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Oregon Daily Emerald

Friday, May 26 1989

Eugene, Oregon

Volume 90, Number 163

Students dedicate tree as a tribute to Olum

By Chris Bouneff
Emerald Reporter

Members of the Presidential Scholars Association on Thursday dedicated a sapling tree to retiring University President Paul Olum as a tribute to his nine years of service.

The tree ceremony was held outside of Johnson Hall in the area enclosed by Hendricks and Susan Campbell halls.

The tree is a Rivers purple beech, which has an expected life span of 100 years. At its base is a plaque dedicating the tree to Olum for his service as president.

"President Olum has done a lot for the Presidential Scholars Association," said University senior Brian Daikh. "We wanted to do something to show our gratitude."

During the dedication ceremony, senior Krista Laursen described Olum as a fighter when it comes to supporting higher education and said students "could find no better role model for such action" than Olum.

In a separate event Wednesday evening, members of the Eugene and University communities held a dinner party to honor Olum for his commitment to bridging the gap between the city and the University.

"I'm still not over it," Olum said. "I can't tell you how great it is getting that kind of support."

Olum said he was pleased that his "favorite program on campus" decided to honor him in such an appropriate manner.

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Photo by Bill Haines

The University Presidential Scholars Association dedicated a sapling to retiring University President Paul Olum on Thursday.

Soviet art show to be brought to EMU Student to be curator

By Catherine Hawley
Emerald Contributor

As a result of friendships formed with Soviet artists in Eugene last winter, a University senior will travel to the Soviet Union in September to select artwork for an exhibition to be shown on campus and across the country.

Fine arts student Will White met two artists from Leningrad when the Leningrad Show, an exhibition of contemporary unofficial Soviet art, came to the EMU Art Gallery in January.

White, who is the ASUO visual arts coordinator, said he arranged for the show to be brought to Eugene from Berkeley, Calif., after a friend told him about it.

White became friends with Elena Figurina and Valentin Gerasimenko, two of the 21 artists whose works were shown in the exhibition, when they visited Eugene while the Leningrad Show was on campus.

"Even though I don't speak Russian and they don't speak much English, we really got along well and communicated well," White said.

At the end of their stay, Figurina and Gerasimenko invited White to go to the Soviet Union. White didn't think he could afford it until he came up with the idea of going as a curator to choose works for another exhibition of Soviet art.

White submitted his proposal to Visual Arts Resources, the traveling exhibition department of the University Museum of Art, which accepted his idea earlier this spring. The works White selects will be shown on campus and then will become part of the museum's touring program.

The exhibition will be available for two years to more than 600 museums, galleries, art centers, schools and libraries across the United States and Canada that belong to the touring program.

White will leave for Leningrad on Sept. 4 with Barbara Hazard, who chose the works for the Leningrad Show. White said he hopes to travel to Moscow as well as Leningrad during his three-week stay in the Soviet Union.

White has applied for several grants to finance his trip, and a sponsor has offered to pay his airfare. He is

trying to raise money for other expenses, including approximately \$1,000 in gift taxes he must pay on the works he brings out of the Soviet Union.

Once the works are in the United States, Visual Arts Resources will cover the costs of preparing and circulating the exhibition.

White said he will stay with artists while he is in Leningrad, most likely with Figurina. He is currently applying to the Soviet government for permission to stay with a private citizen.



Photo by James Marks

ASUO Visual Arts Coordinator Will White will travel to the Soviet Union next fall to choose works for a traveling display of unofficial Soviet art.

Figurina and the other artists represented at the Leningrad Show are unofficial artists. In the Soviet Union, only those artists certified by the Artists' Union are recognized as professionals and officially allowed to show and sell their works.

Unofficial artists must earn their livings at regular jobs ranging from poster designing to furnace tending, and they work at their art in their free time.

All of the artists from the Leningrad Show are members of Tovarashchestvo, or Fellowship for Experimental Art, which provides a community for non-union artists and promotes their works.

White said he will probably meet union artists, but he said he probably won't bring back any of their

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Council chairman makes apologies

By Frale de Guzman
Emerald Associate Editor

The Council for Minority Education's final meeting ended on a positive note Thursday, despite an early confrontation.

Former MEChA (Latino-Chicano Student Union) Director Maria Ana Christensen read an announcement clarifying a statement she made at an April 13 CME meeting demanding council Chairman Jim Long's resignation and a public apology from Long.

At that meeting, MEChA members expressed their anger over Long's harsh criticism of ASUO Minority Affairs Coordinator Teresa Gonzales' decision to go before the Student Senate and seek its assistance in blocking CME's charter proposal scheduled to be presented before the University Senate on March 8.

Christensen said that "during last month's board meeting, I found myself to be in a situation where extreme pressures were placed on me to support ideologies and interests of individuals whose tactics were in direct conflict with my own."

"I was placed in situation that demanded nothing less than the complete polarization of students," Christensen said, adding that since then "I have regretted my capitulation" to pressure received and wanted to further clarify her position in the "confrontation between MEChA and Dr. Long."

"I allowed myself to be intimidated by certain students who told me that I was allowing my personal interests to color my perspective on what was in the best interest of MEChA," she said.

Although Christensen said that she did not disagree that Long needed to make a formal apology for the "extensive and public nature" of his reprimand, she said that "any attempts to elicit more than a public apology constitutes a simple personal vendetta that should be handled by another forum."

In Long's letter of apology distributed and read to council members and formally accepted by MEChA, he acknowledged that his conduct during CME's March meeting "put an unfair focus on one person — Teresa Gonzales."

"To make matters worse, I stood during my

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