

Keeler named historical archeologist

LAURA ARMSTRONG
Staff Writer

Acclaimed anthropology and archeology instructor Robert Keeler can claim yet another accomplishment—he has been specifically chosen to be a part of the advisory committee on historic preservation.

Among other volunteers who represent the state of Oregon, Keeler has been designated to fill the historical archeologist spot on the committee. The job that Keeler has taken on is to review nominations for various historical sites and decide, with the committee, whether they are selected for the National Register of historic places.

"The National Register is essentially a listing of buildings and archeological sites deemed to have high historic value," said Keeler. "In each state there is a state agency and committee that reviews nominations for the National Register."

The advisory committee meets three times a year, twice in Salem and once in another part of the state. Meetings occur in October, February and May. These meetings are open to the public and as Keeler mentioned, people are welcome to attend and can speak in favor of or in opposition to any nomination.

"There are some economic advantages to being on the National Register's list in Oregon," said Keeler. "You get a modest tax freeze. The assessed value (of the property) does not go up for a period of time, a number of years. "It encourages people to do good things with their historic buildings," Keeler continued. "Not all states have that kind of incentive...it's been pretty successful in Oregon."

According to Keeler, anyone can easily track down information on any state's National Register listings through the state preservation office in Salem. The office has addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses for any of the state preservation offices for the historical registry. The most detailed listings will be found within the state preservation office in that individual state.

Structurally, there has to be an expert in each field of the committee so that the advisory board is well rounded. Po-



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Robert Keeler, anthropology and archeology instructor, was chosen by Governor Kitzhaber to review historical site nominations for the National Register.

sitions include a historian, archeologist, pre-historical archeologist, historical archeologist and members of the general public. Governor Kitzhaber appoints the members.

An induction ceremony follows the appointment of positions and takes place at the state capital, in the governor's office. Keeler did not intend the induction ceremony because he was working at the college.

"I was very struck by the seriousness," Keeler said, "the way the people on the committee take the process. Members really read through it all (the thick nomination packets), and they ask good, insightful questions."

Keeler's first meeting took place in February and he was awed by the amount of work that the committee's volunteers actually do to prepare themselves for advising.

Keeler has an extensive background related to his historical archeology position which more than sufficiently qualifies him. He received his bachelor's degree in anthropology at the University of North Carolina and his master's degree in the same field from Idaho State. In 1978 he received his doctorate in anthropology at the University of Oregon. Keeler has plans well into the future to continue working in anthropology and archeology.

Orlando serves as new department chair



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Emily Orlando, English instructor and newly designated English Department Chair, discusses the focus of her positions.

JOEL SHEMPERT
Feature Editor

Emily Orlando is nothing new to the world of Clackamas English. She has been teaching in the English Department since 1990, but has only recently started wearing another hat: she is the new Department Chair.

Needless to say, Orlando is happy with her new lot. "Oh, I'm real excited about it," she enthuses. "It's always been a very strong department on campus, and with the new people we're getting, and the direction that the department is going—creative writing—is a part of that—it's just very exciting. I'm very happy to do what I can to help continue that forward movement."

While Orlando will continue to teach classes herself, it's difficult to pin down what role a department chair has

in promoting the excellence of the department itself. After all, a body is only as strong as the sum of its parts, as Orlando is quick to recognize.

"We have a monumentally talented staff, not just the full-timers but the part-timers," Orlando readily acknowledges. "We have expertise in many areas, and my vision for the department is basically, in a sense, to stay out of their way."

As for the actual duties of an English Department Chair, these are again hard to pin down, particularly since Orlando is still in the learning process herself. She can say, though, that it is mostly an administrative and clerical position, involving such things as organizing the class schedule for each term. It may be a lot to juggle, but she is learning quickly.

The real power, though, of Orlando's position lies in that she now effectively represents the English Department.

What then, does she have to say to Clackamas at large? What one thing would she wish to impress upon students entering her department's classes?

"That they've made a very important decision in coming to college—any college, Clackamas included—and that the instructors (speaking for myself) have the assumption that a student in that class really wants to learn and get the most out of that particular hour," answers Orlando, "and that the student, on his part, has a responsibility for getting the most out of that hour by asking questions, by participating in class."

"I tell my classes that the hour and the course go a lot faster when everyone is involved. So when you actively participate in whatever the activity is...it's going to be more efficient."

Orlando is concerned that education not become a one-way street. "Teachers," she explains, "don't want to just give information; they want to learn from students too."

This is one reason Orlando is enthusiastic about her new position—the high level of academic excellence at this college.

"I think any student who goes

through a [transfer] program is probably more than qualified to succeed in the collegiate theater," she asserts. "I think that we have higher standards across the board in that the instructors are very much interested in students succeeding."

"I know students of mine," Orlando goes on to say, "who have gone on to other colleges, including Reed, have said that they felt very confident in their skills."

Emily Orlando looks forward to great things in the future at Clackamas, and the English Department is a thriving part of that equation. Students are welcomed along for the ride. All that is required is that they become, as Orlando puts it, "active participants in the learning process."

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Emily Orlando
English Department
Chair

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