

Grant gives museum funds to provide classes to public

BY HALEY GORDON
DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

Visiting the newly renovated Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art this term will include more than a tour.

The renovation, which nearly doubled the building's original size, included spaces for community and student education.

A \$17,000 grant from the Oregon Community Foundation has filled a new art studio with tools, tables and supplies for classes and workshops. The studio will provide "hands-on experience relating to the exhibits upstairs," museum spokeswoman Katie Sproles said.

Visitors will be able to check out six new "art packs" that will have material and activities relating to the current exhibit. The grant will also provide scholarships for people to take classes in the studio, making it more accessible, Sproles said.

Museum Educator for University and Community Audiences Becky Tonkin said the grant money goes

toward several events and programs.

In addition to museum tours ending in the studio, the museum will also hold eight-week long classes relating to the museum and the exhibits. The classes will be broken into sections for children and adults, with subject matter and inspiration coming from the pieces on display.

The money will also be used for outreach programs. The museum will create art kits for schools on a variety of subjects from Japanese art and culture to photography, Tonkin said. These kits are either taken to the schools for free or for a fee.

The extra space will also give the museum a place to hold teacher workshops, family days and free days for people to come in and do art projects, Tonkin said.

The Oregon Community Foundation is a non-profit organization that builds an endowment from private donors and splits it into grants and scholarships. A group of board and

community members decides which applications best meet the need for grants. Created in 1973, the OCF has assets worth \$500 million, according to its Web site, www.ocf1.org.

"We get 250 applications each grant cycle, two cycles a year," Senior Program Officer Jeff Anderson said. "We award 90 to 100 grants each cycle, so it's pretty competitive. We look for proposals with cultural opportunities for the community."

The group also visited the museum before awarding the grant.

"Connecting educational institute with the broader community was a real strength of this proposal," Anderson said.

The money for the grant came from the Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Hayes Sr. Fund and the Edna L. Holmes Fund.

The museum will re-open Jan. 23 with an Andy Warhol exhibit. Studio classes start Jan. 26 for children, teens and adults.

UO therapy groups provide confidential support for students

The Counseling and Testing Center will host a new group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students

BY AMANDA BOLSINGER
NEWS REPORTER

College years can often be tumultuous ones for young adults. Many students are living on their own for the first time and facing new life situations. Others feel isolated and alone, struggling with different problems.

To combat this, the University Counseling and Testing Center hosts several therapy groups each year, ranging from specific groups, such as one serving students who are bipolar, to much broader groups, such as a group for women.

This term the center is adding a new one for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students. However, the group is not simply a support group for LGBT students, but rather a therapy group for students exploring different personal relationship and identity issues.

"These groups are a great opportunity to have a discussion supported by a counselor," said Chicora Martin, director of LGBT Educational and Support Services. "The groups will be a really supportive environment for students."

The groups are confidential, private therapy sessions that often offer more for the individual than one-on-one therapy sessions, said Sue Orchard, who is leading the LGBT group. In the group setting, students can discuss different issues with other students going through similar situations. Having a close group also allows for a bigger

support net. For students struggling with similar problems or feeling like nobody else understands them, it is often beneficial to hear about other people's experiences, Orchard said.

"The groups are for students looking to get counseling in a very safe, caring environment," Orchard said.

The LGBT group has not been formed yet, but Martin said a couple of students have already contacted her for information about the group.

"They were finding out if it was a safe place," Martin said. "Now they are really looking forward to it."

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Queer Alliance, a student-fee funded ASUO group, did not contact the UCTC about hosting the group and is not directly associated with the group. The UCTC is constantly developing new and different groups based on the different needs of students, Martin said. The groups are only available to University students and are free.

"It's a really great opportunity to have available on campus," Martin said. "The groups are something that students can make of it what they want and need."

The LGBT process group is tentatively planned to meet on Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the counseling center. Interested students should contact the UCTC at 346-3227 for more information.

abolsinger@dailyemerald.com

Tuition: Tax system decreases flexibility

Continued from page 1

Monroe said the University would like to have state funding back in the 30 percent range but the situation is not going to improve much in the short term. A rise to 30 percent would mean more than doubling state funding in its current state.

"Every year the University raises tuition, it does so reluctantly," Monroe said.

Martha Pitts, the director of admissions at the University, said the rise in tuition may discourage students from submitting an application. However, Pitts said the University is still able to offer financial aid and points to an increase in Pell Grants as a method for students to afford a University education.

"I think the University has made some educational decisions that shows students that this is a good decision, including students' ability to lower tuition by taking evening classes, a lower teacher-to-student ratio and strong research programs," Pitts said.

Although the University is beginning to place caps on how many students it can accept, Pitts said even in the University's most selective year, there is still an 85 percent rate of enrollment at the University to those who apply.

"We worry that students see the higher requirements and count themselves out," Pitts said. She

advised prospective students to submit a second essay explaining any extenuating circumstances that may have affected high school grades.

As for the University and its enrollment in future years, Pitts said caps will be kept for the next few years, provided the state budget remains the same.

For the state's biggest schools — the University, Portland State University and Oregon State University — the decrease in state support and increase in tuition has not deterred students, and the applicant pool continues to grow. Yet for smaller Universities like Southern Oregon University, Eastern Oregon University and Western Oregon University, the pressure is on for them to keep pace with the larger schools. However, they have more difficulty convincing students to enroll and pay the higher tuition costs, said Bob Kieran, the Director of Institutional Research at the Oregon University System.

"Enrollment has gone up and state funding has gone down," Kieran said. "Universities have to act like businesses. They can't take unfettered growth while there's less money."

Kieran said the rising tuition combined with lower state spending on education has created a catch-22. The amount given to the state university system is calculated on a projected enrollment basis. But with the state spending budget

for the university system going down, there's less of that central money to split up among the universities which invariably leaves students to foot more of the bill than in previous years. This in turn may deter students from pursuing a college education.

Kieran said state spending is income tax based. While most states have "greater flexibility" due to sales tax, Oregon does not have additional tax revenue to add into state programs.

"It's less stable if it's income tax based," Kieran said. "Unemployed people don't pay taxes and this is a time when we need (that money) most. That's at a state level so it affects everything."

Kieran said each university is facing different issues, but smaller Universities also have an uphill battle in other aspects.

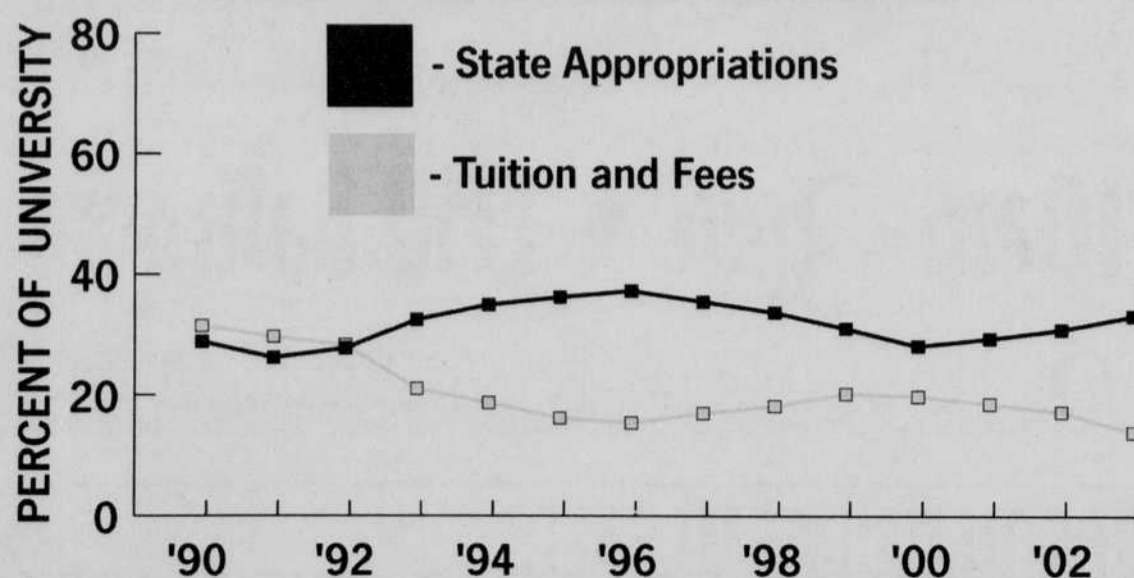
"I'd say (smaller universities) have a smaller margin from which they can draw resources," Kieran said. "The bigger universities have more flexibility with larger foundations. When they get tight, they have an alumni they can tap."

Research analyst Monroe said it's important for the state to display its commitment to education.

"The reduction in state support is disturbing and so far we've been able to hold our own," Monroe said.

anthonylucero@dailyemerald.com

FUNDING FOR UNIVERSITY FROM STATE AND TUITION



Suicide: Bill introduction is on hold to guard students

Continued from page 1

the proposed four mandatory meetings with a University psychologist or psychiatrist. Students are considered high-risk if they have reported they're suicidal, have the means to commit suicide, have a family history of suicide or have tried to commit suicide before.

Ryan said students occasionally need help and are unwilling to accept it, estimating the University sees fewer than one case each year. He said he feels the bill's concerns are legitimate but are ones the University has already addressed.

"What we're trying to do is find our way toward something that will allow us to prompt that student to accept help," Ryan said. "It would not be the option we would immediately leap to."

The bill also states the decision of whether to let a student stay at school should be based solely on judgments made by a psychologist or psychiatrist. In addition, the bill mandates students be "treated in the strictest privacy."

Ryan said while the administration would make the final decision on whether to remove a student from school, his or Holmes' recommendation would heavily influence that decision. Also, he said a student's privacy is already protected by industry ethics and federal law.

Whittenburg said he proposed the bill out of concern University officials might err on the side of "too much judgment on people's lives rather than too little."

Vice President for Student Affairs Anne Leavitt said in November that

students who show suicidal behaviors but refuse help place the entire campus community in distress.

"A student who is threatening suicide every night actually is creating a crisis in the community around them," she said. "It holds the community hostage."

Holmes said the updated policy will better protect the entire University population, which outweighs concern for a student who is suicidal, disruptive and refusing services.

"We need to tell those students you can't stay here, be in school and do that," she said. "It's not good for anybody else and it's not a solution."

However, Whittenburg said he felt placing the campus community over the student "was not a very human way to look at things."

Morrisette said he will wait to introduce the bill until he has received more input from the Oregon Student Association and has had a chance to review a draft of the University's proposed policy. Morrisette must introduce the bill by the end of February, he said.

"I'm going to wait," Morrisette said. "I'm not going to introduce a bill based on something that isn't a problem and have a big war in my hands."

ASUO President and Oregon Student Association Chairman Adam Petkun said he has mixed feelings about mandating leave for suicidal students, but was "not sure state action is needed."

karahansen@dailyemerald.com
News editor Jared Paben
contributed to this report