

# New round of students signs on for exchange

By Heatherle Himes  
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Some 50 University students hunched over bright green cards and signed away up to a year of their lives Wednesday.

They have officially become the 1993-94 University representatives in the National Student Exchange program.

The National Student Exchange program, started 25 years ago, gives students the opportunity to attend different schools throughout the nation.

"I think the program is absolutely essential because it expands the curriculum available to students across the almost 110 institutes involved," said Joe Wade, University National Student Exchange Coordinator.

Students also participate in the program for the travel experience. Wade said. He said some students enjoy the opportunity to attend a college with a predominantly African-American, Hispanic or Native American student body.

"Almost everyone has a story to tell about the reasons that they exchange," Wade said. "Sharing those stories is a big part of this program. They're fascinating."

Amy Davis, an undeclared freshman, will be exchanging to the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa to return to her roots. Her father's family has traced its lineage back to antebellum Alabama.

Freshman Gina De Santis is exchanging to the University of Delaware to study film and partake in an adventure.

"I figure if the opportunity is there you might as well take advantage of it," she said. "You won't be in college forever."

On the receiving side of the exchange, various students from other schools have come to Oregon to experience life in the northwest.

Adam Mertz, a pre-business major from the University of South Dakota, came to Oregon for the mountains, the beach and the natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest.

"Oregon seemed like the place to be," he said. "South Dakota's really rural — lots of cornfields and stuff like that."

Despite the rain and the native Oregonian's humorous reactions to a meager four inches of snow, Mertz said his exchange has been one of the best experiences he has ever had.

Wade said interviews will begin next October for candidates in the 1994-95 round of exchanges.

Students must have a 2.5 GPA to be eligible for the program and must begin the application process the fall prior to the year that they plan to exchange.

More than 30,000 students have exchanged in the past 10 years.

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**MEETINGS**  
Phi Alpha Theta will meet today at 3:30 p.m. in Room 348 PLC. For more information, call 346-4815.  
more information, call 346-8490.  
Eugene Public Library will sponsor Shannon Applegate's presentation "Making Do at Trail's End" Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Library's lecture room.

**MISCELLANEOUS**  
Vietnamese Student Association will have its camping retreat Friday, Saturday and Sunday at Sunset Bay. For information, call 485-4160.

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