

"Mr. Bob" special to foreign students



Bob Wynia, Oral Communications teacher

by Alberta Roper
Staff Writer

"It would be really good if a special teacher of the foreign student could have a story in the paper about him - he is so good and interesting. His name is Mr. Bob," signed M. Kwal and J. Chen.

That short, pencilled note written on yellow lined paper had volumes. Two foreign students went to a lot of trouble to get that message to the Print staff on behalf of their "special teacher." But the question remained, "Who is Mr. Bob?"

The "mystery" man's identity was unveiled by Vince Fitzgerald of Counseling, who does advising for the foreign students. Considering the source of the note, there was no doubt that "Mr. Bob" was Bob Wynia, Instructor of Developmental Education.

Wynia, creates a comfortable atmosphere with his casual manner, warmth and willingness to share information about himself with deep sincerity. Wynia gave this endorsement of the people in his department: "The college is lucky to have the teachers they do in the Development Department. They are all dedicated to doing what they're doing."

"I am teaching with some of the best teachers around," he added.

"He's dedicated to teaching"

A final serious comment: "He's dedicated to teaching," and discussion ensued about Wynia's background and training which could command a great deal more money than teaching.

Digging into his employment history revealed that Wynia has a background which is varied and even impressive. A great deal of his experience has been in the field of education.

Wynia was an Administrator and Assistant Professor of Administration at the University of Oregon in Eugene from 1967 - 1974. He taught students and public officials in all areas of management, finance, contract administration, planning, community development, and social action.

He spent a year in California working with the U.S. Civil Service Commission, where he conducted development seminars to top level federal executives. It was on the heels of that position that he became a White House Staff writer.

Wynia explained that he teaches developmental education to all the students on campus, including the foreign students. "We have one of the most important tasks - dealing with students who have never succeeded before," he emphasized. "We have foreign students who don't understand our system. We have an obligation to help them fit into our society."

When Wynia gave time out of his Oral Communications Class (Speech 30) to allow his foreign students to share their own feelings about this "special teacher," with "The Print", their comments confirmed how they feel about him.

In response to the question of what they found special about Wynia, who they call "Teacher," "Bob," or "Mr. Bob," it evoked some interesting commentary.

"He teaches with fun - he is funny."

"He's very nice and friendly." "He teaches with fun - he is funny." "He is very understanding to foreigners."

One girl spoke very seriously. "We come over with many fears, and it's nice to find a friend - not just a teacher, but someone who can teach and also understand the fears."

Another student eagerly responded with, "It is very comfortable in class - like home - no enemy. Here (in the class) we are all foreigners. He understands how we feel. We get nervous in other classes."

When asked if there was anything else anyone would like to

add about Wynia, several students gave input. A male student stated firmly, "He's the best teacher in Clackamas Community College." Other students heartily agreed. Then a female student giggled, "He's good looking, too."

"So much deception and dishonest management."

An Oregonian article (February 15, 1983) written about Wynia by Paul Koberstein, informed that Wynia "authored 'major' portions of Nixon's speeches on the subject of reorganization and penned part of the president's 1971 State of the Union address."

Wynia had gone to the Capitol with a deep concern for social programs and desired to impact changes in how they were run. The Oregonian article stated, "He thought when he went to Washington in April 1970 that he could help change the system; Washington changed him instead, he said." The time spent in Washington, D.C. was a real eye-opening experience for Wynia, mainly due to the fact that there was "so much deception and dishonest management." When pressed on how it changed him, Wynia thoughtfully remarked, "I learned to appreciate open and honest management."

After that temporary digression from the field of education, Wynia returned to Salem, Oregon to become a department director for the Oregon Board of Education.

Then private enterprise lured him away from the scholastic corridors, and for seven years Wynia has been involved with development projects. For a number of years he was director for the Lane County Housing and Community Development where he administered over 10 million dollars a year in grants and community development funds.

Again the education field beckoned. This time right here at Clackamas Community College. Wynia became the Assistant to the Dean of Instruction in 1980. He later transferred to the Developmental Education Department where he has remained up to the present.

Although he didn't know it at the time, another attraction awaited his arrival on campus - his future wife, Marilyn. Mrs. Wynia works in the Physical Education Department/ Women's Track and Cross Country. Like her husband, she also has been a world traveler. "She was an alternate to the 1976 Olympic Team," her husband said proudly, "and was an All-American track athlete from Oklahoma State University."

Wynia's expression really became charged with admiration when the subject of children came up. His three children by a former marriage are all accomplished in various fields of study. "I am as proud of my children as anything I have done," he beamed.



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