Crossroads Home-stay Program-Start of an Oregon Adventure -David Gubbins

I arrived in Corvallis in September 2005 to start my PhD in OSU. The trip to Oregon from Ireland was a step into the unknown in so many ways. That sense of unknown was completely wiped from my mind when I met my home-stay host family. I felt at home in Corvallis in an hour or so because I was in a real home, with real people, who lived their lives in Corvallis. Through the home stay program I met a wonderful circle of people from Corvallis, as well as a large group of other international home-stay students who I am still in touch with. Simple things like having a cup of tea in my host’s kitchen made me feel right at home! Also it was great to get advice about life & customs in Corvallis & general goings on around the place. The home-stay program got me off to a great start on my Oregon adventure. It allowed me to take a breath, meet these wonderful people from Corvallis & take my first look at beautiful Oregon. With this great start behind me the challenge of studying in OSU became less daunting. My home-stay family & friends are now dear friends whom I will always cherish.

Tolerance, inter-cultural dialogue and respect for diversity are more essential than ever in a world where peoples are becoming more and more closely interconnected. -Kofi Anan

Crossroads Conversation Partners and Conversation Groups -Cheryl Black

We have taken on a new face this year! We hoped to be available to students as either a Conversation partner or Conversation group according to their preferences. After having 2 introductory meetings, we have discovered that most of the International students this year prefer to have a Conversation partner. So, we have been busy matching partners. Cheryl Black & Jo Jarvi have teamed up this year to lead the program. We are excited about the way we have met so many highly qualified volunteers to be conversation partners with International students. This year brought a few changes to the program. We wanted to match partners at the beginning of the term so that the students would have the greatest benefit from the program. Having a choice of 2 introductory meetings seemed the way to bring this about. We also initiated a required fee of $5.00 per term for the students to help defray some of the costs. Being a conversation partner has brought about some wonderful friendships in past years, as many of you can attest. We are hoping that this year will bring our volunteers great satisfaction in their hospitality & friendship to International students. Thank you all for your participation!

Interested in volunteering with Crossroads International? Call 737-6480

- Be a Conversation Partner
  Help watch and choose films for the Film Festival. Help with organization and marketing of the event.
- Be a 3 Day Home Stay host
- Be a Friendship host

Become a member! Membership form is at oregonstate.edu/international/ICSP/joincrossroads
UPCOMING EVENTS

Muslim Student Night

OSU Student Affairs & Crossroads International invite you to a reception to welcome our new Muslim students to OSU & to educate the OSU community about Islam & aspects of the Muslim culture. The event will be held at the MU Main Lounge. We will begin with the Asr prayer starting at approximately 3:50p.m. The event will end at about 6p.m. Appetizers & beverages will be provided & literature from several OSU offices & student groups will be available. Everyone is welcome!

ISOSU Coffee Hour

Meet OSU students, staff, make friends, play games, enjoy artwork exhibition, practice English, learn more about foreign countries and more! Drinks & refreshments are free! For more details, visit http://oregonstate.edu/groups/isosu/Current_activities

Global Gourmet Night

Come learn to cook lip smacking Lebanese dishes. The cost per person is $10. This includes recipes. Register soon by emailing barb@griffobros.com. Hurry! There is room only for 25 people! We will begin at 6 pm. For more information call Barb at 758.8421

Crossroads International Film Festival 2009

Members of Crossroads and OSU students receive discounted admission. We offer specially priced, multiple-film “Passports” to Crossroads members. We also will feature cultural activities & foods. To volunteer, or for more information, call Dawn Moyer at 737.6480.

Crossroads Conversation School

This fall, Crossroads Conversation School has students from Japan, South Korea, China, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Jordan. Almost all of our wonderful volunteer teachers have returned to teach yet another year. We are very lucky to have each and every one of them. Our teachers this year are Sharon Kavanaugh, Barbara Boudreaux, Pat Schmaltz, Dian Nafis, Joan Rogers, Mitzi Schad, Bobbie Beck and Pat Wallace. Jo Jarvi will now be volunteering for the Conversation Partners, but will continue to sub for the school. We meet on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9:15 to 11:15 am at the Church of the Good Samaritan on the corner of 35th and Harrison. Visitors are welcome!

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