

Celebrate good times

Students discuss their plans for celebrating the end of four (or more) long, grueling years at the University

Aron Glatzer
Freelance Reporter

After finishing exams and before being thrown into the world of careers and 9-to-5 schedules, many graduates take the time to celebrate earning their degrees.

A traditional celebration is having dinner with immediate family. Whether it be a small get-together or a big extravaganza, college graduation sometimes serves as a family reunion.

Senior Matt Cannell said he is holding a reunion to celebrate graduation.

"Proud of the hard work ... I'm having 15 members of my immediate family and a couple friends at the Oregon Electric Station," Cannell said. "We'll be posting up at their rustic bar to drink a few good cocktails and dinner before heading back to my house to polish off some kegs."

Alumnus CJ Cleveland plans on using his backyard to create a massive barbecue — fully equipped with hamburgers, hot dogs, steaks and kegs.

"Friends, family, end of the year with beer — what more can you ask for?" Cleveland said.

Several soon-to-be graduates have chosen to let loose until reality sets in.

"I plan on re-living my four years of college and doing as much damage to myself as possible for a whole weekend," senior Sam Jakola said.

Senior economics major Will Lowe shared similar sentiments about celebrating before he leaves for California.

"I'm gonna get drunk like E-40," Lowe said. "It's gonna be crazy whack funky."

Some undergraduates plan on having one last hurrah with the seniors.

"It's a saddening time to see some of my friends move on in their lives, but the times we created here have the strength to last beyond college," sophomore Thomas Petroff said. "I know the torch is being passed down to me, and that having learned from the best, I'm confident the shoes will be filled."

Aron Glatzer is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

GRADUATION BRIEF

Graduating seniors can still benefit from internships

Richard Guerra, assistant director at the University's Career Center, said many seniors come into his office the term before graduation terrified of commencement day.

Advisers, professors and fellow students recommend that the sooner a student lands an internship the better, but Guerra gives seniors hope by explaining that it's never too late to start looking for an internship.

If a student is motivated and persistent, good internships aren't impossible to get, and many resources are available to guide them through the pearly gates of success. Taking the right classes and having a solid GPA are advantages, but underclassmen shouldn't fail to realize that experience sometimes beats a good GPA.

Even though most internships are unpaid, Guerra said, they give exposure to the field and make students more marketable during a job search. Guerra always encourages students to have a contract that outlines their duties and what they want to learn at the internship. If the internship isn't structured — that is, walking up to a potential employer unsolicited, volunteering services or proposing an internship — an intern's duty to the company is

between the intern and his or her supervisor. Guerra said typically an employer wants students to work two-to-four hours several times a week.

Susanne Thorup, manager of internship development at the University of Notre Dame, said in a South Bend Tribune (Indiana) article that an internship "is going to give you valuable experience on your résumé, provides self-confidence, gives you hands-on experience in the real world and is really great for career exploration."

Guerra said whether the internship is paid or unpaid, it's advantageous for students not only because they will learn things they can't learn in a classroom but because they become job candidates. Often, employers are more willing to hire someone they know, trust or have been working with. Some students also find that after interning, they don't enjoy the profession.

At the University, the Career Center helps students pinpoint their interests and build their résumés accordingly. Guerra gives students free career information, informs them of upcoming career fairs and prepares them to meet potential employers by having them perform mock interviews. The goal of the students should be to sell themselves effectively and to be persistent and passionate.

— Mary Sasa

Oregon Daily Emerald

The Graduation Supplement is published by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co. Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon. The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices in Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union. The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

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Made possible in part by a Lane County Tourism Special Projects Grant

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