

Women find reward in College experience

Most women returning to college on a full-time basis consider their efforts to be a "significant life task," according to a recent study based at the College.

In her Ed.D. dissertation, "Characteristics, Motivations, and Barriers of Returning Women," Bernie Nolan, a CCC counselor and former Clackamas student, made a comparative study of full-time and part-time returning women students.

Part-time students, Dr. Nolan observed, represent a "normal cross-section" of women. Within her sample of 90 part-time students, she found they are usually married, older and consider taking classes as part of a "life-long learning process." She added that part-time students outnumber full-time students 2-1.

Returning women carrying

full class loads, she said, are characterized as being in a "life transition state" or for some, a crisis period.

Reasons for going to college vary among the full-time students, she explained, from children leaving the nest, divorce, to a financial crisis where she has to learn new skills or where she is simply seeking job advancement.

In any event, she stressed, these returning women have serious intentions of fulfilling a "significant life task."

Noting the rapid rise in women returning to college, Dr. Nolan suggested the "whole society" is saying women have to be more independent. "And, you can't say it's all from the women's movement," she added. "It's very much a societal message."

Having been a returning woman herself, Dr. Nolan said

she has shared similar experiences with many of the 90 full-time students she interviewed for the study.

At 34, already married for 16 years, the mother of four daughters and having just completed seven years of "intensive volunteer work," she said she decided it was time to command a wage and do something for herself.

Dr. Nolan recalled her first experience at CCC, where she began in 1969, as being "tentative, to say the least." It took her three trips to finally gather courage enough to register for classes.

But after the first lecture, despite feeling queezy before the class, Dr. Nolan said her feelings of insecurity vanished.

"All of a sudden, I had an insatiable thirst for education," she exclaimed. "There was a kind of joy in being able to admit my

own capabilities; like freezing a great dam inside of me."

In the thesis which she completed with Brigham Young University, Dr. Nolan said the barriers faced by returning women are usually in terms of time management and role conflicts.

"Many women fear they are neglecting their families," she explained. "Their commitment to homemaking and the family is often in conflict with their commitment to education."

For Dr. Nolan, the most obvious personal conflict while she was going to college, was that she quit cooking.

However, what seemed at the time to be a problem turned out to be beneficial, she noted. "My daughters, who are great cooks, now say they learned to cook when Mom got out of the kitchen."

Dr. Nolan emphasized, however, that she in no way regrets raising her family. Being a good homemaker is just as vital a life task as most anything, she said. College simply enhances the options available to a person who wants to go on to something else.

Her study further considered the structural problems of colleges as registration, and found that most women were not

threatened by the institutional procedures.

"Clackamas," she said, one college that has made great strides in streamlining registration process by including such options as registration-by-mail. The College has also attempted to cut out the red tape involved in compiling records and so on and it already has a good reputation for its child-care services.

Now at the age of 45, Dr. Nolan sees her eleven years of education as a sort of metamorphosis.

"In the beginning, you can be critical of the world," she said. "Your self-esteem is limited and criticisms about affairs of life are often muttered under the breath; secure that you won't have to face the consequences of your words."

"But, then you begin to notice that you are starting to affect others," she continued. "And soon you are in a position where you are as responsible for the condition of the world as anyone else."

The ultimate feeling of having gone from her first class at Clackamas to her current position as a counselor, she said, "is that I must be careful of what I dream, because my dreams come true."

Manpower offers jobs

About 10,000 college students will earn extra spending money and acquire on-the-job skills this holiday season as temporary workers for Manpower, Inc., the world's largest temporary service firm.

"Recent studies show that students are spending at record levels and many students will be looking for ways to pay for their new 'essentials' such as stereos and ski trips," said Mitchell Fromstein, president of Manpower, Inc. "We offer a wide variety of Christmas sales assignments and post-holiday inventory jobs during the college vacation times."

In addition to providing extra income and experience, tem-

porary work offers flexibility in scheduling, variety and the opportunity to preview possible summer or full-time work while still in school.

Students interested in holiday employment as a temporary may contact their local Manpower office for an interview to determine their marketable skills. Applicants will be interviewed on work attitudes, abilities, and "hidden skills."

Manpower, Inc. is the world's largest temporary firm, with over 450 offices nationwide. Approximately 10 percent of the assignments are filled by Manpower's temporary work force are in highly skilled clerical positions.

Confidence Clinic Discusses transition

The problems of women in transition will be discussed in a six-day Confidence Clinic workshop Dec. 9-11 and Dec. 16-18 from 9-11:30 a.m. at Atkinson Memorial Church in Oregon City.

Judith Nelson, a clinic counselor at the College location, will offer techniques in

decision-making, value identification, and goal setting.

An on-going problem-solving group meets Tuesday nights from 7-9 p.m. at the Confidence Clinic. Call first to talk with a counselor.

Fees are based on ability to pay. For more information, call 656-2091.

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