

University brief

Greenblatt to present inaugural lecture

Author Stephen Greenblatt, a professor of literature, will present the inaugural lecture for the School of Architecture and Allied Arts Koehn Colloquium at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 29 in 177 Lawrence.

Greenblatt is the Harry Levin Professor of Literature at Harvard University. He is the author of many books, including "Marvelous Possessions," "Learning to Curse" and Renaissance Self-Fashioning." He is also the general editor of the "Norton Shakespeare and the Norton Anthology of English Literature." He is the founder of the journal "Representations."

The Koehn Colloquium, sup-

ported through a gift from Michael and Stacy Koehn, brings scholars to the University who share a broad interdisciplinary perspective on diverse fields of the school — architecture, landscape architecture, fine and applied arts, art history, planning, public policy and management and arts administration.

This lecture is free and open to the public.

Panel to discuss anti-hate crime legislation

A panel discussion exploring the issue of hate crimes and anti-hate crime legislation will take place at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29, in the EMU Walnut Room. The event is free and open to the public.

The event will include input from community leaders, experts and scholars from areas including law, ethics, sociology and ethnic studies, followed by audience questions and discussion.

Featured speakers will include Henry Luvert, president of the Eugene-area chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Lisa Kloppenberg, University associate law professor and Dominick Vetri, University law professor.

The discussion is sponsored by the University Student Bar Association, Minority Law Students Association, Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, Black Law Students Association and Outlaws, the gay and lesbian law students association.

Blood alcohol can be inaccurate

The Associated Press

SALEM — When alcohol use is suspected in car crashes, families and police are often eager to know the driver's blood-alcohol level. But that information isn't always readily available or reliable.

Many agencies in the state aren't required to share test results with families, and in even cases where results are provided, they are sometimes faulty.

When Napoleon Carbajal, 16, a well-liked high school athlete, died in a crash a year ago near Woodburn, his family had no reason to believe he had become a drunken-driving statistic.

They only learned that earlier this month from their morning newspaper.

The state Medical Examiner's Office failed to notify either the state police or the family that tests showed the boy's blood-alcohol level was more than three times the legal limit.

"They told us that the death was because of impact and that there was no need for an autopsy," said Aurora Carbajal, Napoleon's mother.

But in Carbajal's case, the results of the blood-alcohol test weren't even valid. An internal inquiry revealed last week that Carbajal's blood sample was not properly refrigerated. That caused the blood to decompose, partially turn into alcohol and skew the test results.

The accuracy of drug-alcohol tests can't be taken for granted, said Gig Wyatt, a Salem lawyer who specializes in drunken-driving cases.

"Unless you find the error with a test, you may have a person who is convicted of a crime that they never committed," he said.

Carbajal's friends and families had no reason to believe he was drunk. Several witnesses said he hadn't been drinking prior to the crash.

But even when alcohol is legitimately linked with an accident, the police don't always volunteer the information to the victim's family.

"Often we've already brought them bad news about their family member's death, and we don't feel that we need to bring them worse news," state police Sgt. Bill Johnson said.

Johnson said the decision on informing the family depends on various factors, including possible lawsuits or insurance claims. Still, once the investigation into the crash is completed, the details become public information, he said.

Salem police Lt. Bill Kohlmeyer said his department also considers the circumstances of each crash before deciding how much information should be volunteered, especially if alcohol did not play an important role in the crash.

Environmental studies returns to UW

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — The University of Washington is again offering a major in environmental studies, but some are questioning whether it will be as strong as the previous program.

The university's Institute for Environmental Studies closed three years ago in an effort to save money. This quarter, UW opened its Program on the Environment, following public hearings and deliberations by a task force.

Jim Karr, who headed the institute before it was abolished, is hopeful but skeptical of the new program.

"I hope the university rises to the need of the state and the students at the university," Karr said. "It's profoundly important in the next century to the region and beyond."

"I think that we have a chance

to do something really exciting, to do something different now," said Mike Wallace, an atmospheric scientist and co-director of the program.

"Both inside and outside the university, there is pent-up demand for the University of Washington to offer a coherent approach to environmental studies," a task force report stated.

Termination of the old program to save \$1.5 million a year left undergraduates "seriously inconvenienced, if not betrayed," the report said.

The new major is a bachelor of arts degree that is designed to prepare graduates for business, law, policy, public affairs or health. The program encompasses natural science; social science; law, policy and management, and ethics, values and cultural framework.

About a dozen students have said they plan to major in environmental science.

"You can actually create and design your major based on environmental issues," said Jason Robinson, a junior who is interested in behavioral change and social psychology.

Others fear the environmental studies degree might be considered too soft.

"Any degree that says 'studies' implies you don't have a skill," said Stephen Buffington, a sophomore who plans to double major in biology and environmental science.

Rather than training environmental engineers of the future, the program is intended to prepare graduates for public liaison, environmental advocacy or policy development in governmental agencies or organizations.

Canadian economist discourages logging

The Associated Press

PORT ALBERNI, British Columbia — A leading British Columbia economist says aboriginal communities should collect expensive wild mushrooms, conduct birdwatching tours and grow medicinal plants.

But don't cut the trees. "After travelling the coast, it is clear to me that intact old growth forests are worth more standing than as logs," said Dr. Roslyn Kunin, executive director of the Vancouver-based Laurier Institution.

"People are coming in droves to see our unspoiled beauty," she said in a report recently released by the David Suzuki Foundation.

Kunin wrote the report after touring nine coastal communities with the Suzuki Foundation.

First Nations' communities are desperate for jobs, but logging is shortsighted, she said.

"At most, such logging provides a few seasons of employment in an industry whose growth has not kept pace with the overall provincial economy."

Kunin opts for eco-tourism as

the growth industry.

"In 1996, tourists in B.C. generated revenues of \$393 [Canadian dollars] per overnight stay. If a community could attract only 20 persons for each day of a ten-week season, this would generate \$550,200.

"Even if only half that amount of money went for wages, 50 people could be employed at wages of \$2,000 per month," she said.

Kunin also advocates selective logging for specialty wood products including high-priced carvings.

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