May You Live In Interesting Times

As you have undoubtedly heard, OSU is under a great deal of financial strain due to the state’s budget shortfall and economic issues, and this has necessitated sweeping Departmental changes and program cuts, staff and faculty furloughs, and budget reductions across the University system. The “Do more with less” paradigm is pervasive in business and education sectors, as support staff are cut and positions go unfilled. What all of this means for Crossroads, is of course – change. Indeed, we have a unique challenge in reconsidering the programs that have been the hallmark of Crossroads International for many years, and adapting to the current workplace milieu. Now consider the changing landscape into which our international students and visiting faculty arrive, and it brings to mind a bumper sticker witticism: “May you Live in Interesting Times.” We certainly do.

As of Fall 2010, OSU’s office of International Programs will no longer contribute the salary of the Crossroads International Executive Director. The paid Directorship came about in 1987, when the position was funded via the support of the Dean of “International Education” (now “International Programs,” without a Dean, or indeed an IP-wide Director), and for 23 years International Programs provided office space, supplies and “fringe benefits” to the Executive Director. That model worked and was supported for many years, but now all International Student and Faculty Services (ISFS) staff are being called upon to take on additional responsibilities. What that means is that Dawn will be assigned other duties, to relieve stress on the unit and better enable ISFS to provide the student services it is mandated to offer.

See “Changes Ahead,” P.2

Inside This Issue:
Changes……2
Film Festival…3
Meet Sandy Riverman……4
Conversation School visits Beth Ray…….4
Scheduled OSU cultural events…………5
French conversation Café……6
Board list……6

Celebrations in April: Sham El-Nessim

Sham el-Nessim (sniffing of the breezes) which marks the beginning of spring, may have been celebrated as early as 4,500 years ago in ancient Egypt. This special day falls immediately on the first Monday following the Coptic Easter and was related to agriculture in ancient Egypt. The day is celebrated outdoors, enjoying the fresh breezes of a new spring and by eating traditional foods. scallion (or green onions), Fiseekh (smelly salted fish), boiled colored eggs, lettuce and termis (Lupini Beans) are some of the foods that are prepared and enjoyed that day. Salted fish symbolized to the ancient Egyptians fertility and welfare. Some families in modern times might eat a tuna salad to as a substitute. Scallions (green onions) received special mention in the legends of Old Memphis. A story is told about a pharaoh whose only child who was brought back from the grasp of a deathly illness by the power of the ripe spring onion placed under his head. To the modern Egyptian, they serve to keep the evil eye away and prevent envy. Eggs signify new life, which Egyptians believe connect with good luck. Egyptian families use water colors to decorate and dye eggs and let them dry in the sun. Termis and lettuce are harvested in late winter/early spring, which represent the feeling of the hopefulness at the beginning of the spring. This year Sham el-Nessim will be celebrate on April 5th.
The future of International Student and Faculty Services

The future for all of International Programs and ISFS will eventually be steered, at least in part, by an Associate Provost (the position is still vacant as of this writing, but a National search is underway, and we hope the position will be filled by July 1st). Presently our mission as a unit is guided by the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and International Programs – Dr. Rebecca Warner, who reports to Provost Sabah Randhawa. Dr. Randhawa’s and President Ray’s vision and directive for all units is to focus on “mission critical activities” that support student success and engagement. Creating outcomes and “measures of success” are the focus of our efforts and tasks.

Without a doubt, it has been an eventful year and a half, as INTO OSU moved in to replace the English Language Institute, and the ISFS leadership changes necessitated changes in all levels of responsibility. The future holds a consolidation of INTO OSU and ISFS’s offices, and there is much discussion of consolidating programs and services as well. Those details are still being determined, but it’s clear that as our missions merge, it is in the best interest of all students to streamline and create a more “seamless” experience. This is in the interest not only of efficiency, but in keeping student services accessible, and not creating an “us” and “them” environment – but serving all students well.

What has changed with International Education, in general?

As our service-oriented unit has worked to create more “transparency” for international students coming to OSU, we have moved more information online, and encouraged overseas applicants to utilize “social networks” and other tools to connect with existing students and staff here in Oregon. This improved level of access to information and people has made a tremendous difference in lowering the stress level of our incoming international student population, which is real progress. It has also meant a reduction in the number of requests Crossroads has received for its 3 Day Home Stay and Friendship Host programs. Students and scholars are better able to connect with friends or hosts before even arriving in the U.S., and when they do arrive, they are better equipped to navigate unfamiliar territory.

One factor in student success, most Crossroads Members recognize, is the comfort level in one’s community, and the connection with local people. While our “Friendship” program has lagged in requests, Conversation Partners and Groups are still a great need, and these provide ample opportunity for friendships to form. As Director, I suggest partnering to make this program viable and manageable, because it is so critical to students’ success. That can be done in a number of ways, and we will discuss this and other programs at a Retreat in April. All Members are welcome to attend – for the last hour of the planning Retreat. The date is scheduled for Friday, April 16th, and members are invited to attend and share ideas or concerns from 1:00—2:00 p.m. at the Center for the Humanities, 811 SW Jefferson Street, Corvallis.

The Future of Crossroads

If Crossroads International is to continue and thrive, partnerships will be critical. A partnership with the Corvallis Multicultural Literacy Center, which provides an enormously valuable environment for our Conversation Groups, meetings of all sorts and socials, is an obvious win-win collaboration. It also behooves us to consider on-campus and off-campus partnerships with organizations such as ISOSU (the International Students of OSU), the Church of the Good Samaritan (provides the space for the Conversation School for Women) and University Housing and Dining Services (now offers an “OSU Homestay” option for select international students). By looking at ways we can share responsibilities and resources, we maximize our chances for success.

Membership, leadership and fundraising protocols will all need to be revisited, as part of the ongoing conversation about how to proceed. This will require a critical look at what takes the most effort, and what tasks can be shared among a Board of volunteers, and a 10 hr/week student helper (Program Assistant). Done well, Crossroads can offer a strong Conversation program, a Conversation School with a clear vision, and keep the overhead and administrative tasks to a manageable level. But planning and restructuring will be key.

It has been such a pleasure working with volunteers who care, and who “get it,” when it comes to cultural adjustment. It may be that the next bit of culture shock we experience is that of a revitalized, and changed organization. But then we never doubted that these were indeed “interesting times.”

Timeline of Crossroads Activities, past to present

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friendship Coffees</td>
<td>C.I. granted 501(C)3</td>
<td>Coordinator paid a stipend</td>
<td>Int'l Ed. pays Directorship</td>
<td>40 year Anniversary</td>
<td>Director retires; New Director</td>
<td>Self-Funding &amp; partnerships</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A huge thanks to members of the Festival Planning Committee, to friends of CI, and to all other sponsors and supporters without whose hard work, dedication and financial support this festival would not have materialized!

Crossroads International’s 4th Annual Film Festival culminated in a “Finale” party held on March 7th at the Corvallis Multicultural Literacy Center.

Crossroads International Film Festival 2010

Crossroads International Film Festival 2010 may have been our most consistent year yet. Every show brought at least 20 attendees, and we did sell out several films. The Superbowl and China Night at OSU didn’t seem to dampen enthusiasm — but the sunshine in week three really did seem to put a dent in sales. We can’t compete with a sunny weekend in February, apparently. Still, the evening show for War Dance brought 37 people that week, many of whom had heard about the traditional Ugandan dance, performed by Yvonne and Eunice Naswali, and the Taiko drummers on the 14th were also very exciting. Discussions after some films and foods by the Co-Op, Evergreen Indian restaurant and Le Patissier also made for festive film events. Special thanks to our reliable and enthusiastic team of volunteers who helped screen the films and plan the event. Board members Sandy Riverman, JoEllen Jarvi, Art Bervin, Samantha Sied, Michele Ribeiro and Kathrin Klotz helped with planning and staffing of the festival, and many more helped screen films and take tickets. Shelly Murphy, Lee Welch, Jodi Altendorf and Caitlin Sullivan also met regularly with Dawn Moyer and others to plan and make arrangements. Special thanks to the International Cultural Service Program students for helping at the Darkside and helping with displays.

Total funds raised for this event were just over $1300. Given the upcoming changes to Crossroads’ structure, it’s unclear whether this event will be offered in 2011. If you would like to offer ideas or help organize in the future, please contact the Executive Director or any Board member and share your thoughts.
Sandy Riverman is a 6th generation Oregonian and an OSU graduate, who has been teaching English to international students at OSU for the past 20 years. She majored in German and has since gone on to study Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian as well. Her love of travel and languages began during and after college, when she lived in Switzerland, London and Greece. After she met her husband, they sold all their belongings and traveled around the world for a year, stopping for a few months to study Spanish in Guatemala and teach school in Costa Rica. She picked up an ESL graduate degree from the University of Arizona before returning to Corvalis to raise her two daughters. She has taken her family along on her travels, teaching a year for Fulbright at the University of the Azores (Portuguese islands in the middle of the Atlantic), as well as to lecture at the University of the Andes in Venezuela. They have also lived and worked in Tasmania, and New Zealand. She drives an old car, lives in an old house, shops at second-hand stores, and spends her money on airplane tickets!

Sandy became involved with Crossroads years ago when she was asked to help with registration at Crossroads Conversation School. Soon she was on the substitute teachers' list and began attending the end of term potlucks at the school. Her family has welcomed international students for 3-day Homestays, been a friendship host, and she has been a conversation partner as well. It was a natural fit to join the Board in 2008.

In her spare time, Sandy likes to cook "from scratch" using local organic foods, read with her book club, and knit with her knitting group. She plays piano and mandolin and recently joined a women's choir. She likes to go camping, backpacking, hiking and skiing with her friends and family….and of course, her love of travel has never ceased!

On Thursday, February 18th, the students and teachers at Crossroads Conversation School were treated to a continental brunch at the home of Mrs. Beth Ray, wife of OSU President Ray. It was a beautiful and sunny early spring day, and everyone enjoyed the spectacular views of Mary’s Peak from Mrs. Ray’s big deck.

This annual event is a highlight for the participants at the school. Mrs. Ray inherited this wonderful tradition from the wives of past OSU Presidents, and has been gracious in her willingness to share her home and time with us. This year, we also included some of our students’ children, who took great delight in hugging Gus, Mrs. Ray’s poodle. The women also enjoyed touring the house, which is filled with OSU memorabilia and fine art, but is still a warm and comfortable home. We all felt like honored guests, thanks to Mrs. Ray and to Shelly Signs, Director of University Events, who set up the event and took this great picture.
Mark Your Calendar: Upcoming Cultural Events at OSU

**Korean Night**, Sunday, April 4, 2010, 6:00pm @ MU Ballroom  Contact: korean@oregonstate.edu

**Latino Night 2010**, Saturday, April 10, 2010, 5:30 PM,  Contact: alas@oregonstate.edu

**India Night 2010** Saturday, April 17, 2010  Info: indiastudents@oregonstate.edu

**Japan ("J") Night 2010** Sunday, April 18, 2010, 6 pm @ MU Ballroom  Contact: japanesestudentassociation@oregonstate.edu

**Luau** Saturday, April 24, 2010  
**Doors open**: 4:30 PM,  **Dinner**: 5-6 PM,  **Show**: 6 PM,  
**Concert/ Katchafire**: 9 PM @ Gill Coliseum 
Tickets will be sold at the event and in front of Kerr Admin. Building  
**Presale prices**: dinner, show and concert - $25, show and concert only - $20,  *children are $5 less. At the door prices are $5 more

**ISOSU Spring Fest 2010** Sunday, May 2, 2010, 12:00-4:00 PM @ MU Quad,  Info: internationalstudentsofosu@oregonstate.edu

**Asian and Pacific American Month Kick-Off Event**, Monday, May 3, 2010, Info: (541) 737-6361 or apcc@oregonstate.edu

**Cinco De Mayo** Friday, May 7, 2010. Mariachi music, dance and food will be some of the highlights of Oregon State University's Cinco de Mayo celebration

**Cambodian Night**  @ MU Ballroom, Other details TBA
**Africa Night**  @ MU Ballroom, Other details TBA
**Polynesian Night**  - Details TBA

**Crossroads International’s own “Spring Fling”:**  
May 15th, 11:30—2:00  
Corvallis Multicultural Literacy Center, 128 SW 9th Street.  
Potluck, festivities, international socializing & games  
More details forthcoming
Café-Rencontres francophones
Elaine Hayashi

Parlez-vous français? Mais oui! That’s exactly what the participants of the French conversation group Café-Rencontres francophones, or Café-Rencontres for short, do on Monday nights between 5:00 and 6:30 pm. Gathering in the relaxed atmosphere of McMenamins on Monroe, eight to nine people meet each week with a common goal – to speak French. All levels are welcome, and participants include OSU students, faculty/staff, as well as members of the greater Corvallis community.

Although a group of regulars has formed, Café-Rencontres draws different and diverse people each week. Among the fluid demographic are students of French of all ages (including some who are preparing for an experience in a Francophone country), community members with a long-standing interest in French, and even native French-speakers. Angie Cloutier, a former OSU student who majored in French and currently teaches French courses at both OSU and LBCC, explains that her frequent attendance to the group challenges her “to speak more quickly and keeps her on her toes.” She enjoys the other participants and the social interaction.

Although an initiative of the OSU French department, the weekly group is not a class or academic in nature. Participants are supportive of one another and help each other as they go along, and spontaneity takes the conversations in all different directions. Normally, the group breaks up into smaller sub-groups (of mixed levels) so participants have more “talking time.” Since its creation in fall 2008, Café-Rencontres continues to grow thanks to word-of-mouth, and the hope is that the conversation group will become a regular fixture in the community.