Liven 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.

The **32 COUNTRIES** represented for the **2008 - 2009** academic year

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

- November 27th – November 28th: Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 6th – January 4th: Final Exams and Winter Break
- March 16th – March 29th: Final Exams and Spring Break
- June 8th – 12th: Final Exams and End of Term

**SUBMITTING A REQUEST:** To schedule a student speaker, return the enclosed ICSP speaker request form or **you may now 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](http://oregonstate.edu/international/ICSP/users/login)

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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 <strong>pick-up location</strong> 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, therefore, what to expect of the ICSP presentation. Also, please make sure that substitutes and any other teachers involved know what has been pre-arranged (pick-up time, topics to be addressed, time frame, 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 school 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/

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!
MOHAMMED AJMAL ASKERZOY  Kabul, AFGHANISTAN

Major: Construction Engineering Management, M.S.
Education: AITC Afghan Institute of Technology, 1992
Experience: Faculty of Civil Engineering, Kabul University, 1998; Engineer for Louis Berger Group; Customs Analyst & Licensing Director for MoF, USAID; Gateway Manager for DHL International
Awards: U.S. Fulbright Scholarship
Languages: Dari, Farsi, Pashtu
Age: 28

Ajmal introduces the lives of Afghani people today, including schooling, children’s hobbies and activities, marriage practices and special celebrations such as Eid and New Year. He reflects on the influence of the Taliban and U.S. soldiers in his country, the war and fight against terrorism, and the new parliament and elections. Ajmal also discusses traditional religions and the presence of Islam, and challenges for the future, including the economy, education, and health issues. Cooking, dancing, music, national flag, books, handicrafts and art, posters, coins, national clothing and currency complete his compelling and heartfelt look at Afghanistan.

MOHAMED FARHAD
Khush-hal Meena, Kabul AFGHANISTAN

Major: Biology / Pre-Med, Junior
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: 21

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, Freshman
Languages: Albanian, French
Experience: Albanian Alps Institute; Santiam Christian School (Varsity Soccer 2007-08); local interpreter for visitors to Albania
Family: 3 brothers
Age: 18

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, Junior  
**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:** 19  

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 Argentineans. 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, Freshman  
**Awards:** 2007 Olympian of English language winner; Regional Olympiad of Russian 2007; Yerevan State Linguistic University Art Show exhibitor; 2005 US State Dept. FLEX Exchange scholar; 2006 National Civic Education Workshop, Washington DC; Oregon 4-H “Know Your State” and Benton County Government Conferences; OSU 4-H Summer Conference; 4-H Junior Toastmasters; Corvallis High School Yearbook Staff (2006)  
**Languages:** Armenian, Russian  
**Family:** 1 brother  
**Age:** 18  

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  
Praia Grande, BRAZIL

**Major:** Business, Freshman  
**Education** Colégio Novomundo (High School), CNA Cultural Norte Americano  
**Experience:** AYUSA Exchange program, West Linn, Oregon;  
**Languages:** Portuguese, Spanish  
**Family:** 2 sisters  
**Age:** 18  

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 FOBIM berenda, CAMEROON

Major: Business, Environmental Engineering, Sophomore
Languages: Bafut, French, Spanish
Experience: MUN College Magazine Editor; ROTARACT & French Clubs; “Sub-Zero Fun Fair” fundraiser organizer; Global Leadership Adventures (South Africa); Ded- enya Rural Development Project (Ghana), African Student Assn Event Coord.
Family: 3 brothers, 3 sisters
Age: 18

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 Onchocercaisis (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.

VERONICA LEON Beginning Winter Term Santiago, CHILE

Major: Liberal Studies, Freshman
Languages: Spanish
Experience: Universidad Nacional Andres Bello, Associate Diploma in Humanities. Volunteer ORBIS (Organization for Curing Unnecessary Blindness), Universidad Americana, English Department, English Interactive, Santiago, Chile
Family: 1 Brother, 1 Sister, 1 Son
Age: 34

Veronica introduces audiences to the geographical, cultural, and historical wonders of Chile. She discusses women’s roles in Latin America and gives her perspective on changes in these roles and the importance of extended family. She shares the beauty of world famous places such as Valparaiso (a UNESCO World Heritage site) and Easter Island, as well as other points of interest, and utilizes Power Point, pictures and video to take audiences on a journey from the Atacama Desert all the way to the “Ruta del Vino,” and the Andes Mountains. Chilean political history, the beautiful ‘Musica Andina,’ traditional Chilean folk music (‘La Cueca”), and typical dress complete her vibrant overview of Chile.

WEIWEI LIU Xi’an, CHINA

Major: Business Administration, M.B.A.
Education: Xi’an Jiaotong University, 2002-06; Oxford Brookes University, 2008
Experience: ACCA (Association of Chartered Certified Accountant); External invited lecturer in Xi’an Jiaotong University; Internship in the bank of HSBC; Internship in China National Audit Office
Awards: First Class Scholarship of State Xi’an Jiaotong University, China, 2003; Award for excellent study for ACCA 2004; Xi’an Jiaotong University Scholarship, 2005
Languages: Mandarin
Age: 26

From a culture rich with history, Weiwei presents a diverse overview of her ancient country by comparing historical and modern times. Her presentations include interactive folk stories, daily life and society, Chinese traditional painting, ancient architecture and modern architecture like “Nestal”, “Water Cube” as well as minority dances. Moreover, she presents colorful displays of her traditional clothing. Weiwei can prepare traditional Chinese dishes, comparing different styles of food. She can demonstrate and teach Tai Chi- one of the oldest martial arts and helpful as self therapy. Weiwei can teach calligraphy and Chinese traditional painting. She also displays four Chinese treasures: writing brush, ink stick, ink slab, paper with interesting stories about the ancient calligraphers and poets.
DAN HUANG
Hong Kong, CHINA

**Major:** Finance, Junior

**Education:** City University of Hong Kong, 2006-2008;

**Experience:** City Youth Empowerment Volunteer; Chui Chow Student Association; Student Fire and Safety Marshall

**Awards:** Mainland Student scholarship; Jockey Club Academic Hall scholarship; Economics & Finance scholarship; Dean’s list; 2005 Biology Competition City Level Third Class Prize; 2005 Physics Competition City Level First Class Prize

**Languages:** Chinese, Cantonese, Chiu Chow Idiom

**Family:** 2 brothers

**Age:** 21

Huang Dan describes traditional and contemporary cultural practices in her native country of China, which has a wide territory, long history and rich culture. She demonstrates children games, Chinese chess, folk stories such as “Change flying to the moon”. Presentations include pictures of major cities of China including Hong Kong and her hometown, audio of Hong Kong pop music and video of Hong Kong films. She displays the national flag, archaic fans, currency, calligraphy, wash painting and traditional festivals attributes. She shares stories about famous Chinese like Li Ka Shing and Jackie Chan.

ANDRES CARDENAS
Guanacaste, COSTA RICA

**Major:** Biochemistry/ Biophysics, Junior

**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:** 20

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.

MOHAMED AMER
Cairo, EGYPT

**Major:** Electrical and Computer Engineering, Senior

**Education:** Cairo University, 2004-08;

**Experience:** Intern at Khalda-Apache Oil fields 2005

**Language:** Arabic

**Family:** 3 sisters

**Age:** 21

Mohamed offers a glimpse into contemporary life and the people of Egypt, as well as a view of historical Ancient Egypt, which has captivated visitors and historians for centuries. He highlights the diversity of cultures that exist within modern day Egypt, including oriental and contemporary music, and can illustrate musical instruments common in the middle east. Young audiences will enjoy hearing about mummies and the tombs of Egypt (especially King Tut), and all ages will enjoy a taste of Egyptian tea, and how this is served. Mohamed brings Egyptian currency, papyrus, the ancient Alphabet and pictures to demonstrate the historic and beautiful cultures of Egypt.
PHILIP HILLEBRAND  
Kerpen, GERMANY

**Major:** Biology, Sophomore  
**Family:** 2 brothers, 12 sisters  
**Languages:** German, Spanish, Latin  
**Age:** 20

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:** Biochemistry/ Biophysics, Junior  
**Experience:** Arnold Dining Center, OSU; Student Laboratory Aide, OSU; Internship, SIGA Technologies, Corvallis 2008  
**Languages:** Gonja  
**Awards:** Provost Scholarship, University Student Scholars Association, Alpha Lambda Delta Honors society  
**Family:** 3 sisters, 5 brothers  
**Age:** 21

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.”

WILHEMINA KWANSA  
Bekwai, GHANA

**Major:** Public Health (MPH)  
**Experience:** Nursery and Tree Farm Grower; Swine Researcher; Animal Research Institute, Ghana; Farmers Co-Op, Denmark (Student exchange); Biology, Food and Agricultural Dept, Ghana (National service).  
**Awards:** Agricultural Honor Society (O.S.U. chapter), Top Apprentice Award (landscape gardening), Top trainee (Monrovia nurseries)  
**Languages:** Ga, Twi  
**Family:** 3 brothers, 1 sister  

“Mina’s” overview of Ghanaian life highlights the richness and diversity of her native country. She describes traditions such as child naming ceremonies, marriages and funerals, festivals with an emphasis on the Odwira (Akan) tribe, inheritance, and traditional beliefs such as the deity Mother Earth. She describes *The Ghanaian woman: Then and Now*; pre and post-independence politics, puberty rites, and shows samples of Kente cloth weaving. She demonstrates cooking, folk stories, simple games and words and phrases in the Akan language. Wilhemina brings a perspective that is compelling and engaging, and requesters will wish to learn more about her experiences after meeting lovely “Mina.”
AKHILA NANDGOPAL  
Bangalore, INDIA

**Major:** Engineering, Sophomore  
**Experience:** High school basketball & “throw ball” (winning teams)  
**Awards:** First place in Inter College poetry recital ; Science Olympiad Top honors  
**Education:** Sophia High School, Bangalore  
**Languages:** Kanaada, Tamil  
**Family:** 1 sister  
**Age:** 19

Akhila’s passion and patriotism for her native India shine when she presents her overview of the history, economy, customs and traditions of this modernizing nation. Akhila addresses topics such as Business and Cultural Nuances; Temples of Madya Pradesh, Bollywood pop culture and Epics and Myths of the Hindu Religion. She cooks, sings, shows traditional clothing, and can teach simple words and phrases in her native language Kannada or in Tamil, the language of the Tamil Nadu region. Artifacts, books, slides, toys, handicrafts, stamps and a cricket game complete her compelling talk about India.

NEHA NEELWARNE  
Mysore, INDIA

**Major:** Mechanical engineering, Sophomore  
**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:** 19

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.

ANNA 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 (native), local languages: Javanese (native), Malayu (good), Savu (good), Betawi (good), Minahasa (fair/passive)  
**Family:** 1 brother  
**Age:** 27

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.
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; Wildflower 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, Freshman  
**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:** 20  
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.

MARIKO OBATA  
Fall Term Only  
Kanagawa, JAPAN

**Major:** International Business, Senior  
**Education:** Spokane Falls Community College 2005-07, Eastern Washington Univ.20  
**Experience:** International club secretary, Interpreter for Sacred Heart Hospital and Deaconess Medical Center, Spokane; International Club Vice President, International Peer Mentor (Spokane Falls Community College)  
**Awards:** Presidential Honor Roll, Spokane Falls Community College  
**Languages:** Japanese  
**Age:** 22  
Mariko provides a warm and personal introduction to Japan, with photos of her home life and demonstrations of her kimono, tea ceremony, and origami, which is sure to engage young and mature audiences. Mariko can describe or cook traditional dishes, card games good for learning Japanese, and cultural differences such as the use of time and communication (indirect vs. direct). She illustrates national holidays, the changing roles of women, school life, contemporary culture (manga, fashion), folk stories and singing. Children’s books, games such as the kendama, handicrafts, coins and pictures or slides complete her delightful view of the “Land of the Rising Sun.”
DINARA ANDIROVA
Atyrau City, KAZAKHSTAN

Major: Pre-Chemical Engineering, Sophomore
Experience: Taekwando and Karate red belt holder
Family: 1 sister
Languages: Kazakh, Russian
Age: 18

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.

KEVIN GATIMU
Nairobi, KENYA

Major: Electrical Engineering, Senior
Education: Western Oregon University, 2004 - 2005
Awards: High School Outstanding Academic Performance Certificates (5 years); WOU-President’s List, 2004-2005
Languages: Kikuyu, Swahili
Age: 22

Kevin gives a delightful overview of Kenya’s geography, tourism and wildlife, highlighting his own ethnic group, the Kikuyu. He describes inter-tribal relations, traditional government, beliefs and ceremonies important to his tribe, and also discusses the Kenyan political system and colonialism, as well as national educational standards. He can tell folk stories and narratives, demonstrate pottery, weaving and sculpture, and cook traditional dishes. Kevin can coach basketball and soccer, and completes his presentations with colorful photographs, DVDs, audio cassettes, and printed articles.

KUSAI ZARRUGH
Tripoli, LIBYA

Major: Computer Science, Junior
Experience: Teaching Arabic; 3 month project cleaning schools in Libya
Awards: Provost International Scholarship
Languages: Arabic
Age: 21

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.
YEOLIER
Segamat, MALAYSIA

Major: Environmental Science, Sophomore
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
Family: 2 sisters, 1 brother
Age: 20

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 Investigacion 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: 36

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.

LAURA ISABEL MARQUEZ-LOZA
Mexico City, MEXICO

Major: Wood and Science Technology, Junior
Experience: USDA Plant Virology Lab employee, Mexican folkloric dance organizer and performer
Languages: Spanish
Family: 1 brother, 1 sister
Age: 21

Laura demonstrates many of the regional folkloric dances of her country with great flair and beautiful dress. She enjoys sharing many of the traditional folk tales of her native land, including legends and myths, holidays and celebrations. Laura is adept at teaching how to make traditional Mexican decorations such as piñatas and paper flowers. She can teach audiences how to make Mexican dishes, display national clothing, and demonstrate games and music CDs. Laura addresses topics such as family life, pollution and natural resources, higher education, indigenous people and modern society, and health problems and care in Mexico. Arts and crafts, pictures and coins complete her thoughtful and poised look at traditional and contemporary Mexican life.
DIPANKER SHRESTHA TAMANG
Kathmandu, NEPAL

Major: Business Administration, Junior
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: 20

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
Age: 21

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, traditional dress and toys complete her compelling and vibrant look at the Himalayan nation of Nepal.

GUSTAVO AGUEPUCHO MARTINEZ
Arequipa, PERU

Major: Nutrition and Food Management, Freshman
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: 18

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

Major: Master of Business Administration
Education: OSU catering, OSU athletic foundation, OSU athletics tutor, currently working in Office of Technology Transfer
Languages: Polish, some German
Awards: OSU athletic scholarship
Family: 1 sister
Age: 25

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 be 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

Major: Biochemistry & Biophysics
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: 18

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.

Gladys Macaosip
Winter, Spring only

Major: Aquatic Biology and Fisheries, M.S.
Education: Mindanao State University, Iligan Institute of Technology
Experience: Instructor, Aquaculturalist
Awards: Graduated Cum Laude, Undergraduate Award for Academic Excellence; Dean’s list, Fulbright Fellowship (2006-08)
Languages: Cebuano, Tagalog, Marano
Family: 1 daughter
Age: 25

Gladys acquaints audiences with the vibrant and diverse cultures of Mindanao and other islands of the Philippines with much poise and charm. She introduces tourist destinations and famous landmarks, foreign influences on development, festivals and cultural traditions, Maranao’s culture, music and arts. She cooks delicacies, dances, sings and tells folk tales. Gladys has brought traditional dresses belonging to her grandmother, which she can model, as well as bamboo, pearls, beads and festival attire. Coins, music, books and traditional games complete her engaging look at Filipino life, past and present.
YUN JI CHOI
Jeonju, S. KOREA
Major: Civil Engineering/ Pre - Engineering, Freshman
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: 18

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, Sophomore
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
Age: 19

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, Junior
Education: Paisley High School, Oregon (High School Exchange)
Experience: Teacher’s Aide, elementary art program; volleyball, basketball; Future Farmers of America (Paisley Chapter)
Awards: National Honor Society; FFA first-place finish (floriculture competition);
Languages: Thai
Family: 1 brother, 1 sister
Age: 21

Tawalin graciously 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.
EUNICE NASWALI  
**Major:** Electrical Engineering, Senior  
**Experience:** Voluntary teaching and part of the wildlife club in Namagunga  
**Awards:** Leadership Advancement International Scholarship, 2004-2007; Rexwell D. Miller Scholarship, Waldo Cummings Outstanding Students Award 2005-06  
**Languages:** Lugishu, Luganda, French  
**Age:** 21  

Eunice thoughtfully shares her experience and knowledge of the country, “the Pearl of Africa”. She describes Ugandan natural resources, weather, development and challenges for the future. Her presentations also include subjects such as Ugandan political history, poverty and women in Uganda, traditional and modern customs, celebrations, the girl-child in Uganda, the war in northern Uganda, and music. Eunice dances, plays games, cooks, sings, and tells folk stories. Coins, games, music, handicrafts, the national flag, regional and traditional clothing, and pictures complete her richly detailed and engaging introduction to Uganda.

SEIF BOKRI  
**Major:** Computer science, freshman  
**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  
**Age:** 19  

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.

THAO TRAN  
**Major:** MBA  
**Experience:** Lecturer at Foreign Trade University in Vietnam, Chinese Language Institute Manager, National University of Singapore, LBCC in Corvallis  
**Awards:** Research scholarship by National University of Singapore; Ministry of Foreign Affairs Scholarship; Vietnam’s Ministry of Education and Training Scholarship for Undergraduate Students  
**Languages:** Vietnamese, Chinese  
**Age:** 31  

Thao Tran brings to life contemporary and traditional Vietnamese cultural practices, with hands-on activities and descriptive overviews of Vietnam’s colorful history. She demonstrates Vietnamese traditional dress, mouth-watering foods, interesting traditional wood block painting, and unique customs and festivals. She describes the role of women in her home country and within the family. The family is the backbone of the Vietnamese society and Thao discusses the daily life of children and school. Her presentations are complemented by national clothing, coin and currency, photos, power point files, and art work. She can demonstrate cooking, folk games, and songs to any audience.
Fortunate (or “Tariro”) 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. Tari 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—the Republic of Zimbabwe.