The Daily Barometer

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2016 OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY



Oregon State University Vice President of Marketing and Relations Steve Clark discusses the planned tuition increase for the next academic year at OSU.

Oregon funding bottom 10 in country for higher education

By Tia Collins News Contributor

Even though Oregon lawmakers invest-ed \$665 million dollars in general support for higher education, Oregon State Uni-versity is still facing an increase in tuition

the next academic year.

OSU is currently expected to increase tuition on the Corvallis Campus by 2.2 percent for undergraduate residents, 4 percent for graduate non-residents, 2 percent for the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program and 3 percent for Pharm. D. program.

The state funding agreement is considered one of the largest re-investments in public education in the state of Oregon. Despite all the perks of state funding, it has not been sufficient enough to prevent an increase in tuition.

According to Sherman Bloomer, the

director of budget and fiscal planning at OSU, Oregon funding is not adequate enough to prevent tuition increases.

"Oregon had the biggest percent increase in state funding for higher education of any state this year. However, the state is starting from a pretty low place. Last year we were about 47th or 48th in funding per student in the 50 states," Bloomer said. "(after the increase in state funding) We're certainly still in the bottom

According to Bloomer, the investment definitely had an impact and was the first really big increase in funding since the state cut so much during the recession. In 2008, sate funding was around \$6,428 per student FTE (full time equivalent—two half-time students = 1 FTE). By 2012, the number dropped to \$4,018 (adjusted for inflation) and in 2016 has risen to \$5,170

(adjusted for inflation).

The increase in state funding has had many affects on the OSU campus.

"Residents had lesser (tuition) rates than otherwise would've been charged," said Steve Clark, the Vice President of Oregon State University.

One reason many students paid less for tuition is that state funding led to an increase in financial aid. According to Doug Severs, the Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships, they were able to increase their grant funding by almost

"(The increase in state funding) makes it easier to increase our grant funding for students with financial need and it helps keep the tuition and fees stable," Severs said.

According to Clark, some of the state funding was also allocated to student

programs and services in order to increase retention rates at OSU. Clark stated that part of the funds were dedicated towards advising students to stay in school. The cost of college for many families is a difficulty, but it is even more of a burden when students drop out and don't have a degree that allow them to pay off their debts. Investments with the state in allowing students to complete a degree will help them cover loans. State funding added approximately \$1.7 to \$2.9 million in funding to provide for student retention.

A portion of the state funding was put towards making improvements on the OSU campus and sustaining the quality of education students receive. The funding included covering the costs of operat-ing new facilities like the Learning Inno-

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OSU aims to keep students in school

Current first-year retention rate:

84.4 percent

OSU goal for first-year retention rate:

90 percent

President Ray sets new goals for first year retention

> By Gaby Mudd News Contributor

Oregon State University President Ed Kay recently announced plans to not only get students to come OSU, but to also ensure that they remain there after their freshman years.

In his most recent "State of the University Address," Ray pledged that OSU would raise its first-year retention rates from 84.4 percent to 90 percent by the year 2020. The university has implemented 'OSU Strategic Plan 3.0,' which focuses on improving retention and gradu-

The plan incorporates several support facilities on campus to help first-year students succeed. Susana Rivera-Mills, Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Studies on campus, is one of the overseers of the plan. According to Rivera-Mills, some of the major factors that contribute to students dropping out during their first year inc ide financial reasons, academic and emotional stress and personal challenges.

OSU has taken the first steps of identifying students that face these issues early on, River-Mills said.

"We are bringing technology in to help us be more proactive about student advising in order to be able to identify students who may be encountering challenges earlier on," Rivera-Mills said. "This helps us provide timely support so that they can continue with their course

One of the programs intended to increase success for new students is the First-Year Experience, a program geared toward helping stu-dents take the first steps in being successful at OSU.

"Our first year experience is designed to help students adjust and to inform them of all of the resources that are available on our campus," Rivera-Mills said.

Leslee Mayers, the associate director of New Student Programs and Family Outreach, facilitates the programs within in the First Year Experience. These programs include orientations such as START and on campus living for firstyear students. The program also offers U-Engage courses and academic advising once a term for

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Across

1 Beach tube letters

moisturizer

butter: cosmetic

4 Tube in Paris

BLOCK

Calendar

THURSDAY, Feb. 25

Event 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Baha'l Campus Association Location: Talisman Room, Memorial Union 105 The Need for a Universal

Language

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Career Development Center Location: CH2M Hill Alumni

Winter 2016 Engineering & Technology Career Fair

FRIDAY, Feb. 26

Meeting
12 p.m. - 2 p.m. SORCE
(Student Organization
Resources for Community Engage ment cation: MU 212

SORCE will be conducting the Activity Funds hearing, and it is opened to the public. For more information, contact sorce@ oregonstate.edu

Speaker 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. ASOSU Location: MU 212

During this informational ses-sion students will learn about and investing with a focus on employer sponsored rethement plans like 401 ks from the OSU Credit Union.

SATURDAY, Feb. 26

8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Salmon Bowl Location: MU 212 Salmon Bowl is an academic science bowl with an ocean science twist! High school students from all over Oregon and Idaho come to compete, test their ocean know-how OSU proudly hosts the Oregon Regional Competition called the 'Salmon Bowl.' Join us for the 19th annual Bowll

THURSDAY, March. 3

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. National

Nutrition Month Location: MU SEC Plaza The NDC is planning a large event to celebrate and promote National Nutrition Month® in March. This event will be hosted by the NDC to promote well-being through food. This event will follow the 2016 National Nutrition Month® theme set by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics - "Savor the Flavor of Eating Right."

Discussion

12:30 p.m. - 1 p.m. Baha'i Campus Association Location: Talisman Room, Memorial Union 105 is Community Building the Purpose of Religion

MONDAY, March, 8

4 p.m. - 5 p.m. OSU Healthy Aging Club Location: Waldo 400

We will be preparing for this term's final Silver Screen and the photo contest. Also pre-paring for 40th Annual OSU Gerontology Conference.

THURSDAY, March, 10

Discussion 12:30 p.m. - 1 p.m. Baha'i Campus Association Location: Talisman Room, Memorial Union 105

This day in history: 1870, Hiram Rhoades Revels becomes first African American woman sworn into the U.S. Senate.

Crossword Puzzle Todav'

43 "Good one!" 13 Roofing scalant flying one 14 Gem weight unit 44 Dumped, perhaps 26 Auto racer Busch 15 Home extension? 27 "Uh-huh" Sensor razor standstill 28 Miscellany 47 "You've found the right 17 Intensive study 30 Faux pas

19 Classic laundry soap

21 They're drunk at

33 Certain king's pride 36 Nunavut people 39 Mighty clash

22 Fish in hamo, a Japanese delicacy question 23 It's the opposite of a

51 2014 WNBA Finals runner-up 57 Wood-scratching tool

58 Pakistani bread 59 Loosen, as laces 60 Award to be

announced February 28, previously won by the first words of 17-, 23-, 39- and

51-Across 64 Cellular messenger 65 Take the helm

66 Trees yielding caffeine-rich nuts 67 Staples of many

websites 68 Giveaway bag 69 One-for-one deals 70 Touch gently

Down

drummer 2 Hibachi spot

3 Mali money 4 Real people?

5 Maestro's forte

6 Refrain bit 7 Мапу а геддав

musician 9 Additional

10 "Sure, take it!"

9 "Fifth Beatle" Sutcliffe

11 Picasso supporter

18 "The Censor" of Rome 46 Feddish berry in 20 Part of a winter suit 24 Penultimate contest.

for its winner 25 Work with pupils 26 Bob Marley Museum

city 29 The Blackbirds of the Conf.

30 Babe's pen 31 Falsity 32 "Everything's ready to go!

34 Surveillance org. 35 Moral principle 37 Nat close to 100%

38 Texas senator Cruz 40 Neither partner 41 Avatar of Vishnu

63 Criticize

48 Hesitant okay

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illegally, in a

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62 Suffix with form

50 Have because of 52 Accesses way 53 Hitched behind

54 Camera holder 55 In a way, slangily 56 Old Milwaukee-

58 "Morning Edition" sirer 61 Links supporter Wednesday's puzzle solved





Horoscope

Professional dreams are realized with persistent action this year. Personal ventures expand (after 3/8), leading to new financial conditions (after 3/23). Begin a profitable twoyear phase after 9/9. Partnership flowers (after 9/1), shifting your personal priorities (after 9/16). Stir

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is an 8 — Provide well for family. A balanced checkbook is only part of the story. Love grows by leaps and bounds. Accept an offer of assistance. A partner's opinion is important. Get ready to make a

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is Today and tomorrow get busy. Wear appropriate clothing for the job. It could be fun. Strengthen your infrastructure at work. With study and a loved one's support, you can win. Get help if you need it.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) - Today is a 7 - Follow your heart over the next two days. Do what you love, with good company. The line blurs and grow your skills. Make a good impression on someone you care

Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Today is a 6 - Develop a practical plan for a home improvement. Share details with family. Find clever ways to cut costs. Consider long-term plans. Doing a job right once is less expensive than twice wrong. Get trusted assistance.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 7 — Writing and communications projects flourish over the next few days. Craft a persuasive message. Share it with friends. Keep your deadlines and your reputation for dependability rises. Ask for what you want and get it.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 9 - You can make extra money today and tomorrow. Lucrative opportunities arise. Your friend's experience is helpful. They're saying nice things about you. Ask for what you need. Working overtime could be profitable. Go for it.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is a Things seems to fall into place with a personal goal over the next two days. Stick to the budget. Do the

Harvest Hour

Thursdays

work nobody sees. Nurture yourself with good, simple food, exercise and rest. Follow your heart.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 6 — Peaceful introspection suits your mood over the next two days. Make plans toward a big picture goal. Take time to enjoy the present moment. Express your love in little ways. Listen to elders.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -Today is a 7 — Today and tomorrow favor social connection. Pass along what you're learning. Go public with recent research. Throw parties, hold meetings and participate in group endeavors. Gather advice and then ponder it. Follow a strong recommendation.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 7 — Accept a challenge if it pays well. Career matters occupy you over the next two days. Use what you've kept hidden. Get help, if needed. Rely on another's expertise. Grasp the practical implications.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is an 8 — Explore and study new developments over the next two days. Do the work and keep good records. Travel in person or virtually to make an important connection. Discuss shared goals. Hatch new ideas.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is an 8 — Discuss financial priorities with your partner. Get family opinions, and then choose your direction. Teamwork sets the tone. Others see your blind spots. Heed the voice of experience. Listen to sameane who loves you.

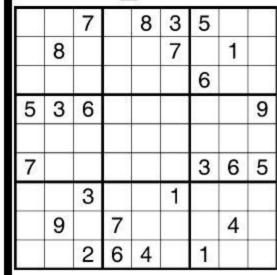
Sudoku



BEAVER NEWS & Thursdays BEAVER SPORTS 7-7:30 p.m.

> Comcast channel 26 or stream at orangemedianetwork.com/kbvr_tv

LEVEL 1 2 3 4



Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

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B**ärom**eter

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Formal written complaints about The Daily Barometer may be referred to the committee for investigation and disposition. After hearing all elements involved in a complaint, the committee will report its decision to all parties concerned.

News

Tuition

Continued from page 1

vation Center and covering costs of new faculty in areas with high student growth.

"Overall state funding is 21 percent of the Education and General Funds in Corvallis this year the E&G funds are the ones that include tuition and operate most of the Corvallis academic functions. State funding is even a bigger part of supporting the campus in Bend," Bloomer said.

Clark said Oregon has a history of low state funding in higher education.

"For the last 10 to 15 years, or more, the percentage of state funding to the Oregon's seven public schools has gone down from supporting two-thirds the cost to less than one-third," Clark said, "Universities had to look for alternate source of funding—philanthropy, tuition, donors, expense cuts to balance budgets—The pressure is on the student's family and the university."

According to Clark, research discovered that in 2000, tuition for 15 credit hours was approximately \$3,654, but by the 2014/15 school year, tuition had gone up to \$9,122. One reason for that increase was inflation, which amounted to a 40 percent change in the cost of living on a comparable basis to the rate in 2000.

The increase in tuition also occurred because state funding was considered unable to cover some of the costs of running the university.

According to Clark, OSU works hard to manage costs to save money wherever possible; however, somethings are beyond the university's control and are established by the state. These include healthcare and PERS.

"There is a higher PERS retirement plan. In the late 80s and early 90s, 8 percent was promised on their pension," said Sami Al-AbdRabbuh, an industrial engineer doctorate student and an Associated Students of Oregon State University House of Representatives member. "The state is not supporting higher education as we should due to high expenditure demands."

Although there is debate about whether the state is providing enough funding to higher education, there are ways beyond state funding that OSU uses to try to lower expenses.

According to Clark, expense control, scholarships, tuition, state-funding and the number of students we enroll at Oregon state area all a part of the ways in which OSU tries to get to the right level of operation at the right tuition level without compromising the university.

The University is also committed to raise scholarships to provide students assistance in paying for tuition fees according to Clark. There is 189 million scholarships and the fundraising campaign for Oregon State University foundation.

"Foundation is private nonprofit fundraising foundation that provides endowments for faculty, scholarships for students, and funds to help construct and renovate buildings," said Clark.

The endowments and expenses that proved for faculty members are ways in which OSU encourages the best and brightest faculty members to come to OSU so that students can get a quality education.

"There are cost increases every year on the programs and services we currently

1035 NW Kings Blvd.

offer. Things like utilities, insurance, custodial services, etc. all go up as they do for any public or private sector enterprise. These are really important as we want to make sure we are bringing the best faculty and staff to Corvallis and that we keep them here," Bloomer said.

Other incentives used to bring in the best faculty include giving out raises even when tuition for students is going up.

"Tuition rates are essential and it could be counter productive if we disinvest in the quality or quantity of advisers and teachers. Waiting lists would raise and quality would go down which means that the value of a degree would not be sufficient enough to compete globally for work," Clark said.

Getting the best of the best is linked to getting a better education and a more valuable degree.

"Need to get the best of the best. Raises are important, we should treat them as part of the solution. That solution includes having the best man in power," said Al-Abdrabbuh.

In order to pay for resources that add to the quality of degrees available at the university tuition is often increased, but state funding can help ease or even bring down these costs.

"Tuition covers a lot of those increases, so keeping tuition down means finding another source of funding to help with those cost increases (like state funding) or reducing the scope of some service or program we're currently offering," Bloomer said, "The increased state support is a huge part of why we're able to propose the lowest tuition increases for next year we have seen in many years."

There are many things students can do to try to encourage more state funding. Clark suggests that students continue to work with state legislature in order to make higher education a priority. Clark explains that the state funding is involved in funding K-12, social services, law enforcement and other essential state services in addition to higher education. As a result the state has to find a balance.

"2017 it is anticipated that retirement benefits increase even more. No single answer, (to lowering tuition) cost cutting, cost maintenance, fundraising, state support and enrollment management are all used to moderate or with stand future tuition increases. We need to work with legislatures, donors (and) students to budget effectively," Clark said, "For tuition to go down, an increase in state funding would need to be provided in a very significant way."

Going beyond lobbying is also another way to lower tuition expenses and increase state funding.

"Lobbying would work by increasing awareness and the awareness is going to help us act on it. This could lead to potential solutions," Al-Abdrabbuh said. "Lobbying by itself is not enough. Students need to be more vigilant, and there needs to be more productivity and innovation going into solving problem of a consistently increasing tuition. State funding is necessary, but not sufficient."

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Student veterans ask for priority registration

New law gives veterans early pick of classes

By Chas Johnson News Contributor

Talks between Veteran leaders at Oregon State University and the school's administration concerning a new Oregon law that mandates public universities and community colleges provide priority registration to military veterans are now underway on campus.

Veteran and Family Student Association President, Donald Phillips, is one of the student leaders who have voiced their concerns to the OSU administration only satisfying the minimum requirements of the law.

Phillips is not happy with the university's current adaptation of the law.

"I don't think that the way that they're doing it makes them worthy of a 'Military Friendly' award," said Phillips, referencing the 2016 award from Victory Media that OSU received.

Phillips has met with the registrar, registrar's assistant and Jock Mills, the OSU Director of Government Relations to discuss the implementation of H.B. 2645, the bill that mandates universities provide military veterans with priority registration.

"They told us that they are implementing it to the minimum standard required. Anything more, they would need a reason for," Phillips said. "They asked us to submit a plan on other ways that priority registration could work, we did within the week. That was in the beginning of December."

the beginning of December." Phillips met with the university again Feb. 18.

"They did specifically ask that we try to handle it in house, and not reach out to legislation. From my understanding they have had meetings with other individuals since our (Dec.) meeting. It appears that they are attempting to work with us, but any type of priority registration past the minimum is still only a possibility currently," Philips said. "If we don't get something satisfactory in place for next fall then we will likely be reaching out to legislation."

Associated Students of Oregon State University Director of Veterans Affairs, Darren Nguyen, has been working on the issue of veteran priority registration alongside Phillips.

"The meeting went better than expected," Nguyen said, referencing the Feb. 18 meeting.

Nguyen stated that while there was no guarantee of actual change, he anticipated being informed on a weekly basis of registrar conversations about priority registration for veterans.

"We asked for veteran priority registration for Oregon State University student veterans to be in the same category as student-athletes," said Nguyen.

Nguyen wants veteran priority registration structured similarly to the way student athletes register, but an a hour later.

Nguyen and Phillips said they could not recommend OSU to other veterans with the current situation the way it is.

"If you're looking for a veteran community where you can transition pretty well, it's not the best university to go to," said Nguyen.

Phillips had similar sentiments.

"Unless they're going into, specifically, engineering, I would not recommend OSU for veterans. It sucks to say that. OSU was my first choice school, I wanted to come to OSU, I wanted to be in Corvallis, in the area," Phillips said. "It's disappointing."

The Oregon House of Representatives and the Senate voted unanimously to approve House Bill 2645 in 2015. Governor Brown signed her approval June 15, 2015 and HB 2645 became law on January 1, 2016. Now public universities and community colleges across

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News

Duration of veteran priority registration among Oregon schools



Veterans

Continued from page 3

Oregon are figuring out plans for their own systems of priority registration pertaining to veterans. The deadline for implementation being Sept. 15, 2016.

Subsection 4(b) of the bill reads, "4) A priority enrollment system established pursuant to this section must, at a minimum, provide that a qualified student who has completed new student orientation requirements for enrollment has priority registration for enrollment over (...)(b) Persons who are not qualified students and who are registering for the first time for enrollment at a community college or public university listed in ORS 352.002."

"Since its introduction, H.B. 2645 has been discussed and amended multiple times to include language that only obligates universities to grant priority registration to the first term a Student Veteran enrolls, after they've completed an orientation," Portland State University's Raymond Facundo of the Veteran Resource Center (VRC) explained in a VRC memorandum.

The memo states a veteran must take at least 12 credits per term to receive their full housing stipend, if they cannot take a needed course because it is full, they may face a financial burden.

"Programs like the Post 9/11 GI Bill

grant the user 36 months of tuition and housing benefits. The GI bill will not pay for any class during that time-frame, but only the courses that follow their specific degree plan," Facundo said, elaborating on the problems this still leaves veterans in terms of scheduling, "This can be problematic, as many veterans come into PSU with transfer credits from military service, which automatically fill in their general elective requirements."

PSU is similar in size to OSU according to enrollment reports and numbers provided by OSU and PSU. PSU's reported enrollment for Fall 2015 was 28,076, with 878 veterans, comprising approximately 3.1 percent of the student body. OSU reported a Fall 2015 enrollment of 29,576 students, with 965 total veterans comprising approximately 3.3 percent of the student body.

PSU has chosen to do is to incorporate qualified veterans into the existing priority registration framework.

"Veterans and Student Athletes share the same date for priority registration in a given term. Students registered through our Disability Resource Center have the first date for priority registration, followed by Veterans, Student Athletes and continuing Graduate students," PSU's registrar explained.

Facundo said PSU worked to keep the priority registration for veterans actually priority.

"Considering the fact that all new students are first enrolled after orientation, and those relying on the GI Bill and other VA educational benefits are still fighting to get into the courses they need in order to finish their degrees, we feel that the 'priority' was lost," Facundo said, summarizing PSU's reasoning for exceeding minimum compliance.

William Elfering, the Military and Veteran Resources Advisor at OSU said the university is still working on their plan to implement H.B. 2645.

"The administration is working with some members of our student veteran community to better understand how priority registration would affect their ability to use their VA educational benefits," Elfering said.

OSU's registrar, Rebecca Mathern, touched on the emphasis of communication between veterans, other student leaders, and the school administration in this process.

"There are other conversations currently occurring about how OSU can help other populations of veterans (and dependents) get priority registration above and beyond what is required. The idea is to find out how we can serve not only our veterans but other students who are under restrictions to complete their program in a timely way," Mathern said. "Of course, the goal is that all students, regardless of student type, can get into the courses they need, when they need them."

The office of State Representative Andy Olson also spoke to HB 2645 and its adoption at OSU. "Rep. Olson has spoken with OSU in regards to implementing HB 2645 and feels confident the administration is fulfilling the minimum requirements of the bill," Olson's representatives said. "Additionally, OSU is taking further steps to review the long term picture in assuring all students on fixed financial benefits graduate as quickly as possible."

Oregon universities are varied when it comes to satisfying the minimum requirements for H.B. 2645, or going beyond that. According to their respective registrars and officials, Eastern Oregon University, Oregon Institute of Technology, Southern Oregon University, and PSU are all choosing to offer priority registration to veterans until the veteran graduates.

OSU officials have repeatedly stated that they will maintain compliance with the law.

The U of O's registrar has stated that they are already in compliance with the law, and have no plans to make changes beyond what the law requires.

"Western Oregon University is currently engaged in discussions regarding how we will implement priority registration for veterans as legislated in Oregon House Bill 2645," Western Oregon University's registrar said.

When asked for comment on OSU's involvement in the development of HB 2645, OSU's Mills, provided an explanation.

"We were not aware of the bill

until after it was introduced. Once we reviewed the bill, we approached the sponsor, Rep. Brad Witt (D-Clatskanie), who enabled us to draft an amendment that sought to ensure that veterans received academic advising prior to registration," Mills said.

The Oregon House of Representatives' amendment to A-Engrossed H.B. 2645 was passed by the House on March 23, 2015, and was included in the final draft of the bill.

Mills said that priority registration doesn't help veterans if they don't know what classes to register for in order to graduate with the degree they desire. According to Mills, OSU requires academic advising for all students and the amendment simply sought to ensure that veterans did not embark on a course of study that didn't achieve their academic goals.

OSU officials involved with the bill also testified in support of the bill adding veteran dependents to the legislation.

"Our sole goal in suggesting amendments to the bill was to increase the bill's effectiveness for veterans," said Mills.

Mathern noted that in late Feb. or early March OSU will be announcing opportunities for discussion around veteran priority registration and will be requesting some student leaders to co-lead these discussions.

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Retention

Continued from page 1

new students. According to Mayers, these four components of the First Year Experience were chosen based on national data that suggests students are more likely to be retained if a university offers these experiences.

"These components can all be tracked with data," Mayers said. "Students tend to have higher GPAs when they live on campus their first year, they tend to perform well and benefit from U-Engage classes, and orientations help keep the overwhelming transition to college more manageable."

Rivera-Mills also highlights other support programs on campus that are designed to help mentor students such as the Academic Success Center, the TRiO Program, EOP, CAMP and many more.

The Academic Success Center helps students by offering five services including the Writing Center, the University Exploratory Science Program, Academic Coaching, ALS classes and Supplemental Instruction.

Jesse Nelson, the director of the Academic Success Center, said the center plays a vital role in retaining first-year students.

"If you look at students pursuing a degree, there a three factors that determine if a student is going to stay; their experiences in the classroom, their experiences outside classroom and their financial situation," Nelson said. "The ASC helps directly with the first two but, unfortunately, the financial piece is not as relevant to us, however we do help students with their course completion, which keeps them on track to receive their financial aid."

The TRiO Program is another resource on campus that targets a more specific at-risk group of dropping out of college. Rivera-Mills said there are many challenges that some students can experience during their first year.

"We see retention gaps among students that come from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, who might be first in their family to attend college, or who identify as part of an underrepresented group," Rivera-Mills said.

The TRiO Program works with students who have been admitted into any major or discipline in the university and, are low income, a first generation student or have a disability. The TRiO program offers helpful services such as free tutoring, a peer mentoring program, and free printing to help these students.

Amy Davila-Klautzsch, the academic counselor and peer mentor coordinator of the program commented on the difference between traditional college students and low income students, and the impacts of being a member of an underrepresented group on campus.

"First generation students do not have the same kind of support from home as traditional students and they often do not have someone to help them with the process," Davila-Klautzsch said. "Being a first-generation student is harder than being low income in my opinion, and most of our students are both."

Rivera-Mills reiterated that the best way to help with student retention rates is to give them the necessary resources to be successful in their transition into the university.

"Bottom line, the key to supporting these students is in being able to identify them early enough to provide the needed support and help them overcome challenges and persist to graduation," Rivera-Mills said.

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Sports

Where are they now?

By Josh Worden Senior Beat Reporter



COURTESY OF ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kicker Justin Kahut in the 2009 game against UNLV scoring the game-winning field goal in OSU's 23-21 win



At OSU: When career in 2010, his 47 field goals trailed sor Alexis Serna in game-winning field goals against Árizona in 2008 and UNLV in the only points in OSU's 3-0 win in the 2008 Sun Bowl.

Justin Kahut

Football kicker, 2006-2010

Now: Kahut is engaged to be mar-ried in July; he and his fiancé Julie initially met on ChristianMingle.com.

Within two months of signing up for the online dating service, Kahut thought it was "a joke" and decided to cancel his subscription. He forgot to do so, however, and it renewed automati-cally. A month later, Julie messaged him cally. A month later, Julie messaged him and the two Skyped multiple times over the next two weeks. Kahut flew down to Sacramento to see her — Julie lives in Phoenix but was visiting her grandmother — but they did not mesh well on their first face-to-face meeting, "I think her grandma and I hit it off more than her and I the first day," Kahut said. "Luckily it was a full weekend, so we got to know each other. Both us were

we got to know each other. Both us were just like, 'Hey, we both know what we're looking for, let's be intentional about this thing."

Kahut was already headed to Hawai'i for the Pro Bowl on Jan. 31, so he surprised Julie by bringing her with him four days early and he proposed on O'ahu's north shore.

"Our dates have been really expensive, because we fly to each other."

As for his career, Kahut had already locked up a job with the engineering company Kiewit when he was a junior at OSU. He worked there for a time before moving to Nike, where he has worked in product development since Jan. 2014.

Jan. 2014.

"It's been awesome," the 27-year-old said, who now works with former OSU wide receiver Mike Hass in Portland. "A lot of skills I learned in my engineering job and classes (at OSU) translated well to the development role."

Speaking of OSU connections: Kahut and Serna, who together held a monopoly on OSU's starting kicker job for the majority of 2004-2010, are very close friends today and Kahut is the godfather of Serna's son Sebastian.

"Pretty cool since before I came to OSU I was Serna's number one fan," Kahut said.

Kahut spends in time in Portland

Kahut said.

Kahut spends in time in Portland working at Nike, coaching high school kickers in the Portland area and volunteering at YoungLife's Capernaum program, which hosts activities for people with disabilities. Kahut is also the kicking coach at Lewis & Clark College under former OSU coach Jay Locey.

Alexis Serna

Football kicker, 2003-2007

Now: Serna spent almost three seasons in the Canadian Football League after leaving OSU. In 2010 while in Canada, Serna married his girlfriend of six years, Julia Garcia; the two originally met as students at OSU when Garcia was an RA in Serna's dorm.

Serna was released in Aug. 2010 by the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, so he returned to Corvallis and went through a six-month training process with the Corvallis Police Department. He was hired on the condition that he passed a psychology test. For reasons he never learned, Serna failed the test.

"That was kind've an 'oh crap' moment for me," Serna said, who learned he failed on his 27th birthday.

Sebastian, aged two and a half and already a budding OSU fan. Serna's successor as OSU's kicker, Justin Kahut, "One of the fortunate things for me was (then-head coach Mike) Riley. One of his big things was: 'never blink.' Basically, just saying that you never know what's going to happen but you can't worry about it."

his head on straight as he looked for career options. Soon, he landed a job at Sherwin-Williams and joined their management training program. A couple promotions later, he now works as a sales representative in Salem. Recall-ing the leadership and mentoring from coach Riley, Serna implements similar styles of guidance in his position with clients and coworkers.

"That's kind of a neat thing for me because I really love to mentor people and really like to help out as much as I can," Serna said.

Alexis and Julie also have one child, is Sebastian's godfather.

"(Sebastian) is an absolute Beaver nut," Sema said. "He can recite the entire OSU fight song already. If you say 'Go Ducks' around him, his mouth worry about it."

Despite having no professional experience outside of football, Serna kept

drops open and he says, 'Oh, you said a bad word.' So we already trained him well."



He reclaimed the starting spot nevermissed another PAT in his won the Lou Groza Award as



COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF STANFORD

the uprights in OSU's 23-6 win over Stanford in 2007.

The Bottom Line

TWEET OF THE DAY



No better feeling in the world than passing the fitness test. #mamawemadeit Caleb Michael @c_mich18

NUMBER OF THE DAY

Oregon State softball's batting average, 4th best in the NCAA.

UPCOMING EVENTS

M. Basketball 2/26 @ Stanford 2/27 @ Pac-12 Championships Wrestling W. Basketball 2/28 @ California

2/28 vs Washington St.

M. Basketball

Sports

Braly's Blazers



57 games into the grueling NBA season, the Trail Blazers find themselves with a winning record and amidst a tightly packed playoff race in the Western Conference.

Not a single person who follows the NBA closely would have predicted the Blazer's success back at the start of the season in October. Who would have blamed them? Rip City had its heart ripped out when the team's core departed for greener pastures.

Lamarcus Aldridge choose to play for the Spurs for a better chance at winning a championship, while Wesley Matthews decided to play in Dallas for more money. Nic Batum was traded to Charlotte for the promising Noah Vonleh and the veteran Gerald Henderson. Lastly Robin Lopez understood that he wouldn't fit into the new look Blazers and signed with the Knicks.

80% of the starters from last year's team went on to play elsewhere. Who do we owe the credit for success to? Paul Allen? Neil Olshey? Terry Stotts? Damian Lillard? The answer: All of the above.

Paul Allen is one of the best owners in professional sportsyup, on top of owning the Trail Blazers, Allen also owns the ultra successful Seattle Seahawks. He is passionate about winning and is quick to trust the expertise of his staff.

the ultra successful Seattle Seahawks. He is passionate about winning and is quick to trust the expertise of his staff.

Be glad, Rip City, that you have Neil Olshey as a general manager. He has made some of the smartest transactions in the NBA this year. The replacements he signed at the price he got them is incredible. Maurice Harkless was essentially free, and the bargain deal Al-Farouq Aminu signed has made it possible to pursue a big time free agent during the off season.

Olshey is also probably pretty good at finding cool clothes at Ross Dress For Less.

I'm certain that head coach Terry Stotts lent Olshey a helping hand in choosing quality players. Together they constructed a team that was more than competitive, and they did it while staying beneath the salary minimum. This is a testament to Stotts and his staff and their ability to develop and create an environment conducive to growth.

Players who populate the Blazer's roster were once disrespected and overlooked. Neither C.J. McCollum nor Lillard were highly touted high school recruits and both were under the radar on their respective draft nights

Portland is Aminu's fourth team already and Harkless was traded for a 2020 second round pick. The roster is riddled with players with a chip on their shoulders and they all play like they have something to prove.

Lillard's most recent 'chip' comes from missing the All-Star game--he also wasn't invited to the 2014 All-Star game, but he made it in because of an injury. It's no All-Star no problem for him. Immediately following this year's All-Star weekend, Lillard exploded for the best game of his career thus far, a game against perhaps the best team in NBA history, the Golden State Warriors. In the win, he scored 51 points, dished out seven assists and hustled his way to six steals, all without committing a single turnover. Oh yeah, he did all that in a

measly 31 minutes.

It should be noted that even after the Blazers borderline destroyed the best team in basketball, Warriors shooting guard Klay Thompson called their loss to Portland a 'fluke.' I wish everyone would disrespect the Trail Blazers like that, it's obviously fueling the team's fire to prove people wrong.

Since the start of 2016, the

Since the start of 2016, the Blazers are in the midst of an admirable 16-6 record, that's only three more losses than the Warriors as they sit at 20-3.

A major shift has happened mid-season for the Blazers. How could a team built from rubble make such a rapid improvement?

Stotts has created an environment amongst the team where players are all on the same page and want to get better. Their synchronization has created unity, and I'd argue that they have the best team chemistry in the whole league, which has led to recent success, winning their past six games.

The main focus of refinement has been on the defensive side of the ball. During the current hot streak, the Blazers host the fifth best defensive rating in the league. Lillard, McCollum and most of their teammates have been ridiculed for their poor individual defense and before the team shored up this weakness, the chaff was deserved. Their vastly improved defense has allowed them to rocket all the way up the standings, now they are tied for sixth place in the Western Conference with Dallas.

Even though the Blazers are out performing their expectations, it's hard to see them having a shot to advance during the postseason. If the playoffs were today, their first round matchup would be against the Spurs, who are freakishly good when you peel your eyes off Golden State. Along with San Antonio being an amazing basketball team that would be tough to beat, I don't think Blazer fans could endure a seven game series against Lamarcus Aldridge, so let's hope the team keeps winning.

If the Blazers were to continue their upward trend and

Blazers heating up

GAME	W/L	SCORE	DL-STATS
@Houston	W	96-79	21pts. 10 assts.
@Memphis	W	112-106	33 pts. 5 assts.
Houston	W	116-103	31 pts. 9 assts.
Golden State	W	137-105	51 pts. 7 assts.
Utah	W	115-111	30 pts. 5 assts.
Brooklyn	W	112-104	34 pts. 4 assts.

earn the sixth seed outright, round one would be against Oklahoma City, the team that has two of the best three players in the league on its roster.

The 'easiest' way for Portland to make any sort of noise come April is to get all the way up to the fifth seed, creating a matchup with the over rated, underachieving, scum of the earth, garbage fire some people call the Clippers--sorry, I really really dislike the Clippers. This is the most winnable series possible for the Blazers.

Blake Griffin of the Clippers, earned a trip to the hospital in late January after repeatedly punching one of his staff members. Consequently, Griffin broke his fourth metacarpal in his shooting hand. Nobody truly knows when he will return to the court, and when he does it's likely that he won't be the same player. Not playing competitive basketball for that long can take a real toll on conditioning, and

on top of that he will have to relearn how to shoot--kind of an important skill if you want to be a good basketball player. Griffin's injury combined with the fact that DeAndre Jordan will never have postseason success makes the Clippers the preferred choice in the first round.

So far, Portland has had one of the most entertaining basketball teams this season. Originally, the Blazers were predicted to be the second worst team in the NBA, only to the lowly 76ers. Obviously this isn't the case, the organization has turned a rebuilding season into a serious push for the playoffs and they pulled it all off while still having flexibility in the future, either through the draft or free agency.

The Trail Blazers organization has built a team that Rip City can be proud of.

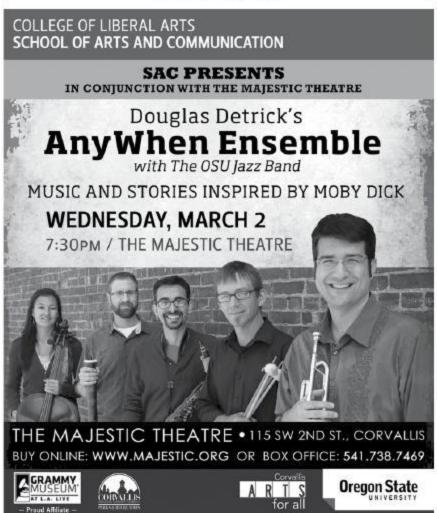
On Twitter Omax_braly





FREE Event with cake, pastry, and coffee

We will have Linus Pauling Institute and the chemistry department demonstrating their latest projects. The Valley Library's Special Collections will also here showing items from their collection.





Forum Senators: Do your job



The recent death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia has sparked a few debates within the American politics

As President of the United States, Barack Obama has the right to nominate whomever he chooses for the position. There are no parameters for who can be chosen-even of age, prior law experience, or birthplace-so the President has quite a bit of freedom in choosing a candidate.

Conversely, the Senate has the job of reviewing the President's nomination and either approving or denying it. However (and perhaps not shock-ingly), some Republican members of the Senate-most notably Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell-refuse to do

Although Obama has yet to choose a nominee for the empty seat in the Supreme Court, Republican senators are

already declaring that they will not deliberate on any nominee Obama puts forward. Basically, this comes down to the fact that Congress consists of a Republican majority, while President Obama will likely choose a left-leaning nominee the way he nominated Sonia Sotomayor in 2009 and Elena Kagan in 2010.

Since Scalia was a Republican who was known for leaning very far to the right on the political spectrum, replacing him with a Democrat would tip the balance in the Democrats' favor, the thought of which Republican senators can't stand.

As CNN has reported, "The decision not to hold hearings is a historic move from the Senate, which has regularly held confirmation hearings for nominees since hearings became routine in 1955."

It is clear that the Senate needs to get over its problems. We're paying senators close to \$200,000 per-year salaries in the hopes, however faint, that they will do their jobs. For them to refuse to even see whomever Obama deems fit for the position is childish and basically just work-shirking.

They should at the very minimum do what we would expect them to do: argue about Obama's nomination, deliberate, delay, delay some more, and eventually deny the nominee. Then, when Obama put forth a different candidate, repeat the cycle again until finally he's out of office. But no, the Republican Senate seems decided that they won't even do that.

Perhaps the best plan of action would

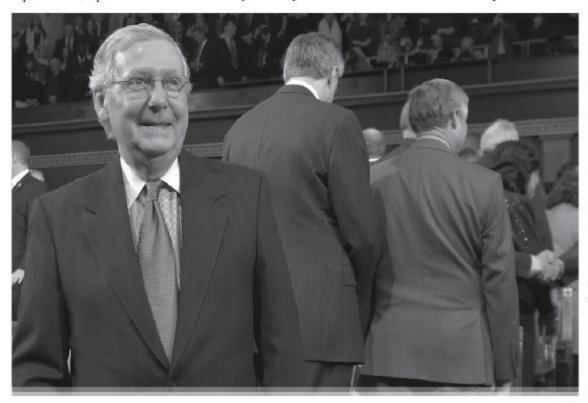
be to nominate Donald Trump for the position, therefore taking him out of the race for the presidency. This would make the Republican presidential candidates about as gleeful as the Democratic ones (if you listen closely, you can hear Mrs. Clinton cackling), and would give the Senate its conservative justice. Of course, this would make life hard on the current justices, but that's a small price to pay, right?

I'm joking, of course, but obviously something needs to be done so that the Supreme Court can go back to being a fully-staffed, fully-functioning government body. The Court can still accept cases with their current number of eight Justices, but it is probable that many cases may see a deadlocked 4-4 vote, and Republican senators seem willing to wait a full year and a half until a new president is elected before accepting a nomination for confirmation hearings.

I understand their concerns, because the Supreme Court plays such a lofty role in how the Constitution is interpreted and how laws are put into effect, but that doesn't mean that they can refuse to do the jobs that the American people pay them to do. The Republican senators need to buck up and discuss anyone for the position whom the President decides to nominate.

The opinions expressed in Keating's column do not necessarily reflect those of The Daily Barometer staff.

baro forum@oregonstate.edu



MANDEL NGAN AFP

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnel (R-Kentucky) is one of a few Republicans who disapprove of a new Supreme Court Justice being selected before a new president takes office.

International degree needed

Letter to the editor

The International Degree was not only an important part of my undergraduate experience at Oregon State, but also set me down a path of international work that I've been on ever since.

For my thesis, which counted doubly for the International Degree and Honors College requirements, I wrote and administered a survey to high school students in Oregon and Chile, where I studied abroad in the fall of 2007 (for my second time; I first studied abroad in the fall of 2005 to Angers, France).

I look back on my undergraduate thesis sometimes and shake my head at how amateur it seems to me now, but I am also so grateful I had the opportunity to conduct international research as an undergraduate student. I'm grateful to the advisors in OSU's International Programs office, who encouraged me in any research ideas I cooked up, no matter how hare-brained.

Advisors in the Honors College and my thesis advisor in the English Department, Dr. Laura Rice, were profoundly positive, pushing me to produce a thesis I was and still am proud of. That experience, of thinking up a research question, getting Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval, and conducting international research cemented a deep interest in international affairs, and definitely opened doors to more international opportunities. international opportunities.

After graduating from Oregon State in 2008 with degrees in English and French, in addition to the International Degree, I moved to France for a year to teach English to primary students in the French Ministry of Education's assistante program. After that, I applied to the Peace Corps and served 6 months in Niger (before getting evacuated by Al Qaeda of the Islamic Maghreb) and a year and a half in Malawi. I earned a Master's degree in Global Human Development from Georgetown University in May 2015 and I'm currently working as a Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist for a small NGO (Just Like My Child Foundation), based in Luwero, Uganda (#ugandadecides think of us and pray for peace). In my work now as a Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, I regularly design and administer surveys to qualitatively and quantitatively assess the impact of programs and projects. My International Degree thesis paved the way for this work.

As a senior in high school, I chose to stay in-state to go to OSU, which may have seemed like a limiting option but actually opened so many more doors than if I had gone anywhere else. Because OSU was more affordable than any of the other universities I applied to, I was able to take summer classes and 2 extra terms to receive 3 degrees, including the International Degree. I studied abroad twice, and as a result of all this, I now work as an international development professional. A global perspective is an essential asset that OSU needs to continue offering to all its students, now more than ever. I am proud to be an alum of the International Degree program at OSU and OSU should be proud to offer such a unique and important

Annette McFarland OSU Alumna, Class of 2008

Letters

Letters to the editor are welcomed and will be printed on a firstreceived basis. Letters must be 200 words or fewer and include the
author's signature, academic major, class standing or job file, departmenthame and phone number. Authors of e-mailed letters will receive
a reply for the purpose of verification. Letters are subject to editing
for space and clarity. The Daily Barometer reserves the right to refuse
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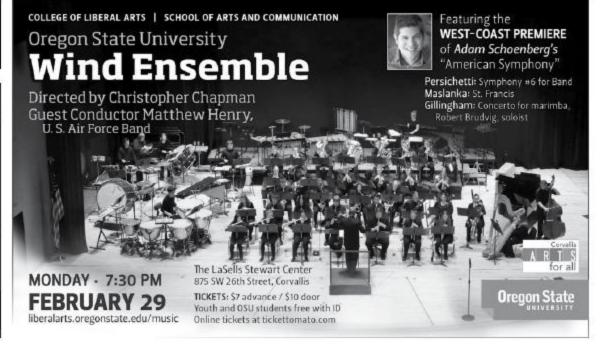
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DEADLINE: Mon., April 18, 2016 Oregon State



Deepak Chopra comes to OSU





NICKI SILVA THE DAILY BAROMETER

(Left) Deepak Chopra speaks about the compenents that he has determined aid in achieving health called "The Five Pillars of Well-being." (Right) Amy Elliott, Eugene resident, gets book signed by Chopra. Elliot attended the lecture because Chopra's teachings have been influential in her life and career.



Saturday, February 27 Earphunk

Monday, February 29 Freakwater

Saturday & Sunday, March 4 & 5 Sound & Light Workshops 3:00-5:00 PM

Wednesday, March 9 Andrea Gibson

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Achieving well-being by conciousness

By Shiana Ramos Arts & Entertainment Editor

Amy Elliott had two dreams about Deepak Chopra in a week. Then she found out he was holding an event at OSU.

"Some people might say it was coincidence, I say it was spirit," Elliott said.

Elliott made the decision to spend the scarce amount of funds that her and husband have left on a ticket. Due to Elliot's pregnancy, she has been unable to work. When going through the hardest times of her life, Elliott used Chopra's teachings to help her heal.

"I want to share that level of power with parents. That you really can tune into yourself and tune into what he [Deepak] would probably

'consciousness' and have a of Spirit study, done by the direct affect on your reality and children."

Elliott has a degree in a psychology and her own pri-vate practice where she does intuitive and energy work for trauma patients, in addition to one-on-one coaching for parents.

"I took the opportunity to hand him some of my work because it is applying all of this — all of the wonderful messages that he has had to share," Elliot said. "I have been able to basically articulate his work into parenting language."

Chopra's lecture, "The Future of Well-being" on Feb. 23 aimed to expand the awareness of the audience by presenting recent findings that show a correlation between spirituality and physical health.

Chopra presented the

call 'cosmic intelligence' or results of the SOS, Seduction Chopra Foundation in collaboration with Harvard Medical School, UC San Francisco, the UC San Diego School of Medicine and the Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

This study intensively monitored individuals during meditation. According to Chopra, meditation decreases the chances of developing ill-

nesses related to aging. "At the genetic level people were reversing their biological age in 5-6 days," Chopra said.

This happens because people are much more than their ohysical forms, according to Chopra. Since the body is always regenerating, then the answer of where to approach disease prevention could be through practices such as mindfulness, as shown by this study.

"You are not a physical body," Chopra said. "If you were a physical body you would have to decide which

Every year 98 percent of having feelings of love, com-

the atoms in the body are replaced. The molecules of skin restore themselves every month and the liver restores itself every six weeks. Since the physical form is always changing, Chopra seeks a different answer for how people define the way they experience the world.

"We are not the bodies, we are not the minds, we are the consciousness," Chopra said.

The development of this consciousness will enhance overall well-being and reduce susceptibility to disease, according to Chopra.

In order to gain optimum health, Chopra presented, "The Five Pillars of Physical Well-being" - sleep, meditation and stress management, movement, emotions and nutrition.

Chopra says that sleep is important because it is the state in which people return to their "being" or "soul" when there is awareness, without thought.

Chopra also recommended

passion, joy and empathy to promote healing of the body and mind.

It is the limbic brain, that evolved about 100 million years ago, which controls our emotions.

"Abused individuals have limbic dissonance and this causes hormones to go out of balance," Chopra said. "Emotional, physical distress manifest in adulthood as

According to Chopra, emotions such as fear, hostility and anger have evolutionarily helped us to survive but can lead to inappropriate amounts of stress and cause unbalance in body.

The night ended with a meditation that asked four questions: Who am I? What do I want? What is my purpose? and What am I grateful for?

"The answers change with time," Deepak said. "The answers evolve."

baro arts@oregonstate.edu



RESERVED TICKETS: \$22, \$27, \$32 www.cosusymphony.org

GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS: \$20 Grass Roots Books & Music Gracewinds Music

Students free with valid student ID CAFA discounts apply

For accommodations for disabilities. please call 541-286-5580. preferably at least one week in advance.





NICKI SILVA | THE DAILY BAROMETER

The audience in Austin Auditorium, LaSells Stewart Center on Feb. 23.