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"BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY"

University

New exchange plan considered

By Marina Swain
Emerald Contributor

If Paul Primak had his way, there would already be several University student exchange programs to Africa and Southeast Asia. As it stands, the assistant director of overseas studies and international services must wait just a little longer.

"I've been interested in promoting programs in the developing world for several years," Primak said. Primak hopes to add the International Studies Exchange Program to the three exchange consortiums the University currently participates in.

The Foreign Studies Program committee will meet in mid-March to approve the University's plan to join ISEP, Primak said.

Based at Georgetown University, the consortium includes

universities from across the country and devotes the bulk of its programs to developing countries. In addition to its breadth of scope, ISEP offers financial benefits as well, he said. In short, a consortium allows each school to send students at a lower cost than it would take to operate the program individually, Primak said.

"I don't think we could produce an economically viable program offered by just the University," Primak said.

An interdisciplinary board, the Foreign Studies Program committee is made up of eight professors and two students. The committee will discuss exchange programs to Africa and Southeast Asia in general terms during the coming weeks, said Gerald Fry, director of international studies and chairman of the board.

The board wrangles over a variety of issues when considering a particular country for a possible exchange program, Fry said. American students' susceptibility to native diseases, transferability of course credits and even political unrest are tabulated before a final decision is made, he said.

"I don't think there would be an overwhelming number of students going into the pro-

gram at first," Fry said of the possible exchange consortium with ISEP. But he pointed out that the University rates fourth in the nation in total numbers of students entering the Peace Corps, which signifies an interest in developing countries.

Primak said he has received half a dozen serious inquiries on trips to Africa since the start of fall term. "It mirrors the interest on campus," he said. "That interest is diversifying."

"The main thing is to open up so students can be exposed to non-Western cultures," Fry said. The university currently offers 40 exchange programs to more traditional parts of the world, with an emphasis on western Europe.

"A student who will do this is really sincere about learning about another culture," Fry said of future applicants to third world programs.

"Students who simply want a study abroad experience assume, correctly, Europe will be more familiar than the Ivory Coast," said Kathleen Bowman, associate vice president of research and international affairs. Bowman pointed out that students could practice their French in some African countries. English is also spoken in quite a few areas, she said, although it may not be the dominant tongue.



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SAFARI

Senator to speak on poverty and aging


Oregon State Senator Larry Hill (D-Eugene) and Joelle Ewing, congressional aide to U.S. Representative Peter DeFazio, will speak at a public forum on Friday, sponsored by Eugene's commissions on the rights of senior citizens and women.

The topic of discussion will be spousal impoverishment, the distressing financial situation faced by one spouse due to separation, death, or institutionalization of the other. Ewing will provide information on recent federal law changes, and Hill will discuss how Oregon is responding to these changes.

Lynn Kahle, University instructor and president of the commission on the rights of the aging, said spousal impoverishment is a critical issue.

Kahle said she believes the current situation has reached a crucial point, with elderly couples divorcing to protect their assets, and once-affluent families now facing poverty.

The public forum will be held from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at the Trude Kaufman Senior Center, 996 Jefferson Street. For more information contact the city's human rights program at 687-5177.

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