

Connection Club offers networking, friendship

Mairin-Anne Moore
Staff Writer

A bright new idea from five students in a leadership class last year has organized a new connection club for students.

After brainstorming, Shirley Quam, Tonya Leikam, Nate Smith, Taunya Herbor and Gerrie Zimmerman have come up with a way for students new and old to come together and become more familiar with each other and the campus.

Tonya Leikam, representative for the club, told the Print, "It's a good way to catch the students that slip by us."

The club benefits new students by enabling them to meet more people and become involved in the college. The older students will be able to meet those who have just joined the college's enrollment and meet those they do

not know who have been here. Together, students can be a part of the college's activities and know the college better.

No real plans have been set in stone for the club. Six more students are needed to make it an official club according to their constitution. Officer positions are up for grabs.

"Right now we are just looking for input on the direction of the club and its activities. Then we will take it from there," says Leikam.

No requirements are necessary for those interested in joining. Members may devote as much time as they desire and there are no fees.

For those interested in joining, call Advisor Sharon Sample, or Shirley Quam at the Ambassador's office, ext. 2481.

Cultural understanding highlights International Club activities

Christina Mueller
Staff Writer

We wonder who the girl is sitting across from us in class. She is from another country, but which one? Why is she here, and what is her major? These questions can be answered at one meeting of the International Club.

The International Club is currently composed of 22 students from around the world, including North American students. The club helps students to learn about each other and each other's countries in a casual way.

"The International Club usually focuses on friendship and education," says six-year Club Advisor Ellen Wolfson. Through educational and recreational activities, students are establish friendships and feel more comfortable.

"When they come in they're scared, they're quiet and they don't know anybody," Wolfson adds.

The club participates in a variety of activities that get the students acquainted with each other and allow international students to see Oregon.

"We usually go to the mountains, beach or both. It introduces them to skiing and the coast," Wolfson says.

Celebrating holidays together is another activity. It provides a first-hand view of United States culture for international students and, in turn, gives North American students an opportunity to learn about other cultures.

"It's not like we just get together, turn up the radio and eat chips," explains Wolfson. "We play a lot of warm-up games."

This summer the International Club -- along with other students, staff and community members -- will take a trip to Latin America in order to learn Spanish. They will live with families and go to school. Brochures and additional information on the trip will be coming soon.

This year the majority of international students are from Japan. In the past, there have been students from Africa, Europe and Latin America.

From which countries students come "depends on the world and its state of affairs," says Wolfson. No matter which country they are from, international students usually start out with general studies, and then go into business.

Students from other countries often choose Clackamas rather than a four-year college be-

cause. "They want to try out their English for two years before transferring to a four-year school," says Wolfson.

You have probably wondered how international students end up at Clackamas from sometimes clear across the world.

"One way is word of mouth," Wolfson explains.

The small school and rural setting is appealing to many students.

"International students tend to live in a variety of places," Wolfson says.

They either live in an apartment alone or with another student, but seldom with host families, which makes it hard for them to meet North Americans.

Wolfson feels strongly that North American students should take the time to get to know the international students.

"Ever since I was little I was encouraged to be around people that have differences from each other," Wolfson says.

Advising the club is a personal experience for Wolfson.

"My heart feels fuller. It's fun, and it makes me feel like I'm making a difference in the world, not just Clackamas," she says.

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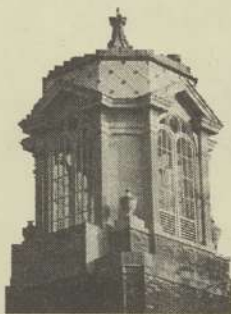
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