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Danielle Hickey Senior Photographer

Exchange students (left to right) Ayano Shinohara, Yui Nagatsuka and Maiko Nakagawa enjoy refreshments and good company in the International Student Lounge on Oct. 24. International student enrollment fell this year, likely due to new visa requirements.

DECREASE

continued from page 1

creased as well.

In a nationwide survey of college professionals, 59 percent of the respondents attributed enrollment declines to visa application processes.

Nationally, international student enrollment increased by only 0.6 percent last year, a marked decrease over past years.

The declining enrollment of international students has caused concern at the University because international students lend diversity to the campus, Stark said.

"Anytime that we have reduced international student enrollment, it may reduce the diversity of students on campus," she said.

Fewer students may also mean less revenue for U.S. schools and the economy as a whole.

International students contributed nearly \$12 billion to the U.S. economy in the past academic year, according to a report by the Institute of International Education.

Stark said the University is studying the reasons behind an unusually large drop in the number of international students.

"We're in the process of trying to study that a little bit more," Stark said, adding that a large number of stu-

dents from Indonesia graduated last year, which may have contributed to the lower figures.

"Students are trying to complete their programs quickly so they can continue with their professional (goals)," Stark said.

Ying-Che Chen, an art history and journalism major from Taiwan, said having fewer international students on campus has both advantages and disadvantages.

"When international students come here, they want to learn as much about American culture and business practices as possible," Chen said.

In that sense, Chen said having fewer international students on campus means a more "American" experience for those who do come.

Chen added, however, that the University needs enough international students to provide a social network for them.

"(International students) want a good amount of people they can relate to," she said.

As Chen noted, business is a primary interest for many international students. Almost 20 percent of international students in the U.S. studied business and management last year, according to the Institute of International Education.

Contact the campus/federal politics reporter at chuckslothower@dailyemerald.com.

NEWS BRIEF

Mikal Shabazz to lecture at Ramadan celebration

The campus community is invited to come learn about Ramadan and the Islamic faith today.

The Muslim Student Association is holding a fast-breaking celebration in the EMU Fir Room at 4:30 p.m. The event is free and open to everyone. University Catering will provide the food.

In addition, people who attend the event will get the chance to meet Mikal Shabazz, director of the Oregon Islamic Chaplain Organization, who will speak about the significance of Ramadan.

MSA spokeswoman Nadia Hasan

— Jared Paben

said the event's purpose is to debunk some of the myths and stereotypes surrounding Muslims and their faith.

"We want to create a better understanding of Islam to alleviate the generalizations made about Muslims," she said. "It's important to educate people as much as possible to stop the stereotypes and discrimination."

Shabazz was once an imam, or prayer leader, at a mosque in Portland. He now does community outreach work, helping to educate the community about Islam. The lecture will coincide with the observance of Ramadan, a religious holiday in which area Muslims gather, pray together and break their daily fasts by drinking water and eating dates.

PHOTO SPECIALS

NOVEMBER 10 - 16

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