

• Employee
spotlight
• Coming
this week

Inside
Oregon



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

•Calendar •Send to a friend •Letters •Print •Archives •UO home page

This issue: IO Highlights, October 27, 2003

[New Staff Contract Approved](#)

[Siting Decision Allows Living-Learning Center to Proceed](#)

[Open Enrollment Ends](#)

[UO Hosts AAU Fall Meeting Oct. 26-28](#)

[IO Highlights Debuts](#)

New Staff Contract Approved

By Danielle Gillespie

With formal ratification on Oct. 20 by the Oregon University System, UO classified employees now are covered through June 2005 by the new collective bargaining agreement previously ratified on Sept. 26 by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) 503.

"We are happy to have concluded bargaining and are excited to move forward," says Alana Holmes, Human Resources employee relations manager.

According to the new contract, all classes at Salary Range 9 or below will move up one salary range. In addition, shift differential pay will include employees at Salary Range 23, and employees required to be bilingual will see their differential pay increase from 2.5 percent to 5 percent.

In addition, because step, merit and special merit pay increases are frozen this year as a result of Gov. Ted Kulongoski's mandate, the new contract offers eligible employees a \$350 lump sum payment that will be dispersed in November 2004. Part-time employees will get a pro-rated amount.

The new contract also provides three paid days of bereavement leave specifically designed for grieving the death of a family member. Bereavement leave does not count against sick leave or vacation balances.

Moreover, because the UO is open for business on Veterans Day, the contract will give employees Christmas Eve Day as a holiday in exchange for working on Veterans Day.

People

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Alexander Murphy, Geography, is the new president of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) after serving as last year's vice president. His term runs through July 2004. The AAG is a scientific and educational society founded in 1904 with more than 7,500 members in 62 countries.

ON THE MOVE

Alayne Switzer, formerly associate board secretary in the Chancellor's Office, is the new operations manager in Admissions. You can find Alayne in 240 Oregon Hall; her phone number is 6-1292 and her e-mail is <alayne@uoregon.edu>.

IN PRINT/ON DISPLAY

Carla Bengtson, Amanda Wojick and Jan Reaves, Art, were among the 26 artists whose work was chosen from nearly 1,000 applicants for display in the Portland Art Museum's trend-setting 2003 Oregon Biennial exhibition, which ran through Sept. 7. Wojick also was honored with a Biennial Juror's Award, and Reaves sold one of her works to the Portland Art Museum for its permanent collection.

This Week

- President Dave Frohnmayer and other senior administrators **meet with classified staff** from 3:30-5 p.m. on Wednesday, **Oct. 29**, in the EMU Ballroom.
- **University Theatre Second Season** debuts at 8 p.m. Wednesday, **Oct. 29**, in Villard Hall's Arena Theatre

Employees also will have 30 days as opposed to 20 days for filing grievances.

Most notably, some items in the employee contract are unchanged, including the employees' insurance package. Employees will have the same insurance package as they have had for the past two years.

"It's an expense the UO is bearing in order to maintain the same insurance package despite rising costs in health care," Holmes said.

Now that the contract has been ratified, Human Resources expects to post an electronic copy at <www.hr.uoregon.edu/employee-relations/index.php>. In addition, informational sessions for supervisors and managers are planned. In the meantime, for answers to questions, call Holmes, 6-2985, or send e-mail to <alana@hr.uoregon.edu>.

Danielle Gillespie is a student reporter for Inside Oregon.

Siting Decision Allows Living-Learning Center to Proceed

By Tenaya Meaux



The four-decade-long wait for new housing on campus is coming to an end!

University Housing will begin construction of a new Living-Learning Center in the heart of campus, which will provide new and 50 percent larger

residence hall rooms for up to 400 students, as well as classroom, office, cafe and auditorium space.

The site for this new residential hub will be on East 15th Avenue between the Earl and Walton complexes. Adjacent to the Student Recreation Center and the Erb Memorial Union, the building will create a vibrant center of student, faculty and staff life. The uncovered tennis courts currently on the site will need to be relocated.

"This has been something I've been working toward since 1996," says Assistant Vice President Mike Eyster, Student Affairs, who is University Housing director.

"It is truly great to be able to provide new residence hall rooms

with "Desdemona: A Play About a Handkerchief."

- The beauty of fall is a perfect time for families to share in a "**Celebration of the Trees**" set from noon-3 p.m. on Saturday, **Nov. 1**, at the Museum of Natural History.
- **Duck Preview** brings more than 2,500 prospective students and their families to campus from 7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Sunday, **Nov. 2**.

For more about University events, visit the [Calendar of Events](#).

designed for this and future generations, while expanding our academic ties and eventually renovating existing residence halls, the most recent of which was built in 1963," Eyster says.

Vice President Anne Leavitt, Student Affairs, explains that "the selected site was approved as a temporary exception to the Long-Range Campus Development Plan.

"The president chose this site," she says, "because of the compelling opportunities to integrate the academic and residential experience of first-year students. It is also likely to have a positive impact on student recruitment and retention."

Construction is set to begin in January 2005, with residents moving in in September 2006. The Portland-based architecture firm Zimmer, Gunsul, Frasca Partnership, will design the new structure.

The UO Design Advisory Group of faculty, students and administrators is working with the architects to take into account factors such as green space, density limits and student satisfaction data, as well as quality and flexibility of design.

The new center will be built with \$27 million in revenue bonds to be repaid with room and board fees. Housing is a self-supported auxiliary, so no funds are being drawn away from other UO projects, Eyster said.

Tenaya Meaux is assistant director of housing for marketing, public affairs and assessment.

Open Enrollment Ends

Employees enrolling for the first time or making any changes in their benefits package have until Friday, Oct. 31, to return completed forms to Human Resources.

"People who aren't changing their current benefits don't have to do a thing," says Helen Stoop, Human Resources benefits administrator. "Your 2003 choices will continue for 2004."

Employees who have status changes prior to Jan. 1 should call Human Resources, 6-3159, for an update form or go to hr.uoregon.edu/benefits/forms.html.

Open Enrollment is the only time employees can change plans, adjust coverage amounts and add or delete eligible dependents. Changes generally are effective Jan. 1, 2004.

Consult the Open Enrollment packet sent to employees earlier this fall, visit hr.uoregon.edu/benefits/oe04 or call Stoop, 6-2967;

Lisa Plumb, 6-3086; or Cindi Peterson, 6-2956.

UO Hosts AAU Fall Meeting Oct. 26-28

The University of Oregon is hosting this week the fall meeting of the Association of American Universities (AAU), the organization of North America's most prestigious research universities that the university was invited to join in 1969.

Presidents and chancellors of the majority of the 62 member institutions will arrive Sunday and depart Tuesday. Their sessions, all of which are closed to the public, will be held both on campus and at Valley River Inn.

"We're delighted that the AAU is holding its fall meeting here because we take great pride in being a member of this prestigious body of leading research universities," says President Dave Frohnmayer. This is the first time for Oregon to host the AAU.

The University of Oregon and University of Washington are the only AAU members in the the Northwest. AAU members include 34 public colleges and universities and 26 private schools in the United States, as well as two Canadian universities.

IO Highlights Debuts

This Highlights version of Inside Oregon will be sent by Campus Mail near the end of each month to all faculty, staff and GTFs, including those without ready access to computers and e-mail who may not see the regular weekly IO issues send each Monday by e-mail.

Every issue of Inside Oregon and of Inside Oregon Highlights will continue to be archived at [<comm.uoregon.edu/inside/>](http://comm.uoregon.edu/inside/).

"We've shifted to e-mail distribution to speed communication and to save production costs," explains Editor John R. Crosiar.

Send comments and story suggestions to [<inside@oregon.uoregon.edu>](mailto:inside@oregon.uoregon.edu).

Each issue of Inside Oregon is archived on the web at <http://comm.uoregon.edu/inside/archive.php> . If this issue

displays improperly, please go there for the correct version.

Inside Oregon is the official newsletter for employees of the University of Oregon and is published weekly during the academic year and monthly in June, July and August.

Dates of upcoming issues, with copy and calendar deadlines, are posted at [IO Deadlines](#).

Inside Oregon Staff:

Editor in Chief: **Paul Omundson**

Web Developer: **Taper Wickel**

Published by Internal Communications, Room 106, Johnson Hall, 1098 E. 13th Ave.

Mailing Address: Inside Oregon, Internal Communications, 1281 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403-1281

Telephone (541) 346-3134; FAX (541) 346-3117

Email inside@oregon.uoregon.edu

The University of Oregon is an equal-opportunity, affirmative-action institution committed to cultural diversity and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.