

Love for language fuels instructor

Wilson
Clackamas Print

It didn't realize I was in love with French until Heidi Cropsey, "until I learned Conversational French night"

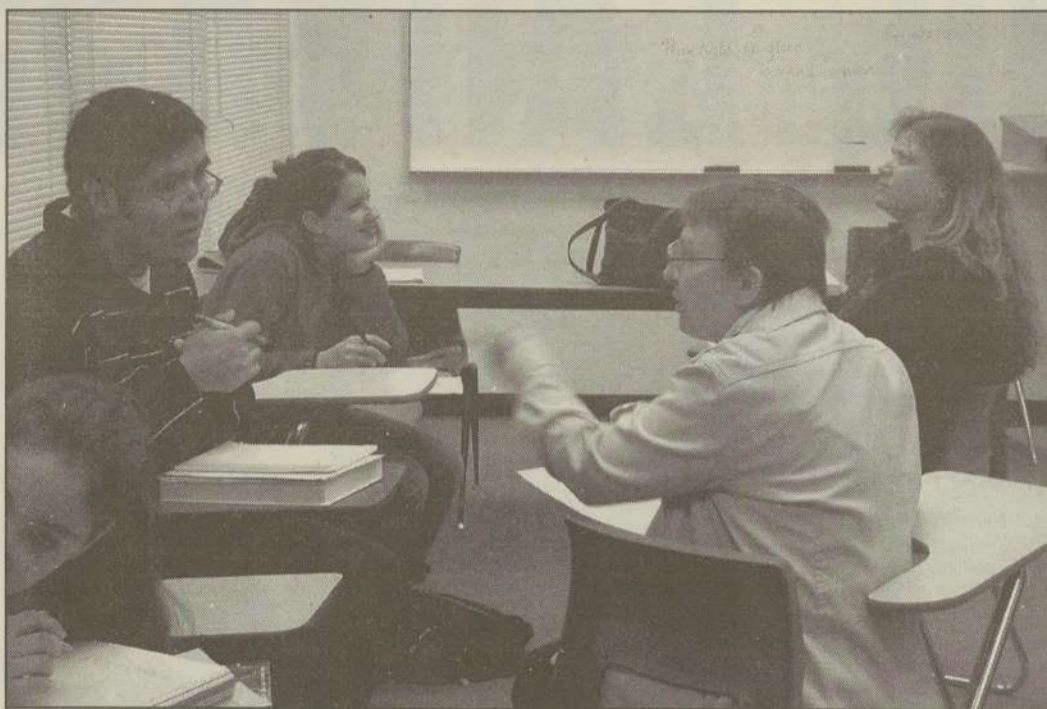
After World War II, Cropsey's father, an engineer, worked with the assistance, going ahead of the American troops to gather supplies. Since many of the women workers were actually nurses, her father learned countless nursery songs and rhymes in French. This is how she was first introduced to the language.

Born in Oregon, Cropsey spent several years in Peru—as well as other places—as a child. Her father's work brought him to Peru, and she went with him.

"I had to learn Spanish so I could talk with my little friends," she said. "Every teacher has their own experience" [with a language] [learned] it so young and I was not at all interested."

It began as a night class at Clackamas Community College eventually becoming an opportunity to teach at the college.

"I [at CC] loved it I not only learned, but I loved the immersion ... it has so much life to it," Cropsey said. "The immersion method of learning language is that students, upon entering the classroom, hear only the language they are learning; barely any English is spoken during class hours. Clackamas has an immersion program for its French classes called 'French in Action.'"



French instructor Heidi Cropsey (bottom right) works closely with her French students (from left) David Ramirez and Kate Wagner, with the assistance of French tutor Susan Witherspoon.

"'French in Action' was exactly the way I wanted to teach," said Cropsey. "Immersion is really important in language ... it's very interactive, and the more interactive it can be the better." "Madame Cropsey"—as her students call her—has devoted a lot of effort to expanding the French program. In 1998 she and her class started

the French Club. "It was founded by a very enthusiastic group," said Cropsey, laughing. "And now we have a lot of support on campus." She tries to have a French table set up as often as possible with a native speaker interacting with students in French.

There is also International Day at the college. The celebration includes cultural presentations, arts and crafts and ethnic foods from different countries. The French, German and Spanish students are active participants in this celebration. "I love to give students the chance to perform and show off French culture in a nice way," Cropsey said. Thanks to Cropsey's guidance and some serious fundraising by the French club, two French students were able to visit France and Switzerland in the fall of 2003. Cropsey would like to see this become a regular occurrence. "We want to start a little exchange program," she said. "I'd love to give students the chance to go [to France]."

Cropsey has helped set up a small emergency fund for needy French students and is even hoping to establish a full-blown scholarship sometime in the future. About the French program she said, "It's funny because it's such a steady program, but it's never boring. Every single year the class seems entirely new and fresh to me. Each group has its own different needs and interests ... Education is so fascinating."

Cropsey is determined to continue pushing her students to do their very best. "The fact is that people are so creative and they don't realize it sometimes," she said. "They don't realize how much they can create and do ... people should be encouraged [to realize that], maybe even pushed a little."

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blando nuestro idioma: Demos la Bienvenida al Español

The first of a weekly Spanish-language column

a Martinez
Clackamas Print

os la bienvenida al en ésta novena edición de su periódico escolar "Clackamas Print" dando a un artículo en español la primera vez en la historia de este periódico. Un artículo donde aprender cosas nuevas, siempre comentarías lo que por falta de el idioma te habías atrevido a decir. Este artículo está echo

para los Hispanos, para los nuestros, para la gente que viene de donde venimos, como lo que comemos y habla como nosotros "Los latinos" y todos aquellos otros que se sienten y viven como tales, "Nuestra gente."

Los Hispanos somos muchos, y cada vez nos estamos dando a conocer más y más. Expresémos lo que pensamos y sigamos luchando contra las barreras del idioma, porque detrás de esa gran pared está nuestro éxito, que poco a poco iremos forjando con paciencia y constancia. Cultura, tradiciones, cos-

tumbres, y gastronomía son algunos de los factores que identifican a nuestra comunidad Hispana. Sus países los representan, sus trajes típicos y su acento, en todos lados se encuentran, desde el sur de América hasta el norte de Europa, siempre en algún lugar habrá un Hispano, Puertorriqueño, Colombiano, Mexicano, Cubano, o Guatemalteco que con su trabajo, pongan y muy en alto. Siempre estarán ahí, cada que se necesite un hombre que dé su vida por el trabajo y por sacar adelante a su familia un

Hispano levantara la mano y con su esfuerzo dará su ejemplo.

Con cualquier empleo y en cualquier lugar trabajan muy duro y casi sin descansar, pero siempre con la frente en alto luchando por su familia y su bandera, lavando los platos en los que muchos comen, limpiando las calles por cualquier rincones, haciendo comida, trabajando el campo, construyendo, o enseñando pero siempre y ante todo el Hispano se hace identificar y se abre paso ante la sociedad. Sientance libres de mandar sus comentarios, aquí a

su espacio de información, en donde en cada edición daremos consejos e informaremos de eventos que estan por venir en nuestra comunidad Latina.

Y en éste su primer artículo en Español el "Clackamas Print" les abre éste espacio que será publicado cada miércoles.

Queremos saber lo que opinas y como se sienten a cerca de éste proyecto; comuniquense con nosotros al 503-657-6958 con la extensión 2309 y dejenos saber su opinión. Porque recuerden este será su espacio y nosotros seremos su voz.



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