

Retired Costa Ricans visit on exchange program

by Anjanette Booth
News Editor

The Retired Persons Exchange Program of Oregon's chapter of the national Partners of the Americas is hosting 21 retired professionals from Costa Rica.

Partners of the Americas is the largest volunteer organization in the western hemisphere. The program was founded in 1964 under President John F. Kennedy's Alliance for Progress agenda.

The organization works with different committees in the United States and Central American, South American and Caribbean countries. These committees form programs to help strengthen neighboring countries by partnering with the states.

Programs consist of community education development programs, a health program, an agricultural program, a child abuse program and a retired persons exchange program.

The retired persons exchange program was the last program to be formed in the Partners of the Americas by Carlotta Holley in

1988. This began Oregon's chapter with Latin American country Costa Rica.

"The purpose of the program today is to strengthen; not only to help them economically and technologically, but to strengthen the bonds of friendship between the countries," Holley said.

Each October, the program brings more than 20 retired professionals from Costa Rica, and in January sends 20 retired Oregonians to Costa Rica.

This exchange helps to promote inter-American friendships,



photo by Josh Kehler

Twenty-one retired professionals from Costa Rica ask about the ELC's recycling center as a part of their tour of CCC.

cooperation, understanding and social and economical development.

Holley has structured the pro-

gram so each Costa Rican spends two weeks with two different families. This gives the Costa Ricans a better idea of how Americans live. Host families in Oregon provide food and lodging for their guests, making this exchange fairly inexpensive for the traveler.

All that is needed is a round trip ticket and less than \$200 for planned activities.

There are a variety of activities scheduled for the Costa Rican visitors and their hosts.

These activities include a guided tour of CCC's Environ-

mental Learning Center and Recycling plant, a visit to the Portland Art Center for Performing Arts, a walking tour of Portland, a visit to the Newport Aquarium, a two-day trip to the Columbia Gorge, Hood River, and Mount Hood, as well as a number of other activities.

Clackamas' Spanish Club is also involved with the Costa Ricans during their visit. The club entertained the visitors with refreshments after their trip to the ELC.

The visitors have also spoken in Holley's Spanish classes about Costa Rica.

The Oregon-Costa Rica Partners of the Americas Retired Persons Exchange Program has made a number of new friends and contacts for Holley in Costa Rica.

These friends and contacts enable Holley to find homes in Costa Rica for students she feels may like to experience the Latin American culture first hand.

Last year, Holley was able to take a group of six students to Costa Rica.

These students stayed with past cultural exchange retirees.

COLLEGE FOUNDATION: THE STRENGTH BEHIND THE SCENES

by Christi Snavely
Staff Writer

The College Foundation has influenced the lives of virtually everyone at CCC in some way or another, although very few people know the extent of what the foundation is about.

The foundation was formed 23 years ago as a source for knowledge about the college to reach the community around it.

In the past seven or eight years, the foundation has taken a much more active role in both "friendraising and fundraising," said David Dickson, director of the foundation. The fundraising has been very successful; last year's gifts of cash, land and equipment totaled just under \$1.5 million.

The money provides private scholarships and grants for students in all programs at Clackamas. Last year, about 100 students received the funds.

Additional services include the availability of mini-grants for staff of up to \$3,000; awarded to a member who submits applications for creative, innovative projects that will help student

learning in the classroom.

The foundation has running programs called major capital campaigns that allow them to sponsor projects to help specific areas of the college that have projected growth in the future. For example, the foundation furnished all the equipment and furniture for the Oregon Advance Technology Center in Wilsonville. The final funding was completed June 30.

Another capital campaign is the Family Resource Center. The foundation has raised all but about \$60,000 of the \$1 million that the center cost, and they hope to have it completed by December.

The success of the fundraising has increased more than ten times what it was five years ago.

Dickson attributes that directly to the 25 active local community and business leaders who sit on the board. These members act as a liaison for the school by way of direct interaction with members of the staff and student government representatives. They can take the information and needs of the campus directly to

those who have an interest in making contributions.

"For people who want to support the college, typically it's an emotional decision to make a contribution of \$50,000 or \$10,000. And to hear a real life example of a student whose life was changed as a result of contact with the foundation or a donation really makes people who donate the money feel good about their donation," Dickson said.

Students from the Young Parent Opportunity program or Life and Career Options participate directly with the tours for the Family Resource Center and are able to give personal statements about how the program has helped them.

With the completion of the two projects in the final stages, the foundation is surging ahead with plans for the future.

Community Conversations are brainstorming sessions for faculty and staff with the purpose of identifying the most important things the foundation can do with private support for the college.

The group narrowed the ideas to a final four, took them

to 40 community and business leaders and asked them to shorten them down to two.

The final decision was to obtain funds to support learning innovations using state of the art equipment for instruction, as well as raising additional support for student scholarships and grants to ensure access to higher education.

This venture will be less of a capital campaign (which raises money year to year) and more of an endowment campaign that will establish a large fund that will have the interest and income from the fund go directly to the programs.

The foundation is in the process of a 12-month review and study of the school's private scholarship and financial support program.

The purpose of the study is to renovate the entire program to be much less time-consuming.

"We want to improve our ability to make it a user-friendly system which students can use and which is simple and efficient and practical for both student and donor," Dickson said.

At this time, students have to fill out an individual form for every scholarship or grant they are interested in.

Eventually, Dickson would like to develop a system of one individual form with access to all available programs.

Dickson summed up the work of the College Foundation by giving its mission statement.

"The foundation is really about making a difference in the lives of students here at the college.

"The more we can get people in the community feeling like they can make a difference through their contributions, the more successful we're going to be."

MILWAUKIE'S HOTTEST SPOT!

CATTLE COMPANY
16323 SE McLoughlin Blvd.
WEDNESDAYS
BLACK ANGUS

VIDEO ROULETTE

SQUARE COW FUN BAR

DANCE AND ALTERNATIVE MUSIC AT ITS BEST

OUTRAGEOUS SPECIALS!

Win a trip to Ireland! ... Take a spin and win !!!
Must be 21 with ID. One Coupon per customer per visit.

AIM HIGH

Get The Facts On Air Force ROTC

Air Force ROTC allows you to earn a commission as an officer while attending college. In addition, the program offers scholarship opportunities to qualified students with GPAs of 2.65 or better. Get the facts on Air Force ROTC and make an informed choice. You may find it has exactly what you're looking for so call now for more information:

Tara Hinkley, Air Force ROTC Program Counselor
Detachment 695, University of Portland
(503) 283-7216

AIR FORCE ROTC

Leadership Excellence Starts Here