

Spanish instructor retires after 28 years of teaching



TIMOTHY A. BELL / Clackamas Print

Carlota Holley, Spanish instructor and chair of the foreign language department, will be retiring at the end of this term after teaching at Clackamas since 1971.

MAGGIE JIRASEK

Staff Writer

Clackamas is losing one of its most passionate instructors, Carlota Holley, who has dedicated her life to teaching.

Holley started at Clackamas in 1971 as a part-time Spanish instructor, and is ending her career as chair of the foreign language Department. In the last 28 years, she has achieved quite a lot. She is not only the founder of the outdoor cafe, but she also started the Costa Rican exchange program.

"It's a good opportunity for students to practice what I taught them," Holley said.

Holley has taught every level of education, from elementary to college, and she always enjoyed her job:

"I love teaching and my students," Holley stated. "Teaching has been more than just my profession."

Students are very important for Holley.

"I like to see my students grow up and I like being part of their success," Holley explained. "It's exciting for me to see the lights in their eyes when they learn."

Holley was born and raised in Havana, Cuba. She came to the United States after graduating from high school when she received a scholarship to study at Birmingham Southern College in Alabama. She taught herself English with little help from her friends and classmates. She also went to Duke University, The

University of Auburn and the University of Madrid where she received her degree in foreign language.

Holley's first job was working for a progressive school in Alabama where she was the only female instructor.

"It was great, I enjoyed teaching there," Holley said.

Holley sees her work at Clackamas as a good experience.

"I like Clackamas, there is more variety and more challenge."

One of Holley's most memorable moments at Clackamas was when teachers started wearing caps and gowns at graduation ceremonies.

Another was teaching in a foreign study program sponsored by the Center for Cross Cultural Studies.

Holley believes in "being positive."

"Do what you can to make things better and accept changes," she said.

The most exciting event in Holley's life was giving birth to her son Stephen, now an environmental engineer. Her husband, James Holley, is retired from Portland Community College.

Holley has already made plans for her retirement.

"I would like to spend wonderful time with my family," explained Holley. "I want to be free to see my family whenever I choose."

Holley will remain on campus until the end of the term and after that she hopes to be able to travel more and maybe go back and visit Cuba.

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Students travel to Puget Sound for their final in Scuba Diving, where they go through the certification process which allows them to dive anywhere in the world.

Scuba class offered at Clackamas

SHELBI WESCOTT

Feature Editor

Have you ever wanted to swim alongside sea-life or witness the beauty of the world's finest coral reefs?

For some people, the dream of experiencing these incredible moments seems far away from reality. However, a new scuba diving class at Clackamas is designed to help beginning divers get a start on obtaining that dream.

Taught by experienced world-

diver Harry Klein, the class includes eight lecture courses (including a history of scuba diving and a look at different types of dives) and six pool sessions, where students receive one on one training in how to use and operate the equipment.

"I've taught a 76 year-old man to dive, a 12 year-old to dive and I even taught a lady who couldn't swim to dive," Klein said. And he wants so much for his students to succeed that he even takes extra time to work with students who are struggling.

The goal of the class is to become a certified diver. The certification grants access to dive anywhere in the world and allows the rental of scuba equipment. For the final, the class takes a trip to Puget Sound where they go through the certification process.

"Winter is the best time to dive," Klein said. "And the Northwest has some of the best diving I've ever seen."

An informational meeting will be held tomorrow, Dec. 2, at 6:30 p.m. in Randall room 12.