



Kay Olson speaks to listeners at an interfaith prayer meeting in reaction to the Thurston shootings the Fir Room.

LAURA GOSS/Emerald

## Sixteen students win international awards

*The awards were given for volunteer work and leadership on campus and in the community.*

By Amalie Young  
Higher Education Reporter

The first time Amita Malakar walked into an International Student Association meeting, she was handed a job title—food chair. Since then, her resume has continued to grow.

Malakar, now co-director of the International Student Association, and Carlos Maza, a senior business administration major from Mexico, were presented Outstanding International Student Awards during Family Weekend on May 15-17.

Fourteen other University students also received International Student Awards for their leadership and volunteer work on campus and in the community. Students were recognized by the Friendship Foundation for International Students and the Office of International Education and Exchange.

"International students are encouraged to get involved in developing new skills like communication and leadership," Maza said.

This year, Malakar, a Nepali who is double-majoring in journalism and Japanese, worked with the ISA and University administrators on behalf of students affected by the Asian economic crisis and helped to secure scholarships, loans and tuition deferments for those who were affected.

Malakar is also a board member for the Multicultural Center and for

the Associated Students Presidents Advisory Council.

Maza is a resident assistant at Riley Hall, which houses many international students, and an international peer assistant.

He takes pride in fostering cultural understanding and creating a "bridge" between students, he said.

As a community member, Maza serves on the board of directors for FOOD for Lane County and has been involved in Holt International, an international adoption service. Maza has worked at a number of Holt-run summer camps, called "cultural heritage camps," for adoptees, he said.

At Riley Hall, Maza recently planned a safe-sex workshop and emphasized cultural sensitivity to the subject, which in many countries is considered taboo and is not discussed.

"They felt more comfortable because of the community they'd created," he said. "For me, the fact that I've been able to share my culture and my enthusiasm and energy and had an impact on others lives, that's the real award."

Other winners of the awards are: Ana-Silvia Arauz-B, El Salvador; Soo-Hyun Bak, Korea; Marcelo Barros, Brazil; Vassilis Dalakas, Greece; Catur Dewi, Indonesia; Luis Hernandez, Mexico; Siew Pan "Michael" Kong, Malaysia; Elin Mok, Hong Kong; Erica Pereira, Brazil; Ambrose Poh, Malaysia; Aruna Pradhan, Nepal; Karen Susilo, Indonesia; Mihoko Wada, Japan; and Helena Vanhala, Finland.

## Reaction: Counseling available

Continued from Page 1

resurface, while others have been directly affected by the incident, Morel said.

Some students who are doing internships have contacted the center about how they can best deal with other students' reactions.

In addition to assisting students on a drop-in basis, the Counseling Center has provided outreach services to different areas of campus where people have been impacted by the shooting, Morel said. On Friday and Saturday, the center sent counselors to Thurston High

School to assist in dealing with reactions to the event.

The center will continue to offer ongoing drop-in services for those who have been affected by the shooting, Morel said.

"Also, as the need develops, we will have counselors who will be available to lead discussions or provide opportunities for students to discuss how they've been impacted," he added. "This may impact people for a long time."

In a broadcast statement, University President Dave Frohnmayer encouraged students and staff to

take advantage of the available resources on campus.

"I know how difficult it has been for many of us to cope with this tragic incident," he said. "Please know that campus resources are available to you also through the Employee Assistance Program and the Counseling Center."

Saffer said she hopes students will take away from the tragedy the realization that prayer can help them heal.

"I hope students and community members feel able to turn to God and look for answers in God."



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