

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Research fellowships given to four students

Four University graduate students have been awarded 1998 University Doctoral Research Fellowships.

The doctoral degree candidates include: Paul Thiers for political science; Timothy Rawson for history; Arthur Kirkpatrick for computer and information science; and Mikhail Blinnikov for geography. Each will receive a \$16,000 stipend and a tuition waiver.

The fellowship program, a collaborative effort between the Office of the Vice Provost for Research and the Graduate School, is designed to support exceptionally advanced doctoral degree candidates as they complete their research and write their dissertations.

Thiers, who is from Salem, is studying the political economy of organic agriculture in his dissertation "Green Food: The Political Economy of Sustainable Agriculture in China."

He has received an International Trade and Development Fellowship from the Oregon University System and another fellowship from the University Club Foundation of Oregon.

Upon earning his degree, Thiers plans to work in both academia and applied research.

Hailing from Fairbanks, Alaska, Rawson will use his fellowship this summer to study the common bond between different peoples in Oregon and Washington. His dissertation is titled "In Common with All Citizens: Fish, Native Americans, Sportsmen, and Conservation in Oregon and Washington."

Rawson has held graduate teaching fellow positions in many University departments, including history and the Office of International Education and Exchange.

He plans to become a faculty member at Alaska Pacific University in Anchorage.

Kirkpatrick, who is from Ventura, Calif., is writing his dissertation titled "Supporting Exploratory Activity with Haptic Computer Interface."

He has 12 years of computer programming experience. He has been doing research with his adviser, Sarah Douglas, on the use of color in computer systems and comparisons of input devices such as mice and joysticks.

Eugene native Blinnikov is researching the history of the grasslands in his dissertation "Lake Pleistocene History of the Columbia Basin Grasslands Based on Phytolith Records in Loess."

He earned his master's degree at Moscow University, where he

was researching silica. He is now centering his research around a new method of soil data extraction.

Each department nominates one candidate entering their final year at the University. A subcommittee of the University Graduate Council evaluates the applications along with Steadman Upham, vice provost of research and dean of the graduate school.

Three to six doctoral degree candidates have received the fellowship each year since the program began in 1991.

Group seeks input on research park

The Riverfront Research Park Committee is seeking public input, information and suggestions on how best to shape the future of the park.

The committee has scheduled a forum for Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the EMU Fir Room.

Composed of faculty, students and a representative of the University Foundation, the committee was recently appointed by University President Dave Frohnmayer to perform an outside review of the park. There has not been such a review in a decade.

Public comments can be sent via e-mail to preview@lists.uoregon.edu

gon.edu or to Riverfront Research Park Review Committee, c/o President's Office, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403.

The committee is scheduled to submit a report to Frohnmayer in mid-September.

Three professors show scientific excellence

Three University scientists have been elected to Fellowship in the American Academy of Microbiology.

Frederick Dahlquist, professor of chemistry, Eric Selker, professor of biology, and Tom Stevens, professor of chemistry, have been honored for having met the academy's criteria and by demonstrating scientific excellence, originality and leadership, high ethical standards and scholarly and creative achievement.

The members of the academy have elected 1,300 fellows from 27 countries. The academy is the only honorific leadership group devoted entirely to microbiologists and the science of microbiology.

Speakers to discuss ancient China, Greece

The Oregon Humanities Center is sponsoring a conference on the similarities between ancient civilizations that sprang up at about the same time in Greece and China.

The free public conference, which will take place May 28-30, is titled "Thinking Through Comparisons: Ancient Greece and China."

The event will open with a keynote address from speaker Wang Ching-Hsien, a professor of comparative literature at the University of Washington and dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at the National Dong Hwa University in Taiwan. Wang's speech, "Alluding to the Text, or the Context," will be held in the Gerlinger Hall Alumni Lounge at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday.

A reception will follow at the Museum of Art.

The rest of the conference events will be held in Gerlinger Hall. Speakers from universities across the county and around the world will participate in panel discussion and give various speeches on Friday and Saturday.

For specific information on the conference, go to the Oregon Humanities Center Web site at darkwing.uoregon.edu/~humanctr/sc hed.html.

Greek awards given for service excellence

The annual greek awards are in. The greek Man of the Year is Mike Price from Theta Chi fraternity, and the greek Woman of the Year is Sarah Wiley from Chi Omega sorority. Both recipients were chapter presidents. Wiley also was the 1996-97 Panhellenic Council president while Price was 1996-97 vice president of leadership for the Interfraternity Council.

Other awards went to Female Junior of the Year Marisa Ramsdell from the Chi Omega sorority and Female Volunteer Service award winner Kim Guevara.

All invited to attend Thurston prayer group

An interfaith prayer gathering will be held Wednesday at 3 p.m. in the EMU Fir Room for all those to gather, pray and talk about the recent violence at Thurston High School. All are welcome to attend.

Requirements high for graduation honors

It took a lot to get an honor tacked onto graduation diplomas this year.

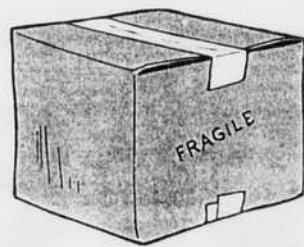
The lowest honor — cum laude — required a cumulative GPA of 3.70. That represents the top 10 percent of the graduating class.

Seniors needed a 3.83 to get magna cum laude, which represents the top 5 percent. Summa cum laude was reserved for the top 2 percent — those seniors with a 3.94.

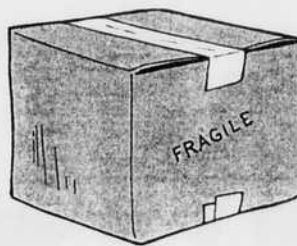
The requirements are high, but they were even higher last year. Graduates in 1997 needed a 3.74 just to get cum laude.

Spring term usually sees higher requirements, said Estelle Forster, graduation specialist with the registrar's office.

The University has not studied how GPAs break down among schools and programs, she said.



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