

# CLATSOP COMMUNITY COLLEGE VOLUNTEER LITERACY TUTOR NEWS

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## 2009-2010 Wrap Up:

This program year about 70 students enrolled in the Volunteer Literacy Program, working with 39 volunteer tutors. WOW! We cannot thank you all enough for the many hours generously spent with our students. All of you contributed in unique ways- some worked with small groups, a few of you had multiple students seen individually throughout the week, while some of you performed as serial tutors, taking on new students as needed, as they passed in and out of the program. At least one of you is a friend, mentor and teacher to an extended family. One of you analyzed an ESL software program, relieving the coordinator of a big burden. Some of you helped your student get a library card, and some of you brought important information to your students, encouraging their participation in community programs. (The food banks, Earth Day in Cannon Beach and helping find childcare and medical help come to mind.) At least three tutors helped students hook up and use personal computers. Some of you sent your friends

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## TUTOR TIP OF THE MONTH

Enclosed with this newsletter is a supplement. It discusses factors pertinent to acquiring good pronunciation. We can help our students speak so we, and others, can understand them. Below find a few suggestions to put to practical use.

- Repeat what the student says, in a casual manner.
- Speak just a bit more slowly and deliberately.
- Use systematic drills (repeat 2-3 times a sentence or word).
- Ask questions that cannot be answered yes or no, that require more words.
- When the student asks you questions, help them talk through the answer using the vocabulary he or she already knows.
- Keep a written record of what words and sentences you practiced for the student to review and use them as a opening review the next time you meet.



## Departmental News

### **Welcome to the new 2010-2011 program year!**

Yes, it's the start of the annual race to collect data, tests and registrations so that we can fulfill our grant requirements and enroll our students in two different databases. **All continuing students need to re-register for Summer Term.** Students who did not receive at least 40 hours of instruction last year, and/or who have not taken a test between April-June of 2010, need to re-test. Percy will contact you to remind you who needs to do what, but we appreciate you helping us keep on top of this often unpleasant, but necessary, task. We thank all of you who have done a fantastic job this past year helping keep good records!

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and family to sign up as new tutors. (Please continue this wonderful word-of-mouth assistance!) One of you tutored math, both in the volunteer program and in the GED classroom here at the college. Several of you are preparing literacy students for GEDs, a considerable task that will have a great impact on their employment prospects. All of you have exhibited flexibility worthy of professional contortionists. All of you have learned from your students and have had a profound impact on them, their children and their futures. You are the life blood of the program, and always inspire me to do better; it is a great honor to work with you all!

### **Profile of a Literacy Tutor: Jean McGonigle**

Jean has been tutoring with the literacy program for about a year and a half. She retired from planning programs for and working with deaf and other hearing-impaired children. She loved working with individual students who needed language support, and naturally gravitated to the literacy program when she began looking for a program on which to focus her attentions as a retired person. She was interested in ESL because she had been an exchange student in Peru while in college.

All of this experience and desire to help adds up to a sweet deal for Jean's student, a woman from Chile who came to the US three years ago with her American husband. They have been working together steadily, usually twice a week here at the college library. Jean is particularly pleased to work with a student with "a whole set of life experiences and a world view different" from her own. Her student's willingness to share these experiences and her enthusiasm for learning keeps Jean engaged and eager to continue working with her. Jean has learned from her student how difficult it is to move to a new society from another country, and how much emotional stress can result from the move. Jean has been particularly effective helping her turn



### **July Tutor Training: 7/15/10**

Please call and sign up for the next tutor training at the CCC campus. Frann Grossman will be conducting the training and it will focus on ESL students. You should have received requests for information on what topics you would like the training to address. Any feedback we can provide the trainer will make the experience better. The training will be in the college library conference room from 10:00-1:00 PM. Hope to see you there.

this distress into improved literacy skills. (At the last training, we had a hand-out detailing her techniques. If you're interested, call and ask for it.)

Another satisfying aspect has been the student's willingness to follow Jean's suggestions; she needed medical and dental care which she followed up on after Jean obtained information for her. Her student also has taken steps to broaden her circle of friends and activities because of Jean's work with her. Jean has plans to start going to stores and other places where they can engage in conversation and vocabulary-building exercises in different settings. Jean's commitment to and longevity with this student are a potent combination leading to the student's progress. We hope you stay with the literacy program a long time, Jean!

