

**Out!**  
NCAA says  
'no' to Beavs  
postseason,  
CWS hopes  
SPORTS, PAGE 8

Oregon State University, Corvallis, Ore.

dailybarometer.com

Vol. CXI No. 145

## Follow the green: fiscal year 2008 budget

Learn more:  
[www.oregonstate.edu/budget/](http://www.oregonstate.edu/budget/)

Oregon	tuition	fees	other
101.9	123.5	17.5	33.4

President,  
Provost and  
Executive VP  
**\$264.1 million**

donations  
please?

AGR	BUS	EDU	ENGR	FOR	HHS	CLA	OAS	PHAR	SCI	VET	HON	...
8.2	7.6	2.7	28.7	3.2	11.8	21.5	6.3	6.1	27.4	16.4	1.3	35.6

### Foreign Languages and Literature department

### The Campaign for OSU: goals by unit

AGR	BUS	EDU	ENGR	FOR	HHS	CLA	OAS	PHAR	SCI	VET
36.5	36.5	10.5	138.0	31.5	15.0	16.5	6.0	7.0	73.0	34.5

Supporters of Oregon State University have contributed more than \$400 million to The Campaign for OSU, the university's first-ever comprehensive campaign.

The campaign, which has a goal of reaching \$625 million by 2011, was publicly launched on Oct. 26, 2007. At that time, OSU President Ed Ray announced that \$350 million had been committed.

[www.osufoundation.org](http://www.osufoundation.org)

REID PARHAM | THE DAILY BAROMETER

# OSU forces foreign language cuts

Department planning to cut at least eight courses in fall, Italian instruction may end

By Daniel Acee  
THE DAILY BAROMETER

Students who were looking forward to becoming fluent in a foreign language may find it difficult in the next few years.

The foreign languages and literatures department at OSU will be experiencing budget cuts in Fall 2008.

While the OUS Fact Book shows a trend of larger class sizes, language classes are suffering as they try to maintain the smaller sizes necessary for quality instruction.

"Other departments have maintained a balanced budget by offering large lectures for lots of students," said Guy Wood, temporary active chair of the FLL department.

"In language classes, you can't do that. [Language is] a skill, a lot like music. The professor needs to be able to listen to their students, and you can't get that personal help in a place like Milam Auditorium."

The FLL department is currently expecting to cut at least eight courses, a number that is down from the origi-

nal decision to cut 17. The classes will mostly be cut from first- and second-year Spanish and French. Italian will experience the greatest change.

"The most drastic measure I have taken at this point is cutting the first-year Italian classes," Wood said. "It is drastic because first-year Italian classes are filling very well, and they are making money for the university."

Christopher Baldrige, an Italian instructor at OSU, started the Italian program seven years ago.

"I started the Italian program in 2001. It was nothing but a success for seven years, and this last year had two first-year classes," Baldrige said.

Foreign language courses are not only a requirement for many students at OSU, Baldrige said, but they are also important for everyone, providing an opportunities to know other languages.

"We want to teach as much as we can, assuring a quality education, just doing a good job," Baldrige said. "We feel like we do, and we are working hard to ensure the continuation of that. We just want to be recognized for it, and we want to be funded for it."

Baldrige recently sent out a letter signed by more than half of the professors in the FLL department to

local publications.

The letter explains the pressure the FLL department is under to cut down its budget costs. It details the difficulties students will have in registering for the right classes and completing requirements on time to graduate. The letter concludes with figures showing the deficit the FLL department is in and future problems that may occur.

To commemorate the end of Italian at OSU, Baldrige will be hosting a mock funeral outside Kidder Hall from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. today.

Some foreign language classes will attend, as will faculty, staff and students involved in the FLL department.

All students, faculty and staff are welcome to attend the mock funeral.

"This is important stuff we do, and we need recognition for it," Baldrige said. "At the same time, we are building our identity as a department, looking to make sure that we are doing the best that we can for our students and for our College of Liberal Arts."

Wood stated that the department's long-term goal is to create a plan that will maintain the present languages, majors and minors offered.

In addition he hopes to eventually add new languages and minors

See **LANGUAGE** | page 3

# Researchers identify new carcinogen

Compound used in non-stick cookware, microwavable popcorn bags poses risks

By Evan Miller  
THE DAILY BAROMETER

Did you know that the non-stick coating in your frying pan might cause cancer?

Researchers at Oregon State University have discovered that exposure to perfluorooctanoic acid, or PFOA increases occurrence of liver cancer in trout.

PFOA is a byproduct found in many non-stick materials, such as Teflon and Scotchguard, as well as some food packaging like microwave popcorn bags and candy wrappers.

It breaks down slowly and is regularly ingested by humans and animals all over the world.

The EPA identified PFOA as a likely carcinogen in 2006 after it was shown to increase cancer in lab rats.

However, the mechanism that allowed PFOA to cause cancer in the rats is unlikely to cause cancer in humans.

The new OSU research has found a different mechanism for the chemical to cause cancer. In both trout and humans, an overabundance of estrogen can cause cancer.

See **CARCINOGEN** | page 3

# Court date for Courtney

By William McCall  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORTLAND — The fourth anniversary of the disappearance of Brooke Wilberger has arrived with the suspect in her death awaiting trial charged with aggravated murder.

At a hearing Friday Benton County Circuit Court Judge Locke Williams set Feb. 1, 2010, as the starting trial date for suspect Joel Courtney.

"If the case does go to trial, we would need to have a significant scheduling window," District Attorney John Haroldson said.

# Geoscience professor gets students psyched for conservation

Steve Cook teaches popular GEO 300 class, gives students community projects, not exams

By Gail Cole  
THE DAILY BAROMETER

Many professors teach through lectures and multiple choice exams, but Steve Cook does things his own way.

Cook is a senior instructor of geosciences and teaches GEO 300, Environmental Conservation and Sustainability. This class teaches students to make a positive impact on the environment.

GEO 300 is a Baccalaureate Core course that attracts students from many different majors. Approximately 200 to 300 students take GEO 300 each term, but John Klock, a teaching assistant for the class, says Cook is able to connect the topic to many students and learning types.

"I think the key to his approach is that he has the energy," Klock said. "It's really hard to do that when you've got so many students and so many classes."

"It's a challenge for me to engage students, and I find it a continuing challenge," Cook said.

However, one of the several reasons Cook enjoys GEO 300 is because he can teach on a variety of topics relating to conservation and sustainability. He said this allows students from all disciplines to apply what they learn to their majors and lives.

"Occasionally we need classes that allow students to make connections," Cook said of the wide range of topics he covers.

"It's fun — I get to talk about the things I'm interested in."

Cook has been teaching GEO 300 at OSU for 11 years. He said he had

See **COOK** | page 3



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Steve Cook, a senior instructor of geosciences, has taught the popular GEO 300 class on Environmental Conservation and Sustainability at OSU for 11 years.



PETER STRONG | THE DAILY BAROMETER

After a fire destroyed the home of five OSU students on May 18, they have received help and support from the Lutheran Campus Ministry and Dean of Student Life Jackie Balzer.

# Fire destroys students' home

After losing belongings, five students receive support, compassion from community

By Candice Ruud  
THE DAILY BAROMETER

On Sunday, May 18, a house fire started on 1355 NE Timian St., destroying the home of five OSU students, four of whom are on the brink of graduation.

The cause of the fire is believed to be a spark from underneath the hood of one student's car, which was parked in the garage. After the fire started there, it reached the rooms of the house directly above the garage, which were quickly and completely incinerated.

Only one student, Jared Etzel, was inside the house at the time of the fire. He was able to escape and save his roommate's dog as he made his way out. However, there wasn't enough time to remove some of the valuable belongings from the house, and several of the housemates lost everything they owned, including school books, computers, TVs and caps and gowns

for graduation.

According to the Corvallis Gazette-Times story that ran on Tuesday, May 20, only one room was left intact after the blaze.

David Lee, a senior in economics and one of the residents of the house, recalls being at the library with most of his school books and notes at the time of the fire.

"Jared called me and told me the house was burning," Lee said. "Initially I didn't believe him. It took a while for him to convince me that it was actually on fire."

Lee noted that the Lutheran Campus Ministry at OSU — nicknamed the Luther House — and Dean of Student Life Jackie Balzer have been extremely helpful during this time.

Lee is staying with friends who live in the area, while Balzer was able to provide the other residents with dorm rooms and MU meal cards for the rest of the year. She also supplied new caps and gowns for the seniors and is helping them get their lives back on track in time for graduation.

See **FIRE** | page 3

## LANGUAGE: Chair determines FLL future

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

once the budget situation has been solved.

"My job is to maintain morale within the department," Wood said.

"Being chair is not as fun as one would think. It's very stressful, especially with this situation at hand. But I am going to survive, and so will the department."

▼  
Daniel Acee, senior reporter  
news@dailybarometer.com, 737-2231

## FIRE: Good will of others brings comfort

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

While Lee said that friends, family and community members readily came forth offering material goods to replace the ones he and his roommates lost in the fire, he feels that the most important support he has received is the intangible, emotional kind.

"Relying on the good will of others and the campus community actually takes you a lot farther than anything else can in this sort of situation," Lee said.

Pastor Jim Norlie of the Luther House has been credited as a great support to Lee, who is a regular member and visitor of the house, located near Northwest 23rd Street and Northwest Monroe Avenue.

"What this campus ministry tries to do is provide a good base community within a Christian context for people to build friendships and to deepen their spiritual life," Norlie said.

The Luther House has opened its doors to the victims of the house fire, providing free wireless Internet, free food and a place to visit to during the day for prayer and for gathering strength and support from others.

"It's one of those things where I realize people are a lot more flexible and a lot more helpful when something like this happens than I thought they could be, so I really appreciate that," Lee said. "I realized it's a broader community than I initially knew."

▼  
Candice Ruud, senior reporter  
news@dailybarometer.com, 737-2231

## COOK: Even toilet paper brings change

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"done a million things" for jobs before becoming a professor later in life.

"I decided when I was 40 years old I wanted a Ph.D. so I could teach at the college level," Cook said. "I like being around young people."

Klock said that Cook's interest in helping students learn is what makes him stand out.

"He's a student professor," Klock said. "He follows all types of active learning for students to get them involved in things."

Each term, students from all sections of GEO 300 participate in 35 to 40 service projects. Students dedicate four hours per term to their project, then in a group write a paper and prepare a class presentation about the experience.

"I feel really strongly that we all should be giving back," Cook said. "I've taken it down to the level of students."

Cook designs a wide variety of projects at various dates and times throughout the term.

"I identify the project, and they pick the one that suits them best," he said.

According to the class website, examples of the projects include everything from removing English ivy from campus to gathering signatures for the Sustainable Forest Initiative for Oregon's November elections.

Other projects included collecting and transcribing

children's books that will be translated and sent to Albanian kindergarten classrooms.

"It's really been a rewarding thing for me, and it turns out [the students] enjoy it," Cook said of the projects.

Klock calculated that OSU and the Corvallis community save approximately \$30,000 a term through these service projects, mostly in labor costs.

Beyond the community, students benefit from the projects through active learning.

In addition to service projects, GEO 300 requires four critical thinking papers, which Klock said is a way Cook lets students apply the material to their own lives.

"If you're an economics major, you can write a paper on some aspect of international economics related to the environment," Klock said.

Though students spend time on the service project, papers and quizzes, there are no exams in the class.

"I never liked exams so much anyways," Cook said in reference to his own college days.

Cook places importance not just on the big picture, but also on the small-scale effort that can be made to help the environment.

"If you only talk about the big stuff, everyone just says, 'We're screwed,'" Cook said.

He devotes much class time to explaining how students can impact the environment based on the choices they make. In one popular lecture he teaches on how choosing a particular brand of toilet paper

can make an impact on the environment.

"Every day in class he provides solutions to problems," Klock said. "He provides optimism."

And Cook practices what he teaches to students. He says that his home uses relatively little energy because of the use of a wood pellet stove, non-incandescent lights and solar collectors that help heat water.

"I think if you talk about it, you're going to have a whole lot more credibility if you do it," Cook said.

An interest in learning more about the topics he teaches is what brought Cook into the field.

"I'm a curious person," he said. "Geography seems to be the field to be in for curious people."

Over the course of the 11 years Cook has taught GEO 300, much of the material covered has remained the same, yet he adds new topics to lectures as they gain importance in society, such as the use of synthetic chemicals.

The impression Cook makes on his students becomes clear as he relays a story about a former engineering student who switched his career aspirations from designing weapons systems to designing renewable energy systems after being inspired by the class.

"The impact that I'm having makes a difference in the world," Cook said.

▼  
Gail Cole, staff writer  
news@dailybarometer.com, 737-2231

## CARCINOGEN: EPA aware of PFOA risks

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The new research on PFOA has shown that it can cause cancer similar to the way estrogen does.

"An even greater concern is the total exposure to many environmental pollutants that mimic the action of natural estrogen hormones," said Abby Benninghoff, an OSU toxicologist involved in the research.

"There are dozens of chemicals capable of estrogen-like action, and it is possible that these may work cooperatively to increase risk of cancer, developmental or reproductive defects."

The EPA has been look-

ing into the effects of PFOA since the late 1990s when the chemical was found in the blood of much of the American population.

The EPA then pressured DuPont and 3M, the largest producers of PFOA, to discontinue the chemical's production.

Both companies have said they will phase out use of the chemical.

"PFOA is very persistent in the environment and was being found at very low levels both in the environment and in the blood of the general U.S. population," Benninghoff said.

According to the EPA, studies indicated that PFOA can cause developmental and other adverse effects in laboratory animals.

PFOA was at the center of a

lawsuit filed by the EPA against DuPont. The EPA claimed DuPont had been covering up evidence of potential harmful effects of PFOA.

The case was settled out of court, with DuPont paying \$16 million in fines.

Not everyone is concerned with yet another cancer risk.

"I feel like I've been lied to my whole life," said Jimmy Stephenson, a sophomore in business administration. "It seems like everything causes cancer, so I'm not going to change how I do anything."

The study can be found online at <http://www.ehponline.org/docs/2008/11190/abstract.pdf>.

▼  
Evan Miller, staff writer  
news@dailybarometer.com, 737-2231



**Valley Eye Care** P.C.

### End Insurance Hassles!

Let our experienced staff handle all of your billing!

15th & Harrison, Corvallis • 754-6222 • [www.valleyeyecare.com](http://www.valleyeyecare.com)



find out by signing up for a HEALTH COACH today!

What would you DO if you knew you could not FAIL?

How can Health Coaching help you?

Stress/Time Management	Sexual Health
Financial Management	Relationship Issues
Healthy Eating	Physical Activity
Alcohol/Tobacco/Other Drug Use	Other General Life Skills

**FREE** unlimited visits

Make an appointment! Call SHS Health Promotion @ 541-737-7556

## Do you love sports?

**KBVR-FM** is looking for motivated people to be a part of the KBVR sports crew. As a part of KBVR Sports, you'll have a chance to:

- Call Games – Football, Basketball, Softball & more.
- Host your own sports show
- Interview your favorite athletes

**Come by Snell Hall 210 and sign up today!**



## USED BICYCLE Sale

**FRI., JUNE 6  
SAT., JUNE 7  
SUN., JUNE 8**

### HUGE DISCOUNTS ON SELECT IN STORE PRODUCT!

Limited to stock on hand.

**Bring in your used bicycle for appraisal and resale.**

**Appraisals June 2-5 ONLY!**

Limit of 2 bikes per customer.

Sale of your bike results in 100% store credit at Peak Sports!

**135 NW 2nd • Downtown Corvallis • 754-6444**

LBCC Department of Performing Arts Presents:

## THE RAINMAKER

Written by N. Richard Nash  
Directed by Brian Newberg



**May 23, 24, 29, 30, 31 • 7:30 p.m.**  
**\* Sunday June 1 • 3 p.m.**

**The Russell Tripp Performance Center in Tadena Hall, LBCC, 6500 Pacific Blvd. SE, Albany**

\* ASL Interpreted performance and proceeds of this performance benefit the Performing Arts Foundation Scholarships


\$9 Adults, \$7 students/seniors; Tickets available at the LBCC Box Office, [www.linnbenton.edu/go/performing-arts](http://www.linnbenton.edu/go/performing-arts), or by phone at 917-4531.

**MAY 23** – Student Night Special: Opening night, May 23, any student who presents a student ID card (from any school) gets in for \$2.

**MAY 24** – Bring a friend for 2 for 1 night.

For disability accommodations, call 971-4789. LBCC is an equal opportunity institution.

**Linn-Benton COMMUNITY COLLEGE**



## YAY? or NAY?

The Fresh Air Initiative has proposed a campus-wide smoking ban.

Voice your opinion about smoking on campus, and whether or not you think a smoke-free OSU campus is a good idea.

All OSU students, faculty and staff are encouraged to take the survey online at <https://secure.oregonstate.edu/survey/290> by May 30, 2008.

Contact the Student Health Advisory Board at [osu.shab@gmail.com](mailto:osu.shab@gmail.com) for more information.

**Oregon State UNIVERSITY** **FRESH AIR INITIATIVE**