

Foreign students hotly pursued to boost enrollment

(CPS) —Last year more than 400,000 foreign students, many convinced by college recruiters that an American education is a prized commodity, enrolled at U.S. colleges and universities.

With a nationwide gain of 5.3 percent in foreign students, U.S. education officials predict the half-million mark for enrollment isn't far away, and some say the number could double or triple in the next decade.

While some colleges aggressively recruit foreign students to add cultural diversity to their campuses, others are interested in boosting enrollment in a sagging economy.

"I would say there has been an explosive growth (in foreign students) in the past 10 years, and it hasn't leveled off," said Paul Crippen, of J. Paul Crippen Associates of Philadelphia, a consultant to a number of colleges and universities.

"I think the reason is be-

cause the Asian countries rely heavily on us for training in engineering and technology," said Crippen, who predicts that the number of foreign students on campuses will triple within a decade.

Despite its intense growth, the foreign student market is still a fraction of the 14 million total U.S. college population.

In 1991, 65.7 percent of foreign students enrolled in public schools and 34.3 in private schools, according to the Institute of International Education. In the overall college student population, 80.3 percent of the students are enrolled in public schools, and 19.7 percent in private institutions.

The reasons for the heavy recruiting, which began in the '80s and is still going strong, are varied: a declining pool of traditional 18-year-old students, the desire of U.S. colleges to teach a global perspective and the fact that most foreign students pay full tuition rates.

Many colleges reserve all financial aid for their American students, insisting that foreign students or their governments pay full tuition. Even Christian colleges, which traditionally waived tuition for students from other countries, are having to drop the practice because of the economy.

As early as 1974, a handful of colleges participated in overseas "college fairs." Now one recruiter estimates "hundreds" of U.S. colleges and universities are represented abroad.

Today, professional overseas tours comprised of recruiting officers from as many as 15-20 colleges and universities—usually to the Far East—are not uncommon. (Asians make up 56 percent of the foreign students in U.S. schools).

According to officials, Chinese and Japanese students generally study the physical sciences, while Europeans, whose first choice until recently was to obtain an engineering

degree, now covet an American MBA.

"Most people come for the language. It will help them advance in their careers," said Marian Phi Zikopoulos, director of research at the Institute of International Education.

"The Japanese come as exchange students, or come to colleges that have been taken over by the Japanese. They are here because of the greater demand for higher education than (Japan) has to offer," she said.

"The Chinese come for advanced education," Zikopoulos continued. While the number of European students coming to the U.S. has increased by 7.8 percent since last year, "Eastern Europeans will not come in hordes because of lack of money," she said.

U.S. colleges are particularly popular with Iranian students.

UNLV has its share of international students

"We have approximately 330 international students attending the university (UNLV) on visas," said Margaret Hardigree, international program coordinator. "We do not recruit them, unfortunately. There has never been the funding to send recruiters out. I have the students here take information back with them and (recruit) by word of mouth."

Hardigree said international students are desirable because it adds diversity on campus and multiculturalism is a major theme in higher education.

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Evening Buffet Offered at MSU

On Wednesday, March 11, 1992, an evening buffet will be offered at MSU.

Time: 4:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Place: Moyer Student Union
Extended seating area across from Itza Pizza

Menu: 3 Pasta Selections
2 Sauce Selections
Caesar Salad
Italian Flat Bread
Amaretto Mousse Pie
Iced Tea
Coffee

Our Chef will personally prepare your pasta selection for you.

Price: \$ 4.50 All You Can Eat

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Is your hand tired yet?



Over 200 people stood in line for an autographed copy of Shark Attack.

photos by Rob Weidenfeld



Coach Jerry Tarkanian

Approximately 308 copies of Shark Attack were sold in two hours at Thursday's book-signing at the B. Dalton bookstore located in the Boulevard Mall. Coach Jerry Tarkanian and author Don Yaeger were on hand to personally autograph the book between 7 and 9 p.m. Over 200 people waited in line to get a copy. Bookstore employees said a total of 552 copies were sold all week.