

Intercultural orientation makes changes

International students study American culture

by Claudia Smulders
Staff Writer

The intercultural orientation class, a class for international students to get to know more about American people, culture, customs and America in general, will be different from Fall and Winter Term.

Usually what the students do in this class is exchange customs and traditions from their own countries, especially around Christmas time, said instructor Ellen Burbridge. Students also talk about some of the problems they face at Clackamas, because above those normal problems, they have the problem of adjusting. Sometimes a whole class period was about teaching the

students useful American expressions they don't understand.

The main goal of this class this term, however, is to let the students get to know more about other cultures and especially the American one. Burbridge always encourages the students to meet as many Americans as possible and to get to know them better.

This term, Burbridge came up with the idea of letting the students work on four different projects; a movie, orientation book, student picture book and helping out with international week.

The purpose of the first project, making a movie, is to let new international students, who will attend CCC, see what the

students and the campus are like. The students who work on this project will interview some American and international students.

The next project is an orientation book. This book hasn't been made before and in this book will be all the information a new international student at CCC needs to know. There will be, for example, information about how to register, how the placement test works and how to deal with homesickness. There are even plans to put maps of the campus in there, so that at least the problem of getting lost on campus is taken care of. There will also be information about finances, transportation and visa matters in the book.

"There is a great need for an orientation book. New students will feel a lot more secure," Burbridge said.

The third project is the student picture book. Last year there was a request from the counseling staff that they wanted to know more about the international students and who was who. Because of that request, the students made a picture book and this year's students will update it.

The last project is to help organize international week.

Some Asian students offered to help with Asia day. They will help cook, sell food and sell the international T-shirts.

May 10 is Europe day, May 12 is Spain/Latin America day and Friday is Asia day. Call 657-6958 ext. 2550 for a program or for more information.

"The goal for this term will be for the international students to work together without the help of an instructor and to get a result they can be proud of," Burbridge concluded.

Large crowd greets poet Sharon Olds

by Tina McFarland
Staff Writer

Met by a crowd of nearly 300 people, nationally known poet Sharon Olds was well received at her poetry reading April 6.

Olds was summoned by English instructor Kate Gray. Gray wrote about 15 writers, and Olds "responded immediately. She fit our time schedule and was one of the most prestigious writers who responded," Gray said.

Gray wrote a grant for the "Writer in Residency" program, where once a year in the spring, a writer will come to Clackamas to give a reading and will stay for one to three days.

Olds read from a selection of poems about surviving incest and abuse and life through a child's eyes. Olds referred to poems as small, saying, "I feel more confident taking on small things. A poem is small ... a piece of dust.

"Each poem is inspired by something different, an idea, a moment," Olds said. "My poem

"The Fetus in the Voting Booth," I saw a sticker in a voting booth. That was my source for that poem."

Olds said that the point of poetry is not necessarily to convey a message.

"Does one really know what the message is? I don't think of a poem as a basket for carrying messages. Everyone wishes to make something a little bit alive, not just a message in a bottle. Poems are not really alive, they are not beasts of burden. They should be free," Olds said.

Olds attributes her writing largely to children. "Children all have something to say. They all have poems in them, all they need is a grown-up to write it down for them. Then they can write it down for themselves. Then one must practice; work to make it accurate. Accurate to mystery as well as to anything else. It's just a human thing to write," she said.

Former Clackamas student prospers in business venture

by Heidi Branstator
Feature Editor

In the spring of 1989, Clackamas marketing major Jason Gibson was selected as a senator to the presiding ASG Entertainment Coordinator. Gibson had no idea how many doors that position would open for him.

Soon after the election, Gibson found himself representing ASG at the Career Occupational Advisory Committee meeting and a number of various clubs and committees.

"I didn't realize at the time the experience and opportunities I was encountering would lead to a successful business venture," he said.

Gibson is currently seeking the opportunity to return to CCC to play a more active role in student government, specifically dealing with entertainment.

"Ever since my participation in ASG, I have wanted to be involved in music and promotions," he said. "I feel that I can be a benefit to ASG by providing more cost-efficient sources of local entertainment."

Gibson believes he has the experience and understanding of the process of working "within the college chain of command in trying to get things done."

His business experience began the year he was elected an ASG senator. He received a job referral through the Career Development Center which was advertising a telemarketing/sales position selling copiers and fax machines for a local Konica dealership.

"My job at the time was to call on purchasing agents, presidents and vice-presidents and collect information on their purchasing patterns," Gibson said.

In April, 1991, Gibson and his associate Mark Jorgensen

went out on their own as Business Research Consultants.

"I soon recognized the importance and the role of contact management in the marketplace and have since become more of an information broker/marketing consultant for some of the most reputable office equipment vendors and insurance companies in Portland," he said.

Business Research Consultants has directly aided their clients in marketing more than \$3 million worth of office equipment and insurance.

Today, Gibson holds a 3.5 GPA and is approximately 20

credits from receiving his Associates Degree in marketing.

"Since going into business for myself, I've had to keep my education in perspective. I've taken the Greenhouse development course at the Harmony Center and have since attended several other course and seminars which don't offer credit, but allow me to develop the skills and stamina to stay in business. To me it's not the degree that counts, but what's done with the education," he said.



Photo by Anjanette Booth

Jason Gibson, former CCC marketing major, ventured out on his own and went into business for himself. He is now an information broker/marketing consultant for some of the most reputable office equipment vendors and insurance companies in Portland.

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