

# SCSU professor teaches economics abroad

Man tries to prepare former communist country for future in global market

By Sue Halena

TIMES STAFF WRITER

A city of 2.3 million people and not a McDonald's to be found.

It was obvious to Rich MacDonald that Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, was not quite ready for capitalism.

But MacDonald has done his part to prepare future generations in the former communist republic for global market interaction.

The St. Cloud State University economics professor returned last weekend from seven days of teaching economics to 30 Uzbekistani teachers. Curriculum was provided by the nonprofit National Council on Economic Education, with funding from the U.S. Department of Education. The workshop was coordinated

by the Open Society Institute, a group funded by U.S. entrepreneur George Soros that offers eight training programs in more than 40 emerging countries.

As translators turned English into Russian, MacDonald and an Indiana professor led 20 activity-filled sessions to drive home economic theories and practices most Americans take for granted.

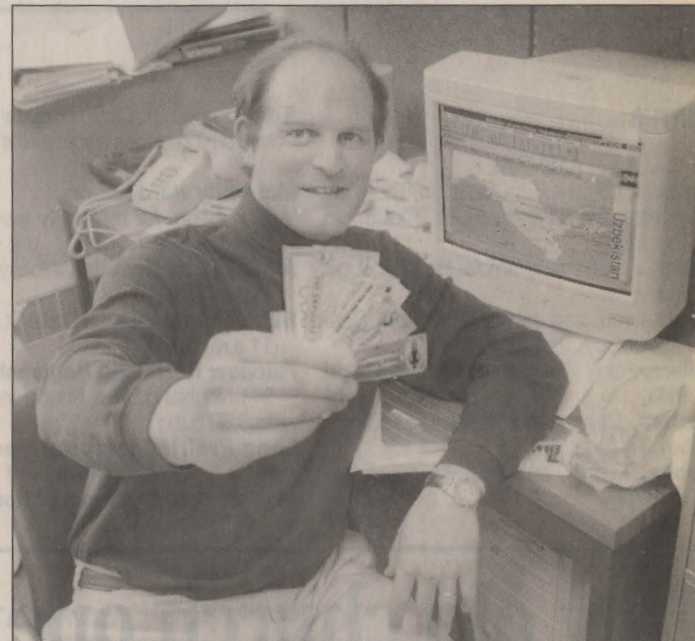
"You have to describe what a checking account is."

And ATMs? They've just been introduced, but MacDonald doubts there will be much demand until bank accounts become more attractive.

American dollars, not banks, are considered the most secure way of saving money in Uzbekistan, MacDonald said. Financial institutions haven't earned public trust. That — along with the



GANNETT NEWS SERVICE MAP



TIMES PHOTO BY ANDRA VANKEMPEN

**Rich MacDonald, director of the Center for Economic Education at St. Cloud State University, displayed a play money system he used recently while teaching in Uzbekistan. The money system was used to train teachers about the circular flow of economic activity and exchange between consumers and producers.**

dictatorial style of the nation's president and a lack of property rights laws to satisfy Western investors — appear to be holding

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You have to describe what a checking account is.

**Rich MacDonald**

EXPLAINING WHAT TEACHING ABOUT AMERICAN ECONOMY WAS LIKE