INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL SERVICE PROGRAM (ICSP)

Biographical Sketches of Speakers for the 2009–2010 Academic Year

Brighten up your classroom, organization or office with an international speaker! The students listed on the following pages are available for no expense to speak on a range of topics. As selected participants in the International Cultural Service Program, they receive tuition scholarships in exchange for each providing a minimum of 80 hours per academic year of cultural and educational service to the state of Oregon.

In addition to regular 30-40 minute presentations, these “cultural ambassadors” can address issues of development, contrast traditional and modern lifestyles, translate material, interpret, and coach sports. They can adapt their material to suit specific needs and interests. Students have remarked repeatedly about the value of interacting with Americans on and off campus. They appreciate the opportunity to share information about their countries and look forward to meeting Oregonians on a more personal basis.

COUNTRIES represented for the 2009 - 2010 academic year include:

- Afghanistan
- China
- Iran
- Nepal
- Thailand
- Albania
- Costa Rica
- Japan
- Peru
- Tunisia
- Armenia
- Germany
- Kazakhstan
- Poland
- Uganda
- Argentina
- Ghana
- Libya
- Slovakia
- Zimbabwe
- Brazil
- India
- Malaysia
- South Korea
- Cameroon
- Indonesia
- Mexico
- Sri Lanka

MAP of Campus Pick-up location

AVAILABILITY: International students, in most cases, will not be available during the following periods:

- November 26th – November 27th: Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 7th – January 3rd: Final Exams and Winter Break
- March 15th – March 28th: Final Exams and Spring Break
- June 7th – 11th: Final Exams and End of Term

SUBMITTING A REQUEST: To schedule a student speaker, submit an ICSP speaker request form or for faster processing, make requests online. Visit our website, create a log-in and password, a profile (you only need to do this the first time), and then you can make requests and track their “progress.” http://oregonstate.edu/international/ICSP/users/login

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<th>Dawn Moyer</th>
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<th>Transportation</th>
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<td>ICSP Program Director</td>
<td>ICSP Program Assistant</td>
<td>Requesters arrange to transport their speaker to/from OSU’s campus. The pick-up location is in the parking area of Callahan Hall, off of Jefferson Street near 15th St. Students will wait in the “U” shaped drive, on the sidewalk in front of the 30 minute parking spaces.</td>
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Suggestions to help K-12 teachers & other groups prepare for an ICSP visitor

- Determine the topics you want the ICSP student to discuss. Specifying family life, environment, religion, holidays, celebrations, political system, education, changing traditions, etc. provides a focus for the student’s preparation. **Please allow 2 weeks advance notice of requests**, to ensure availability. Please note that if you must change the date of your request less than 2 weeks prior to the event, we may not be able to re-schedule a speaker for you.

- In order to make the ICSP visit as meaningful and accessible as possible for the guest speaker and audience, K-12 classes should have no more than 40 (and preferably fewer) students.

- Consider scheduling a day of activities at the **Corvallis Multicultural Literacy Center** at 128 9th street. The Center regularly works with ICSP students for educational forums and activities, and can accommodate crafts, cooking and hands-on activities for children or teens. Contact the CMLC directly to schedule a day and time, and they can help coordinate your ICSP student speakers or topics. 754-7225 or cmlc@peak.org

- If a parent volunteer or staff member arranges a student visit, make sure that each teacher knows what **topics** have already been decided upon and, thus what to expect of the ICSP presentation. Please make sure substitutes and any others involved know what has been pre-arranged (pick-up time, topics to be addressed, time, etc.)

- Have the necessary **audio-visual equipment** set up and in working order, or confirm with the student that they will be bringing a computer and/or projector (a malfunctioning LCD projector or laptop can waste precious time.) Arrange a display table for display items.

- Arrange **transportation** for the ICSP guest to and from the University (see page 1 for pick-up location.) School staff, retired educators, and parent volunteers might help drive. **Please make sure that you know the name and Driver’s License number of the person providing transport, and that you inform the ICSP Office at least one week in advance of this information.**

- Even though each student has been carefully screened and chosen for the ICSP, they are not teachers and, therefore, should be expected to give **no more than two presentations in a row.**

- If several talks are scheduled, please see that the student is given a short break and water.

- If ICSP students speak to several classes, it is best to have the **children change rooms** so that display items already set up do not have to be moved. Having to move and set up twice cuts into the limited time scheduled for the guest speaker.

- When scheduling for an **International Day** or Fair, ICSP students have commented that more than three presentation times leaves audiences tired and distracted during the last rotations.

- Please stay in the classroom, or ensure that a **responsible adult is present**, to discipline when needed. Showing an active interest in the speaker helps make the ICSP student feel welcome.

- If possible, **debrief** your students after the presentation to assess the impact of the international speaker and re-enforce lesson goals. ICSP guest speakers are delighted to receive thank you cards from students.

**SCHEDULING a Presentation:** Let us know if you have trouble with the online request system, or if you like you may still submit paper copies of requests. We will, in the end, enter those into our online system (so that the student speakers can access information about the request in a more timely manner), so indicate an email address if possible, where a confirmation of your request may be sent.

**AFTER a Presentation:** Please complete and return an **evaluation form** after the presentation. These forms are now available and may be filled out online. Constructive comments let the international guest know what aspects of the talk were most valuable and what might be improved. Evaluation forms are available from the speaker, or to download go to: [http://oregonstate.edu/international/ICSP/](http://oregonstate.edu/international/ICSP/)

Thank you for your support of ICSP student ambassadors. We hope this is a rewarding experience for you and these uniquely qualified students. Let us know what you think!
MOHAMED FARHAD
Khush-hal Meena, Kabul AFGHANISTAN

Major: Biology / Pre-Med, Senior
Languages: Dari, Urdu, Farsi, Pashtu
Experience: Translator, U.S. Army (Afghanistan); Red Cross fundraising; Portland Community College Diversity Advocacy Board; PCC International Student Panel; PCC bookstore cashier
Family: 3 brothers, 4 sisters
Age: 22

With great sincerity, Farhad conveys to his audience the historical and current political challenges facing Afghans, and the rich traditions that have long persevered. From environmental issues to agriculture, Farhad frankly describes the struggle for food, population issues, and human rights in his conflicted nation. He discusses the changing role of women, government and education, and how the U.S. plays a role in the stabilization of the region. Farhad presents cultural handicrafts, national clothing (including a demonstration of the turban), games, dance, and music as an overview of the vibrant cultures alive in much of Afghanistan. Special occasions such as weddings, holidays such as Eid and Ramadan, photos and discussion of family life complete the portrait Mohamed “Farhad” paints of this struggling, beautiful nation.

ALFONC RAKAJ
Shkoder, ALBANIA

Major: Political Science, Sophomore
Languages: Albanian, French
Experience: Albanian Alps Institute; Santiam Christian School (Varsity Soccer 2007-08); local interpreter for visitors to Albania
Family: 3 brothers
Age: 19

Alfonc recounts the dramatic and colorful history of Albania, beginning with national hero George Kastriot Skanderbeg, his kidnapping, and his eventual drive for independence from Hungarian and Turkish rule. Alfonc has a particular interest in Albanian and Balkan history, politics, geography and natural resources, as well as economy and tourism, and can talk extensively about many of these subjects. For children he can teach games, basic history of his country, show his national flag, cook simple dishes, and lead small groups in dance. For older students he can outline the Albanian school system, including relationships between students and teachers, uniforms, sports and subjects taught. He has national clothing he can demonstrate, and can play a guitar-like instrument called the “chiftaly.” Folklore, religion, food, literature, music (popular and traditional) and everyday village life all round out Alfonc’s intriguing overview of his native Albania.

VIRGINIA RAFFAELE
Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA

Major: Biology, Senior
Awards: Certificate for Outstanding Achievement in Economics, Student of the Year: Outstanding Achievement (U.S. Marine Corps); Students of Merit 2006: American Chemical Society selection Outstanding Student in Chemistry (Scio H.S.)
Languages: Spanish
Family: 1 brother, 1 sister
Age: 21

Virginia presents the rich history of Argentina as well as the contemporary popular culture and unique political, regional, and economic issues facing her country today. Very knowledgeable of the arts, Virginia proudly discusses the Argentine contributions to the world of literature and the visual and performing arts. Virginia can present the cuisine of Argentina and prepare mate, the choice daily beverage of many Argentines. She can prepare typical dishes of Argentina, present traditional regional clothing and costumes, and share CDs illustrating a variety of music from her native Argentina. Virginia can teach Brazilian dance, and demonstrate belly-dancing as well. Her lively and colorful presentations exemplify the verve of South American culture.
VAHAGN AZARYAN

Kotayk, ARMENIA

Major: New Media Communication and Visual Arts, Sophomore
Languages: Armenian, Russian
Family: 1 brother
Age: 19

Vahagn eagerly shares the rich history of his native Armenia, including ancient architecture, literature, poetry, music, politics, traditions, holidays, cuisine, or “just about any topic you like!” He brings a zeal for sharing with a wide variety of age groups, school classes or community organizations, and has had much experience doing so. Vahagn can illustrate contemporary life with photos and currency, and give a historical perspective with antiques or replicas, and compare educational systems and politics in Armenia and the U.S. He enjoys cooking and can teach or demonstrate traditional Armenian dishes. A talented painter and artist, Vahagn teaches drawing or painting as well.

DIANA PEGO

Available on limited basis
Praia Grande, BRAZIL

Major: Business, Sophomore
Education: Colégio Novomundo (High School), CNA Cultural Norte Americano
Experience: AYUSA Exchange program, West Linn, Oregon;
Languages: Portuguese, Spanish
Family: 2 sisters
Age: 19

Diana warmly describes the unique Brazilian culture which is known for its beautiful and intriguing diversity. She comments on family traditions and customs, typical food, traditional music and dance and Brazilian holidays. She also can discuss topics such as Population and Hunger, Animal Protection Projects and Environmental, Political and Economical Issues. Diana demonstrates traditional music and souvenir offerings. She also teaches a little bit of Portuguese and some fun dance moves from “samba” and “forró”. Presentations may include Brazilian cuisine and fun practical activities. She displays national flag, handcrafts, coins, videos and slideshows.

SIMONE NSUTEZO FOBI

Bamenda, CAMEROON

Major: Business, Environmental Engineering, Junior
Languages: Bafut, French, Spanish
Experience: MUN College Magazine Editor; ROTARACT & French Clubs; “Sub-Zero Fun Fair” fundraiser organizer; Global Leadership Adventures (South Africa); Dedenyia Rural Development Project (Ghana), African Student Assn Event Coord.
Family: 3 brothers, 3 sisters
Age: 19

Simone Fobi is the youngest of 7 children and is fortunate to have lived in Burkina Faso, Ghana and her native West African nation of Cameroon during her young life. She has volunteered in development projects, mastered cultural dances from various African countries, and cooks, tells folk stories, sings and teaches games to audiences. She can address topics including: Effects of Poor Leadership in Africa; Difficulties Faced by African Children; Stigmatizations and False Perceptions of Africa; African Works of Art (Literary, Music, Dance, Food); Cultural Preservation for African Youth (the influence of American culture); Aid versus Trade; Causes and Effect of Genocide; diseases of Africa such as Onchocerciasis (river blindness), and the Deteriorating Infrastructure and its Effects on Cameroon. Simone’s enthusiasm for her subject matter brings these topics to life, and she compliments her presentations by modeling traditional clothing and sharing music, coins and games from Cameroon and beyond.
BIN LIU

**Major:** Finance+Actuarial Science, Senior

**Education:**
Oregon State University, Finance and Actuarial Science.
University of Guangzhou Traditional Chinese Medicine; International Economics & Trade

**Experience:**
College of Business Teaching Assistant; ISOSU Leadership team (08-09)

**Awards:**
Doris Whalen Memorial Scholarship; The Honor Student Award by City of Shihezi, China; Bronze Medal of Science & Technology Innovation Contest

**Languages:** Mandarin

**Age:** 22

Bin adeptly brings to life Chinese culture, past, present, and future. He introduces American audiences to provinces, minorities and Dynasties of China, and offers an overview of traditional Chinese philosophies - including Confucianism, Taoism and the history of each. A look at eight distinct Chinese food styles is illustrated with pictures, videos and samples of northern and southern cuisines. Bin describes Chinese festivals of Spring, Mid-Autumn, and traditions of these, as well as the geology and views of his native XinJiang. Hailing from the northwest portion of China, he explains the Muslim faith in China (Uygur people), including the traditions and current issues of this Turkish-heritage minority population. Simple lessons in Chinese everyday language, including polite sayings or greetings, and contemporary issues such as Taiwan and Businesses in China bring the vastness of this rich and diverse

FEI DING

**Major:** Accounting, Junior

**Experience:**
Resident Assistant; High School Exchange student

**Languages:** Mandarin, Japanese (basic)

**Awards:**
College of Business 2009 honored student; High school homecoming queen

**Age:** 20

Fei’s lively presentations touch on topics ranging from government policies such as “late marriage” or “one child” (and the benefits and abuse of each), economic and social diversity, family life in villages and cities, and differences between Chinese and U.S. economies. She enjoys cooking, and can share about the history and importance of tea throughout China, describe regional cuisines, and share “real” Chinese foods with small groups. For children, Fei can demonstrate paper cuttings, “civilian paintings for ordinary families,” describe traditional myths, share Peking opera music, and show an interesting way to count to 100 with two hands. Additional activities include bamboo brush pen and ink, bamboo flute, card games and Mahjong.

ANDRES CARDENAS

**Major:** Biochemistry/ Biophysics, Senior

**Experience:**
Peer tutor in Chemistry, Math, Spanish and disability services, UCC 2006-2008

**Languages:** Spanish

**Awards:**
Umpqua Community College Outstanding Student in Biological Science 2008, Umpqua Community College President’s Honor Roll 2006- 2008

**Family:**
2 brothers

**Age:** 21

Andres hails from the Northwest part of Costa Rica, the colonial town of Nicoya, where he describes the outlook on life is “Pura Vida,” or living “the Pure Life.” He describes the origin of this phrase, and the coining of the term “Costa Rica” (“Rich Coast”), which is antithetical to daily life, as people along the coastline are usually not wealthy. A culture rich in traditions, and he describes local customs and holidays, and also modern issues such as the impact of globalization and tourism. He describes CAFTA, modern democracy, and the impact of 1.5 million U.S. visitors on the economy. From a Catholic background, Andres can discuss practices established in the colonial period, teach traditional games, and share folk stories. A lover of the outdoors and raised on a farm, he can discuss the biodiversity of the country, traditional beverage and foods. Currency, maps, crafts, a flag, DVDs, Power Point, postcards, pictures and music complete his earnest and passionate presentation on Costa Rica.
PHILIP HILLEBRAND  Not available Fall Term  Kerpen, GERMANY

Major: Biology (Pre-Med), International Degree, Junior
Family: 2 brothers, 12 sisters
Languages: German, Spanish, Latin
Age: 21

Philip adeptly shares with American audiences a view of post-war Germany from traditional to contemporary cultural practices. He describes German Geography, history from the middle ages to present, World War II and its influence on modern Germany, and politics including mandatory military service and its problems. Philip is interested in sports and the history of sports, religious issues, and can speak about the German school system, Germany’s social system, and the American influence on German society and culture. For young audiences, German legends and fairy tales, songs and popular music of today may be of interest. He also has children’s books and toys, pictures, handcrafts, and can coach soccer.

ABDUL-RAZAK AMADU  Mpaha, GHANA

Major: Microbiology, Minor in Chemistry, Senior
Experience: Arnold Dining Center, OSU; Student Laboratory Aide, OSU; Internship, SIGA Technologies, Corvallis 2008, Laboratory aide, EMT, OSU.
Languages: Gonja
Awards: Provost Scholarship, University Student Scholars Association, Alpha Lambda Delta Honors society
Family: 3 sisters, 5 brothers
Age: 23

Abdul-Razak warmly introduces the colorful and intriguing cultures of Ghana, including a special focus on the Gonja tribe, from which his family originates. Razak brings to life the festivals and ceremonies of the Gonja people, as well as the Dagbon, Mamprugu and Nanumah tribes, and describes the cultural influences on the general population of Ghana. Major and traditional religious practices, history of Ghana including the fight for freedom, slave-trade and the melding of traditional and western cultures give Razak’s audiences a vibrant view of his West African nation. Razak also can discuss pollution and environmental issues, the Chieftancy system, Unity in a multi-ethnic country, malaria, AIDS and other health issues, and tourism in Ghana. Cooking, music, folk stories and national clothing round out Razak’s engaging look at Africa’s “Gold Coast.”

NEHA NEELWARNE  Mysore, INDIA

Major: Mechanical engineering, Junior
Experience: Choreographer (High School musical); School Council Treasurer; Boarding School Prefect; Conductor of school Jazz band; plays trumpet & sitar
Education: Hebron school, Tamil Nadu
Languages: Kannada, Hindi
Age: 20

Neha cheerfully introduces Indian culture through the vibrancy of traditional music, dance, and her colorful displays of handicrafts, her sitar, saris and jewelry. Neha can play folk tunes on the Sitar, has been learning classical dance for several years, and has also learned European style jazz and classical orchestra music as part of her training in an international school. She can discuss religions and differences in ways of life across India, the role of women in modern India and ensuing identity “crises”, dowry and arranged marriage, and ancient folklore. She can cook delicious meals, talk about the beliefs and uses of various spices, demonstrate 3 ways of wearing a sari, and also provide dramatic readings of Indian poetry and literature. Classical sitar music, Bollywood selections and an assortment of handicrafts, books, coins, stamps, dance costumes and posters complete her vivid look at the culture of the sub-continent.
### Cynthia Dewi Maharani
Yogyakarta, INDONESIA

**Major:** Master of Public Policy

**Education:** International Relations, Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia 1999-2003;

**Experience:** Communication and Media Officer for International Medical Corps, Information and Research Assistant for United Nations - Information and Analysis Section, Project Officer for Oxfam GB, Peace Volunteer at Center of Peace Study UGM

**Awards:** Fulbright Scholarship for master program

**Languages:** Indonesian, local languages: Javanese, Malayu, Savu, Betawi, Minahasa

**Family:** 1 brother

**Age:** 28

Cynthia describes traditional and contemporary cultural practices in her native country of Indonesia, which known for its beauty and “the living laboratory” for disasters. Cynthia discusses rural development issues, disaster/climate change/local adaptation and cultural issues, foods as well as social and environmental policy concerns in the region. She demonstrates traditional dress, dance, and traditional puppet theater to illustrate folk tales and fables. Presentations include video of traditional music, wedding ceremonies, cooking Indonesian cuisine, and a demonstration of the anklung—a classical Indonesian instrument. She displays the national flag, children’s books, puppet, postcards in her delightful and engaging look at the island nation of Indonesia.

### Azadeh Zekri Esfahani
Esfahani, IRAN

**Major:** M.S. Electrical Engineering

**Education:** B.S. Najaf Abad Azad University, Isfahan Iran

**Experience:** Internet Network Assistant, Esfahan Municipality, Iran; Head of Regional Data and Computer Center of Esfahan Municipality; Computer programming

**Languages:** Farsi, basic Arabic

**Family:** 2 brothers, 1 sister

**Age:** 27

Azadeh delights audiences with a look at the Persian customs, traditions and modern practices in her native Iran. She shares colorful aspects of holidays and festivals such as Nowruz (New Year), with photos of family life, foods and symbolic gifts offered to friends and family. Azadeh likes to cook, and can teach small groups how to cook simple dishes, and explain the significance of various ingredients and presentation styles. She is also prepared to talk about Iran’s history, women’s lives in modern day Iran, the Educational system (and differences with those in the U.S.), and the history and styles of dance in Persia. For children she can lead games, share music, dance clips and the Iranian alphabet. Azadeh’s warmth and gentility suit her well to most any interested group or classroom.

### Tomomi Kurosaki
Tochigi, JAPAN

**Major:** Interior Design & Housing Studies, Senior

**Education:** TransPacific Hawaii College 2004-2006

**Experience:** Japanese Student Association Secretary, OSU; West Dining Center, OSU; Wild flower Design and Interiors Internship, Salem

**Awards:** Presidential award for 145 hour volunteer; Provost Scholarship; Honor Roll, Trans-Pacific Hawaii College

**Language:** Japanese

**Age:** 23

Tomomi cheerfully presents audiences with a colorful view of Japan through demonstrations of origami, kimono, Japanese cooking (how to make sushi rolls), singing, and calligraphy. She artfully describes modern life in Japan, including parenting, schooling trends such as shorter school days, national holidays such as New Year (including special food and “otoshidama” - a present of money from parents), business protocols and cultural expectations. She describes modern day marriage customs, dance, songs, the merging of western cultural and traditional religious practices, traditional house styles (including interior design), communication differences and the emergence of “Westernized Japan.” Children will enjoy toys, current or historical games, folk stories, and a look at contemporary culture, including cartoons and music. Tomomi has something for every audience!
MASAHIRO WATASE
Nagoya, JAPAN

Major: Apparel Design, Sophomore
Education: Nagoya High School, 2004-2005; Nebraska High School, 2005-06; Santiam High School, 2006-2008
Experience: Managed Ebay store, employment with “Luck Square” in Japan, Three summers of plumbing, community volunteer with Santiam Christian School
Language: Japanese
Family: 1 sister, 2 brothers
Age: 21

Masahiro gives a fresh perspective on Japan with an emphasis on modern culture. His focus on Japanese arts ranges from traditional to modern times and features some unique works of his own making. He illustrates beautiful Japanese traditions with photographs from his travels throughout Japan, and discusses Japanese ideals, contemporary culture and society. Masahiro’s artistry and passion gives audiences a memorable impression of his nation’s historical and emerging culture and values. He showcases modern fashions, Martial Arts, Literature, sewing and folklore in a comparison of Asian and western culture. Masahiro also demonstrates traditional dress, Japanese cuisine (including cooking and a chopstick demonstration), hand-crafted toys, currency and games in his engaging look at Japan.

DINARA ANDIROVA
Atyrau City, KAZAKHSTAN

Major: Pre-Chemical Engineering, Junior
Experience: Taekwando and Karate red belt holder
Family: 1 sister
Languages: Kazakh, Russian
Age: 19

Dinara provides her audience with a fascinating look at the colorful customs, rich history and traditions of Kazakhstan. Dinara describes ceremonies around the birth of a baby, treatment of the elderly, weddings, upbringing within the family, and the celebration of International Women’s Day. She describes and illustrates Kazakh games played on horseback, traditional religious practices, the ecology of the region including steppes and mountains, and the oil producing region of Atyrau. She speaks with audiences frankly about the Soviet Union and the history of the Kazakh people, Kazakh khans, and Kazakhstan in the Russian empire, as well as the political system of modern times. Traditional clothes, dance, games, songs, overview of karate, making of ornaments, telling of legends and folk tales, coins and toys complete her introduction to the proud nation of Kazakhstan.

KUSAI ZARRUGH
Tripoli, LIBYA

Major: Computer Science, Senior
Experience: Teaching Arabic; 3 month project cleaning schools in Libya
Awards: Provost International Scholarship
Languages: Arabic
Age: 22

Kusai shares with American audiences his knowledge and personal experience, growing up in the north African nation of Libya. He introduces customs and expected behaviors, daily life activities including work, leisure and entertainment (including videos taken on the streets in Tripoli), and also the important traditions that residents in this 97% Muslim country consider highly important. Weddings (a 5 day event), funeral rites and authentic Mediterranean dishes as part of the social fabric are introduced, as well as the history of the Arabic language and the role of Islam and Prayer in daily life. Kusai discusses politics including socialism and Dictatorship (in theory and in reality), corruption, foreign policy, UN Sanctions and the effects on Libya, and Business endeavors. He illustrates what the lack of free enterprise has had on the Libyan economy, oil and gas production and also Libya’s potential for success, owing to a beautiful and advantageous location along the Mediterranean coastline. Music, national clothing, arts and crafts and traditional instruments complete his thoughtful overview of Libya.
LIER YEO
Segamat, MALAYSIA

Major: Environmental Science, Junior
Education: Seg Hwa Secondary school, Malaysia; Nilai International College
Experience: Chinese primary School teacher, Study abroad (Japan, China, Taiwan), piano, zhong luan (Chinese traditional instrument)
Awards: Nilai International College Merit Scholarship
Languages: Mandarin, Malay, Cantonese
Family: 2 sisters, 1 brother
Age: 21

Lier warmly conveys to audiences her experience in the diverse country of Malaysia, a melting pot of cultures and traditions. Lier highlights the distinct Chinese, Indian, Malay, Kadazan Dusuns, Iban, and Bidayuh ethnic groups that reside in Malaysia, and the unique festivals and holidays that each group brings to the Malay peninsula. The Hindu-Indian, Arab-Muslim, Chinese and European architectural influences, as well as languages and pastimes like sporting events have contributed to a fascinating cultural identity truly unique in Asia. She shares Malaysian foods, attire, classic folk songs, games, toys as well as photos of the majestic natural beauty of her country in her colorful introduction to beautiful and diverse Malaysia.

DANIEL LOPEZ ECHEVARRIA
Queretaro, MEXICO

Major: Electrical Engineering, PhD
Education: BS at the Instituto Tecnologico de Queretaro, 1990-95; MS at the Centro de Investigación en Ciencia Aplicada y Tecnologia Avanzada del Instituto Politecnico Nacional 2001-04 (Applied Science and Advanced Technology Center)
Experience: National Center of Metrology; Espectrophotometry Lab(CENAM) Queretaro; Electrical Measurements & Standards Lab; Test Lab R&D center MABE Queretaro.
Languages: Spanish
Family: 1 sister, 2 brothers
Age: 37

Daniel describes regional sixteenth century history of Queretaro, including architectural and cultural influences of the city considered one of the most beautiful places in Mexico. He readily addresses difficult issues such as emigration, the economy, religious beliefs- past and present, as well as politics and government. Special topics include street children, poverty, the impact and influence of tourism and the education of women and children. He has a traditional dance outfit called “concheros” that can be modeled by audience members, and brings traditional games for children, pictures of his region and family, and can show how to cook some traditional dishes or beverages. The Mexican national flag, currency, children’s books, handicrafts, toys, and postcards further enliven his talks.
**DIPANKER SHRESTHA TAMANG**

**Kathmandu, NEPAL**

**Major:** Business Administration, Senior  
**Experience:** Shtrii Shakti volunteer (community based disaster management); “Food for the Children” volunteer; ISOSU volunteer  
**Awards:** OSU Dean’s List, Honor Roll, 2006-07; International Provost Award 2006-07; Henraj Gyawaly Trophy for extra-curricular activities (2003); Hugh & Helen Wood Memorial Scholarship  
**Languages:** Nepali, Hindi, Newari  
**Age:** 22

Dipanker brings to life the mosaic of people, cultures and beliefs in his native Nepal, situated in the Himalayas. Newari foods, events such as the 5 Day Festival of Lights, religious practices such as the painting of Buddhist Thankas, and Faith healers (Jhankaris or Shamans) are only a few of the topics Dipanker can share. He describes the ethnic and linguistic diversity of areas near the Himalayas, Hindu mythology and architecture, development and gender issues like discrimination, and the passionate political beliefs of young people in this historically monarchic, developing democracy. He plays a bamboo flute, shares folk stories, Thanka paintings, a singing bowl and national clothing. Coins, toys, cooking and calligraphy compliment Dipanker’s engaging view of the Kingdom of Nepal.

**ALISHA TULADHAR**

**Kathmandu, NEPAL**

**Major:** Environmental Engineering, Senior  
**Experience:** PIN Nepal volunteer (health awareness organization for girls & women); Nepalese Literacy Campaign; National Institute of Science competition; Resident Assistant, OSU (2006-08); Conference Assistant, OSU Housing & Dining  
**Awards:** Hugh & Helen Wood Nepalese Scholarship, Provost International Scholarship  
**Languages:** Newari, Nepali, Hindi  
**Family:** 1 brother  
**Age:** 23

Alisha speaks passionately about the struggles her country faces, and the internal conflict between supporters of the Nepalese constitutional monarchy and proponents of the communist insurgency. She proudly describes Nepal’s rich history of the arts, architecture and cultural diversity, and the peaceful coexistence of Buddhism and Hinduism. Alisha can discuss festivals, family structure, marriage traditions and ceremonies (including her perspective on arranged vs. “love” marriages), the status and role of girls and women as well as the current political situation in her country. She presents “The Living Goddess Kumari.” She can sing, dance, cook, play musical instruments, tell folk stories and lead games for children. Coins, toys, cooking and calligraphy compliment Dipanker’s engaging view of the Kingdom of Nepal.

**GUSTAVO AGUEPUCHO MARTINEZ**

**Arequipa, PERU**

**Major:** Nutrition and Food Management, Sophomore  
**Education:** Philomath High School (2007-08); Class President, Valedictorian, Peruvian H.S.  
**Experience:** Boyd’s Culinary Arts Competition, Portland (2008); Senior Project, Business Management Plan  
**Languages:** Spanish  
**Family:** 1 sister, 1 brother  
**Age:** 19

Gustavo enthusiastically introduces the biodiversity of Peru which is known for its natural resources and cultural richness. He shows the ceremonies in each region (coast, mountains and jungle) including festivals, music, rituals and gastronomy. Gustavo discusses the role of companies and native people for in accessing natural resources such as oil, minerals, and water, and consequences for the environment and economic growth in each region. He comments about the politics in the last 20 years and relations with the U.S. and South America. He covers problems such as child labor, education, malnutrition and poor health care, as well as historical events in Pre-Incan Cultures, the Incan kingdom, the Spanish invasion of South America, and industrial development. Gustavo offers Power Point slides, the flag, videos, toys, pictures, personalized brochures, ceramics and traditional food in his view of Peru.
MONIKA MIROSLAW
Swidnik, POLAND

Major: Master of Business Administration
Experience: OSU catering, OSU athletic foundation, OSU athletics tutor, currently working Office of Technology Transfer
Languages: Polish, some German
Awards: OSU athletic scholarship
Family: 1 sister
Age: 27

Monika warmly introduces the one of the oldest Slovakian cultures, Polish. In her presentations she focuses primarily on post-war history, the solidarity movement, and post-communism in Poland. She discusses the influence of Catholicism on the general population of Poland, with an overview of national holidays and celebrations. Polish cuisine has a rich history and she shares a variety of traditions associated with the celebration of food. For those who like to cook (or eat!), Monika prepares several polish recipes that can me made within minutes (demonstrating the Polish saying “Through the stomach to your heart”). Folk stories, national clothing, paper cut-outs, games, movies and clips of famous polish directors and musicians provide audiences a snapshot of Polish culture, yesterday and today.

LUKAS SIMONCIC
Bratislava, SLOVAKIA

Major: Biochemistry & Biophysics, Sophomore
Education: Waldport High School 2006-07
Awards: Most Improved Player award in football & baseball (Waldport High School), Business & Entrepreneurship class award (WHS), awards for Outstanding Achievement in chemistry and biology (WHS), Best Project in "Biology Olympics" in the district of capital city Bratislava, Slovakia
Languages: Slovak, Czech, French
Family: 1 brother
Age: 20

Lukas presents the geopolitical situation in Slovakia and central Europe, relationships between countries of the European union and countries outside the EU, cultural differences between these countries, and highlights minorities and their lives in Slovakia. He discusses the importance of freedom and democracy in daily life of a citizen of a country, the history of Slovakia, negative influences of a communist regime in post-communist countries, and business and entrepreneurship in Slovakia compared to United States. Lukas moderated a folk festival with his Grandfather, and has photos showing the colorful attire of attendees. Cooking traditional foods, national clothing, posters and traditional artifacts from the region complement his sincere look at the small but proud nation, Slovakia.
YUN JI CHOI
Jeonju, S. KOREA

Major: Civil Engineering/Pre-Engineering, Sophomore
Education: International School of the Cascades, Central OR Community College 2006-07
Awards: Athlete Honor Roll (3.5 GPA or above); Central Oregon Math Competition, “Placed” in Calculus Division; National Honor Society (U.S.)
Experience: World Quest Competition; Kumdo (Japanese fencing); Varsity Swimming (OR)
Languages: Korean (Hangul)
Family: 1 brother
Age: 19

In her presentations, Yun Ji discusses world relations, especially issues in North Korea, the Unity of South and North Korea, the War, Nuclear Weapons, the food crisis of N. Korea, as well as the Social Structure of N. Korea. She speaks frankly about her family’s experiences during the Korean war and developments after the war. Yun Ji displays traditional costumes of Korea and traditional music, and can play the Danso (bamboo flute), Jang-goo (a traditional instrument), and do calligraphy. She cooks traditional Korean dishes, plays piano, writes poetry, and has experience in theater arts. Yun Ji is both accomplished and gracious, and offers a breadth of cultural perspectives in her presentations.

RUKSHANA WIKRAMANAYAKE
Dehiwala, SRI LANKA

Major: Psychology, Junior
Experience: Shechem Day Care Center, Vacation Bible School volunteer; High School Basketball team Captain; H.S. Choir & Athletics Squad; English Drama Competitor
Awards: Best Supporting, Best Actress (HS), English Literary Association
Languages: Sinhala
Family: 1 sister, 1 brother
Age: 21

Rukshana’s expressive descriptions of Sri Lankan culture and traditions bring her subject matter to life, as she passionately describes the changing roles of women, multi-cultural influences on the creative and performing arts, and the variety of ethnic groups in her island nation. She illustrates Sri Lanka’s history from ancient Sri Lankan Kingdoms, Arian invasion and Colonial times to present day, including recent tragedies such as the tsunami, and its after effects. Rukshana takes her audience on a journey through the exotic natural landscape, including National Monuments and World Heritage sites, and also an exploration of biodiversity, and conflicting policies for land use and environmental issues. Folk stories, singing, craft demonstrations, children’s books, national clothing, coins, instruments and stamps all convey to her audience a rich and colorful glimpse of Sri Lankan life.

TAWALIN OPASTRAKOON
Chiang Mai, THAILAND

Major: Electrical and Computer Engineering, Senior
Education: Paisley High School, Oregon (High School Exchange)
Experience: Teacher’s Aide, elementary art program; volleyball, basketball; Future Farmers of America (Paisley Chapter); OSU Tech-bots lab employee
Awards: National Honor Society; FFA first-place finish (floriculture competition);
Languages: Thai
Family: 1 brother, 1 sister
Age: 22

Tawalin gracingly presents to American audiences a look at the “Land of Smiles,” the Kingdom of Thailand. She describes this primarily Buddhist country by situating it geographically, and illustrating traditional lifestyles such as Thai stilt houses, traditional modes of dress, Buddhism and monks, family in the past and present, and the art of foods, including the craft of fresh vegetable carving. Tawalin highlights the King and Royal Family (now the oldest reigning monarch in the world), Loi Kratong festival, typical school days for Thai youth, and the importance of the elephant to Thai people. Cooking, folk stories, traditional instruments, a model Thai house, craft activities made from paper, stamps, coins, children’s books, pictures, and a lovely demonstration of basic vegetable carving all comprise her delightful view of Thai life.
SEIF BOKRI

Major: Computer science, Sophomore
Education: YES Program High School exchange student, 2005-06, West Virginia
Experience: Telemarketing agent; English & French translator
Awards: 3rd place in Math Field Day contest in Clarksburg, West Virginia; 4th place in Regional Swim Meet 100m butterfly
Languages: Arabic, French, German
Family: 2 sisters
Age: 21

Seif will focus on the paradox between the contemporary, modern Northern part of Tunisia and its traditional heritage in the Southern portion of the country. He demonstrates traditional dress, shoes, music, dance and artifacts. He plays the “dabuka,” a drum-type instrument, and the guitar. Seif is prepared with card games, and can cook a tasty Tunisian dish called “Brik” for small groups. His presentations include slideshows of various Tunisian cities accompanied with traditional music, and he can discuss or demonstrate regional differences in Arabic language, the influence of France on Tunisia, and the draw of tourism along the beautiful Mediterranean coast. He displays the national flag, children’s books, handicrafts, toys, postcards, newspaper, currency and stamps.

YVONNE NASWALI

Major: Business Administration Makerere College School, Oregon State University.
Experience: Student Councilor, Community Volunteer
Awards: Africa Leadership Foundation April- June 2008
Languages: English, Luganda, Lugishu
Family: 2 brothers, 4 sisters
Age: 22

Yvonne eagerly shares about her multi-tribal country in various ways, most notably by vividly demonstrating five different tribal dances, common in five distinct regions throughout the country. She can not only teach an audience simple dance moves, but explains the symbolism and social significance of each, and can teach songs appropriate for any age. Yvonne also offers presentations based on the diverse tribes and cultures of Uganda, describes political issues and economical and social issues facing the country, and offers a glimpse into the daily lives of city and village dwellers. Yvonne can describe and prepare simple foods, and brings hands-on items such as clothes, handicrafts, the Ugandan flag, pictures and coins to round out her colorful and fascinating overview of scenic Uganda.

FORTUNATE ("Tarie") GODZA

Major: Public Health, Senior
Education: Africa University, Mutare, Zimbabwe, 2005-2007
Experience: OSU Women’s Center staff; Peer Educator in HIV Awareness Club (High School); Swim Team; Drama and Culture Club
Languages: Shona
Family: 1 sister, 1 brother
Age: 24

Fortunate (or “Tarie”) hails from southeastern Africa’s Republic of Zimbabwe, arguably the most economically troubled, yet stunningly beautiful country on the continent. Tariro shares aspects of the Shona people, including traditional wedding ceremonies and marriage types, urban and rural family life, religions of Zimbabwe, the colonial history of neighboring Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe, as well as the educational systems that arose from these. She speaks frankly about Zimbabwe’s current economic crisis, having lived in the country through the land redistribution and hyperinflation levels of an estimated 15,000% in 2007. Tarie also shares some of the delightful folk tales, cultural and geographical interests that have drawn visitors for centuries. Games, drum rattles, pictures, recordings and books enhance her compelling and heartfelt look at a country in transition—Zimbabwe.