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Marriage milestone

Gretchen Miller, a University professor, married longtime partner Sarah Hendrickson Saturday in Eugene

Gretchen Miller (left) and Sarah Hendrickson share a toast with Kent Kullby and Tim Smith at the Eugene Hilton after both couples were married Saturday morning. Hendrickson and Miller, a University professor, were the first same-sex couple ever married in Eugene.



Tim Kupsick
Freelance
Photographer

By Jared Paben
Senior News Reporter

Shortly after 11 a.m. on Saturday, two women — partners for nearly a quarter of a century — entered Vista Room 2 on the 12th floor of the Hilton Eugene and Conference Center, cutting short numerous conversations and drawing eyes and smiles their way.

Gretchen Miller, a University professor of 15 years, and her soon-to-be wife Sarah Hendrickson wound their way through the thick crowd to the front of the room, where they met and embraced another Eugene couple, Tim Smith and Kent Kullby.

It was the beginning of a very happy day for the visibly excited women. For 24 years they have been

together, living as a family, raising their children. For much of that time they wanted to marry. "We've waited a long time," said Miller, who will teach Introduction to Public Law this spring. "There's no reason to wait any longer."

On Saturday, they were finally married, becoming the first same-sex couple to wed in Eugene history.

The Rev. Carolyn Colbert, minister of the local Unitarian Universalist Church, married the couples. She has known Miller and Hendrickson for about six years.

ONLINE EXTRA

To view a photo gallery of last week's Multnomah County marriages, visit www.daily-emerald.com and click on "Image Galleries."

"I'm glad that none of you have rushed into this," she said during the ceremony, drawing laughter from much of the crowd. "Clearly, 24 years and 13 years together, respectively, have given you both lots of time."

The decision to get married wasn't rushed, but preparations for the ceremony certainly were. After getting their marriage license on Wednesday in Portland, they had only three days to put together the wedding, which was relatively small and simple.

Miller said that a big ceremony wasn't important to the women, adding that if they wanted a big wedding they would have waited and had one.

Next year the women look forward to celebrating both their 25th anniversary of being together and their first anniversary of being married, she said.

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Global holiday honors women

Women and HIV/AIDS is the topic for this year's International Women's Day

By Chelsea Duncan
News Reporter

Today marks International Women's Day, recognized by the United Nations as a day when women can come together to reflect on their achievements and continue the movement for human rights worldwide.

This year's theme is Women and HIV/AIDS, according to the Web site for the United Nations Development Fund for Women.

"At the beginning, many people thought of AIDS as a disease striking mainly at men," U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in a statement on the Web site. "Even a decade ago, statistics indicated that women were less affected. But a terrifying pattern has since emerged. All over the world, women are increasingly bearing the brunt of the epidemic."

The holiday has been celebrated around the world in different ways and on different dates for nearly a century. The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution in 1977 to observe the day on March 8, according to the Web site.

University Women's and Gender Studies Assistant Professor Elizabeth Reis said the holiday was taken up by the feminist movement in the 1960s.

"Feminists saw that it was kind of a ready-made holiday to celebrate women's lives," she said.

She added that since then it has become a

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NEWS BRIEF

Knight Library open 24/7 during Dead Week and Finals Week

The Knight Library will remain open around the clock during Dead Week and Finals Week this term to give students, faculty and staff extra time to study and research, according to a University Libraries press release.

The extended hours begin today at 8:00 a.m. and run through midnight on March 18. All other University libraries will maintain their usual schedules.

University Librarian Deborah Carver said about 4,000 people have taken advantage of the extended hours each term since the schedule was enacted last spring.

"It really does seem to be a really useful service," she said. "The comments were just so positive."

The library will be open only to students, faculty and staff with current University identifications during its extended hours. Access to photocopy machines and Information Technology Center computers and printers will be available, but no other services, including checkout services or reference desk assistance, will be open during the extended hours, according to the release.

Carver said there have been no problems so far with the schedule, and she hopes to continue the service in the future, although it may be difficult to afford. She said it costs the library roughly \$5,000 each term for the extended service, but she feels it's worth it

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Eugeneans, school board at odds over 4J elementary school name

Despite community support, the board is showing little enthusiasm to name a school after the late Cesar Chavez

By Moriah Balingit
Freelance Reporter

Nearly 150 people gathered in the parking lot of the 4J District Education Center on Friday in support of naming a nearly completed elementary school after the late labor rights activist Cesar Chavez.

"Si se puede! (Yes we can!)" chanted the crowd, clad in red headbands and carrying signs.

The 4J Eugene School District Board recently came

under fire after a March 1 work session when few board members showed support for naming the school for Chavez despite considerable community endorsement.

"We have a board that's all white deciding for us," said Guadalupe Quinn, the program coordinator of the Network of Immigrant Justice.

School board member Virginia Thompson said she felt the name was "inclusive of some people and exclusive of others."

"I think we have very vocal groups and those can be defined as segments of our community," she said.

But many rally attendees argued otherwise. Mayoral candidate Kitty Piercy said Chavez's work benefited everyone.

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