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UO students share culture during International Week

Hours of work come to fruition as the International Student Association hosts its 39th annual cultural event

By Robin Weber
Oregon Daily Emerald

The International Student Association's 39th annual International Week and Night, "Patches: Threading Our Cultures," which begins today, offers the University community five days and one evening of events highlighting cultural diversity.

"Each one of us represents a patch all coming together," Publicity Coordinator Jennifer Huang said. "It represents all students from campus gathering to celebrate differences," she said.

Although International Week aims at uniting students from around the world in a common setting, it is also a place to recognize what sets students apart.

"It's a celebration of differences," International Week and International Night Committee Director David Reyes said.

ISA members have been fundraising since last year to make the events come alive by contacting on- and off-campus groups for donations.

Countless hours of labor — with students sometimes meeting until the wee hours of the morning — and more than 400 volunteers helped the week come together.

Unlike programs from years past, the 2002 roster includes a presentation from all-American crooners On the Rocks, a student a cappella choir, and more involvement from Native American students, Huang said.

"We're getting a good mix from people all over the world this year," International Student Association Co-Director Shruti Shah said.

International Week kicks off with a parade from 10:30 to 11 a.m. to-

International Week and Night 2002

'Patches: Threading our Cultures'

Today — Parade, 10:30-11 a.m. from Oregon Hall to University Bookstore, and Music Day in the EMU Amphitheater 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Tuesday — Art Day, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. in the EMU Fir Room

Wednesday — Dance Day, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. in the EMU Amphitheater; in the

Fir Room if raining

Thursday — Storytelling Day, 5-8 p.m. in the International Resource Center

Friday — Fashion Day, 4 to 6 p.m. in the International Resource Center

Sunday — International Night, dinner served at 5 and 6 p.m. in the EMU Skylight and events at 7:30 p.m. in the EMU Ballroom

SOURCE: International Student Association

day. The route begins at Oregon Hall, runs down 13th Avenue through campus and wraps up at the University Bookstore. Participants will sport colorful clothing representing international cultures. The parade will be followed by Music Day events from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. featuring cultural music in the EMU Amphitheater. Music Day festivities are sponsored by the Japanese Student Organization and the African Student Association.

An International Art Gallery will grace the walls and floor of the Fir Room from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday with sculptures, paintings and crafts from far off lands. Art will be on display from China, Japan, Korea, Africa, India and Pakistan.

On Wednesday, an international dance show from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the amphitheater will feature traditional and modern cultural dances. Dance styles include salsa, Egyptian folk dance, traditional Indian dances and Hawaiian dances. Dance lessons will be offered throughout the day for people wanting to learn the native steps.

Folk tales, myths and stories will be shared at the International Storytelling event from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday in the International Resource Center. Storytellers hail from the International Cultural Students Program, ISA and the African Student

Association. University professors are also giving presentations at 7 p.m.

The final day of International Week, Friday, is Fashion Day in the International Resource Center from 4 to 6 p.m. during the weekly ISA coffee hour. Students will model international apparel at the final event of the week during the closing ceremony.

"It's an amazing way to end the night," Shah said.

Sunday evening brings the main event — International Night 2002. The evening opens with dinners served at 5 and 6 p.m. in the EMU Skylight above the EMU Ticket Office. Student volunteers are preparing meals from more than 20 different countries. Live international dance, music and drama, plus a performance from On the Rocks follows dinner at 7:30 p.m. in the EMU Ballroom.

All international week events are free and open to the public. In case of bad weather, outdoor events will be moved to the EMU Fir Room. Tickets for International Night are \$11 for the general public and \$8 for University students and children from ages 4 to 12. Admission is free for children ages 3 and younger. Tickets are available at the EMU Ticket Office.

Call 346-4387 for more information.

E-mail reporter Robin Weber at robinweber@dailymerald.com.

News brief

Tax help available for international students

Assistance is available for international students who need help filing federal and state nonresident tax returns before the April 15 deadline.

The sessions are designed for students who have completed their tax forms and would like to

have them checked or who have minor questions.

The Office of International Programs, which has already held two tax workshops for international students this year, will sponsor four free drop-in tax help sessions before the filing deadline.

According to Ginny Stark, an associate director in the Office of International Programs, "Many international students are not aware they

may have a tax filing obligation in the U.S. and in the state of Oregon."

Drop in sessions will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. today in the EMU Alsea and Coquille rooms, from 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesday in the EMU Rogue Room and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday in the EMU Umpqua Room. A final session will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. April 15 in the EMU Alsea and Coquille rooms.

— Kara Cogswell

China Night

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with bottles, similar to horseshoe.

"The children are pretty poor in China, and these are games that are easy for them to play," CSA Director Vickie Liang said. "They basically invent things to play using items such as paper cups, bottles and tissue paper."

CSA also offered audience members an opportunity to have their pictures taken in traditional Chi-

nese clothing. A couple could dress in traditional red wedding outfits. The man's costume had a dragon embroidered across the front as a symbol of good luck and prosperity. There were also outfits for emperors, soldiers and peasants from the Han Dynasty.

"The higher class of women during the Han Dynasty always wore clothing with dragonflies, flowers and butterflies on them as symbols of good luck," Liang said. "The peasants did not have such embroi-

deries on their clothing."

In addition, audience members could dress up in work clothes of the women in the early 1900s who worked collecting tea leaves in the mountains.

The volunteers for China Night also wore traditional clothing from China, Hong Kong and Taiwan for the duration of the evening to demonstrate their culture.

E-mail reporter Danielle Gillespie at daniellegillespie@dailymerald.com.

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