

Expert discusses international education

By Paula Green
Emerald Reporter

To learn is to gain knowledge of or skill in a subject. This concept is perhaps difficult enough, and when cultural influences enter into it, one can't help but be confused.

Dr. Josef Mestenhauser, professor and director of the Office of International Student Advising at the University of Minnesota, attempted to dispel such confusion in his speech on Wednesday entitled "Cultural Influences on Learning Styles."

Mestenhauser's speech, which was sponsored by the University's Teaching Effectiveness Program, the Office of International Services and the Graduate School, presented several concepts he has developed in the area of international education and learning. Mestenhauser has begun eliminating the myth that there is no such thing as international education.

"World conditions are forcing universities to restructure themselves; states have begun changing," Mestenhauser said, adding, "We have no concepts on international education; we don't know what goes into it, or what comes out of it — it's all hidden elsewhere."

Mestenhauser, however, has developed certain ideas about it.

To begin with, it's important to take a structural approach. There should be a department of international studies at the university level, as well as study abroad advising and the teaching of foreign languages, he said.

Mestenhauser believes improvement in these areas can be achieved through such concepts as project development in international education, cross-cultural training in both study and work abroad, the setting of official policies at an international dimension in all disciplines, and an integration



Josef Mestenhauser

of the organization and cognitive structuring involved in cultural education.

Mestenhauser also stresses the importance of experiential learning. There are basically two types of experiential learning, that dealing with what is studied, and that involving random sampling. Mestenhauser cited the case of a study abroad student who must interpret the experience abroad and apply it to his/her major to explain this concept.

Yet another idea concerning

international education is product learning. According to Mestenhauser, there is "a certain quantum of knowledge, known or not known; it is content oriented." In what we do and how we think, remembering cultural differences should be of great influence.

The final concept is the arrival of information. Most students involved in international education term this as "culture shock." When a new piece of information reaches a student, the information often does not register.

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MEETINGS

Alcoholics Anonymous will meet today at 12:30 p.m. in the library of the Kioana Center.

The Oregon Daily Emerald Board of Directors will meet today in Room 300 EMU at 5:30 p.m. Interviews of applicants to the board will be conducted at this meeting and all members are strongly encouraged to attend.

Asklepiads will meet today in Cedar Room B, EMU.

Circle K will meet tonight in Cedar Room C, EMU at 6.

Student Senate will meet today at 6 p.m. in Century Room F, EMU.

Mortar Board Honor Society will meet tonight at 6:30 in Cedar Room D, EMU.

Condon Geological Society will have an organizational meeting today at 3:30 p.m. in

Room 47, Geology building, to discuss field trips, elect this year's officers and other pertinent areas.

LECTURES

"The Psychological Effects of the Abuse of Human Rights" is the title of a brown bag lunch forum with Mario Epelman, occupational health physician from Argentina. The forum is at 11:30 a.m. Friday in Room 154, Straub.

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