

Journalist, author has close campus connection

Priscilla Buckley, aunt to Instructor Kate Gray, shares from her memoir

JENNY CHAVEZ
Copy Editor

Priscilla Buckley, renowned journalist and writer, who wrote the first news broadcast for United Press Radio on the end of World War II, graciously shared stories from over half a century of journalism experience during a book reading from her memoir *String of Pearls* and workshops last week.

English Instructor Kate Gray introduced Buckley last Thursday night as the ninth annual writer-in-residence sponsored by the English Department and admitted a deeper connection to the author.

"I'd best come clean and confess that Priscilla L. Buckley is my sainted aunt," she said. "She showed us (the family) that grace begins with a giggle and continues with tenacity, intellectual pursuits and tenderness."

Buckley, 79, energetically shared stories of her younger days from copy girl to copy writer for radio news. She described her first visit in the United Press New York news-

room with typewriters clanking, Teletype machines chiming, cigarette smoke encircling heads and papers strewn about in a chaotic mess. In Buckley's words, "There was something terribly exciting about the glimpses of the UP newsroom." Hired at age 22, she fit right in.

"One's earliest days are always one's most memorable," said Buckley. "At least in retrospect."

Buckley also read excerpts about her stint at the Paris Bureau of United Press. She told stories of picturesque Paris streets and cafés, memorable

friends and a comical tale of her beautiful beige three-year-old Hillman Minx, decked out with crimson leather interior, that was "the most miserable car I ever owned."

On Friday Buckley held a workshop sharing her writing expertise with journalism students from *The Print*. The session included critiques of works from staff writers and insights into good writing.

"Get their attention right away, something that grabs the eye," she said. "A natural writer uses instinct and rhythm; write a piece you can speak as well as read."

Buckley was encouraging yet direct while critiquing the works, including Feature Editor Maggie Jirasek's piece.

"One's earliest days are always one's most memorable."

Priscilla Buckley



PHOTOS BY JENNY CHAVEZ / Clackamas Print

Priscilla Buckley autographs her newly published memoir for fans who attended her book reading.

"It was really interesting and helpful to be critiqued by someone like Priscilla," said Jirasek.

"She showed me how I could write a better lead and get the reader's attention."

Buckley then toured *The Print* newsroom and instantly felt at home amidst the chaos of papers, planning boards, messy desks and writers in action.

Friday's lunchtime seminar *From Gutenberg to Gates* was another highlight of Buckley's visit. People from the community, students and staff came to hear tales of old-fashioned print mechanics and changes in the newsroom. Discussions on modern technology and its effects on news production, hard copy versus cyber copy and news writer productivity were some of the topics covered.

Magdalena Ladd, retired Clackamas instructor and former chairperson of the foreign language department, en-



Kate Gray, English instructor, enjoys a quiet moment with her aunt Priscilla before the book reading.

joyed Buckley's discussion.

"I like how approachable she was," said Ladd. "And the way she described the history in Paris and her awareness of cultural differences."

Kate Gray speaks warmly of her aunt.

"Priscilla Buckley has been an inspiration and a flywheel for my whole family and for generations of writers and politicians."

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