## Journalism student awarded 'Top Ten' status, \$10,000

Parker Howell is one of 10 nationwide recipients of a fellowship from the Scripps Howard foundation

BY GABE BRADLEY

The top editor at the Emerald is one of the 10 best collegiate journalists in the country, according to the Scripps Howard Foundation.

Journalism major Parker Howell, Emerald editor in chief for the upcoming year, was awarded a \$10,000 "Top Ten" fellowship by the founda-

tion, whose mission is to "advance the cause of the free press through support of excellence in journalism, quality journalism education and professional development," according to its Web site.

Every year since 1999, the foundation has picked 10 collegiate journalists from nominees across the PARKER HOWELL country to receive "Top SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT Ten" fellowships.

We're looking for excellence in journalism," Scripps Howard Vice President Sue Porter said. "We measure it by their contributions ... their internships, their grades, their letters of recommendation. They're nominated by their school.

The foundation solicited nominations from over 140 schools.

"It is definitely an honor to be picked for a fellowship just because I think it demonstrates my level of commitment and what I want to put into working as a journalist," Howell said.

Howell, who has a 4.09 GPA, came to the University as a freshman in the fall of 2003.

"I decided to come to the University just based on the strength of the program," he said.

He plans to work for a daily metro paper upon graduation.

Besides being a journalism major with a focus in news and editorial, Howell is also a multimedia minor.

"I just have always been interested in visual design and different electronic art forms," he said.

Howell said his interest in multimedia has also served him in journalism. "I think they have a lot

to do with each other,' Howell said. "Just the rules of design and how to convey ideas — how to express yourself.'

This will impact how Howell runs the Emerald this year in that he plans to increase the paper's Web presence through blogs and "a lot of multimedia options," he said.

Howell first came to the Emerald as a reporter covering city and state politics during spring term of his freshman

year. During the 2004-05 academic year, Howell served as a reporter covering campus and federal politics.

"I definitely recall my time working as a reporter fondly because I got to meet a lot of interesting people and cover a lot of issues that I think truly have an effect on students," Howell said.

He said one of the most interesting stories he covered was the series he wrote on gun control. It was "fascinating to research," he said.

"Another one of the stories that stands out to me was the Sunriver story," Howell said, referring to a series of stories that he and Emerald senior news reporter Meghann Cuniff wrote about members of the ASUO who illegally drank and smoked marijuana on a student-fee funded retreat in Sunriver, Ore.

'That story was particularly difficult because no one wanted to talk,"

Howell's interest in journalism started at Glencoe High School in Hillsboro. He found a great outlet for his interests in art and writing when he started working for his high school paper, the Crimson Times.

Howell eventually became editor in chief of the Times his senior year, and runner-up for the Oregon High School Journalist of the Year.

"I really enjoyed it and worked my way up from there," Howell said.

gabebradley@dailyemerald.com

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## Harris: Labs should best serve primary users

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the types of technology purchased, monitor size and the physical layout of a computer lab.

To pay for the transition to more group-use-friendly computer labs, Harris said the information services department will need to evaluate spend-

"I think part of the challenge here is not to come up with new money." Rather, Harris said, the challenge will be to reorder priorities when it comes to allocating existing funds in the normal replacement cycle.

The primary consideration in this process is "how to make best use of the technology fee that is charged to students," he said.

Harris has already spoken with various decision-makers on campus regarding his plans for more group-usefriendly workstations.

"Everyone seems very interested in these ideas," Harris said.

He hopes to continue to drum up support when he reports for work in

"I need to obviously make a number of visits when I get to campus," he said. department works very closely with the libraries to provide students access to technology.

"That partnership between those two organizations is really critical to being successful and offering better services to students," Harris said.

Harris also wants to make sure computer labs best serve their primary users.

"Part of that is just the idea of seeing what's appropriate for the different areas."

Harris mentioned a music-oriented computer lab where the machines might need to be hooked up to electronic keyboards as opposed to a business computer lab that might be more oriented toward producing presentations as an example of how different computer labs can cater to the needs of different departments.

Harris said the University's national reputation in terms of information technology and the institution's relationship with several professional associations contributed to his decision to come to the University.

"The opportunity to work in some of the groups that the University is already a part of was obviously very attractive," Harris said. "It's going to be great to

work with people that up until now I've only known on a seeing-them-once-ayear basis at national conferences.'

Also, Harris said he was glad for the opportunity to live in Eugene.

There's obviously some quality of life issues," he said. "I'm living in the middle of Atlanta. The traffic and congestion and the heat and humidity kind of get old after a while.

Harris said he and his wife are glad they don't have to worry about where their kids are going to go to school.

'We spent a little bit of time in the Northwest on vacations," Harris said. 'So it's an area that I'm familiar with."

The local recreational and cultural opportunities also appealed to Harris and his family.

'We used to do a lot of cross-country skiing, so the opportunity to go up to Mount Bachelor and do some of that just sounds really great."

Particularly, Harris said he is excited for the Oregon Bach Festival.

'My wife has a music background," Harris said. "That there are so many things related to the arts (in Eugene) is also really attractive to us.

gabebradley@dailyemerald.com







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