

Retrospect: College experience

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Clackamas Community College experienced its most intensive structural and academic growth during the '70s. The increasing popularity of community college education in the United States and the rapid development of "one of the fastest growing counties in the state," said College President John Hakanson, are two reasons for the expansion of the College's role as an academic institution.

According to Hakanson, the founders of the College, "Didn't anticipate that the College would need more than one building in the 40-acre plot." But the '70s proved differently.

Between 1969, when the Clairmont building opened for classes, and 1975, when the Community Center was finished, the College grew to five buildings.

Early promoters of the College assumed that CCC would never amount to anything more than a vocational school, which was a reasonable conclusion, since the College's vocational building, Barlow Hall, completed in January, 1971, was the second structure. But the decade furnished another result. "Currently, by state law, all community colleges' first priority is the offering of college transfer courses," said Hakanson.

The growth in vocational courses here has not been stagnant, however. The College offers 40 vocational

courses. In 1969 it offered only eight.

Growth and change since the College opened for full-time courses in the fall of 1967, "has far exceeded the expectations of its original founders," said Hakanson. An example is the College's budget, that in 1967 amounted to \$197,932. For the '79-'80 school year, the College will operate at a cost of \$16,811,223.

The College's growing operating capacity has been paralleled by growth in registration. Full-time students in 1970 numbered 1,840, while the '78-'79 school year saw 3,700 students. In 1967, only 75 full-time instructors worked for the College. Now 135 teachers are employed here. Over 20,000 students enrolled for classes at the College last year, while, in 1967, there was a head count of only 2,000.

Although the growth of Clackamas County in the last 10 years has had a direct impact on the development of the College and its facilities, the county's educational needs were not dictated by its citizens pounding on the College's front door, demanding a curriculum. In the words of Hakanson, "people didn't stand outside the stockade, demanding agricultural courses. Part of the job of the early promoters of the College was to survey community interest, and, at the same time, let the citizens know what we had to offer. If the interest was stimulated, then the courses were usually successful," he said.

Definition of the College's

role in the community gained clarity in the '70s. In respect to curriculum, it defined its purpose more clearly by initiating only courses needed for transfer students, its main function, but also education for the community at large.

In 1969, the Community Services program began, and in 1972, Community Education. These are, according to Hakanson, "two of the most significant aspects of the College's growth."

Bill Hargadine, associate dean of community services, said the initial purpose of the program was to "provide services to the public at large that don't necessarily entail a credit or non-credit course. Our main concentration has been seminars and workshops to meet the needs of the community." Hargadine said approximately 10-12 seminars were offered in the first year of the program, while currently, the Focus on Women program offers near a dozen seminars every semester, plus numerous seminars in the Men's Resource Program and regular college workshops and seminars offered every quarter.

Another service provided by Community Services is the use of College facilities for community meetings. "The basic premise behind this aspect of the program is that the College belongs to the people, and we should make available, and encourage, the use of our facilities every year. The Clackamas County Extension Service, 4-H, the Girl and Boy Scouts, the county health department, and the Senior Citizens Council, are some organizations who

use our facilities the most frequently."

Community Education, which began in July, 1972, is an investment in the various community schools that "provides an incentive for process education, or encouraging the people of a district to control the events in their own lives," said Bob Ellis, associate dean of community education.

"Community education doesn't have to happen in a school, necessarily," said Ellis. "It can be in people's homes, basements, churches, or school gymnasiums. That is, as long as it provides an educational atmosphere. The role of community education at CCC has been to disseminate information, and train personnel in community education."

The growth of community education has almost been as extensive as the College's growth, expanding from two staff persons to nearly 52, and from 75 off-campus classes in 20 locations in 1972, to 600 classes in 70 to 125 locations.

The basis of the College's Student Activities Program saw "its greatest amount of program initiation with regard to student related activities in the '70s," said Debbie Baker, student activities counselor. Baker, whose involvement in Student Activities spans near nine years, observed the physical movement of the program from Health Trailer A to Journalism Trailer B, to Randall Hall, and finally to the Community Center where the number of movies, coffee houses, and "general student involvement has increased

markedly," she said.

"Before Student Activities and Student Government moved to the Community Center, the two departments amounted to what we now refer to as 'mini-programs'; that is, a few dances now and then, and some coffee houses. New activities simply didn't expand as frequently as they do now. Now, it seems as if a new program is started every year," she said.

One reason behind the increase is participation in the Association of College Unions-International in 1973. Baker said the ACU-I provided concepts of planning, leadership and procedures appropriate to student involvement in government.

"There's nothing in a college union that hasn't been done somewhere else," she explained. "These student union meetings and workshops, which still continue to date, create a stimulus for involvement," she said.

The College's '69-'70 basketball and wrestling teams that practiced in the Gardiner Junior High School gymnasium and cafeteria, respectively, now have their own facility, Randall Hall. Until the construction of Randall in 1972, much of the athletic department's competitive sports were developed on off-campus facilities. As a result, according to Athletic Director Chuck Hudson, (who's held that position for 11 years), "We spent a lot of time just driving around; track meets held at Oregon City High School, baseball practices and games at Portland Parks, and tennis

Clockwise: Randall Hall, completed in early 1972, provided the early growth of the college's athletic program. The Smuckers building, purchased in 1970, began as the college's art complex in 1973. He said the Science building's contractors are 'hopeful' that construction will be completed in December of 1980. Planning began for the Environmental Learning Center in late 1972, and "Should be finished sometime this year," said Don Fisher, Planning Officer.

Photos by Duffy Coffman



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