

Student writes pamphlet, holds workshops for foreign students

Miyuki Taguchi's pamphlet helps foreign students cope with difficult situations

By Teri Meeuwse
Higher Education Reporter

Miyuki Taguchi was assigned a project in her women's studies class last year to create a pamphlet listing assertive expressions in Japanese for people, especially women, who have trouble being assertive.

However, after some help from the Office of International Education and Exchange, her idea became more than a project.

Taguchi became the coordinator of the OIEE's Speak Up for Yourself Project and is currently working on publishing the pamphlet in five different languages, including Chinese, Japanese, Indonesian and Korean. The first of the pamphlets, printed in English, were distributed to international students in their orientation packets this fall.

The pamphlet lists difficult situations, such as roommate conflicts

and sexual harassment, and gives suggested expressions to help deal with those circumstances. It also gives tips for effective communication, such as knowing individual rights and the rights of others and sharing feelings without making accusations or blaming others.

"It's amazing to see one student can start a project like this," said Magid Shirzadegan, assistant director of OIEE.

An orientation workshop was also held at the beginning of the year to reinforce the pamphlet's message. According to Shirzadegan, about 80 percent of the international students who attended the workshop said the pamphlet was helpful to them and provided an important source of information.

In January, Taguchi was awarded a \$1,000 grant from the Cooperative Grants Program through the National Association for Foreign Student Affairs. She also received \$1,400 in donations from several University groups. The grants went toward creating the pamphlet and holding workshops.

Nadia Telsey, Taguchi's self-defense professor, said it is wonderful how far Taguchi went with the idea.

"She got a lot of feedback from people and created some realistic situations [in the pamphlet]," she said. "She made the goal of sharing information and knowledge and did a thorough job at it."

"I feel really good about this," Taguchi said. "I couldn't have done it myself, not without the support and guidance from Magid, the volunteers who have proofread it and those who helped with the workshop."

Taguchi said other pamphlets in other languages should be available in November. She said she's also looking forward to at least one more orientation workshop this year, but she plans to hold workshops every term.

"I was an international peer assistant for two years, and I've seen many women who are having trouble being assertive. I think many will benefit from this pamphlet," she said.

STUDENTS • FACULTY • STAFF Flu Vaccination

Influenza vaccinations will be given at the Health Center for faculty and staff every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and for students Monday - Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **Beginning Wednesday, Oct. 15**

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ET ALS

MEETINGS

The EMU Board is sponsoring an EMU House Committee meeting in Century E from 4 to 6 p.m. For more information, call Sam Bessey at 344-8737 or the EMU Board at 346-3720.

The EMU Board is sponsoring an

EMU Budget Committee Meeting in the Board Room from 4 to 6 p.m. For more information, call Jenna Wasson at 346-7444 or the EMU Board at 346-3720.

The Interamerican University Studies Institute is sponsoring a study in Mexico information meeting

from 4 to 5 p.m. in the EMU Walnut Room. For more information, call 344-8940.

MISCELLANEOUS

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