

New German officers selected for '99-'00

MATT SHEMPERT

Staff Writer

The Clackamas German Club has elected new officers for the 1999-2000 school year.

The five winning candidates are: Liesl Muggli, president; Monica O'Hagen, vice-president; Sarah Rice, secretary; Mark Hellweg, treasurer and Ariella Odierna, promotions executive.

The office holders are preparing for a year of hard work.

"I hope to be a large part of the success of this term's German Club and will do all that I can do to help," Vice President O'Hagen said.

"I am very organized, and I hope to help the German Club in the area of finances," commented Treasurer Hellweg.

The club leaders will have their hands full organizing club events and fund-raising efforts for their annual trip to Germany next summer.

German instructor and club advisor Dick Stones has been planning this trip for five years. The trip is coordinated with a sister program in Hanover that sends German students to the United States for three weeks to live with Americans and places Clackamas students with German families for four weeks.

The students who exchanged

last year had a great experience.

"I now know people over there, and in fact, some are even coming to the US again next summer," said Rice.

"I went with the class to Germany in summer. I made a lot of friends there. I can't wait to visit again," added Muggli.

"The reason I send students over there is because the four weeks is at least equivalent to a year in class [due to total immersion in the country and its language]," said Stones.

Last year the group visited various cities beginning with Hanover, where, according to Stones, "the best German is spoken," then branched out into Hamburg, Bremen, Berlin, and Munich. They also journeyed to Austria, Switzerland, and the principality of Liechtenstein, all German-speaking countries.

Attendance for the trip appears to be much bigger than the last two years. 34 people have signed up, whereas only ten went last year and 14 the year before.

To this end, the German Club must raise money. They are selling raffle tickets for a \$35 Gustav's dinner, and later in the year will sell German Advent calendars with chocolate behind the windows; members will also hold car washing days and other fundraising events.



MATT SHEMPERT / Clackamas Print

[From left to right] Liesl Muggli, president; Monica O'Hagen, vice-president; Sarah Rice, secretary and Mark Hellweg, treasurer are the new German Club officers. Ariella Odierna, the newly-elected promotions executive, is not pictured.

Exchange program brings Costa Ricans to campus

MANDY GOOD

Staff Writer

Twenty retired professionals from Costa Rica visited the Clackamas' Environmental Learning Center on Oct. 19 as part of a cultural exchange program.

"The twenty Costa Ricans will stay in homes of families in the Portland, Salem and Hood River areas", said Carlota Holley, who is the coordinator of the Retired Persons' Exchange Program.

During the time the visitors were on campus, they were entertained by members of the Spanish Club, Entre Amigos.

Students of the Spanish club were available to show the various aspects of the Clackamas campus and its programs.

The goal was for the Costa Ricans to have a greater understanding of community colleges in the United States, since these do not exist in their country.

The visitors were also given the opportunity to visit classes on campus and meet with students who speak Spanish.

The Retired Persons' Exchange Program is now celebrating its twelfth anniversary.

Each year there is a group

that comes from Costa Rica in October and a group from Oregon that travels to Costa Rica in January [their summer time].

The program is under the auspices of the Oregon Chapter of National Organization, Partners of the Americas which was founded in 1964 under President J. F. Kennedy's Alliance for Progress agenda.

Partners of the Americas is the largest volunteer organization in the western hemisphere and exists to foster and promote inter-American friendships, cooperation, understanding, and social and economic development.

Within the organizational framework, each state is paired with one of the Central American, South American, Caribbean countries of Mexico.

Oregon is matched with Costa Rica.

To date, Oregon is the only state to have pioneered a Retired Persons' Cultural Exchange Program.

The north and south-bound travelers are placed with families in the respective countries so they can better learn the culture and customs of the people.

In the past 11 years of the program, over 600 individuals have participated in the cultural exchange.

A member of the Costa Rican group visiting Oregon took time to pay tribute to the state. The following is a translation:

To Oregon

*Oregon, Oregon
Majestically beautiful land
Gorgeous as a rose
Her splendor and beauty are
Without comparison*

*Trees with various colors
flowers everywhere
adorn her countryside
make her appear like paradise*

*Extensive and fertile valleys
friendly and gentle inhabitants
make this, her land
the best of the best*

*The sound of the wind
The fragrance of the flowers
I wish to close my eyes
And dream, dream, dream...*

With love and gratitude,

*Maria Eugenia Bogantes Salazar
Oregon/Costa Rica Cultural Exchange*

*Translated by Tanya Wilson
Spanish 201, Sña Holley*

THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

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