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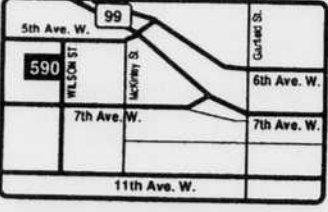
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Student unions

Continued from Page 3

the "Weaving New Beginnings" reception Oct. 14. This is a reception for students, faculty and staff of color in collaboration with the other student unions.

"One of the purposes of this reception is for people to get together and put faces with names and see the services that are provided on this campus to help build coalitions and diversity," Ong said.

Both Markstrom and Ong see groups such as the MCC as valuable assets to this campus in terms of promoting diversity and raising the level of awareness about minority issues.

"The more diverse we are as a campus, the better off we are because of the way the world is heading," Ong said.

Markstrom agreed education is important. "The more students know about racial issues the better educated they will be and the better prepared they will be for the world. Isn't that what a university is supposed to be about?" she said.

The MCC has five leadership positions open this fall. It also offers internship opportunities, resume workshops and information on racial issues and has plenty of room for volunteers.

Markstrom feels getting involved is a good way to feel a part of the campus. "It's not hard to get involved, so don't be shy," she said. "The more inside of things you are, the more you realize what this University has to offer."

Asian Pacific American Student Union

According to co-director Jason Mak, having fun is the basic premise in everything APASU does. Beyond fun, Mak said the organization has a purpose.

"This is a very valuable resource, simply because we try to have our old members help out the incoming freshmen," Mak said.

"We help them find their way around Eugene, make them feel welcome on campus, and it's a way to meet a lot of people."

APASU's function as a resource center goes beyond the Asian Pacific American students. Mak said they are also here for the general community.

"With the state of ethnic studies the way it is, I see it as APASU's role as an educator to get out APA issues, history and culture," he said.

APASU has a resource center in its office with periodicals the University library does not have, Mak said. Material is available for all current students to check out.

In November, APASU will hold its own annual student, faculty reception. Mak said this is an opportunity for APA students to meet faculty and staff.

Like MEChA, APASU also works with local schools, helping to educate students about APA culture.

"There's very little cultural offerings in Eugene outside of the University," Mak said. "We try to give them a chance to experience what they can't anywhere else."

APASU's main cultural event takes place spring term during APA heritage month in May. The group plans to bring in theater groups, speakers and organize other workshops and activities open to all students.

Mak looks forward to forming closer coalitions this year with other unions in order to unify the student voice on campus. He said the goal of all student groups is to make this University as comfortable as possible for all students.

Meetings are held every Wednesday at 5 p.m. in the MCC. APASU is also looking for a newsletter editor, a web master and applicants to fill a vacant co-director position. To find out more, stop by EMU Suite 20 or call

346-4342.

International Student Association

The International Student Association has the challenge of representing students from 92 countries. Most of its members speak English as their second language.

According to co-director Mary Moen, there are around 1,700 foreign students on campus this year, which "provides this community with an amazing resource," she said.

ISA's goal is to provide support for international students and offer an opportunity for students to meet other foreign students.

Every Friday, ISA holds an international coffee hour in the Taylor Lounge in the EMU from 4 to 6 p.m. Co-director Vivi Forny, from Brazil, said this is an opportunity for everyone to get together and meet people from all over the world.

This year, ISA plans to deal with issues surrounding the Asian economic crisis. Foreign students especially are struggling financially because of a downturn in the economy.

"It affects every aspect of their experience in Oregon," Moen said. "They are not only trying to keep up with their normal workload in school, but also trying to figure out how they're going to get by."

This term ISA plans to hold a panel discussion on the crisis in Chiapas, Mexico. ISA will hold its annual Halloween dance on Oct. 30.

ISA offers internship opportunities each term and Forny said volunteers are always needed. To find out more information, stop by EMU Suite 206 or call 346-4387.

Other student unions also located in the EMU are: Native American Student Union, Suite 26; Jewish Student Union, Suite 28; The Women's Center, Suite 3; Black Women of Achievement, Suite 27; and the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Alliance, EMU Room 34.

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