



Lenana Faraj, freshman, international student from Kenya

Major: political science, with a minor in environmental studies

"I'm really loving Eugene. It's a lovely place. No monkeys jumping in trees."

"I want to go back home [to Kenya] and advocate for people. Lots of kids don't have schools. I want to advocate for a clear and transparent government."

On how ignorant most Americans are about the "country" of Africa: "I really don't blame anybody. Lots of what's portrayed is unreal. That's what I'm here for, to bridge the cultural gap."

On coming to Eugene from Kenya: "There was a huge culture shock. People here are a lot more concerned with color coordination. A lot more self-expression here than there was in Africa. I was kind of shocked."

On visiting Las Vegas over the summer break: "It was very bright. A very crowded, very hot place to live."



Dave Braithwaite, freshman

Major: undecided

"I'd rather be fulfilled with knowledge and know what's going on than have a big paycheck."

Jane Christen, freshman

Major: environmental science

"I really believe I can make my mark doing whatever I'm passionate about."

On Eugene: "I've seen quite strange things. I got to meet Frog. He's awesome."

Jane Christen, an environmental science major, said the election of Barack Obama, along with his broad support of "green" technology, might be the harbinger for a shift in our national economy, one opening up new jobs for a workforce trained in conservation and eco-innovation. "I really believe that I can make my mark doing whatever I'm passionate about," Christen said, adding that making a living and helping out needn't be mutually exclusive terms anymore.

And so it goes for many students. "I'd rather be filled with knowledge and know what's going on than have a big paycheck," said freshman Dave Braithwaite, who is undecided when it comes to his major.

"I'm not really worried about jobs after school yet," said freshman Julie Cendejas, a business major. "I'm just kind of focused on getting through my first year."

Journalism major Keri Anderson said that, when it comes to making a living, "It's important to do something that you enjoy." Anderson, who co-edited her high school

newspaper, said she's always loved writing and looks forward to "making a career where you can do that every day."

Joey Brady (aka "Joey Beats"), a double major in economics and math, said that when it comes to the tension between making a living and being smart, "one follows the other, hopefully." After attending the London School of Economics this past summer, the junior is turning theory to praxis by opening up a quesadilla club, Wraps by Beats, which had its late-night grand opening Sept. 24. "That's what I'm doing to help the economy," Brady said. "Bad times call for entrepreneurship," he said. "Can't find a job? Start a new one."

He's going to be fine. As will international student Lenana Faraj, a native of Kenya who this term is transferring to the UO from LCC. "I really love Eugene. It's a lovely place," he said, noting in particular the lack of "monkeys jumping from trees."

Faraj is majoring in political science with a minor in environmental studies,



Caitlin Genrich, freshman

Major: undecided

On education versus making a living: "For me, it's kind of both, like having a job that keeps you excited. I'm not so concerned about just having a job and paying the bills."

Julie Cendejas, freshman

Major: business

"I'm not really worried about jobs after school yet. I'm just kind of focused on getting through my first year. Coming to college, I'm going to be prepared for a job."

"If I end up taking some classes and they end up interesting me more than business, I can always switch. It's not set in stone for me."

Strangest thing in Eugene: "There was a fraternity dance and the basement was a sauna steamer. Everybody was just sweating. People were loving it."

What worries her: "Having enough time to try everything I want to try. Hopefully I can have enough time to try a ton of new things."

Morganne Hatfield, freshman

Major: business

Life after college: "I'd either want to start my own business, or go into marketing. I want to combine marketing with my creative side."

Education versus making a living: "They kind of go hand-in-hand. College prepares you for the real world."

On UW versus UO: "I got into UW but I didn't really like it there — too big and cliquy. I just wanted to get away and start over."

Strangest thing seen in Eugene: Outside the EMU, "these old guys in their 60s reciting and yelling stuff. I don't really know what it's about."

Also: "We have to separate all our trash. It's frustrating, because I don't know what's compost. That's the most frustrating thing so far."

"There's so much going on, it's a little overwhelming. I'm a little worried about finding my true friends here. The past few days here it's been a little crazy."

"Go Ducks!"

and he plans on taking what he learns back to Africa. "I want to go back home and advocate for people," he said, adding that in Kenya "lots of kids don't have schools" and the country lacks a "clear and transparent government."

As a member of the Maasai tribe — "one of the only tribes that has kept African traditions and not modernized," Faraj said that coming to Eugene provided something of a cultural shock. "People here are a lot more concerned with color coordination," he said, adding that in general there is "a

lot more self-expression here than there was in Africa," especially regarding tattoos and body piercing.

Faraj recently had opportunity to meet the UO's new president, Richard Lariviere, at a function at the Downtown Athletic Club. "He seemed like a very nice guy," he said, adding that in the wake of the Duck's LaGarrette Blount punching incident, Lariviere spent time speaking about the importance of honor and sportsmanship.

"He seemed like a very good president," Faraj said.

EW

Training is everything. The peach was once a bitter almond; cauliflower is nothing but Cabbage with a College Education. — Mark Twain