



Spring 2007

WOLF AFTER CLASS

Newsletter of the Division of Student Affairs

Volume 1, Number 1

In This Issue

Nuestra Fiesta Latina 1

Alternative Break Trips 2

Script from Health and Counseling Center 3

Hawai'i Club Luau 3

Exciting Study Away Opportunities 4

Returning to the Past 4

Puppy Bites 5

Program Spotlight: Student Enrichment Program 5

Our Mission

The Division of Student Affairs fosters students' academic, personal and professional **GROWTH**, educates students to respect and appreciate **DIVERSITY**, and prepares students to be responsible and engaged **CITIZENS** in a global community.

WELCOME!

Welcome to the first edition of the Division of Student Affairs Newsletter. This newsletter is designed to inform students, parents, faculty and staff of the events and programs that are happening within the Division of Student Affairs and that shape the development of our students.

I hope that you will find this newsletter informational. If you have contributions that you would like to see in this newsletter, please send them to our office. Please contact the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs for permission before reprinting any article that appears in this newsletter.

Nuestra Fiesta Latina

Nuestra Fiesta Latina was created by Saul Ramirez, a MSU executive board member, in 2004. Saul envisioned an event that would bring our local community as well as our campus community together to celebrate and experience the Latino culture. The event includes: cultural activities during the day such as "loteria" and "piñatas", educational activities such as dance lessons and presentations, an opportunity to partake of Latino food and culture during the dinner and ends with a "baile". The first year that the Multicultural Student Union (MSU) sponsored this event, 3 schools bussed students to campus for the day of events (which, for them, included a campus tour) and the dinner was sold out!

This year, the Multicultural Student Union (MSU) invites everyone to attend the Nuestra Fiesta Latina on May 11, 2007. The tentative schedule is as follows:

- 11am-12pm Pinatas (For children and adults)
- 12pm-4pm Educational Presentations
- 4pm-6pm Dance Lessons
- 6pm-8pm Dinner (cultural food & entertainment)
- 9pm-1am Baile

For more information, please contact MSU at msu@wou.edu or 503-838-8403.



Alternative Break Goes International!



Over 30 students and seven advisors spent spring break away from home as part of the Alternative Break program, managed by Service Learning & Career Development. Alternative Break exposes WOU students to hands-on, experiential community based learning during a week – two week trip during school breaks. For the first time ever, an international Alternative Break group spent time engaged in service and research at orphanages and leper colonies in Vietnam. This particular trip initiated out of student interest from the Service Learning Health Education Program Planning Course. Three domestic trips traveled to Butte, Montana, New Orleans, Louisiana, and Spokane, Washington over the break. Another Alternative Break trip will head to Peru in late June as well.



The beginning stages of the trips started last spring with the selection of the AB Student Leaders. The Student Leaders manage the

selection of the location of the trip and the recruitment of the trip participants. The leaders attend weekly training sessions through fall and winter terms and conduct weekly meetings for their respective AB teams. Each team has to raise all of the funds to support the trip through various fund raisers on and off campus. As part of the program guidelines, a local service project must be completed prior to the group leaving on their out of area trip.



There were a variety of service activities that took place by this spring's groups. The Montana team focused their time on connecting with persons with children and youth affected by mental health and developmental disabilities through the A.W.A.R.E. (Anaconda Work And Residential Enterprises) organization. Spokane worked on constructing homes as part of Habitat For Humanity's Collegiate Challenge program. The New Orleans group spent the week with the ACORN (Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now) gutting homes ravaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.



New Orleans Student Leader, Brenda Vaandering shares her perspective on her Alternative Break, "It is an invaluable and life changing experience to spend my break doing service for families affected by Hurricane Katrina and Rita and build connections with other students as well as the families." Tina Trinh, the Butte Student Leader finds that the Alternative Break trips she has participated in have helped her see the importance of getting involved with service on a consistent basis... "There are many organizations that need volunteers to give their time in this area and it has been great to stay involved in service."



More photos of these trips and previous Alternative Break trips can be viewed at http://www.wou.edu/student/career/trip_descriptions.php

A script from Health and Counseling Services...

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and colleges and universities across the country are sponsoring events and programs to increase awareness of the preponderance of sexual assaults committed on campuses every year. According to researchers, sexual assault is the most underreported crime in America. There is disagreement on the sheer number of women who are sexually assaulted on campuses each year, but the statistic of 1 in 4 seems to be the most commonly quoted. That is 1 in 4 women will be sexually assaulted sometime in the 4 plus years they are a student. With so many women being victimized, why aren't there more reports

www.wou.edu/student

of sexual assault being made? Well the explanation is complex. Part of the answer lies in the fact that many of the assaults that occur on campus involve someone the victim knows and alcohol abuse. Combined, the victim is often left questioning themselves, " Did I somehow consent to this?"

WOU Health and Counseling Services will sponsor a week of Sexual Assault Awareness programming beginning April 23rd and running through April 27th. Examples of programs and events are as follows:

- Clothes Line Project
- A brown bag lunch lecture on the Truths and Myths of Sexual Assault
- Self-Defense Class
- Information tables
- Ribbon give away
- Men stand against sexual assault
- And more...

Look for more information as the week gets closer.

Hawai'i Club Plans Luau

After a three year hiatus, the Hawai'i Club is organizing a luau for April 28, 2007 in the Pacific Room of the Werner University Center. Many folks might remember the days when the luau was held in the gymnasium of New PE. While the hope is to build the event back to the attendance level that required the event to be held in New PE, student organizers wanted to gradually reintroduce the event and start in the Pacific Room. The 50 members of the Hawai'i Club have been working since October to plan for this event. Students have met weekly to cover planning details and choreograph dances.

This year's event will have an authentic Hawaiian meal including pork, lomi salmon, haupia and coconut cake. Club members will perform native dances and other entertainment. Tickets are already on sale for this event. Cost for Adults is \$15 in advance, and \$21 at the door. Children are \$8 in advance. Doors open at 5:00 pm on April 28 for this event. Get your tickets today as seating is limited.

Exciting “Study Away” Opportunity for WOU Students

For the second year, WOU participated in the National Student Exchange (NSE) program along with 190 colleges and universities across the U.S. and Canada. NSE, now entering its 39th year, allows WOU students to study up to one year at a participating institution paying in-state resident tuition or paying WOU tuition.

Several WOU students took advantage of the program during the first year it was offered. Jessica Montas from Portland and Ekaeta Udosenata from Eugene spent fall semester 2006 at Florida International University in Miami, Florida. Both applied for the program when they were freshmen. They roomed together in the residence halls, took the same schedule of classes at FIU and experienced a variety of new cultural and social opportunities. “(NSE) can be a new and growing experience that takes you out of the comfort of your home school that you are used to. It can open doors to other opportunities and you can learn new things that you might not learn here at WOU” (Jessica Montas).



Chris Plouhar from the University of New Orleans chose Western Oregon University for his exchange after relocating to Oregon as a result of Hurricane Katrina. Chris spent fall term 2006 and winter term 2007 at WOU. “I would definitely say that my experience with NSE at Western was a positive one. It was exciting to

study at different schools and meet all kinds of people. The staff at WOU was extremely helpful and available if I needed anything. There was not one time I felt unwelcome.”

Many students take the opportunity to study away to live in a different geographic area, take courses not offered on their home campus, investigate graduate or professional schools, explore other cultures, or experience the thrill of studying away without language barriers.

Additional information on NSE is available by contacting Denise Galey at galeyd@wou.edu or going to the WOU NSE web page at www.wou.edu/student/sla/NSE/php.

Returning to the Past

A retro experience of sorts will greet our students on move-in day in the Fall. With the departure of the Police Academy, Arbuthnot Hall has sat vacant this academic year. However, that will all change when Fall 2007 rolls around. A surge in the demand from current students for single room spaces in the residence halls is prompting the Office of University Residences to utilize the space in Arbuthnot as single rooms.

Arby, as Arbuthnot Hall is affectionately called, was built in 1961, during a time when a radio was considered an upscale amenity in a student room. Needless to say, the wiring for current student amenities, like telephone, internet and cable tv, is essentially non-existent in individual student rooms. While costs will prohibit University Residences from wiring the building for all of the demands students have, wireless will be installed so students are able to access the internet and campus network by way of wi-fi.

Students in attendance at our Arby Open Houses in March indicated a strong desire for the single room option, amenities or not. Some revealed disappointment over the lack of cable tv in the rooms, but were encouraged that cable tv would be provided in floor lounges in the building. In general, the idea of a private space in a room larger than any standard room in WOU’s residence hall system was the most appealing aspect to most students.

With the decision to open Arbuthnot Hall, the prospect of “retro living” will come true for 70 WOU students this fall.

Puppy Bites...

The WOU Triathlon is being revived. Held for several years from the late 1980s to the mid 90s this revival will be held on Saturday, April 28. The 500 yard swim, 10 mile bike and 3.2 mile run will start at the Wolverton pool and contestants will finish the run with a lap on the track as the Spring Football game gets underway so the finishers should be able to garner some deserved applause for their efforts.

Campus Recreation also has several hikes planned and a trip to the IMAX theatre at the Evergreen Aviation Museum in McMinnville where there are both the large (Howard Hughes Spruce Goose) and the small (replica of Lindbergh's Spirit of St Louis -used in being the first person to solo from America to Europe) planes.

The Women Rugby Club is off to nationals. After winning their league, the lady ruggers qualified for national play. The Club just returned from California where they placed second at the regional tournament. Due to the quality of competition in the West, this year the top two teams from the West region will advance to the first round of the national tournament in Florida. Western's Women Rugby Club finished third in the nation two years ago and last year lost in the final game of the regional tournament which was held at WOU. If Western wins at the tournament round in Florida, the team will go to the national finals held at Stanford University in late April. Support the women's rugby team!

Men's Rugby and Mens Lacrosse complete league play in early April with the possibility of post season.

The Men's soccer club will be looking to playing some "friendlies" against local universities as they shake off the cobwebs and move outdoors.

The Crew club will also be looking to better weather and the opportunity to get outside into the sun after a winter of training mostly indoors. The opportunity to actually get on the water for training in the shells instead of the winter regimen of dry land training has got to warm the hearts of the rowers. The club will be operating for the first time without long time advisor and supporter, Dr Robert Turner who has turned the advising role over to Luis Rosa.

www.wou.edu/student

Program Spotlight: Student Enrichment Program

Federal TRiO Programs are educational opportunity outreach programs designed to motivate and support students from "disadvantaged backgrounds." Student Enrichment Program (SEP) is one of two TRiO programs on the WOU campus. SEP provides services to eligible students who meet federal low-income guidelines and/or are the potential first in their family to graduate from college. The SEP program also provides services to students with disabilities.

As an academic support service for undergraduate students, SEP's two primary goals are 1) To increase college retention and graduation rates for eligible students, and 2) To foster an institutional climate supportive of success for low income, first generation college students and individuals with disabilities.

In a recently submitted annual performance report to the U.S. Department of Education, SEP met all of its objectives which included:

- A persistence rate of 90% of its participants, excluding specific factors authorized by grant guidelines;
- Over 88% of its participants were in good academic standing at the end of the last academic year;
- Over 20% of SEP graduates applied for graduate school last year and nearly 78% of those students were accepted into a graduate program.

SEP currently serves 250 students and is in its first year of a new four year grant funding cycle. The SEP staff appreciates the working relationships it shares with colleagues across the campus and values the contributions of all the academic support units and faculty members who support our participants.

For more information on the SEP program, you can contact the program director, Don Boderman at extension 88550 or visit their website at www.wou.edu/provost/se/index.html