

Clackamas says 'Willkommen'



Nathan Sturgess Clackamas Print

German exchange students embrace some needed time away from their studies and from the numerous activities that they are enjoying during their stay in the United States.

By Nathan Sturgess
The Clackamas Print

The first thing that comes to mind when thinking of Germany may be blond-haired, blue-eyed folk in bustling but clean cities. Those more comically inclined may see busty maidens toting half weight in beer to bearded men in checkers and woolen socks. In reality, it's safe to say that none of these romanticized stereotypes are more than half true, but how many of us ever get the chance to go to Germany first hand?

Now imagine that you're one of the blessed Germans who get the opportunity to come to America with all the amenities; privileged to taste a real

American hamburger, savor the wide open spaces and skeptically try what Americans call "beer." That's exactly what 11 German exchange students have had the opportunity to experience over the last two weeks here at Clackamas Community College.

Sandra Kuehnast, the German coordinator for the exchange, said that it's a program that's been going on for 15 years now.

"It's a partnership between the state of Lower Saxony and the state of Oregon. It's kind of like a government agreement, and that's how this exchange came into existence," said Kuehnast.

Kuehnast teaches English as a Second Language and Accounting at the small trade school where the exchange students originate from and has made several trips to Oregon.

"I love Oregon. It's similar to the area we're from in Germany ... sort of hilly countryside," Kuehnast said.

This sentiment was echoed by many of the exchange students. For many of them this was their very first experience visiting the United States.

"I especially like the nature side of Oregon because there is the rain-forest, the coast and yesterday we went to the desert. I couldn't believe we were driving out of the forest and into the desert. That's impressive," said Martin Potulski.

Along with Oregon's biodiversity, all the students were surprised at both the size of CCC and the age range of its students. Stephanie Kaden, who's studying to be a business administrator, said that "all is big here."

Part of the reason for their fascination is because in Germany's edu-

cation system there isn't any concept of a community college. According to the exchange students, either you go to a large university or opt to go to much smaller vocational schools where you get more practical on-the-job training, like these students have.

For these students that makes this trip all the more significant.

"(The exchange) is very important for (German schools). People here when they hear about this exchange they'll say, 'Oh, that's nice,' but for them it's a very important recruitment tool," said David Miller, foreign language department chair for CCC.

Many of the students commented on the warmth and friendliness of all the people they had met during their time here.

"I like the people here (because)

they are open," said Katarina Schwab, who is training to be a sales manager. She went on to say how much less restrictive the classroom environment was and how much she liked having areas where students could just lounge around.

The importance of what the German students were learning was apparent to them. Several commented on how their ability to speak English had greatly improved as well as their understanding of American culture and lifestyle. A few even said that they had made some good American friends while they were here, and all seemed to want to visit again soon.

"I think it's interesting to see how (Americans) live. I think it's a great adventure," said Kirsten Schutt, who's also studying to be a business administrator.

Clackamas students create clubs on campus

By Conni Gaunt
The Clackamas Print

The first few weeks of fall term at Clackamas Community College there were club signs posted announcing new clubs around campus, but only a few clubs advertised with large signs. The types of clubs were limited, ranging from the LGBTQ+ Alliance, the Latter-day Saints Association, and the National Association on Mental Illness. It posed the question: are these the only active clubs on campus?

Picking up a list of clubs from the Associated Student Government, one can find that there are more than 20 clubs listed on the form.

As time passed, many more clubs were added to their meetings. New clubs were formed this fall, according to Barbara "Babs" McCambridge, Vice President of ASG, are Lifeway Bible Study, which meets on Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge with Deb Clark as the adviser and the Horticulture Club for people to come together and talk about issues on campus and personal life. The adviser is Karli Thompson, as provided by Travis McDonald, Student Government Department senator.

pus, the Writer's Club secretary, Jack deWaal Miller, stated in an e-mail, "This club is lots of fun. We help a lot of people with their writing." They meet from 2-6 p.m. Fridays in the Literary Arts Center in Roger Rook Hall. Their adviser is Kate Gray.

Terrie Fournier, secretary of the nursing department at Harmony Campus, offered information about a student nurses association that meets and does fundraisers for their program completion ceremony, when nursing students take the Florence Nightingale Pledge. The adviser is Karen Schneider at Harmony campus, and two student leaders assist her.

The American Signers Club meets Tuesdays from 1:30-3 p.m. in the Barlow Hall Commons on second floor.

"Sign is a beautiful language. (The club) gives people a chance to learn and practice American Sign Language and learn about people in the deaf culture," said Cristina Sale, the club leader. The club adviser is Deb Jausi.

On Oct. 20, Radiah Gaines and Ryan Fay helped with the plant sale for the Horticulture Club. They share a secretary position to help President Karli Thompson, who plans to have plant sales four times this school year. "We attend seminars to enrich

students and the community and make learning horticulture exciting," Thompson said. That day the club sold fragrant lavender plants, chives for the kitchen and healthy young Japanese maple trees, along with other plants.

"Clubs can display what they are doing once a term at the Community Center," said Alyssa Fava, ASG president. "Interclub Counsel meets for all clubs so they can have an open forum for students."

The number for the Student Government Clubs Department is 503-594-3933.

How does one start a club?

- Get a form from the website www.depts.clackamas.edu/asg, or stop by ASG office in the community center.
- Fill it out with the club's purpose and include a sample of the club's constitution.
- Recruit an adviser (the adviser has to be active in the club).
- Have a minimum of three people who will be part of the club.
- Reserve a location from Roxanne Kachel in Gregory Hall at 503-594-3308.
- Submit the form to the ASG office. After approval, the college will give the club an account with \$50 to help get it started.



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Ryan Fay and Radiah Gaines help the Horticulture Club with a plant sale held on campus on Oct. 20.