

In This Issue:

- Letter From The President 1
- State Affairs News. . . . 1
- Alumni Webpage 2
- Task Force Updates . . . 2
- Task Force Updates Continued 3
- Calendar 4

Welcome to the inaugural alumni newsletter

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to introduce our inaugural publication of the Associated Students of Oregon State University alumni newsletter, *The Advocate*. Inside this edition you will find news regarding some of our current victories, a report on the launch of our new alumni page on the ASOSU website, an update of the current legislative session and additional information to help you reconnect with the ASOSU.

My time working for the students of OSU has thus far been one of the most meaningful experiences of my life. At our annual alumni breakfast this past fall many of you took time to share similar sentiments recalling stories about how much your involvement has meant to each of you. Since then many of you have stopped by to recount memories of the rich traditions associated with student governance with current members of the ASOSU staff. Some have taken a moment to call or write an e-mail to impart some of the institutional memory and lessons you learned during your days as a student leader.

And a few of you have even taken a weekend to share some of the knowledge you have acquired since your time at ASOSU by participating in staff trainings. Every moment you share enhances our awareness of the past and strengthens our grasp of the present and future.

My hope is that the newsletter evolves as a forum for the extension of these moments to a wider audience. I urge you all to become an active participant in the development of our new endeavor.

Sincerely,

Kristen Downey



G'day Gov'nors!

I write to you today in a daze of glory, excitement and general sleep-deprivation. All year, the State Affairs Task Force has been working non-stop for you.

We created some massive waves with the fall term voter registration and get out the vote campaigns. We have used that momentum to surf our way into the State Capitol to tell the powers-that-be what is up.

The Associated Students of Oregon State University has had a strong presence in Salem since the beginning of the 2005 legislative session. During the first few weeks of the session, which convened Jan. 10, ASOSU representatives met with nearly 20 representatives and senators to inform them of the issues for which we were advocating (excuse me, DEMANDING).

This session, State Affairs is fighting for three priority issues. One, keeping the \$91.6 million (a 111 percent increase) that the Governor has proposed for the Oregon Opportunity Grant, the state's only need-based aid program, which would fund all eligible and even begin to help some part-time students.

Two, stopping our tuition rates from again increasing over the next two years, by insisting that the state begin to re-invest in our education. Rates have risen 53 percent at OSU over the last four years.

Finally, we must not forget the children. We are fighting to save the Student Childcare Program, which currently assists 230 full-time, low-income student-parents. We will fight to increase its budget by 50 percent to \$1.5 million to help another 115 families on a waiting list of over 700. All of our campaigns have been met with a mix of approval and



Director of State Affairs Kevin Grant yells to legislators in the Capital as Oregon State students rally behind him on Lobby Day

The Associated Students
of Oregon State University
149 Snell Hall
Corvallis, OR 97331

Fax: 541.737.5560
Phone: 541.737.2101
Email: asosu@oregonstate.edu

Kristen J. Downey
President
541.737-6344
asosu.pres@oregonstate.edu

Dan McCarthy
Vice President
541.737-6345
asosu.vp@oregonstate.edu

Keeley Smith
The Advocate Coordinator
541.737.9148
asosu.pr@oregonstate.edu

See STATE AFFAIRS/page 3



New! ASOSU Alumni Website

Now you can access ASOSU online!

The Associated Students of Oregon State university is now officially online at <http://asosu.oregonstate.edu>. In addition to our new website, an alumni webpage has been added. This is a place where you, the alumni, can still feel connected to an organization that you once actively participated in. The webpage has many features. To begin, there will be an "Alumni Corner" where alumni have the freedom to express their thoughts and ideas on current events. There will also be a section to update or add contact information so that we can keep you informed as new events arise. Documents such as newsletters and other announcements concerning ASOSU and alumni will also be placed upon the webpage for easy access. After this edition of *The Advocate*, we ask that you to visit the webpage in order to inform us if you would rather receive the newsletter via email, by mail, or if you would not like to receive the newsletter altogether.



Task Force 101

Student and Academic

Tracy Hartley

The Student and Academic Task Force has focused all of its energy onto a major concern facing students - parking. Over the last few years students have voiced concerns around several matters pertaining to parking; the task force has formulated a list of these concerns and has asked the Parking Committee to act in the best interest of all the students.

Some of the issues that have been addressed by the task force include not having concrete regulations in regards to game day parking, the lack of signage among campus pertaining to who can park where and when, the unmarked changes on the parking availability map, and the distribution of parking spots to faculty members.

Future terms will allow the Student and Academic Task Force to improve on these problems and making the parking situation at Oregon State a happier one

Women's Affairs

Mary Danner

The student body has united to end fear and uncertainty. We have combined to promote protection and security. Women's Affairs has embarked on this theme to create awareness and take a stand. While continuing to work on increasing blue lights and safety on and off campus, we have also raised awareness for contraceptives.

The Valentine's Day contraceptive awareness was a huge success, and nothing spells success like a condom sack race. The day was filled with free condoms, useful information and wacky games to grab attention. M.A.R.S. was a proud contributor to the event and helped by spreading their wealth of knowledge. Our message was clear, "if you choose, choose to use, and protect yourself."

The next issue we will be working on is the concern for eating

disorder and body image issues. We look forward to taking this matter to a higher level and to positively change the way men and women think and feel about themselves.

Federal Affairs

Dorien Michaels

The Federal Affairs Task Force is running at full steam. With only a few short months left in the school year, our pace and work load is set to increase. Now that the federal budget has been released, Congress will be diligently debating the many facets of the \$2.7 trillion budget, and so will we. Our advantage is we already know what we want; all that is left is to work with our congressional representatives to make certain capital. We invite you to join us in planning and executing these events that will ensure that our collective voices of 19,000 students will echo through the halls of Congress and reverberate throughout the country.

Disabled Affairs

Zach Hasman

Without a doubt, campus safety is a topic that is always on everyone's mind. When a parent sends their son or daughter away to college it is guaranteed that mom and/or dad will make every attempt to see that their child is safe.

From the "blue lights" to the security guards who drive around as soon as the sun goes down, it is clear that Oregon State University is attempting to take the right steps in assuring campus safety. However, their efforts are definitely incomplete when it comes to getting every student home safely at night.

As of now Disabled Affairs is currently working towards adding a handicap-accessible van to the Saferide program. This way, all students of OSU have the chance to use the program and return safely to their homes at night.



Queer Affairs

Amanda Gzik

The focus of the Queer Affairs Task Force for this academic year is that of trans accessibility on campus.

A transgender individual can be defined as a person whose gender identity is not adequately described by the sex they were assigned at birth. A transsexual can be defined as someone who does not identify with the sex they were assigned at birth. Many, but not all, transsexuals have or wish to alter their bodies through the use of hormones or surgery.

Several different areas have to be altered in order to make Oregon State University more welcoming and accessible to these students and staff. One particular area the task force is currently working on involves the gender inclusive (unisex) restroom campaign.

For some trans individuals in transition from one gender to another a single stall gender inclusive restroom is preferred. Because accessibility to such facilities is limited on campus, it is a goal of the task force to see more of these restrooms created.

Multicultural Affairs

Jacob Mesa

As the last half of the school year approaches, Oregon State University finds itself on the verge of making permanent improvements in regards to cultural identity and equality here on campus.

In light of the Campus Climate Survey results it is obvious that there are many areas in which OSU can improve. It is often that people in the dominant Caucasian class fail to understand some of the problems minority students have here on campus. Not only does the campus survey provide us with a glimpse of what it is like to be a minority student on campus, it gives the members of the community a chance to show we are united in fighting hate and discrimination here at OSU.

One immediate action that the Multicultural Affairs Task Force will be focusing on is a complaint form to address some of the problems students face. It was shown that a significant number of incidents regarding harassment actually go unreported.

To create a welcoming environment to all students, it is essential that there be a way for these individuals' problems to be addressed. Even though these instances of harassment go unreported it is the responsibility of the school to provide an opportunity for those who wish to report and/or take action against those individuals to file a complaint.

People have the right to feel welcome. If Oregon State provides these individuals with a way in which their problems can be addressed, students will realize the energy and effort the university is putting forth to make this campus as accepting as possible.

Graduate Student Affairs

Tarah Howard

Planning began for the Oregon State University Graduate Conference on Jan. 3, 2005. This annual event will be held on Wednesday, April 13 in the Memorial Union. The conference is designed to recognize all graduate students of each department. This is a great opportunity for the OSU community to see what graduate students have accomplished this academic year. In addition, graduate students may see what their peers are researching.

Community Affairs

Robert Straus

As always, the Community Affairs Task Force is trying to improve the relations between the Corvallis Police Department and students.

On March 5 and 6, there is going to be a student police academy hosted by the police department for students to learn more of what it is like to be a police officer. Students who attend will gain a great

understanding of the inner workings of the police, and get the opportunity to drive a police car.

We are also working on a campaign to reduce criminal incidents committed by students in the Corvallis area. In finding new and innovative ways to prevent students from acting out against the law, hopefully this will reduce crime in the future.

Environmental Affairs

Erin Wyckoff

The Associated Students of Oregon State University Environmental Affairs Task Force is a group of students who are concerned with, and dedicated, to improving growing environmental issues at OSU. Issues of sustainability, recycling and conservation are just a few of the areas with which they work.

During winter term of 2005, the group focused on planning for Earth Week 2005, which will be held April 19 - 22. Events will include a community fair, a recycled art fashion show, an environmental/indie film festival, guest speakers, The People's Park opening ceremony and a free BBQ and concert in the Memorial Union Quad.

The Earth Week Community Fair will provide a plethora of information for OSU students. Groups from all over campus, as well as the state, will congregate together in the MU Quad on April 19 with the goal of informing students. Topics will range from how to get involved on and off campus, what each of us can do to make a difference and so much more. Not to mention, there will be free stuff!

Also, the task force will be focusing our efforts of creating a communications system between different environmentally affiliated groups on campus. Information on dates and times of all environmental group meetings, projects of the groups for the term and more will be available at one source for all students. Ideas ranging from a newsletter, a large calendar in the MU and a website have all been brought up; however the final medium has yet to be decided.

Continued from page 1 . . .

reluctance in Salem. Because the state faces a budget shortfall of over \$1 billion over the next two years it will be challenging to secure all the funding we need.

We need your help! We're under attack by ever-increasing, over-inflated, credit-financed tuition hikes! The Oregon University System is woefully under-funded, the Governor's investment into the Oregon Opportunity Grant is threatened, and the Student Childcare Program may be cut-again. There is a solution, however. The State Affairs TaskForce of the ASOSU and the Oregon Student Association are demanding that legislators increase the OUS budget by \$32 million, hold onto the money proposed for the OOG and move the SCCP out of the Dept. of Human Services. As someone who has benefited from an education at OSU and who has held a leadership position in the ASOSU, we would appreciate it very much if you would write a personal letter on the advantages you have gained from an affordable (or was it?) education, assistance from the Oregon Opportunity Grant, or the hardships of raising a family while furthering your education.

Letters-to-the-editors of your local paper, the Statesman-Journal, and/or the Oregonian would be very much appreciated as well. For more information on how you can help in our fight to realize Student Power, please contact Kevin Grant, Director of State Affairs, at state.affairs@oregonstate.edu or 541-737-6457.

Thank You!!!
Kevin Grant



ASOSU
 Oregon State University
 149 Snell Hall
 Corvallis, Oregon 97331-1616



New
 Alumni Newsletter

April 2005

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Primary Elections <small>*Take Back the Night *Grad. Student Conference</small>	14 Elections	15	16
		Federal Lobbying In Washington D.C.				
17	18	19	20	21	22 ASOSU Earth Day	23
24	25	26	27 General Elections	28 General Elections	29 Mom's Weekend	30 Mom's Weekend

May 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

June 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Please check website for additions and updates to the calendar.

