

University

West African journalists visit University

By Alice Thornton
Emerald Reporter

Thirteen professional journalists from French-speaking West African countries visited the University's School of Journalism Monday and Tuesday as part of a six-city tour to study American journalism.

The journalists met with faculty, staff and students in the School of Journalism and toured the offices of *The Eugene Register-Guard* and several local television and radio stations.

Their visit to the University began with an introduction to the faculty of the School of Journalism.

Professor Leslie Steeves said the journalists wanted to know about journalism education in the United States.

"We had a general discussion about how we train journalism students and about journalism in general," Steeves said.

"They're interested in the extent to which our journalism program is conceptual rather than practical," Steeves said. "They also wanted to know how we academics view the media."

Steeves said the journalists also visited the office of international services to discuss study abroad programs in West Africa. They discussed the possibility of allowing French-speaking journalism students to participate in internship programs in West Africa.

"Their visit increases the perspective of our students," said professor Stephen Ponder.

"It allowed us to learn about West African journalism while they were able to learn about journalism in our country," Ponder said. "They're curious about what we're teaching."

The United States Information Agency helped sponsor the visit which began in Washington D.C. on April 30 with an introduction to public and private media.

The journalists, which are guests of the United States Government, will also visit San Francisco, Tucson, Ariz., Baton Rouge, La., Springfield, Ill., and New York. They are accompanied by two interpreters and an escort.

Jennifer King, assistant to the dean of the School of Journalism, said the group is composed of directors of national news services, top editors of newspapers and photo services and the head of programming for national television.

"These are qualified professionals," King said.

The journalists will be looking at the constitutional, political, social, and technical principles of journalism in the United States. They will primarily be examining print and photo media.

King said they will be visiting other journalism schools and professional media organizations during their one-month tour of the country.

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THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



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