

Sabbatical proves to be an enriching adventure

**Karin Redston
Feature Editor**

As part of her sabbatical last year, Ellen Wolfson, Career/Counseling Chairperson, decided to learn Spanish by living in Mexico and in Latin American countries.

"My two goals were to learn Spanish and to be a part of the community," said Wolfson.

Wolfson's adventure started off in a place called Cuernavaca, Mexico. She spent approximately two months there before moving on to Oaxaca, Mexico. In each location she attended a language school.

"I was a student every day for six hours and then had four hours a night of homework," said Wolfson. "My whole life was being a student and just concentrating on one thing."

Part of the adventure for Wolfson was finding her way

around the areas, trying to communicate in Spanish, and trying to cook the foods. Families would invite her in and went out of their way to help her.

"I got to really meet the indigenous people in Oaxaca," said Wolfson. "Oaxaca is in southern Mexico. It's known all over the world for its indigenous pueblos where each pueblo, which is kind of a little community, has their own art where they do art to make a living."

Wolfson explained she had another goal for her trip: to take her adopted daughter back to her native country.

"I adopted a little girl from Columbia 16 years ago and her name is Maria," said Wolfson. "We went back to Columbia for the first time in 16 years. We went to Columbia to research her roots and to see where she came from." Wolfson learned a lot about



Ellen Wolfson with Ecuadorian children in the Andes.

Photo by Kathleen Fallon

her daughter by visiting her foster parents in Columbia and described the year as very emo-

tional.

Wolfson then moved on to Quito, Ecuador where she continued to study Spanish. There the Spanish school was one teacher to one student and much more intense. When she wasn't studying, Wolfson was off hiking in the Andes meeting still more people and new villages.

Wolfson said she remembers most fondly two grandmothers whom she called her mentors. Of all the people she misses most these two were most important.

Wolfson is the International Club advisor and is also coordinating with Carlotta Holley, Departmental Chair of International Studies, to arrange summer trips to Mexico for intensive language study. Students would be able to get credit and explore another country. Knowing Spanish is not necessary since students are going to Mexico to learn the lan-

guage.

Although Wolfson misses Mexico and Latin America, she is glad to be back at school. Maria is also at Clackamas starting her first term.

"I really miss that culture but I've lived here all my life," said Wolfson. "It's easy how familiar it becomes very quickly. It's like riding a bicycle."

Wolfson feels that her sabbatical experiences have given her a new awareness.

"It's made me have an open heart to people from different cultures," said Wolfson. "I was like that before I left, but I'm even more sensitive to it now because I know what it's like to get off a bus and not know where you are."

"I think anytime you step out of your own community-where you live and what you're used to-it's a big lesson in life. There's no other lesson to me that's more valuable than that."



Ellen Wolfson with new friends from Oaxaca, Mexico.

Photo by Maria Burbridge

Event includes Clackamas' Craig Lesley

Authors' Night features cultures, conflict

**Tracy Moore
Staff Writer**

Clackamas Community College will be holding its popular "Authors' Night" on Wednesday, Oct. 23, at 7 p.m. in the Gregory Forum.

The focus of the evening will be "Conflicting Cultures in Fiction."

Three honored writers of fiction will be featured at this event: Jennifer Cornell, Diana Abu-Jaber, and Craig Lesley. Each of them will share their ideas and passages from their books. All of the books being featured have to do in one way or another with cultures at conflict.

The first writer, Jennifer Cornell, is the author of "Departures," a collection of stories centered in Belfast, Ireland. She was the winner of the prestigious 1994 Drue Heinz Literature Prize, and a finalist for the 1995 Oregon

Book Award. Cornell, who is a native of Ireland, is completing a book on presentations of North Ireland in contemporary British television drama. She currently teaches creative writing at Oregon State University.

The second writer, Diana Abu-Jaber, is the author of the novel, "Arabian Jazz," a book that won the Oregon Book Award in 1994, and was a finalist for the national PEN/Hemingway First Novel Award. This book, which the Boston Globe called "a joy to read," deals in part with the conflicts between Arab and American cultures. Abu-Jaber is among the nation's first Arab-American novelists, and was featured on the July/August cover of Poets and Writers Magazine, a national publication.

The third writer of the evening will be Clackamas' own Craig Lesley. Lesley, who is an

English instructor, has gained a national reputation for his descriptive writing about the conflicts between Indian and white cultures in Eastern Oregon. He has been a finalist for the Oregon Book Award twice, and has won both the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Award and the Western Writers Spur Award.

Lesley's latest novel, "The Sky Fisherman," is a finalist for the 1996 Oregon Book Award and was a preliminary round nominee for the Pulitzer Prize. His previous two novels are "Winterkill" and "River Song"; he has also published an anthology of Northwest Indian literature and a collection of stories.

Authors' Night is an event open to the public, and everyone is welcome. Admission is free; however, a donation of \$2 to Friends of the Library will be accepted.

Club Calendar

SKI CLUB: The first meeting of the Ski Club is today at noon in P102. It is open to all Clackamas snow enthusiasts.

WOMEN'S SOCCER CLUB: All Welcome! Practices are Tuesday and Thursday from 5:45 to 6:15 p.m. If interested, contact Jason Manning at 630-3581 or Amy Ware in the Student Activities office.

INTERNATIONAL CLUB: The first International Club meeting is Oct. 10 at 12:30 p.m. in room CC126. This is the time to make new friends and to have fun learning about other cultures. Everyone is welcome to join. If you have questions, call Ellen Wolfson, advisor, at ext. 2550.

BAPTIST STUDENT MINISTRIES: In BSM Christian Fellowship they study how to handle life's pressures without

being stressed out. BSM meets Mondays from 12 to 12:50 p.m. in room P104, Tuesdays from 10 to 10:50 a.m. in B114, Thursdays from 12:30 to 1:20 p.m. in B112 and Fridays from 11 to 11:50 a.m. in B238.

Monday Night Madness is a time to be together and grow in our walk with Christ. We meet every Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Barclay Village Apartments, #404.

There is a men's Bible study on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. in Barclay Village Apartments #404. You do not have to be a member of BSM to come.

If you have questions or need directions, call Carolyn at 650-8526 or 497-3491, or Jeff Kiernan at 637-3848.

NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS' CLUB COYOTE CIRCLE:

The Coyote Circle is meeting Thursday, Oct. 17, at noon in B224.

WE WANT YOUR BLOOD...

THE ASG WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE MONDAY, NOV. 4 FROM 9 A.M. TO 2 P.M. THE EVENT WILL BE IN THE GREGORY FORUM. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT BRINDA FEARN. VOLUNTEER, DONATE AND HELP SOMEONE IN NEED.