

What in the World is "Occupational Self-Supporting"?

A new animal has appeared out of Raleigh. It's the "Occupational Self-Supporting" bird, and like the chimera of Greek mythology it's an amalgamation of three things: Occupational classes, Self-Supporting classes, and someone's fertile imagination.

A couple of quarters ago, we sent in our SS1 to Raleigh. On it were several courses that we normally run as Occupational but had run and reported as Self-Supporting. For example, one was a Notary course which we had course coded MLS 3874 but budget coded and reported as Self-Supporting. No problem. However, when we received Raleigh's response, we were informed that the courses should have been coded SEF 3001, which is "Occupational Self-Supporting."

Now I'm sorry, but to my way of thinking, there is no more such a thing as "Occupational Self-Supporting" than there is a horse-elephant ("Helliphant"?) or a Buddhist-Baptist ("Buddhapist"?). If the courses were paid from SS funds, then they're SS courses, not OCCU and certainly not "Occupational Self-Supporting." And if they are paid from SS funds, then they're as SS as a Line Dancing course. A rose is a rose is a rose, right? (Unless, I suppose, it's a damask rose that's been hybridized with a carnation, which would make it -- what? -- a "damnation"?)

I guess my question is this: Why has this new category of courses been created? Who created it? Is it because some Raleigh folks need to know which OCCU courses have been converted to SS, and, if so, why do they need this information? Couldn't they get the same information just as easily by programming the state computer system to identify reported OCCU course codes paid from SS budgets? And if they really want to know how many OCCU courses have been converted to SS, how do they identify the Real Estate (coded CSP 4000) courses in the reporting?

Oh well. I'm sure there's a good explanation for creating this new species of course, but I can't spend any more time pondering the reasons. My bird dog was just bitten by a horsefly while swimming after a catfish, and he needs to go to the vet. Now where did I park the Yugo-Royce . . . ?

Submitted by Rob Everett

At 91, Emily Westbrook is still enrolled and enjoying Continuing Education classes at Sampson Community College

On Thursday, August 17, 1995, the Division of Continuing Education honored Mrs. Emily Westbrook with a surprise party and invited all her classmates, family, and closest friends. Theresa Patterson, Tatting Instructor, presented to Continuing Education a beautiful piece of Mrs. Emily's finest artwork to be displayed in the Continuing Education Office.

For the past 11 years, Mrs. Emily has been enrolled in 26 of Continuing Education's personal enrichment courses offered by Sampson Community College. The Tatting class has always been her favorite. "What is Tatting?" you might ask. "Tatting" is a type of knotted lace, made from cotton or linen thread with a shuttle. "It's really the nicest thing in the world to do," she says, with a soft smile. "I learned in grade school. We went to a one-room school house. I was only eight or nine years old."

Her Instructor, Theresa Patterson says, "she is a wonderfully skilled student and has been a real inspirator and motivator to her classmates."

Submitted By: Judy Strickland

CCC Program Opens Doors For Native Filipino

Petite, energetic Emelina Heatherdale was raised in Lucena City, Philippines and received her Bachelors Degree in Accounting there before deciding to explore Spain on a tourist visa in Rota. While in Spain, she met her husband, Ronald Heatherdale, who is a US Government employee and was stationed in Spain temporarily. The two fell in love, eventually wed, and followed his job here, to Carteret County.

Emily was a little homesick, living in this new and quite different environment so far away from all that was familiar and with all the adjustments to be made. Then, she learned of a new program being offered at Carteret Community College: The HRD (Human Resources Development) Program with John Smith as coordinator.

Emily signed up, and stuck with the five week class which dealt with topics such as Employment and Marketing Techniques. Through this experience, Emily discovered not only valuable employment information, but also developed a support system and met new friends.

Upon graduation, her instructor, Jean Charlton, recognizing a bright young woman who spoke three languages, encouraged Emily to exploit her valuable skills. John Smith knew that another branch of the college, the Basic Skills Department, was experiencing growth in its ESL (English as a Second Language) area, and contacted the coordinator Vada Palma, about Emily's linguistic skills.

Ms. Palma asked Emily to submit an application and hired her to teach a campus ESL class. Since that time, Emily has participated in ESL workshops and has recruited other classes, one of which is a workplace literacy class at the Garner Farms.

"Emily is the consummate professional" Ms. Palma states. "She appreciates the unique problems that a newcomer to this country can be confronted with, and has a common frame of reference with which to encourage and teach her students. John Smith and I are delighted to have our two programs complement each other with a success story such as the one Emily has provided."

Submitted by Diane Zook

Thanks To Those Who Contributed News!

- Don Buie - Central Carolina CC
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