Multicultural Literacy Center Fills a Community Need

If you have attended a presentation in the World View Series, or served on the Film Festival organizing committee, you are aware that the old “Sunflower House” is now the Corvallis Multicultural Literacy Center (CMLC). Thanks to the tenacity and hard work of Dee Curwen, her envisioned “living room for learning” for people of all cultures and all ages to come together is a reality.

Originally from Virginia, Dee came to Oregon for graduate school and earned a Masters degree in Special Education at the University of Oregon. Not long afterwards, interest in other cultures took her and her husband to Asia where they spent 1981. In the early ‘80s, they moved to Corvallis, and, Dee, a mother with two small sons, saw an announcement that the Crossroads Conversation School was looking for teachers and babysitting was available. She volunteered. Subsequently, her teaching skills were needed to coordinate the English as a Second Language program at Linn Benton Community College.

Over the years, in her interactions with international students, Dee realized that they were lonely, and they couldn’t make connections with Americans. She believed they needed a place to get together, a place where they could make connections. She asked around, checked with social service agencies, talked with the cultural centers at OSU, and found there was no other community-based multicultural, multigenerational center or agency. Others agreed that this was a need. Dee gives credit to the people who came together for their organizational skills. They formed a board and incorporated as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charity even before a place for the center was found. There are eight members on the Board and half are international.

In the search for a location, Dee said she called OSU many times after Community Outreach moved out. Finally with the organizational structure in place, the University agreed to lease the building “as is” continued on page 5

Film Festival Pleases

After many months of deliberations, planning, and soliciting sponsors, the Film Festival committee was elated by the turnout on opening day. The four-hour Indian film LaGaan was a sellout! The afternoon of fun was enhanced by continued on page 3

Tere Magana, Jordi Leeb, and Dawn Moyer are enjoying opening day of the Film Festival with Paul Turner in the lobby of his Avalon Cinema in downtown Corvallis.
Crossroads International

Board Members
Board Chair          Maria-Teresa Magaña
Secretary            Lynn Grube
Treasurer            Cori Hall
Conversation Partners Barbara Boudreaux
Friendship Homes     Samantha Sied
Membership           Holly Harris
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Special Events       Cheryl Black
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                     Jessica Hodgson
Members-At-Large     Charlotte Ross
                     Theresa Souza

Staff
Executive Director   Dawn Moyer
                     737-6480
Program Assistant    Kyle Hearn
                     737-5041
Conversation School  Janet Swinyard
                     735-6015

Crossroads International Program Suspended

The Crossroads Board of Directors has decided to stop accepting new requests for conversation partners because of the difficulty matching participants with volunteer conversants.

There has been a discussion of putting emphasis on forming conversation groups, and charging a nominal fee for participation. The Corvallis Multicultural Literacy Center was suggested as a meeting place with the fee going towards payment for the space. Some women from the Conversation School would like to take part. There will likely be several groups - one in the evening, one at noon, and possibly one on the weekend - with participants being able to choose which one they would like to attend. There will be one for women only. As this is still in the development phase, the Board welcomes your input. Contact Dawn Moyer, by telephone 737-6480 or email dawn.moyer@oregonstate.edu to share your ideas.

ISOSU Cultural Night Calendar

March 4      European Night
April 7      Japanese Night
April 15     India Night
April 28     Latin American Night
May TBA      Africa Night
May 12       Turkish Night
May 13       ISOSU Spring Event
May 19       Filipino Night

These programs typically include food and entertainment from each region. Tickets are available at the OSU Student Involvement Office in Snell Hall, or for more information contact the ISOSU Office, 737-6348, or check their website http://oregonstate.edu/groups/ISOSU.
Crossroads International Film Festival

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dances by Indian children, pakoras donated by Evergreen Restaurant and entertainment by the Corvallis Belly Dance Guild prior to the evening Tunisian film, Red Satin. Those attending appeared to have a wonderful time.

Attendance was very good for showings on subsequent Sundays as well, with the six o’clock hour proving to be the most popular, selling out for several films. Crossroads owes much to the Film Festival marketing committee and the stunning poster designed by Jodi Altendorf.

Securing the rights to show the films turned out to be expensive, costing on average $300–$400, but thanks to the hard work of several committee members soliciting “producers”, this expense was covered entirely. Thank you to the following businesses and organizations who were “Producers:"

Corvallis Riverfront Renaissance Project
Edge Design
Evergreen Indian Restaurant
Marjorie Lumm’s Wine Glasses
Mater Engineering, Inc.
OSU Student Affairs
Richard Gretz Jewelers
The Yoga Center of Corvallis
Translations.com

Other much-needed support, both financial and in-kind was provided by Devi Indian Grocery & Spices, Grass Roots Bookstore, First Alternative Co-op, The Shoe Hutch, Boticelli’s, Cheryl Black, Citizen’s Bank, downtown Corvallis, Sibling Revelry, The Corvallis Multicultural Literacy Center, Lumos Wine, Henderson’s Office Systems, Olufson Designs Jewelers, Stoker’s Vita World, Footwise Shoes, OSU International Programs, Corvallis Belly Dance Guild, Safeway, downtown Corvallis, Kerry McFall of Gallery Nouveau.

Also, a great BIG thank you to Paul Turner for his advice, his time, and for the use of his Avalon Cinema.

Also an extra-special thanks goes to members of the hard-working Film Festival planning committee We couldn’t have done it without your help!

Jordana Leeb
Samantha Sied
Michele Ribiero
Ayesha Nagra
Jessica Wisor
Shelly Murphy
Christina Sever
Cheryl Black
Charlotte Ross
Tere Magana
Kalle Pierce
Jodi Altendorf
Dawn Moyer

Look for a Film Festival Wrap-up in the spring Crossroads Newsletter.

http://oregonstate.edu/international/crossroads.html
As many of you have heard, Janet Swinyard is retiring this year after nine years of service to the Crossroads Conversation School. It will be hard to fill her shoes, but if you know of a good candidate, please read below about the position and pass it on to any candidates you might know.

Crossroads Conversation School Director Position Announcement

Position Summary: The CCS Director oversees the operation of the Crossroads Conversation School for Women (CCS), a program of Crossroads International which is a 501(C) 3 non-profit organization. The Conversation School Director is a paid position, overseeing classroom instruction by community volunteers and services provided by paid child-care providers, to facilitate international students in practicing conversational English. This is a part-time position based upon the OSU academic calendar. The CCS operates September – June annually.

Please see http://oregonstate.edu/international/crossroads/contents/view/23 for a more detailed description of day-to-day activities.

Closing Date: March 2, 2007

Required Qualifications: An interest in international affairs, concern for international students and visitors, and experience in cross-cultural communication and learning

Experience working as a volunteer or professional in a community group, preferably recruiting and retaining volunteers

Administrative and computer-based documentation skills, with access to email and basic computer programs

Teaching background and training experience

Preferred Qualifications: Master's Degree in TESOL or equivalent

Flexibility, patience, sensitivity, and enthusiasm when working with volunteers, staff, and students

Experience fundraising, including writing grants or planning special events to fund non-profit activities

Experience working with non-profit organizations

Experience managing budgets

Part-Time schedule: 10-15 hours a week to include Tuesday and Thursday mornings

Salary: $7000 /year minimum

Duration: September – June, renewable yearly

Application Documents: Submit cover letter, resume and professional references by March 2, 2007 to:

Crossroads International
444 Snell Hall
Corvallis, Oregon 97331

http://oregonstate.edu/international/crossroads.html
Multicultural Literacy Center
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for $1 per month, with CMLC taking responsibility for maintenance and liability insurance. Dee and volunteers worked an entire summer to get the old house in shape. Money was raised for the Center by Many Hands Trading (a retail store that operated in 2005) and other fund-raising events. There were also private donations. The CMLC opened in the fall of 2005. Operating costs are currently running between $400 and $500 per month, and all staffing is volunteer.

Many groups and organizations including Crossroads have discovered that the CMLC is a great place to meet and hold events. Crossroads World View Series' presentations are held there on the 3rd Thursday of the month, and the Film Festival organizing committee found it convenient for noon hour meetings because of its central location and the availability of parking. The CMLC has also partnered with the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library for *Día de los Niños* and with the Corvallis Art Center for Art Camp. School children in bilingual classes visit the Center to listen to ICSP students give presentations. There are Conversation groups in several languages, intercultural quilting classes, and cooking. Recently, a Crossroads Conversation School class met at the center to work on a project that couldn't be completed during class time.

The Center is free to everyone during open hours. Community Groups meeting there pay a small fee to cover expenses. The CMLC greatly appreciates donations of time, energy, skills, materials, and money.

A special thank you to Dee for her vision and her commitment to the establishment of this wonderful new community resource where individuals and families of all cultures can come together to share, mentor and learn, and build a cohesive community in a safe, welcoming environment.

Corvallis Multicultural Literacy Center
128 SW Ninth Street
Corvallis, OR 97333
541-754-7225, cmlc@peak.org
www.cmlcenter.org
Hours: 10 - 5 Monday - Friday; 10 - 2 Saturday

Learning New Skills and Giving Back to the Community

Recently Bobbie Beck and Pat Wallace’s beginning Crossroads Conversation School class visited the other classes to show them what they had made and tell them about the process. This is what they said.

**The Story of Our Blanket**

Our class decided to do a craft project in fall term. We decided to knit squares in many different colors. Then Bobbie taught us how to crochet the borders of each square. Last Wednesday we sewed all the squares together. Bobbie crocheted around the edges of the blanket to finish it. We will donate our blanket to Community Outreach. The people at Community Outreach will give our blanket to a family who doesn’t have much money. It may be used on a baby’s crib…or a child’s bed…or for an old lady’s lap rug. We hope it will keep somebody warm for the rest of the winter.

The whole school is going to tour Community Outreach this month, and Pat and Bobbie’s class will present the blanket.

Janet Swinyard
JOIN CROSSROADS INTERNATIONAL!

Today’s Date: ______________________
Name: _________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________
City: _________________ State:  ______  Zip _________
Telephone: _______________________________
Email: _________________________________________

☐ New Member  ☐ Renewal  ☐ Gift Membership

Gift Membership for (name)_____________________________

Annual membership dues:  ☐ $30 Family  ☐ $20 Individual
☐ $ 150 Lifetime Membership

Donations (Tax Deductible)
☐ General Contribution $____________
☐ Crossroads Conversation School $__________
☐ McCauley Fund (emergency student loans). $_______

☐ YES! I would like to receive the newsletter by email:
______________________@__________________________

Contact me about involvement in these programs/events:
☐ Serve on the Board of Directors
☐ 3-Day Home Stays
☐ Conversation Partners or Groups
☐ Friendship Homes
☐ FILM FESTIVAL 2008
☐ Crossroads Conversation School
☐ Helping With Special Events
☐ Spanish Conversation Group
☐ Speaking About Crossroads in the Community

Please send this coupon with your check made out to Crossroads International to:

Crossroads International
444 Snell Hall
Corvallis, Oregon 97331-1642