

ISA bash to honor history

■ The reception will reopen the International Lounge, which is now handicap-accessible

By Lisa Toth
Oregon Daily Emerald

The elevator construction in the EMU is finally completed, and the International Student Association has a cause to celebrate.

The ISA will host its Winter Reception tonight at 7 p.m. in the recently reopened, handicap-accessible International Lounge.

But the new elevator is not the only reason the ISA will celebrate this year. The theme of this year's event, "Continuity," will recognize the rich and diverse history of international studies on the University campus, the reopening of the International Lounge and future projects involving the international community.

Co-director Haya Matsumoto, a senior and fine arts major, said the reception will offer students and faculty insight about the richness of the ISA's history on campus.

The evening will offer an informational question-and-answer session where people who

are involved with the organization will share their experiences.

One of the highlighted presenters is Ruth Ellsworth. ISA office manager and sophomore pre-journalism major Ying-Che Chen described Ellsworth as the acting "mother" for the students involved in the ISA. She has been working in conjunction with the ISA for six years. During this time she has seen students come and go from the University and has taken care of them as if they were her own children.

"Students look for support here, especially because as international students we are so far away from home. We appreciate the support she gives us," Chen said.

Last year's reception co-director Viviane Forny is the second scheduled presenter. Chen said Forny will reflect on how international students are involved on campus, what they are doing well and what still needs improvement.

The final presenter is Virginia Stark, who serves as the assistant director of the Office of International Education and Exchange. She is involved in the admissions process of international students to the University.

Another feature of the winter

Event information

What: The International Student Association Winter Reception

Where: The International Lounge in the EMU

When: Tonight at 7 p.m.

reception is an exhibition including a detailed history of the 38 years the ISA has been a part of the University campus. The exhibition will include video tapes of previous events like the 1997 Asian Crisis panel and last year's International Night. There will be newspaper clips dating back to 1967 from the Emerald, The Register-Guard and The Oregonian regarding the ISA.

There will be video interviews available from three people who have affected the ISA.

In the video interviews, EMU Director Dusty Miller will explain the history of the use of the International Lounge. Tom Mills, director of the OIEE, will share his 20 years of experience with the 120 guests expected in attendance at this free invitational reception. Peter Briggs, director of international recruitment and previous OIEE adviser, has worked for 10 years with the OIEE and the ISA.

Strike

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plant for seven years before the strike was officially declared on July 15 of last year. She noticed immediately the conditions at the plant were not right.

"We didn't have any leverage when we first started working," Lara said through an interpreter.

One of six children, Lara began working when she was 13 to help support her family. The plant is one of two factories in the small community about 250 miles north of Mexico City. The plant packages frozen fruit, mostly strawberries, which is then trucked to the United States for distribution.

To get the harvested fruit ready to freeze is tedious work. Workers must stand peeling and coring fruits the entire day, Lara said.

There are no regular breaks and requested bathroom breaks are timed and supervised. If a worker stays in the bathroom too long a supervisor comes in and retrieves him or her. Women make up 90 percent of the workers.

Members of the community rely on the meager income they receive working up to 15 hours per day. Workers receive about 25 cents per box of fruit they fill. The boxes each weigh about 17.5 pounds, and Lara said on a good day she filled 30-35 boxes, which translates to about \$7.50 to \$8.75

per day.

The minimum wage in the region where the plant is located is 32.7 pesos per day, about \$3.50. Arthur Price, the plant's owner, said in agricultural areas there is a lower cost of living so the wages are fair.

"They need more than minimum wage; we pay multiples of minimum wage," he said. Workers are also paid the average wage from the six days they work on the seventh day, and they have a pension plan, Price said.

But wages aren't the only thing strikers are fighting for. Because the work involves knives, workers often cut themselves peeling fruit. Lara said there are no first-aid kits on-site. The floors of the plant are slippery from fruit juice, and the fruit acid burns their skin. Workers often slip and are forced to continue working with sprains and bruises.

Price said the allegations are completely false. He said a doctor goes to the plant a few times a week and first-aid materials are available in the production area. Mexican law dictates that workers must have access to medical care, and Price said he goes beyond what he is required to do by law.

Workers at the CRISA contacted the Authentic Labor Front (FAT), the largest independent industrial union in Mexico, because they wanted to organize a plan. Some workers and FAT

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Associated Students of the University of Oregon (ASUO) Executive Endorsements

The ASUO Executive has officially endorsed all 8 ballot measures in today's election. We are confident that passing the following ballot measures will be in the best interests of the students at the University of Oregon. Please refer to the voters' guide for specific wording

Measure #1 USSA

yes! This ballot measure would continue the ASUO's membership in the United States Student Association (USSA) for \$1.00 per student per term. USSA is the nation's oldest and largest national student organization and it is the only recognized voice of students in Congress, the White House, and the Department of Education. USSA advocates for the needs of students, working to improve educational access through increases in federal financial aid, recruitment and retention of traditionally underrepresented students, campus safety, child care, and equal opportunity. USSA also works to organize students on their own campuses around all sorts of issues, like free speech, labor rights, and diversity. USSA is fighting for the future of students. A vote for the USSA Referendum ballot measure is a vote for your future!

Measure #2 Grievances

yes! This ballot measure will enable a more efficient and effective grievance procedure than has existed in the past.

Measure #3 Designated Driver Shuttle Van

yes! This ballot measure will allow the Designated Driver Shuttle (DDS) to purchase a new van with the resources it needs to expand.

Measure #4 Workers' Rights Consortium:

yes! This ballot measure would make a formal request of the University to adopt the code of, and join with, the Worker's Rights Consortium. The Worker Rights Consortium (WRC) was developed by the United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS) in consultation with workers and human rights groups. WRC is a monitoring group that consists of a network of human rights and labor groups all over the world. WRC has a system of verifying and inspecting conditions in factories that produce apparel for colleges and universities; this system will force information regarding industry practices out into the light of day and pressure corporations to improve conditions in factories producing their goods.

Measure #5 International Resource Center

yes! This ballot measure will allot incidental fees to the establishment of an International Resource Center in the International Student Lounge in the EMU. These funds would enable the Office of International Education and Exchange to purchase books, periodicals, and the necessary supplies to create a space for cross-cultural exchange. The center will be a space for students to meet and discuss international views and cultural experiences, practice languages, and find information about traveling, working, and living abroad. The International Resource Center will be a valuable resource for all students at the University, 10 percent of whom are international students, and 14 percent of whom study abroad at some point during their college careers.

Measure #6 ASUO Constitution Changes

yes! This measure will ensure that the ASUO Green Tape Notebook is consistent with the Clark Document. The Green Tape and the Clark Document are separate, but they both regulate the ASUO and it is important that they are consistent.

Measure #7 Designated Driver Shuttle Program Increase

yes! This ballot measure would provide DDS with enough funds to run more than one van during peak weekday and weekend shifts.

Measure #8 LTD

yes! This ballot measure would continue incidental fee support of the unlimited bus service that is available to all students through the LTD bus service.

Paid for by the ASUO Executive Fundraising
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