the

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Archives show University's path to diversity

The University and Emerald archives chronicle major steps including the first black student and BSU's formation

By Chelsea Duncan
News Reporter

Even though it's located in a small city in the Northwest, the University has played its own distinct role throughout the years in the struggle for racial equality.

As the movement grew, the University continued to develop into a more understanding and accepting institution. Since Mabel Byrd, the first black student, attended the University from around 1917 to 1919, the University has also increased its diversity.

University Archivist Heather Briston said Byrd is generally considered to be the first black student to attend the University, although that type of information can be hard to confirm.

"In this case it was a letter that one of my predecessors found in the presidential records," she said. The University had more than 300 black students in Fall 2003, according to the Office of the Registrar.

Briston said that the University's first black faculty member is generally thought to be Charles William Thomas II, an assistant professor of rehabilitation counseling from 1963 to 1966.

Significant moments in black history at the University are also

chronicled in the Emerald archives. According to the archives, the Black Student Union was formed around 1967. The purpose of the group is defined in a brief article published Feb. 8, 1967, about the newly created Black Student Association, which later became BSU.

"The primary purpose of the association is to unite Afro-American students at the University," the reporter wrote. "Participants stressed

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A University student battles a brain tumor

