

Ballet Company, was alarmed by a footnote to the suggestion which reads, in part, that the Hult Center's "inability to fund raise or present more effectively preclude it from using these avenues to address its need for additional revenues." Grannan explained that if the EBC and other Hult user groups had to compete with the Hult Center itself for funding, that would be a problem because "there are precious few foundations here. ... When the big gorilla asks for money, they will get priority, and we will be far down on the list." He summed up the recommendation as "something for everybody," which would mean "nothing for all." Goldring responded, "The situation is untenable, and it is going to get worse if it isn't addressed."

The entire document is available at the Cultural Policy Review website (www.eugene-or.gov/CulturalPolicyReview), where mayor's committee co-chair and former City Councilor David Kelly strongly encouraged Eugeneans to give their feedback through the "Tactics Review Worksheet" or directly by email before the end of this month. Goldring and Bach will create the final draft during the month of April, and they need comments by March 30th. — *Suzi Steffen*

A POET AND A SOLDIER

When Maj. William F. "Bill" Hecker III came to Eugene from West Point, friends said that he felt a little strange at first. He was a dedicated soldier and a lover of poetry, so the Army sent him to the UO to get a master's degree in English. He then taught literature as an assistant professor for three years at West Point before being deployed to Iraq, where he was killed in January, 2006.



William Hecker

While at the UO, Hecker studied "soldier poetry," a term he preferred to "war poetry." At West Point, he published a book on Edgar Allan Poe. When he received his assignment to Iraq, Hecker began to study Arabic so he could read Iraqi literature and better understand the people he felt he was there to help.

"From his morning cup of coffee to his family relationships to his scholarship to his

soldiering, he did everything with passion, commitment, intelligence, and care," said UO professor Karen Ford, who directed his MA thesis. "That made his death more painful, but it also meant he had lived every moment of his life with purpose."

In his thesis, Hecker wrote about poetry that was published only because its authors survived combat. The poetry "never would have breathed" if not for the Americans who "survived and prevailed in the harshest imaginable conditions for the sake of destroying tyranny." But Hecker himself would not survive to educate future generations.

Hecker dreamed of getting his Ph.D. when he returned from Iraq and teaching at West Point for the rest of his career. "He loved America, American literature, and teaching," said Ford.

His time in Eugene helped Eugeneans understand soldiers, Ford said, "He surprised a lot of people here who thought they knew what someone from West Point would be like. And I think we surprised him, too."

— *Camilla Mortensen*



Kitty Piercy, Betty Taylor, Sergei Bereznuik and Marina Rikhvanova

DEFENDING LAKE BAIKAL

Two Russian visitors in Eugene for the UO Public Interest Environmental Law Conference in early March visited with Mayor Kitty Piercy and representatives from EWEB. They were Marina Rikhvanova of the Baikal Environmental Wave (BEW) and Sergei Bereznuik of the Phoenix Fund.

Piercy had contacted BEW last year when she was preparing to visit Eugene's sister city of Irkutsk, near Lake Baikal in Siberia. She says she wanted to understand the environmental issues of Irkutsk, in addition to cultural and economic aspects.

Piercy says she learned about the success-

HAPPENIN' BIZ

RYAN ROGERS OF FISHERMAN'S MARKET

Eugene native and South Eugene High grad Ryan Rogers began working summers in Alaska as a break from studying economics at the UO. "I dropped out winter term of my senior year," he says. "I didn't want to end up on the 40th floor in San Francisco or Seattle." Instead, he bought a boat to fish for salmon in Prince William Sound. A year later, the Exxon Valdez hit the rocks. "I was the fourth boat hired to help clean up the spill," he says. "It paid off the boat and enabled me to survive." Looking for an alternative to year-round fishing at age 35, Rogers joined with old friend Mike West in 1997 to purchase the Fisherman's Market, until then an outlet for Newport fisherman Dick Ramus. "Our number-one product is crab," says Rogers, now sole owner of the market. "We get crab twice a week, typically from Newport and Charleston. Since Thanksgiving, we've had no fuel expense. I had my truck converted to burn our fryer oil." Rogers still spends his summers on Prince William Sound. "It's one of the most beautiful parts of Alaska," he says. "Also one of the mellowest fisheries, for weather and for competition." — *Paul Neevel*



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