

STUDENTS

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Henry Daut, a Filipino who finished his graduate studies in physical education this summer, was not used to the kind of food served in the dorms.

"It was not that they did not serve good food, it was just that I was looking for food that I was used to," he said.

Homesickness also hits many international students, especially during the first few months they are here and during winter break.

Daut said he tackled his homesickness by immersing himself in lots of activities, especially sports.

Laaw said she misses being around people who speak her own language and wishes more Micronesians were studying at the University.

Several organizations and programs on campus help in-

ternational students have a more fulfilling stay at the University.

The International Student Association holds weekly coffee hours and plans periodical outings and gatherings where international students can meet with others from the United States and from other countries.

International Services also offers students the opportunity to better understand the American way of life through its host family program. It also runs the International Cultural Services Program, which gives residents of Eugene and Springfield a glimpse into international cultures.

Many international students said they see themselves playing their most important role in facilitating this exchange of knowledge. Daut, who participated in the ICSP, sees it as a two-way street.

"The people I met through this program gave me a better perspective on their views about the Filipinos and the Philippines," he said. "At the same time, I was able to help them correct their misconceptions about my country."

Ramellini said she believes American students can get a better image of other countries than the political image they see on the news by interacting with international students like her.

"We can tell them about our way of living, our problems," she said. "We can show them that people from other countries also have interesting things in their countries," she said.

Mills agrees.

"The University and the Eugene-Springfield community are far better because of the international students who come here," he said.

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