



Crossroads Connections

A Newsletter of Crossroads International Oregon State University Late Winter 2008

Afternoon "Gala" Kicks-Off 2nd Film Festival

A Riverfront Renaissance penthouse was the setting for a special party to honor the sponsors of the Second Annual



Crossroads International Film Festival. Many thanks to the generosity of Rich Carrone for the use of the space, to Regina Iovino of Iovino's Ristorante for her contribution of outstanding food, and to Barb Kralj for putting the "Gala" together.

The invitation list included Carol Trueba, Keller Williams Realty; Marjorie Lumm's Wine Glasses; Larry Roper of OSU Student Affairs; American Dream see "Gala" on p. 4



L to R: Ajmal Askerzoy, Yiging Ma, Mariko Obata, Akhila Nandgopal, Shelly Murphy

From the "Warm Heart of Africa" to the "Heart of the Valley"

Maja and Goran Jovanovic have frequently provided 3-day Home Stays for international students. They believe getting to know these students from all over the world enriches their lives. In addition, they remember how they were welcomed by Crossroads' hosts Nancy and Craig Leman when Goran came from Yugoslavia to study at OSU in the 1970s. This fall was no exception. When they were asked if they would host Ruth Mwandira and her daughter, the Jovanovics readily agreed.

Ruth is from Malawi, a small country in Southern Africa, and according to her, it is known as "The warm heart of Africa." When asked what brought her to Corvallis, Ruth explained that she had an opportunity in 1997, while auditing business courses at the University of Alberta, to come to OSU for a workshop. During her visit, she was taken on a tour of the campus and investigated the programs OSU

Mark your calendars for
MAY 4th for a *new*
**Crossroads International
Spring Event**
for Members, Volunteers, & Program Participants
See page 2 for more information

offered. She said, "I felt this would be a good place to pursue a PhD program because of the tranquility, the green environment, and the friendly people. I made up my mind that I would one day come back, and sure enough, here I am 10 years later."

After earning her BS in Agriculture from the University of Malawi in 1984, Ruth's professional life began as a high school teacher. In the '90s, her interests shifted from teaching to community development, and she worked for the Ministry of Gender and Community Services.

See *Malawi Student* p. 5

Spring Event

This year we are taking a break from the usual activity at the Crossroads International Spring Picnic: shivering around the BBQ grill in the cool damp air. Join us on **Sunday, May 4th at 2:00 p.m.**



for the Crossroads
International

Taste of the World Potluck Party At "The Pillar"

2323 NW Monroe St.

This will be an indoor event, but we will gravitate outside if the weather permits. The Pillar is a new student resource center. Please bring an international dish to share (snacks, dessert, etc), Crossroads will provide beverages and entertainment.

The event will be open to the general public in addition to past and current members, volunteers and supporters of Crossroads International. We especially welcome our energetic Film Festival committee and supporters, as well as our endlessly dedicated volunteers at the Conversation School for Women. We hope that everyone, including students and visiting scholars, will bring their families to this event. If you are a Crossroads volunteer, please invite your conversation partners, home stay students, or friendship partners to join in the fun.

Graduation Reception for International Students

International Programs is planning a reception for graduating international students on Saturday, June 14 - the day before OSU's graduation. More information about this event coming in the spring newsletter.

Crossroads International

Board Members

Board Chair	Cheryl Black blackcherry111@msn.com
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Staff

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Conversation School Director	Amy Davila-Klautzsch 541-812-1324

Conversations in English Foster Friendships

Fall term, Crossroads International's new Conversation Groups met with a good initial turnout and when mid-terms hit, some students had the difficult choice of whether to study or meet with their Conversation Group. Though our conversations were lively and enjoyable, our attendance dropped a bit by the end of the term.

Winter quarter got off to a slow start, but recently with the improved weather, our numbers have grown. Discussion subjects this term have included discrimination, Valentines Day, identity theft, and, of course, food.

I would encourage you to join us and/or spread the word to your international friends about this practical and enjoyable time to practice English conversation. Meeting times are from 4:00 to 5:00 PM on Tuesdays and 1:00 to 2:00 PM on Fridays at the Corvallis Multicultural Literacy Center, 128 SW 9th Street. ...Jayme Harris

Conversation School Teacher Gives and Receives for 18 Years

Mitzi Schad, a long-time Conversation School teacher was asked recently why she keeps volunteering. Here is her response:

Late in 1989, shortly after I retired following 34 years of service at The Rockefeller Foundation, two years as a Peace Corps staff member in Africa, and four years in OSU's Office of International Agriculture (as it was then called), I was casting about for opportunities to volunteer in the community in ways that would make use of my experience and interests. What is now known as Crossroads Conversation School (CCS), had been founded three years previously and had grown into a program which served about 80 students. To help the wives of international students and visiting scholars improve their facility in conversational English, as well as assist them in getting "plugged in" to the Corvallis' community, seemed to present the perfect fit.

One of my motivations was to pay back here in Corvallis for the kindnesses of a family in Tunisia who had adopted me in much the same way Crossroads International Home-stay and Friendship Hosts open their homes to international students and their families. During the 15 months I lived in Tunis (1962-63), the Khayat



From l to r: Joan Rodgers (Co-Teacher), **Mitzi**, Mia Lee (Korea), Shin Ja Moon (Korea), Monica Gomez (Colombia), Yoon Suk Woo (Korea),

family, consisting of Baba, Mama, five daughters, and one son, called me "la sixieme soeur" and included me in various holiday festivities, the equivalent of an engagement party for one of the daughters, days spent at the beach, and a trip to southern Tunisia to participate in a wedding ceremony which was unique to their home village. My interaction with them also afforded the opportunity to hone my speaking ability in French and to acquire some Arabic.

Over the years since 1990, CCS has become a part of my life. In September of each year I look forward to a new CCS term and the mix of countries which will be represented among the students assigned to my class. In addition to my own travels in the past to a goodly number of countries, I now have the opportunity to travel vicariously on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. And on two occasions, when I was traveling to Tokyo and to Santiago, Chile, I was able to re-new acquaintance with CCS students who had recently returned to their home countries. As do other teachers, I learn as much about other parts of the world as our students learn about the United States and Corvallis. CCS truly is a place "where world friendships begin."

...Mitzi Schad



Mitzi (center) with her former students Liping Guo, Li Lui in front of the public library, in August 2007

OPPORTUNITY IS KNOCKING!

Nominations are open for Crossroads Board positions. If you have ideas to offer and can meet once per month, consider serving on the Board. For more information or to nominate someone, contact the C.I. Office or any board member (p.2).

“Gala” continued from page 1

Pizza; Richard Gretz Jewelers; Dee Wendel of Footwise Shoes; Translations.com; Gene Buccola of Hasson Company Realtors; Praana Bramana Yoga Studio; and Evergreen Indian Restaurant, underwriters of the cost of the films, and other long-time supporters of Crossroads International.

A group of International Cultural Service Program students wearing traditional dress were on hand to greet guests as they arrived and to converse with folks as they enjoyed the view and the food.

To show our appreciation to the sponsors, the Film Festival Committee encourages Crossroads members to patronize their businesses in the coming months.



C.I. Film Festival “That’s a Wrap!”

The four Sundays in February turned out to be very busy days in Corvallis. There was the Super Bowl, Chinese New Year, Concerts, Plays AND the Crossroads International Film Festival. It was at times disheartening to see so few people in attendance at some of the films. For ten months preceding this year’s event, the Film Festival Committee previewed and discussed films from all over the world and made selections that they believed would appeal to, enlighten, and/or entertain a wide audience. Attendance was hard to predict, as noted on the sunny Sunday afternoon of the 17th, which seemed to bring more people than many of our other rainy-day showings!

Many thanks to Crossroads members and friends who attended the films, Elaine and Terry Kelley who volunteered each week, and to the International Cultural Service Program students who helped make it festive.

If you haven’t yet done so, please give us your feedback, as we will be debriefing and considering whether or not a film festival is the best way to raise funds for Crossroads International’s programs next year.

World View Series in Spring

You are invited to attend Crossroads’ World View presentations at 7 PM, on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Corvallis Multicultural Literacy Center, 128 SW Ninth Street

April 17 Pairs: International Siblings at OSU
May 15 Summer ‘08 Olympics in China



Eunice Naswali sells tickets while Jordi Leeb and Ayesha Nagra greet patrons on the first Sunday of the Film Festival

Lastly, thank you to the dedicated Film Festival Committee members, Jodi Altendorf, Jordi Leeb, Dawn Moyer, Shelly Murphy, Ayesha Nagra, Michele Riberio, Samantha Sied, and Jessica Wisor. They enjoyed the planning and friendships evolved.

We didn’t arrive at our goal to exceed last year’s profit of \$2700, but we did manage to put approximately \$2,000 into Crossroads bank account, and gained several new members as a result of this event. Welcome new members!

NOTE: The film festival committee will review exit surveys and sales data before developing a fundraising strategy for next year. If you would like to take part in this process, or help preview films, contact Madhurima Bhadra: madhurima.bhadra2@oregonstate.edu or 737-5041.

Malawi Student *cont. from page 1*



Ruth Mwandira (on the right) with her daughter Lilly

She then went to Israel for training in organization and management, and followed that by completing an MBA at the University of Durham in the UK in 1996. While still at her job at the Ministry, she became a part-time management lecturer at the University of Malawi. Then for six years before coming to OSU, Ruth was Executive Director of the Christian Health Association of Malawi, a faith-based organization responsible for delivery of 40% of total health care services in Malawi.

Ruth is married and has four children. Leaving most of the family in Malawi, she came to

Corvallis in September with her daughter Lilly, a high school senior. She is pursuing a PhD in Public Health (Health Management and Policy track) at OSU.

When asked about her experience in Corvallis thus far, Ruth said that she and her daughter were lucky that the Crossroads program found accommodations for them before they arrived with a wonderful family, the Jovanovics. She said, "I would like to take this opportunity to thank Crossroads and commend them for the good work they are doing in helping international students feel secure. It is quite scary to go to a new place not knowing where you will be staying. I would also like to thank the Jovanovics, who are now our friends, for their generosity in opening up their house to us."

Commenting on what has been most difficult for her here, Ruth said, "Being away from the rest of the family," She has also found OSU's term system hectic and stressful as she is used to having a mid-term break in the middle of the semester. As for her long-term plans, Ruth said that when she completes her degree, she plans to become a Public Health faculty member at the University of Malawi.

International Students Share Their Culture

Each year, the international student groups present an evening of entertainment for the entire community. If you have never attended a Cultural Night put on by one of groups, you have missed a great opportunity to experience the traditional food, costumes, dance, music and more from different cultures and lands.

Mark your calendar - the following Cultural Activities are scheduled:

April 6 Taiwanese Night

12 India Night

20 Vietnamese Night

May 10 Africa Night

11 Japanese Night

17-18 Native American Pow Wow

18 ISOSU Spring Festival (no ticket required for this outdoor event)

18 Filipino Night

June 1 World Music Festival <http://eventsoregonstate.edu/groups/isosu/>

Tickets are usually available one week before at Student Involvement

110 Snell Hall. (For hours call 541-737-2101)

In Loving Memory

When longtime member **Jean Heath** passed away in January, her family asked that remembrances be made to Crossroads on her behalf. To date, C.I. has received more than \$1500 in donations in Jean's name. She left a legacy of goodwill, and the friendships she formed with others throughout the world will long endure.

Thank you Jean.



Oregon State UNIVERSITY OSU

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MEMBERSHIP IN CROSSROADS INTERNATIONAL

Today's Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

New Member Renewal Gift Membership

Gift Membership for (name) _____

Annual **membership dues**: \$20 Individual

\$30 Family \$ 150 Lifetime Membership

Donations (Tax Deductible)

General Contribution \$ _____

Crossroads Conversation School \$ _____

McCauley Fund (emergency student loans). \$ _____

Sponsorship of Film Festival \$500 (to be listed on poster)

Other amount enclosed: _____

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 Groups

Friendship Hosts

FILM FESTIVAL 2009

Conversation School

Social Events

World View Series or other educational programs

Spanish Conversation Group (or other language)

Speaking About Crossroads in the Community

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

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444 Snell Hall
Corvallis, Oregon 97331-1642