

Professor to serve on panel to assess health-care system

Judith Hibbard's research on consumers improving their health care earned her a spot on the national council

BY AMANDA BOLSINGER
NEWS REPORTER

University professor Judith Hibbard has been nominated to serve on the National Advisory Council for Health-care Research and Quality, a 21-member panel of professionals from around the country that focuses on improving the quality, safety, efficiency and effectiveness of health-care services in America.

The council consists of private-sector experts with varied perspectives and expertise about the health-care system, according to its Web site. They represent health-care plans, providers, purchasers, consumers and researchers.

Hibbard, a professor in the Department of Planning, Public Policy and Management since 1982, was nominated to serve on the council because of her research focusing on health-care quality and consumers' role in improving health care.

"They wanted me on the council because of my expertise of the consumer role and it becoming a bigger solution to health-care problems," Hibbard said.

Hibbard was nominated to serve on the council last spring and received her invitation to serve this winter. She will be on the council until 2007.

Council members serve three-year terms. They advise on and research issues from children's health and quality assessments of medical care to seat belts and technology. The advisory council has three priorities it combines

to achieve improvements in the American health-care structure: gaining new knowledge on priority health issues, finding new tools and talents, and transforming research into practice.

Hibbard said she is currently working on a study examining the relationship between the information consumers receive and their health-care choices. As an example, she cites the impact that public reports on hospital care have on the consumers' choices of hospitals.

The National Advisory Council is the major source of funding behind most health-care research in the United States. Hibbard is interested in the council because of its direct correlation to her research, she said.

"They set the direction for the kinds of health research of the country," Hibbard said. "I have always been interested in what they do, but their work is very important now because of the very serious health-care issues that are facing the country."

Hibbard said the three most pressing health-care problems in the country are a lack of quality of care that people receive, the cost of health care and the high rate of uninsured people.

"There is a widespread belief that the quality of health care is quite high in this country," Hibbard said. "It's not really true. People should investigate more when they are making decisions about health care."

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IN BRIEF

Museum exhibit features Andy Warhol prints

When the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art reopens Jan. 23, it will display work from 20th-century artist Andy Warhol. The new renovation allows enough room and wall space for the museum to feature 126 prints from the "Andy Warhol's Dream America" collection.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for people to see a collection that they haven't been able to see before and to see it in their own hometown."

KATIE SPROLES

Art museum marketing coordinator

"We didn't have enough space to do this before," museum Director David Turner said. "Now it is possible for us to do exhibits of this size."

Many of the prints are in series of multiple prints that are all more than nine feet tall.

The collection, on display from Jan. 23 to May 1, is part of a touring exhibit that will visit Montana, Wyoming, Texas, Colorado, Arizona and California.

Previous exhibits displayed 86 prints, but the museum was able to secure a loan of additional prints.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for people to see a collection that they have haven't been able to see before and to see it in their own

hometown," said Katie Sproles, public relations and marketing coordinator for the museum.

Warhol is best known for his paintings of Marilyn Monroe and cans of Campbell's soup. The exhibit will feature some of his most well-known suites, or portfolios, of work such as "Maos" and "Mick Jagger," as well as several individual prints. Warhol was one of the pioneers of contemporary art, and the exhibit offers a timeline through some of the changes in art styles.

"He made art of out simple objects," Turner said. "He takes mystery away and also adds mystery of what makes art."

Turner said Warhol's work will pose more questions than answers and will lead to dialogue on campus. Business, advertising, art, English and history classes can all take something from the art, Turner said, adding that the new museum facilities make it convenient for students to view the art.

"Students don't have to travel to Portland or other big cities to see great art," Turner said. "Now we get to stand in front of nine images of Marilyn with reverence to both the subject matter and the artist right here."

— Amanda Bolsinger

Award opportunities for nonfiction writing

Writers in the student body and community will get a chance to have their work featured in Oregon Quarterly, as the University's alumni magazine begins to accept entries for its sixth annual Northwest Perspectives Essay Contest.

The magazine is accepting

entries in two categories. One is open to the community at large, while the other is reserved specifically for student entries. The top entry in each category will be published in Oregon Quarterly, which has a circulation of about 100,000.

The top three entries in the open category will receive prizes ranging from a \$50 University Bookstore gift certificate to \$500 cash for first place.

The top entry for the student category will receive \$250, while the second place writer will receive a \$75 University Bookstore gift certificate.

These five winning essays, three in the open category and two in the student category, will be read at a public reading.

Author Lauren Kessler, a journalism professor at the University, will judge the entries. The 15 finalists will have an opportunity to attend a workshop led by Kessler, who directs the University's graduate program in literary nonfiction.

Entries should be unpublished, nonfiction essays about ideas that affect the Northwest.

The maximum length for an essay is 2,500 words in the open category and 2,000 in the student category. There is no fee for entry and the submission deadline is Jan. 31.

Only one entry is permitted per person, and entries must be formatted for blind judging. Certain entry restrictions apply.

For more information on specific entry guidelines, visit Oregon Quarterly's Web site at darkwing.uoregon.edu/~oq/.

— Gabe Bradley

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