

Today	Wednesday	Thursday
High: 51 Low: 33 Precip: 10%	High: 50 Low: 34 Precip: 10%	High: 54 Low: 35 Precip: 10%

IN BRIEF

Student groups to rally at Oregon state capitol

The Oregon Student Association and the Oregon Students of Color Coalition will join forces for a rally at the state capitol in Salem today as part of the 2005 OSA Lobby Day.

The two lobbyist organizations will be joined by Sen. Vicki Walker, D-Eugene, and Rep. Billy Dalto, R-Salem, to support their legislative agenda for the state legislative session currently in progress.

According to press releases, priorities of the two groups include fully funding the Oregon Opportunity Grant, freezing tuition at OUS universities, expanding low-cost childcare for students and passing a tuition equity bill to help extend resident tuition prices to graduates of Oregon high schools.

The rally will begin at noon on the front steps of the capitol and will be followed by meetings with legislators to discuss issues affecting students.

The OSA is a lobbyist group consisting of representatives from all OUS universities and the state's community colleges. The OSCC is an affiliate of OSA.

Gov. Ted Kulongoski included a 111.1-percent increase in the Opportunity Grant and a \$14 million overall increase in higher education spending in his budget for the 2005-07 biennium. OUS universities are estimating a 5 to 7 percent annual increase in tuition costs for students if the governor's proposal is passed.

— Adam Cherry

UO sits near top in Peace Corps member numbers

BY AMANDA BOLSINGER
NEWS REPORTER

Holly LeMasurier said she has always known she was going to join the Peace Corps. She didn't know she would become a part of an African family or that she would meet the man she would later marry. She also didn't know her experiences in the Peace Corps would always affect the way she views world issues.

LeMasurier was in the Peace Corps from 1997-99 and served in Namibia, in southern Africa. She was there working to train teachers in the bush who hadn't had the opportunity for formal training and certification. While living in Namibia, she lived with a matriarchal family consisting of a woman, her five children and a servant.

"I got to be big sister to the kids and daughter to the mom," LeMasurier said. "It was great, us three women and our five children."

LeMasurier is one of the 170,000 Peace Corps members to date that have served in more than 130 countries around the world. The University is currently ranked at No. 7 among large universities — those with more than 15,000 undergraduates — for producing Peace Corps volunteers. Currently, there are 81 University alumni in the Peace Corps. Since Peace Corps began in 1960, 825 University alumni have joined, ranking the University as the 31st-highest producer of Peace Corps volunteers of all time.

There are several contributing factors to why so many University

graduates choose to join the Peace Corps.

"Students here are in a climate of conscious activism," LeMasurier said. "They are very involved with their community and have often had a taste of outreach. They are natural candidates for the Peace Corps."

"There is a campus commitment to service, and it is a focus of University students to have diversity and culture," said Sara Schrock, the University's Peace Corps representative. "And Eugene's climate is very open to multicultural influences."

The Peace Corps is a popular choice for recent college graduates. It offers a chance to travel, to become a part of a community in a different part of the world, and to help those in need.

Peace Corps volunteers serve for 27 months three months of intensive cultural and linguistic training and 24 months working. Often a large part of the appeal of the Peace Corps is the complete and lengthy immersion into a different culture.

"I had always wanted to live in a different country," Schrock said. "I wanted to understand what poverty meant and to throw myself out of my comfort zone."

Schrock served in Kenya from 2000-02 as an agricultural and forestry volunteer.

Volunteers don't get to select the country they serve in, but they are placed according to their skills and the needs of different communities.

Possible job opportunities include education and youth

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