

Clackamas student named Oregon Scholar

Amy Ku'uipo Hanson
Managing Editor

Cindy Hines Kurfman is not only one of this year's Oregon Scholars representing CCC, but one of the many other Clackamas students with interesting stories to tell.

After starting here last fall, Kurfman was chosen as one of two students to represent Clackamas as an Oregon Scholar, the other was Shane Bassett. Last month, Kurfman and Bassett joined other Oregon Scholars for a banquet with Governor Kitzhaber in Salem.

A member of Phi Theta Kappa, Kurfman has received a full tuition Rotary scholarship for the 1996-97 school year. She has also been nominated for a number of other scholarships, including Datatel.

On May 20 at the Phi Theta Kappa Awards Banquet and Recognition Ceremony, Kurfman will be recognized as an Oregon Scholar. She will be awarded the Rotary scholarship on May 21.

Kurfman is after her Associate of Arts in Education Transfer Degree which will enable her to transfer to either Pacific Uni-

versity or Lewis and Clark, as the next step in her master plan.

"I want to be an elementary school teacher and keep doing freelance writing on the side," said Kurfman.

Did someone say freelance? Fostering her love of poetry and writing, Kurfman has been freelance writing for the past nine years published in church publications and in publications at Purdue University where she worked as secretary to the director of the Black Cultural Center.

"It was a good experience for me, growing up in Gladstone there was only one family that was black," said Kurfman.

It was at Purdue that Kurfman joined a group called Haraka Writers that helped to expand her confidence in her writing abilities.

"Haraka helped me feel more confident and was very accepting of me," she said. The Haraka Writers group also helped Kurfman overcome shyness.

"I read in front of an audience of 200 people," she said. "That was really a coming out of my shell."

Kurfman landed her first writing job when she flew back to Oregon for a writing workshop. A church historian helped to get her first feature article published.

"I had a lot of people believe in me, and my writing," said Kurfman. "That makes the difference, having people that believe in me."

Kurfman's interest in working with kids began when she helped with Kindergarten classes while attending Gladstone High School. She has also been a Sunday School teacher for a number of years and when her oldest daughter, Abigail, now nine, started kindergarten she helped in her class. It wasn't until she initiated a poetry class to first graders that she realized she could combine her interests.



Contributed photo

Oregon Scholar Cindy Hines Kurfman receives 1996 Student Scholar Award from Governor John Kitzhaber.

After living most of her life in Clackamas County, Kurfman moved about the continental U.S. ending up in a conservative county in Pennsylvania.

"It was a totally different culture," said Kurfman. "It was a lot easier to fit in to the Black Cultural Center. It was hard for me to be in a place where women were expected to be submissive and follow a strict code of dress. At the same time, I got more involved in women's issues at church." Native to Oregon, Kurfman moved back to the Northwest last year driving a U-Haul cross country from Pennsylvania with her three kids and her cat.

"I realized I needed the support of my family to make it through school," said Kurfman.

Now a single mother, Kurfman has decided that it is important to put emphasis on her own career goals.

"I was following my husband's career, putting him through school," said Kurfman. "It's time to put myself first."

Kurfman returned to college because she realized that without a degree there was only so far she could go.

"I can't be an editor, (or)

teacher and I don't want to be a secretary," she said.

Kurfman has kept herself busy this year by taking a full load of classes, being a single mother, tutoring psychology, participating in Chrysalis and Phi Theta Kappa, leading a Writer's and Artist's group at church and receiving a Poetry Honorable Mention in the college's Writer's Club Contest. And she did all this while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. Kurfman has had a lot of help from friends and family.

"When I decided to come here, one of my writing mentors gave me \$200 and said, 'Here is your first scholarship,'" said Kurfman.

She currently has a grant from PEO Sisterhood who wants to continue to sponsor her next year. With a partial child care scholarship, her two-year-old son attends the Campfire Daycare Center here on campus.

"I think I'm going to make it, reach my dream of working with kids and keep writing," said Kurfman. "Someday I hope I can help other people make their dreams come true. People should think about what they want to do and not what others want them to."

THE MINDREADER

By Matt Jones and Jan Roberts

Solve these puzzles keeping in mind that every letter of the alphabet will be used only once in the grid.

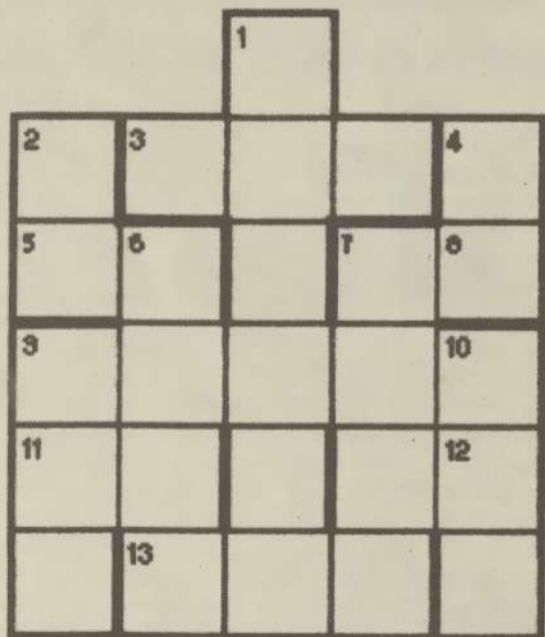
Across

- 3. "Don't ____" (Seal hit)
- 5. 1995 name in the news
- 7. Phoenix's state postal abbr.
- 8. Horn for "Taps" or "Reveille"
- 10. Nevada's state postal abbr., in reverse
- 11. Abbr. used after noon
- 12. Horses, in chess: Abbr.

Cross

- 1. Orville or Wilbur of aviation fame
- 2. Tic-tac-toe letters
- 4. The two letters you can't dial on a telephone
- 6. Garbage
- 7. Swiss mountain range
- 8. Men's underwear brand
- 9. Techno band with the hit song "Unbelievable"

Answers in next week's MINDREADER.



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POWWOW

Saturday, June 1, CCC Campus, Randall Gym



Host Drum
Eagle Valley

MC
David
Brown-Eagle

CCC's Coyote Circle is co-sponsoring this powwow, in conjunction with the Indian Education Program for Clackamas County and the Parent Committee.