

Japanese class enrollment rises

By Jolie Andrade
Emerald Reporter

Registration was mind boggling for many University students this fall who were trying to get into required classes that were already full, and it was equally frustrating for those trying to get into Japanese language classes.

Of the 18,500 students attending the University, about 470 of those are taking Japanese.

This is a significant increase. Since 1983, the Japanese language has become the third most popular language and has grown twice as fast as French, the most popular language.

The increase in enrollment is not a reflection of the University alone. Universities nationwide have been experiencing this rapid demand for Japanese language classes.

Between 1983 and 1986, enrollment increased by 45 percent, indicating that about 23,500 students were taking Japanese language courses.

UCLA has about the same number of students enrolled in Japanese classes as the University, even though their total enrollment is 35,000, almost twice that of the University. To satisfy the high demand for more Japanese classes, the University hired Noriko Fujii in 1984 to develop a specialized Japanese language program to adhere to the needs of the students.

Fujii said she has tried to incorporate this new attitude in the Japanese language courses. The courses are set up to include realistic conversation situations combined with the traditional aspects of the program, she said, adding that students were interested in learning more than just kanji (Japanese characters).

Jeanne Kawamoto, a junior majoring in business, is taking her second year of Japanese at the University. Kawamoto said despite the fact that this fulfills her Bachelor of Arts requirement, she is taking Japanese in hopes that it will help her get a job after graduation.

"It's practical in the business world since a lot of Japanese are expanding in the United States," Kawamoto said.

"Hopefully I'll be able to

continue taking Japanese beyond my requirement, if it fits into my schedule," she said.

Loren Petrowski, a third-year Japanese language student, said she had a difficult time getting into the class this year because the Japanese language program had anticipated fewer students.

This unexpected increase resulted in the expansion of class size and the addition of another class. However, only 16 stu-

dents on the waiting list were able to get in, and Petrowski was one of those.

Ironically, Petrowski has already fulfilled her Bachelor of Arts requirement and is taking Japanese to increase her job opportunities.

"I hope it will help me with a job in the future," Petrowski said. "I want to work in Hawaii and there are many Japanese businessmen moving in."

UO/UES meets tonight

MEETINGS

University of Oregon/University of El Salvador will hold a general interest meeting tonight at 7 in EMU

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Cedar Room A. Everyone is invited.

Students Against Apartheid will have a general interest meeting and a film tonight at 7 in EMU Cedar Room F.

MEChA, the Chicano/Latino student union, is having its first meeting tonight at 5:30 in EMU Room 16D.

Campus Crusade for Christ's "Prime Time" meets tonight at 7:30 in 204 Condon Hall. All are wel-

come.

Survival Center is holding a general meeting tonight at 7:30 in the EMU Forum Room.

The Ski Team is holding a general interest meeting tonight at 7 in the EMU Fir Room.

SPEAKERS

Peter Brown, chief political writer for Scripps, will be speaking on current political issues today at 2 p.m. in 307 Allen Hall. Any interested students are encouraged to attend. The event is sponsored by the Society of Professional Journalists.

Studying in Australia will be the topic of an information meeting to be held today at 1:30 p.m. in the EMU Maple Room.

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