

High schoolers get taste of University

Patrick Minford
Oregon Daily Emerald

The wave of especially young faces that hit the campus Thursday was not the University's new crop of freshman, but the 2,900 teens were here for an education, of sorts.

Thousands of high school students took a break from their usual school day to participate in the 18th annual Foreign Language and International Studies Day, organized by the University's Yamada Language Center.

The day is "designed to expose high school students from the state of Oregon to foreign language programs at the University of Oregon," said coordinator Jeff Julum, managing director of the center. "It's important to develop that in students."

Students attended short international language and cultural presentations throughout the day. From Chinese to Ukrainian and everything in between, students got a small taste of the University's international offerings.

"You're not gonna learn a language in a half hour," Corbett High School student Sarah Dishman said. "You get the gist of it. It's a nice experience."

"Corbett only offers Spanish. It's nice that you can learn languages other than the one you're in."

Dishman spent the day with friends Sierra Steenson and



Martha Sherwood demonstrates the Ukrainian art of traditional egg painting, called Pysanky, for a group of high school students.

Jaime Schimel, also from the Multnomah County high school, learning about Irish singing, bull fighting and "the Duck dance." The girls, who said they spent most of the day "getting lost," were impressed with the University's size.

The event featured more than 120 volunteer presenters

from the University's foreign language and international programs. Julum said the help of the University's language departments was critical to the success of the day.

"Obviously there's stress involved in coordinating something like this," he said. "But it's fun."

Job search workshop will review strategies

Natasha Shepard
Oregon Daily Emerald

International students thinking about entering the U.S. job market may be interested in attending a job search strategies workshop from 3 to 4:30 p.m. today in the EMU Ben Linder Room.

The workshop, coordinated by the International Students Association and the University Career Center, will review basics of resume writing and interviewing, as well as tips about what not to do and where to start looking.

It is becoming increasingly popular to stay in the United States to work after graduation, but job search strategies aren't the same here as they are abroad, ISA Assistant Coordinator Susanne Steffens said.

"A lot of students tend to stay on and work," Steffens said. "Students are getting attached to America and it is more and more popular to stay here and work," she said.

"Getting work permits and writing resumes is so different in America than in their [international students'] own countries," she said.

An example of such job market differences is writing resumes in Europe and the United States, Steffens said.

In Europe, resumes are longer, more specific and more personal, she said.

European resumes may be three or four pages and include information such as the applicant's elementary school, whereas in the United States job applications mainly require only brief information about job history, she said.

The ISA is working with the Career Center to present helpful hints for students wanting to stay in the United States to work after graduation.

The workshop and discussion will include a skit about what not to do in a job interview as well as time for students to ask questions about applying for jobs.

International students are allowed to stay in the United States for a year of "practical training" after they graduate, allowing them to work and gain experience if they choose without renewing their visa, Steffens said.

It is sometimes more difficult for international students to get jobs in the United States if they have limited English skills and little knowledge about the differences in job markets here and abroad, Steffens said.

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Mandatory meeting at Casanova Center, Thursday, May 11 at 5:30 p.m.

Tryouts at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 15 at Mac Court.

For more info call Laraine Raish, 346-5485.

Have a nice day.

And while you're at it, come to the Emerald open house, Suite 300 EMU, Tuesday, May 9th from 1-4pm.