

Russians visit Oregon, compare universities

Colloquium: Scholars to share visions of U.S. and Russian higher education systems

Marcia Latta

For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Three visiting Russian scholars will participate in a colloquium on "Russian Universities from the Russian Point of View" Thursday from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the Heritage Room in the Bowerman Center.

The three scholars are on sabbaticals from their universities in Russia. Nina Nikolaevna Kazakova is from Kirov, Alexei Valentinovich Krashenninikov is from Moscow, and Stanislav Vladimirovich Silinsky is from St. Petersburg. Both Kazakova and Silinsky have a background in linguistics; Krashenninikov's background is in architecture.

All three are Fulbright Scholars and will be at the University for nine months. They are participating in the Junior Faculty Development Program, a program that provides opportunities for young Russian university faculty to develop their academic knowledge through programs at American universities.

For the 1994-95 academic year, 87 Russian scholars are participating in this program, which is partially sponsored by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars in institutions throughout the United States.

Silinsky says that the colloquium on Thursday is a good opportunity to discuss the observations they have made since arriving at the University.

"The main idea is to share our vision of how the system of higher education is functioning in Russia and to draw comparisons between the American and Russian systems of higher education," Silinsky said.

He said one of the purposes of the discussion is to give an idea of how Russian universities are functioning under the new economic conditions in Russia, such as governmental budget cuts and decreased student enrollments.

He hopes to apply the experience he

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Hefty TP



Traffic was blocked briefly Wednesday as something resembling a giant roll of toilet paper (actually a sophisticated medical imaging system) was lifted onto the roof of Sacred Heart Hospital.

GARY GRASS/Emerald

Police abuse traffic fines, lawyer says

Tickets: Attorney says traffic enforcement is used for revenue gathering

Ben Moebius

Oregon Daily Emerald

Eugene attorney Drake Koefoed said the city's police have taken a "hunt and kill" attitude toward traffic enforcement.

Koefoed, who has launched an initiative to limit traffic fines, said exceptionally high fines have emphasized the revenue-gathering purpose of ticketing.

"Predatory ticketing has gotten very bad," said Koefoed, founder of Citizens Against Highway Robbery. "The police sit in an area where they know people will make petty mistakes and they prey on those people, handing out huge tickets."

The fine for going 30 mph over the speed limit is now \$519. Traveling 11 mph to 20 mph over the speed limit carries a fine of \$233, or \$425 if the violation contributes to an accident.

Koefoed's proposal would limit the bail for speeding to not exceed \$5 for each mile over the speed limit.

"I have sympathy even for the people who make mistakes," Koefoed said. "The vehicle handbook is 600 pages long and if you violate any part of the rules in that book you're guilty, no exceptions."

He said he has seen almost unanimous support for his proposal.

"I would estimate that 98 percent of the population are for it," he said.

The Oregon Legislature already has at least three bills in the works to revise traffic fines, according to state Rep. John Schoon, R-Rickreall. Schoon testified before a House Judiciary subcommittee last week that is looking at the issue of traffic bail amounts.

"I think things are really a mess the way they are now," Schoon said. "We need to make the fine fit the crime, not the revenue gap."

Koefoed said the joint Ways and Means Committee added the high fines to the new bail schedule at the last minute as a way to increase revenue.

"The government needs the money," he said. "The point Measure 5 should have brought across, though, is that the people don't want the state to generate more revenue. They want the state to cut back. They want less government."

Koefoed continues to work on his initiative, despite attention to the issue in the Legislature, because he wants the fines lowered substantially and permanently. "We need to stop the Legislature from having the power to raise traffic fines," he said.

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Lab gains data through surveys

Research: A new population survey may be available in Knight Library by next week

Colleen Pohlig

Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon Survey Research Laboratory began three years ago with a little seed money, some software and a plan — and has grown beyond its founder's wildest expectations.

Sociology Professor Patricia Gwartney-Gibbs founded the lab to provide a resource center for survey-related research, primarily for University and other clients often related to higher education and various state agencies.

The lab, which is tucked in the basement of Prince Lucien Campbell Hall, conducts surveys on various topics including the structure and organization of social aspects in the world, state and local problems, and related areas of social policy.

One massive project recently completed is the 1994 Oregon Population Survey, an eight-volume survey that covers various topics including job satisfaction and foreign language proficiency, plus other areas of general interest to Oregonians.

The population survey, which took a total of six months to complete, is expected to be in the Knight Library next week. This year's state Legislature will

use this recent information as it is "intercensal data," or close to the half-way mark between the official census done every decade, Gwartney-Gibbs said.

"This is one of the largest state surveys I've heard about," she said. The survey was funded by the Oregon Progress Board, which is also responsible for the state benchmarks, and covered data on more than 15,500 Oregonians.

Although the lab began with a "shoestring bit of seed money" from the 1992-93 Strategic Planning Fund, it generated \$12,000 from the completion of only two surveys in its first year.

This was enough money.

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■ GOOD MORNING

► **OLYMPIA (AP)** — Marriage may be hazardous to your health, and it's time Washington's blissful betrothed be so informed when they apply for a marriage license, some state senators said.

The handful of senators, mostly women, want to revise the wording of marriage licenses. The licenses would inform couples that, among other things, "Neither you nor your spouse is the property of the other," and "The laws of this state affirm your right to enter into this marriage and at the same time to live within the marriage free from violence and abuse."

Domestic violence continues to be a leading cause of death

and injury for American women, sponsors said, and more public education may help to reduce it.

"I would say, simply, beware. Stop, look, listen and be cautious," said Sen. Margarita Prentice, D-Seattle, one of the co-sponsors. The bill, SB5124, is sponsored by Sen. Lorraine Wojahn, D-Tacoma, who could not be reached Wednesday.

Prentice said she has been married 37 years and knows of what she speaks.

"The idea that a marriage is simply that this is going to be romantic for the rest of your life is simply delusion," she said. "Marriage is hard work, and still too many people don't understand this."