

First teacher hired: Lothamer brings creativity to Web Design

KYLE HIRTH

Contributing Writer

Wind Lothamer, new technology teacher, shows, according to those who hired him, tremendous promise. He will be teaching web design and flash animation, and is extremely passionate about these subjects.

"The best thing about web design is that it is such a creative field and allows for so much individual expression. It can be a lot like a creative writing class or an art class. I enjoy watching the creative process in action and seeing the end results. It's really amazing," Lothamer said.

Lothamer will be replacing Richard Reynolds, who took a break from teaching in order to spend a year living in Hawaii while his wife completes her internship there and to pursue other interests.

Like Reynolds, Lothamer combines two different areas of interest. He double majored in history and social



Wind Lothamer, web design and flash animation teacher, has a double major in history and social science and completed his graduate studies in Education at Portland State University.

Photo by Cole Fiala

science as an undergraduate at Portland State University. He then completed his graduate studies in education at PSU. He student-taught at Merlo Station High School in Beaverton, an alternative school that services the entire Beaverton School District.

Lothamer was influenced to teach technology related classes by the increasing role of computers in society.

"Computers are the new literacy. If you do not know how to interact with computers and the internet, you are at a distinct disadvantage in today's economy and society. I have always felt that technology is an integral element to education; now I get to teach it exclusively," Lothamer said.

Lothamer was extremely

attracted to the West Linn Wilsonville School District because he feels it is progressive and proactive. Lothamer also says he knew WLHS would be a "perfect fit" because the staff and administration really advocate student centered learning.

"It was clear (from his interviews) that Wind had an incredible love for students and technology. He is a young, bright and very creative person. I think he will be a great role model for students as well as a great teacher," Kim Noah, principal, said.

Outside of school, Lothamer enjoys hiking and camping with his wife, Leslie, and his dog, Zig-Zag. Lothamer also likes listening to a wide variety of music, from Miles Davis and Thelonius

Monk while at home, to Nirvana and Stone Temple Pilots while driving his '96 Saturn SL. In addition, Jack Johnson is Lothamer's favorite current artist.

Lothamer claims the most interesting thing he has ever done was visit Peru last summer.

"It is a beautiful country with some incredible history, but the living conditions that you see there for some of the people are just shocking. It can really affect your sense of perspective," Lothamer said.

Eager to start the school year, the thing he looks forward to most is simply working. "It is important (for me) to play a vital role in the community and to have a job that I can feel good about. Teaching addresses (this) concern," Lothamer said.

West Linn resident joins Special Education staff

EMMALIE COX

Staff Reporter

Former social worker and water sports lover Nadine Newrones joined the Special Education Department because she loves the West Linn school setting and how conducive it is to her family life.

Position: Special Education teaching assistant
College attended: California State University of Long Beach

Interests: Water sports, music, movies, singing and outdoor activities

Family: Daughter, Claire, 6, and son, Connor, 11

Previous jobs: Worked as a social worker and in the mental health profession. Also ran a preschool out of her home, and worked as a clown in college.

Education: Bachelor of Arts in Social Work

Why West Linn: "I work here because I am a West Linn resident and it is closest to my home. I was lucky to be assigned here. I love working with children of all ages, but thought working with the high school ages would be fun."

Why teach: "I wanted to teach because I have never worked in a school setting before. I thought it would be great to have the same schedule as my children and also enjoy summers with them."

First day: "My first day of working here was very confusing. Students were coming up to me and asking where classes were, but I was just as clueless as them! It was like being a freshman all over again."

Over the summer: During the summer, she and her family went camping at Lake Billy Chinook in Central Oregon. They also went to Disneyland and spent some time in California visiting her side of the family. They stayed at Newport Coast Villas that overlooked the ocean in Newport Beach, Calif.

Hobbies: Really enjoys the outdoors and water sports. Likes going to movies, and listening to music. Music is a big part of her life especially because she sings. Sang in a



Nadine Newrones, Special Education teaching assistant, worked as a clown in college.

Photo by Cole Fiala

jazz choir and acapella choir in high school. Also sang at church. Would like to get involved in a choral group again someday.

Best attribute: Believes her best attribute would be that she is outgoing. Enjoys trying many new things and has a good sense of humor.

Ares joins technology department

HILLI CIAVARELLO

Staff Reporter

A self-proclaimed "theatre buff," Jon Ares has been behind the scenes of the theatre program at West Linn for 12 years. He now joins the staff full time as Technology Assistant to Angie Hammond, Information Technology Specialist.

Position: Technology Assistant and Technical Theatre Advisor

College attended: University of Washington and Clackamas Community College

Interests: Theatre, Technology and Film

His passion for theatre: "I have been involved in theatre since I was about two. I actually have a degree in it. I started teaching theatre and Stagecraft because I like the fact that I can bring my professional theatre experience to students who have an interest in it. I also like that I can help bring technical theatre to students who would otherwise not get the opportunity in the high school."

High school: "I've taken part in dozens and dozens of plays. Theatre was a large part of my high school



Jon Ares, Technology Assistant, has been involved in the theatre program at West Linn for many years.

Photo by Cole Fiala

experience. I was involved in directing, acting and writing throughout."

Why West Linn: "I really like the students and staff here. I feel that I can interact with more students here than at my last school (He taught at the West Linn-Wilsonville Art Tech High School last

year). Also with the new theater, I feel my professional experience can help more students and staff members."

Over the summer: "I read plays. My favorite authors are Gilbert, Sullivan and Stephen Sondheim. I like being a part of these, especially because the music is very complicated and interesting. I also worked on the set design for the upcoming musical, 'Crazy for You.' Along with choreographing the fight scenes, I played with all the new technology in the theater."

Proudest moment: "Not one, many. I'm proud of all the students I've worked with over the years who have gone on to bigger and better things. There are many kids now taking part in professional theatre programs, onstage or behind the scenes."

Last word: "I'm a pretty easy going guy, and I am really happy to be a part of the theater program here at West Linn."

Blakemore 6 Resource Center

KATE TOLAN

Staff Reporter

Amanda Blakemore loves teaching with a passion. She feels that securing an education for the next generation is vital and wants to be a great teacher whom students will always remember.

Cooperating teacher: Laura Crutcher, Resource Center

College: Portland State University

Hobbies: Reading, knitting, crafts

Name she prefers in classroom: "Miss Blakemore."

Subject she teaches: "I

teach literature because of my English background. I focus on building reading and writing skills."

Her drive to be a teacher: "I believe education is important. I am a lifelong learner. I believe there is no better profession because you get to share knowledge and learn along with the children."

She attends college: "I am currently attending Portland State University and working toward a dual credit. I will have endorsements in English and Special Education."

Obstacles and challenges

in the classroom: "Other than unruly students, it is difficult to keep learning materials fresh and new. I really try to make things fun and interesting to keep my students involved."

Her high school experience: "I didn't like high school because I was never challenged. It was academically boring for me. My favorite teachers were those who were willing to push and challenge me. I felt like I was getting up at eight o'clock in the morning to socialize."

Blakemore joins staff

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