

News & Views



Faculty and Staff Newsletter of the University of Oregon

October 16, 1998

Benefits boards merge; survey planned

The Public Employees' Benefit Board (PEBB), created by the merger of the State Employees' Benefit Board (SEBB) and the Bargaining Units Benefits Board (BUBB), is holding an open enrollment for higher education employees from now through Nov. 6. All employees will receive open enrollment packets, which include a PEBB survey, in mid-October.

The PEBB surveys will be used to gauge employees' responses to their current benefits package. During 1999, faculty members and unclassified staff will remain under the SEBB program, and classified employees will continue under the BUBB program. In the year 2000, however, PEBB will provide a single benefits package for all state employees.

One worry is that the cash-back or opt-out possibilities currently affecting three-quarters of faculty and unclassified staff will be sacrificed to create one benefits package in 2000. There also could be a further reduction in the number of plans available to faculty.

Although the survey asks for information about the current benefits programs, faculty also can use the survey if they want to go on record opposing a reduction or elimination of their current benefits.

Faculty members should use survey question 5 to let PEBB know what they like about their current SEBB benefits package, says Helen Stoop, Human Resources benefits administrator. Faculty happy with the current program can take this opportunity to let PEBB know they are opposed to a decrease in the number of plan choices and a reduction or elimination of cash-back or opt-out in 2000.

Return surveys as soon as possible to PEBB Benefits Manager, 775 Court St. N.E., Salem, OR 97301.

Return open enrollment forms to Human Resources by 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6. If you have not received your open enrollment packet by Oct. 23, call Cindi Peterson at Human Resources, 6-2956.

Open enrollment information also is available on the Web at darkwing.uoregon.edu/~humanres/openen.htm. Faculty and staff without Internet access may connect to the Web at the Knight Library Information Technology Center and at the CC-EMU Microcomputing Lab.

World economic downturn hits UO enrollment

The recent downturn in the world economy is having a ripple effect on students at Oregon's largest university.

"We're seeing a downturn in returning international students," says Associate Vice President Jim Buch, Student Academic Affairs. "It is apparent that economic problems at home are causing these students to take a break in their higher education plans abroad."

At the same time, Oregon students are entering the University of Oregon in higher numbers.

Last year, the UO was one of the nation's top 10 universities for proportion of international students, according to U.S. News & World Report. International students, drawn to the UO because of its strong international academic reputation, have accounted for more than 10 percent of the student body in past years.

This year, the UO's total enrollment is down about 400 compared to last year. Approximately 275 non-returning international students account for more than two-thirds of that decrease. The remainder is accounted for by a decrease in the number of out-of-state U.S. citizens.

"The good news for Oregonians is that the number of in-state students is up significantly," Buch says. According to preliminary enrollment figures, the number of Oregonians coming to the University of Oregon is up by more than 200 this year compared with last year.

"At the UO and other schools, we are seeing a surge in Oregonians choosing their state's public universities," Buch says. "Our local students appear to be recognizing what students around the world have known for years: That the University of Oregon offers a truly world class education. I hope these numbers serve as a wake-up call for increased public support for our schools."

UO receives major grant for alcohol, drug abuse prevention

The University of Oregon will receive a \$236,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education (DOE)

to implement an extensive program aimed at reducing alcohol and drug abuse among students.

The UO is one of only seven universities in the nation selected for the highly competitive grant. Awarded by the DOE's Drug Free Schools Program, the grant is the largest of its kind at the UO, which competed against 58 other schools for the funding.

"This grant is very significant in that it affirms the efforts already underway at the University of Oregon to help address and combat a serious problem of alcohol and drug abuse among students," says President Dave Frohnmayer. "Perhaps more important, this federal funding recognizes that substance abuse on college campuses is a serious societal problem—one that deserves immediate attention with comprehensive and creative approaches."

Under the direction of Student Life, the grant will fund a two-year, multifaceted effort entitled "New View 2000," the goals of which are to reduce the rates of binge-drinking and marijuana use on campus. The target population will be first-year students who historically have exhibited high use of alcohol and marijuana at the UO.

"Our research tells us that alcohol use and binge drinking are not declining. As is the national trend, UO students also are under the misperception that their peers drink and use other substances more frequently and in greater quantities than they actually do," says Assistant Dean Linda Devine, Student Life. "Consequently, a major component of our effort will be to reach out to first-year students to correct these misperceptions, adjust their perceptions of campus norms, and reinforce and enhance a safe and healthy social and learning environment at the UO."

Co-directing the grant with Devine is Associate Dean Laura Blake Jones. Both credit the UO's selection for grant funding to the support of the administration and such offices as Housing, Greek Life and Student Academic Affairs, as well as the City of Eugene and the Eugene Police Department.

"A community partnership is essential to the success of any efforts to address drug and alcohol problems," says Blake Jones. "We have such a partnership in the Campus Community Relations Task Force (CCRTF), a campus-community coalition that regularly meets to look at issues including alcohol and drug use."

The UO has a long-standing commitment to proactively addressing the issue of alcohol and substance abuse on campus. It was named by DOE in 1996 as having one of the best alcohol prevention programs in the nation.

Oregon Charitable Fund Drive underway

Provost John Moseley launched the 1998 State of Oregon Charitable Fund Drive at the University of Oregon by challenging departmental coordinators.

"We are in such a beautiful environment. And we are beneficiaries of very good benefit plans," he observed. "As one of the more fortunate groups in this community, it's up to us to help out those less fortunate, to help build a better quality of life for everyone."

Noting that UO giving has been generous in the past--faculty and staff donors increased their level of giving last year by 15 percent--he added, "We need to do an even better job this year."

Campus coordinator Nancie Fadeley hopes that it will also be a fast job<that pledge cards will not linger on busy desks where they risk burial in things-to-do piles. She reminds all faculty and staff of the wisdom of Publilius Syrus, who observed in the first century BC: "He doubly benefits the needy who gives quickly."

Call departmental coordinators or Fadeley, 6-3013.

Do you really know the UO...

- With a 3.186 GPA, the women's basketball team is ranked 17th best academically by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association. Oregon is one of only five schools to make the Top-25 Honor Roll three years in a row.
- The university soon will have access to a new and rapidly developing section of the Internet<the fast lane of the information superhighway<thanks to a \$350,000 High-Performance Connections grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). "It is a great honor and a great tribute to the achievements of the university to be selected to be part of the elite group of 36 institutions that will take the Internet to the next level of power and sophistication," says Provost John Moseley of the two-year award that will allow UO to connect to NSF's very high-performance Backbone Network Service (vBNS).

Staff prepare for new payroll system

New Year's celebrants may be popping corks and singing "Auld Lang Syne," but UO's Stephen Pruch will celebrate when the Banner Human Resource Information System (HRIS) goes live Jan. 1, 1999.

In preparation for that major change, payroll administrators are attending monthly informational meetings to prepare for the switch, which will eliminate the dreaded "Y2K bug" in existing payroll software and create the first ever on-line interactive payroll system, says Pruch, Business Affairs and project manager for the two-year implementation.

A series of two-day training sessions began this month, with payroll administrators scheduled to attend through January. The first day will provide an overview and description of the new software, and the second day will demonstrate the nuts and bolts of entering transactions.

"When HRIS joins the existing BANNER applications, it will be easier to combine information from the BANNER modules to support efficient management of university resources," says Pruch. "The new software gives us added flexibility, allowing us to take advantage of any legislative changes that affect payroll."

Pruch says that the policies governing how people are paid will be unchanged, but the procedures for entering and tracking payroll will be updated.

For the latest information about the HRIS project, visit baowww.uoregon.edu/hris/hrit.htm.

'UO Today' unveils fall schedule

This fall, "UO Today" can be seen at 9 p.m. every Wednesday on TCI cable channel 12 and at 9:30 p.m. on TCI cable channel 11.

It also will air on cable channels in Portland, Medford, Ashland, Salem and Sunriver.

The programs, which highlight the scholarly pursuits and interests of the UO humanities faculty, will air on the following dates:

- **OCT. 19:** Mineke Schipper, Women as seen in proverbs; Flux Magazine, Journalism and Communication
- **OCT. 26:** Jon Erlandson and George Wasson, Anthropology
- **NOV. 2:** Museum of Natural History Exhibit with Director Mel Aikens and Exhibit Specialist Cindy Gabai
- **NOV. 9:** Ian Duncan, English, and Cynthia Brokaw, History
- **NOV. 16:** Jody Runge, head women's basketball coach, and Jim Mohr, Distinguished Professor, History
- **NOV. 23:** Pine Mountain Observatory with Greg Bothun, Physics (repeat)

Announcements...

A 12-MONTH DESKTOP CALENDAR that will fit in a CD-style jewel case is available for bulk orders from University Publications. Included are 12 color photos of campus landmarks or scenes serving as backdrops for each month's dates. The cost is \$5 apiece, and customization is available with a quick copy cover sheet. Orders for 15 or more calendars should be submitted as soon as possible. Individual calendars also will be sold later. Contact Barbara Oppliger, pubbarb@oregon.uoregon.edu, 6-5397.

FLU VACCINATIONS are available through the end of fall term at the University Health Center for faculty and staff. The shots, provided by PEBB, are given from 8-9 a.m. every Wednesday, Thursday

and Friday (except Thanksgiving week). Students, who must pay \$3.50, may get flu shots from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. For information, call 6-2770.

THE COPYRIGHT CLEARANCE DEADLINE for Winter Term course packets is **Nov. 2**. All course packets must be cleared each time they are used. Send bibliographic tables of contents to Kati Kronholm, 6-5370, fax them to 6-0895 or e-mail them to katik@oregon.uoregon.edu.

Our People

In the spotlight

Chris Ramey, University Planning director, is secretary of the Eugene Family YMCA board of directors for 1998-99.

Lawrence Crumb, Library emeritus, has been appointed interim priest librarian and archivist at Oxford's Pusey House, site of the largest theological library in England, for fall term.

Wayne Mikkelson and **Megan Partch**, both Finance, have won the Jensen Prize for "The Decline of Takeovers and Disciplinary Management Turnover," which was judged the best paper in the area of corporate finance published in the Journal of Financial Economics during 1997.

Carl Johannessen, Geography emeritus, received the 1998 Preston E. James Eminent Latin Americanist Career Award at the October meeting of the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers in Santa Fe, N.M.

Jill Holman, Science Library, was pictured on the cover and was among 20 up-and-coming young library professionals interviewed about what lies ahead for libraries and librarians at the turn of the century for the October 1998 American Libraries, magazine of the American Libraries Association.

Elected to the Faculty Advisory Council, with terms extending to June 2000, are Arts and Sciences representatives **Gerald Berk**, Political Science, and **David Frank**, Honors College; professional schools and colleges representatives **Lynn Kahle**, Marketing, and **Steven Goldschmidt**, Education; and officers of administration representative **Hilary Gerdes**, Academic Advising and Student Services.

On the move

Eric Barquist began work on June 15 as an Office Specialist 1, while **Shelby Cooper** began work on Sept. 14 as an HRIS accountant, both in Payroll.

Stephen Henderson and **Suzanne Hanson** have joined the Registrar's Office as Student Records Specialists.

Molly Sirois has succeeded **Theresa Quinn** as an assistant counselor for students with disabilities, while **Liane O'Banion** has replaced **Tami Hawkins** as an academic adviser/counselor, all in Academic Advising and Student Services.

Joyce Rauschert, payroll specialist for classified pay, has moved from Human Resources to Payroll.

Julie Pope started Sept. 10 as a Perkins/NDSL loan account representative in Business Affairs.

Byron McCrae became assistant dean of student life on Oct. 5. Formerly at New York State University, he will develop and implement proactive substance abuse and rape prevention programs.

Robin Holmes was promoted to associate director of the University Counseling Center on Oct. 1. A staff psychologist at the center since 1992, she had served as assistant director since August 1995.

In Print/On Display

Richard Bear, Library, and **Shirley Marc**, CSWS, transcribed the first edition of Rachel Speght's "A Mouzell for Melastomus" (1617), a reply to a misogynist tract. It is available at darkwing.uoregon.edu/~rbear/rachel.html.

Katya Hokanson, Comparative Literature, published "Pushkin's Captive Crimea: Imperialism in 'The Fountain of Bakhchisarai'" in "Russian Subjects: Empire, Nation and the Culture of the Golden Age" (Northwestern University Press, 1998), edited by Monika Greenleaf and Stephen Moeller-Sally.

On the podium/stage

In August, **Cynthia Vakareliyska**, Russian, presented "A Computer Collation of Medieval Slavic Menologies. Saints and Sex: Mid-Life Crisis of a DTD" at the 12th International Congress of Slavists in Krakow, Poland. The paper was based on an article, co-authored with UO graduate students Kevork Horissian, Russian GTF, and Heather Pankl, Linguistics, which appeared in June in the international journal *Palaeobulgarica*.

In July, **Al Stavitsky**, Journalism and Communication, presented "Changing Conceptions of Audience in U.S. Public Broadcasting" during an audience research symposium for Nordic doctoral students in mass communication at the University of Tampere, Finland.

Two UO professors--**Linda Kintz**, English; and **Steven Bender**, History--led workshops on Oct. 17 at the 12th annual conference of the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment at Lane Community College.

Go back to [Current Issue](#).

© [1998 University of Oregon](#)