

Oregon Daily Emerald



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Blazing new trails



Danielle Hickey Photo Editor

(Left to right) Junior Gabriela Romero, freshman Lorena Landeros and junior Brenda Sifuentez attend their Mujeres meeting in the MEChA office Tuesday evening. The group is an offshoot of MEChA, the official Chicano/Chicana campus organization.

Mujeres is a support group for first-generation Latina college students who could use extra guidance from their peers

By Moriah Balingit
News Reporter

Although many believe college is a challenging experience for all students, extra obstacles sometimes exist for Latina students who are the first in their families to enter the world of higher education.

But first-generation Latina students at the University have Mujeres, a student group and source of support they may not even know about.

The group is an offshoot of MEChA and has been established for several years. It has achieved significant growth this year, drawing an increase in membership and establishing its own office space in the EMU.

Mujeres member Gabriela Romero, a junior Spanish major, is originally from Morelia, Michoacán. Because her parents never attended college, she was left without the benefit of their experience when

she began to navigate the increasingly complex waters of college admissions.

"They didn't really help me with the process of applying," she said.

When she sought help from a college admissions counselor at her high school, she found little help.

"He offered me help to go to community college," she said.

Like Romero, freshman pre-education major Lorena Landeros was the first in her family to attend college, and she also felt a

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Forum covers 9/11 aftermath

Anti-American sentiment has increased in the Middle East since the Sept. 11 attacks, said three professors at a panel Tuesday

By Beau Eastes
Freelance Reporter

Three University professors joined together Tuesday night to lead "The Invasion — One Year After: Continuing Challenges to the Quest for Stability and Security," a two-hour conversation examining the effects the war is having on perceptions of the United States abroad.

The panel, sponsored by the Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics, included University law Professor Ibrahim Gassama, University geography Professor Alexander Murphy and University International Studies Professor Anita Weiss.

"In retrospect, those that opposed the invasion of Iraq and its occupation were insufficiently pessimistic," Gassama said in his opening statement.

"The intervention in Iraq ... can be described as a perfect failure."

Gassama, who spoke first and primarily on Iraq, offered three conclusions about the Iraq situation to the audience in Room 175 of the Knight Law Center.

First, Gassama argued the Iraq situation "already exceeds the worst fears of those who argued that this was the wrong way to fight terrorism, the wrong way to enhance U.S. influence ... or to build the most secure domestic or international environments."

Gassama characterized the ongoing occupation as a "glorious mess" as American and Iraqi death tolls rise daily. He warned that the administration's concessions of power in the region are nothing but politically motivated shams.

"Nothing will change except titles," Gassama said, concerning the administration's current plan to turn over control to the Iraqis in less than 90 days. "These people are on a mission to transform the world."

Gassama ended his discussion by warning Democrats that a simple regime change in America won't immediately change the world's opinion of the country.

"A bad policy is a bad policy is a bad policy," Gassama said. "A political solution is the only way out."

Murphy examined the Bush administration's dealings with Iran. Lumping Iran in the "axis of evil" with Iraq and North Korea was akin to "screaming we know nothing of the complexities of the

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Seniors lose PR campaign class

Some journalism seniors found themselves shut out of the last class in their PR sequence and are now forced to take a substitute class

By Chelsea Duncan
Senior News Reporter

Students who don't plan ahead for graduation can find themselves in sticky situations, which is why University department heads encourage students to give themselves plenty of time to complete requirements.

A number of journalism seniors specializing in public relations found themselves unable to complete their sequence of required classes, as too many students tried to cram into the only section of "Public Relations Campaigns" this term. As a result, the School of Journalism and Communication gave about eight students the opportuni-

ty to substitute the requirement with a journalism school general-requirement course.

"What we've done by offering the substitute is to make it possible to graduate within their time frame," journalism school Assistant Dean for Student Services Greg Kerber said.

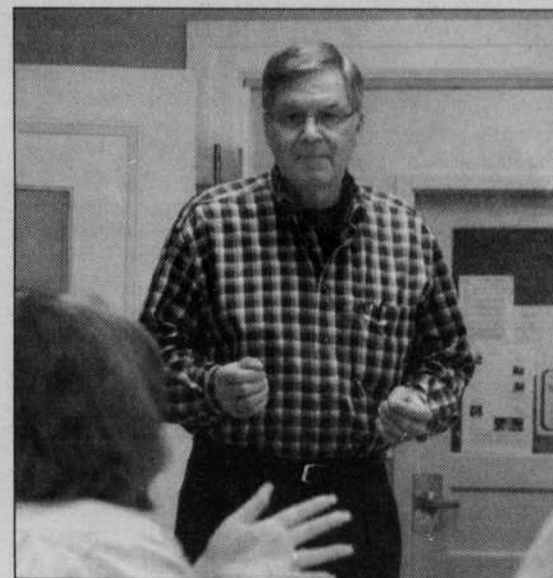
But the option to take the substitute course, which focuses on media management and economics, has left students worried they won't receive the same quality of education.

"I'm taking a class that really has nothing to do with my interest," senior public relations major Kerri Morgan said. "That's somewhat disappointing and not the best use of my time."

The seniors' only other option is to finish the sequence in the fall.

Visiting Assistant Professor Tom Hagley, who is teach-

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Visiting Assistant Professor Tom Hagley teaches Public Relations Planning and Problems, a prerequisite to the required Public Relations Campaigns class.

Tim Bobosky
Photographer

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