Students address minority needs in Olympia

KIRK STRANDBJORD CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Fourteen UW students traveled to Olympia Monday to join more than 2,000 students, parents and teachers at Black Legislative Day, one of a series of events designed to promote the needs of minorities.

The annual event has been running for more than five years and has had better turnouts than five years and has had better turnouts recently than in past years.

Rosiland Jenkins, executive director of the Washington State Commission on African American Affairs, was responsible for organizing the day.

Nearly every day starting two weeks prior to Black Legislative Day, similar activities were put on for varying ethnic groups across the state of Washington.

The UW, ASUW Black Student Commission (BSC) organized the trip to the state capitol, where UW students contributed to workshops, chanted at rallies and listened to speakers, such as Sen. Ken Jacobsen, D–Seattle, talk about matters of legislation affecting minorities.

The day began with workshops designed to spark conversation about social, economic and other disadvantages facing African Americans today.

Students also discussed reasons and solutions for these problems by looking at aspects of education, welfare policy and HIV detection and prevention.

“The workshops were successful and empowering,” said Jayme Ballard, director of the BSC. “The atmosphere was very positive and empowering,” said Jayme Ballard, director of the BSC.

The decision avoids tying “the hands of the people who work at the [UW] TechTransfer office,” said Larry Snyder, a professor of computer science and chair of IPMAC.

Larry Snyder IPMAC chair

Other Washington schools participating in the competition are Washington State University and the University of Idaho.

Shayla Miles THE DAILY

The UW will be putting its recycling abilities to the test during the next couple months as part of a nationwide contest called Recyclemania. This is the UW’s first time competing in the contest.

Critical nitrogen process discovered in new location

SARAH GREENLEAF CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Nitrogen fixation, a process essential for life and commonly thought to take place mostly in the Atlantic Ocean, is also happening in the Pacific and Indian oceans, according to a recent article by a UW School of Oceanography researcher.

Nitrogen gas is unusable by life and must be fixed before organisms can use it. Denitrification is the opposite of nitrogen fixation.

“This happens when fixed nitrogen is turned back into a gas. It was once thought that these two processes happened on opposite sides of the world, but the research shows they are happening close to each other,” Snyder said.

If these two processes happened on opposite sides of the world, as formerly thought, the nitrogen levels in the ocean would be difficult to balance if any changes occurred in either fixation or denitrification.

“The Earth comes out of ice ages … one of the consequences is that the rate of denitrification goes up dramatically,” said Curtis Deutsch, UW School of Oceanography.

Larry Snyder IPMAC chair

IPMAC resolution to maximize worldwide use, societal benefit of UW research; advocates humanitarian need over profit

ANTHONY SHELEY CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The UW Intellectual Property Management Advisory Committee (IPMAC) recently passed a resolution that will make UW technologies and medicines widely available to developing nations around the world.

The IPMAC resolution states that the UW affirms, “its primary goal in technology transfer to maximize worldwide use and societal benefit of its research and technology.”

In other words, the revised licensing policy will focus more on the underprivileged and advocating humanitarian need than profit.

The decision avoids tying “the hands of the people who work at the [UW] TechTransfer office,” said Larry Snyder, a professor of computer science and chair of IPMAC. “It is a definite step toward a more socially responsible position, he said.

Slowly but surely the international health community has been working in all different directions,” Snyder said. “People have gotten around to finally realizing that there are so many things that affect healthcare in the Third World, and one of them is licensing practices of first world universities.”

James Severson, vice provost for UW TechTransfer, agreed with IPMAC’s resolution.

“These is a heightened sensitivity across the country,” he said. “This makes a statement about where our intent should be.”

UW TechTransfer is responsible for investing in intellectual property protection.

It also raises both non-exclusive and
Dr. Faust to preside over Harvard

Big news among the little schools in the East: After almost a year of searching and at least 1,000 speculative articles in its student newspaper The Crimson, Harvard University has chosen a new president.

Drew Gilpin Faust, dean of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, will replace Lawrence H. Summers, who made the taste-my-fist comment about women not being as capable as men in the fields of science and math back in 2005.

It should be noted that Faust is a woman, possesses a Ph.D in American civilization from the University of Pennsylvania and will be the first female to lead the prestigious Ivy League institution in what any Harvard alum will tell you has been a glorious 371-year history. Eat that, Larry.

In other news, The Crimson reported that “a nap a day may just keep the doctor away.” Midday siestas, popular in countries like Spain and Greece, may actually prevent heart disease.

Hmmm. Wonder if Dr. Faust will be implementing those in the curriculum vitae of Harvardists.

MIT professor still on hunger strike

It’s the MIT student still on hunger strike. MIT professor James Sherley, who began a hunger strike last week protesting MIT’s refusal to grant him tenure, is hungry now only for justice.

Sherley alleges that he was deliberately denied tenure position in MIT’s biological engineering department because of racial prejudice. A statement issued Feb. 5 by 20 members of the school’s bioengineering department insisted that race had nothing to do with his rejection, but Sherley, who is black, persists that he was refused because of the color of his skin.

Sherley told The Boston Herald that he isn’t starving himself because he wants tenure as much as he wants MIT to acknowledge its racial biases. There are no tenured minority faculty in biological sciences, he said.

Furthermore, he is willing to starve to death if MIT doesn’t back down.

“Maybe my family will be better off if something is done about this than just having dad around,” he is quoted as saying in the Brown Daily Herald.

Sherley, whose research involves stem cells, is 5’8” and 254 pounds. He has stated he’ll ingest nothing but water and electrolytes until MIT grants him tenure.

Love in Iowa

In celebration of the 2007 Valentine’s Day that was, several students from the University of Iowa shared their rather refreshing descriptions of love for the Daily Iowan yesterday. In honor of the Valentine’s Day that was a couple of years ago, I would like to reprint some of the quotes that are worth reprinting here.

Love is “like a fresh kick in the crotch,” as one student put it.

Another student summed it up perfectly by saying, “It isn’t even that I feel as if they were a part of me. It’s just that I feel like I’m a better person when I’m with them.”

This would give those who wish to attend historically black colleges, which would be used by these colleges for scholarship programs, more leverage to negotiate for better terms.

The rally that followed the workshop ignored debate, while others were intended for discussing possible solutions to these problems.

The rally that followed was full of spirit, said Ballard, giving students a chance to feel as if they were a part of something bigger.

Ballard’s enthusiasm continued as she and others spoke directly to Jabsens about matters of legislation.

The conversation between Ballard and Jabsens was an organization which works to improve global access to public health goods developed at universities, met with IPMAC to implement a new policy change.

“We were encouraged by this group to revise licensing policies,” Snyder said.

UAEM is the national organization responsible for Yale University and company Bristol Myers-Squibb changing their license agreement on 44T, which used to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS in the United States.

UAEM’s efforts paved the way for cheap antiretroviral production in South Africa.

Harryington presented UAEM’s proposal to IPMAC in the fall of 2005. She worked with Snyder and Severson to implement this proposal on campus in support of the resolution.

IPMAC’s resolution will have a restricted scope on UW intellectual property distribution.

The resolution recommends a case in case where UW TechTransfer is forced to weigh between societal benefit and commercial interest, which Snyder said is “a very limited thing.”

The UW TechTransfer Web site lists nearly 200 companies started by UW students and faculty and about 250 new inventions are disclosed each year.

Some of the inventions developed at the UW include WebCrawler, an early search engine, and Hepatitis B vaccines.

The College of Engineering Web site reports the UW is ranked second nationally among public universities in federal research funding.

Reach reporter Anthony Shelley at news@thedaily.washington.edu.