



WILSON CHAN/Emerald

Thurston High School sophomore Mandi Henderson learns to make a hat with scratch paper at the Japanese department's origami class. The traditional Japanese craft was one of the activities available at Foreign Language Day. More than 3,700 high school students from more than 80 Oregon schools attended.

Day offers students opportunity

By Natasha Shepard
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

More than 3,500 high school students from all over Oregon attended the Foreign Language and International Studies Day on campus Thursday. The day gave students a sampling of other languages and cultures and introduced them to what the University has to offer.

"We are offering it as a way of exposing students to language programs and international experiences," said Jeff Julum, managing director for the Yamada Center. "It gives students exposure they wouldn't usually get at high school."

Foreign Language Day included 140 classes about different aspects of 20 countries, including language, artwork, film and song. Class subjects ranged from beginning Italian to Ukrainian eggs.

This is the 17th year the University has hosted the Foreign Language Day, which was sponsored by the Yamada Language Center. The program expanded this year to include an "International Expo" at McArthur Court and an "International Food Fest" organized by the EMU and University Housing. The International Expo included information and exhibits from more than 30 international programs and organizations, including University programs such as Study Abroad.

Besides getting out of a day of school, students said they came to learn more, not only about the foreign languages they are studying, but about others. Sophomore Ari Divin said she came for "cultural and linguistic expansion. To learn about things I wouldn't get a chance to learn about."

With recent cuts in secondary education budgets in Oregon, many high schools offer only one or two foreign languages. The Foreign Language Day included not only the "traditional" studies such as Spanish and French, but also classes about Russian, Swedish and Hindi. Cascade High School in Turner only offers Spanish, but students from there were able to attend classes in Italian and Japanese on Thursday.

Cascade Spanish teacher Vanda Baughman also brought her students to the Foreign Language Day. "to increase their awareness, to give them idea of what's out there."

Carey Killen, a Spanish teacher at Meadowpark High School in Beaverton, attended the Foreign Language Day when she was in high school. A University graduate, Killen said that seeing thousands of other foreign language students might give her students a feeling of "participation and solidarity." After budget cuts, Meadowpark foreign language classes are only allowed one field trip a year, and they chose to attend the Foreign Language Day.

According to Jim Brann, coordinator for the Foreign Language Day, some of the funds brought in by the event will go to the Yamada Center. Besides giving students a chance to benefit from the range of international studies at the University, it is a chance to show off the University's foreign language and international studies programs and opportunities.

During the welcome speech, students were encouraged to take advantage of the Foreign Lan-



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