

Tufts to retire after 27 years of teaching

JUSTIN BLACKLEDGE
Staff Writer

Dr. Marlene Tufts will soon retire from Clackamas after 27 years as an instructor of psychology.

Dr. Tufts' focus has always been the functioning of the brain and the nervous system. Along with this, she said she also finds the methods and philosophy of science to be particularly enthralling.

First educated at Sacramento State College, she attained a Masters degree in the Social Sciences. She finished her doctoral work while at Clackamas in 1986, and was awarded her Doctorate in physiological psychology through the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

"If you apply the principles of science to your life it helps you understand things and make decisions," said Dr. Tufts. She feels psychology has been a very good major. It offers a firm foundation for many important issues and questions concerning the nature of human beings. In this field, study of the brain is paramount, and a psychologist who doesn't understand its functioning is in trouble.

"Psychology is enriched if you understand all the underlying sciences: biology, physics, chemistry... these are all interconnected," Tufts said.

She believes that study of behavior and cognition provides a way to establish a set of values. Originally

interested in political science and English, she chose psychology because it is an open-minded area that also respects evidence.

Tufts has also taught human sexuality for several years. She commented that the values people hold regarding sexual conduct have changed dramatically in the last few decades.

"The sexual revolution is definitely over," Tufts commented. She has taught that sex should be approached playfully rather than as a means to prove something to your partner.

"It's a course that attendance is high in," Tufts remarked with a smile. She is very pleased that the administration of Clackamas has never interfered in the way she teaches her classes.

Dr. Tufts has seen some radical changes in the field of psychiatry and the social climate in America over the years she has been teaching. She commented on the challenge in keeping aware of the constant advances in her study. When she began teaching in Clairmont Hall, she found many of her students were veterans from the recent war in Vietnam. Over time, Dr. Tufts feels she has learned to be less formal.

"The younger generation, despite changes in appearance, are basically all likable people. Being a teacher, especially at this level, keeps you a

student as well," Tufts said.

Over the time she has been at Clackamas, Dr. Tufts has worked to be a good teacher who keeps up with change. "There is hardly anything that I teach now that I present the way I used to," she said.

Dr. Tufts said she has enjoyed the friendly atmosphere at the college and looks upon her work as not being simply a job. She also has advice for how to be a successful student.

"You have to test your beliefs. Look for disconfirming evidence. Reject wishful fulfillment. Change your beliefs if the evidence shows you are wrong," Tufts said.

She believes that no one should feel embarrassed about asking what could be considered a 'dumb' question.

Dr. Tufts said she will probably continue to teach part-time during certain seasons. She looks forward to bird watching in the spring, and enjoys gardening as well.

As far as retirement plans, she will soon explore the Amazon and all its beauty. Her goal will remain to challenge her mind, after having worked as a professor.

"I feel I've been very lucky to have taught at Clackamas, and have loved being a part of the college," Tufts said.

"I've felt like I've been part of a big family."



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Marlene Tufts comes to the end of her long tenure as a psychology instructor. She has witness much change in America in her 27-year stay. She will continue to teach part time, but will now have more time for bird watching and gardening. Her colleague John Orrelle, at right, is also retiring, but chose not to be interviewed.

Richards closes the book on 28 years at Clackamas

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Thomas Richards, head of the English department and instructor at Clackamas since 1969, is retiring.

The primary focus of Richards' study is English literature and language. He had initially pursued a career in law, yet found it too confining.

"I like the breadth of thought in English. It offers an opportunity to

be expansive," he said. He earned a bachelor's degree in English at the University of Portland. He later transferred to Loyola University in Boston to acquire his master's. He began teaching at the junior college level soon thereafter.

Richards served as co-chairman with Vince Fitzgerald of the faculty advisors when that group was begun 13 years ago. He has been responsible for construction of the English department's schedules, bud-

gets, and human affairs. It has been Richards job to find committed staff and see to it that all the staff in his department are treated equitably. He has found it difficult in the past to find enough classes to give to all the qualified people who approach him. Other concerns have been adequate classroom space, and keeping on top of technology.

"The technology is only as good as the people who use it," Richards remarked, adding that he feels Clackamas has provided excellent access to the tools of tomorrow.

"There is a faculty autonomy that allows us to have a say in the activities of this institution," Richards said.

Richards feels very fortunate to have been a part of Clackamas. He stated the main strengths of our college as being its attention to support, respect, and involvement. Furthermore, he described himself as fortunate to have been involved with an open administration for the last 12 years that conducts itself with respect rather than suspicion.

"English is adaptable and diverse. It's not too proud to borrow words," said Richards of the lure of the language. Some of his favored authors include Kurt Vonnegut, Steven Ambrose, and Clackamas' own Craig Lesley.

Lesley stressed the fact that between the part time and full time instructors, Clackamas sports one of the finest English departments to be found anywhere. A glance at the accreditation report would show that Clackamas is a "model community college."

When asked about what is important for all students to remember,

Richards said, "You don't get something for nothing. Education is a matter of hard work and effort. You are basically going to get out what you put in."

As Richards dealt with his own hard work, he said that sharing an office with Mike Kepler has led to many amusing situations. "He has really helped put things in the proper perspective over the years."

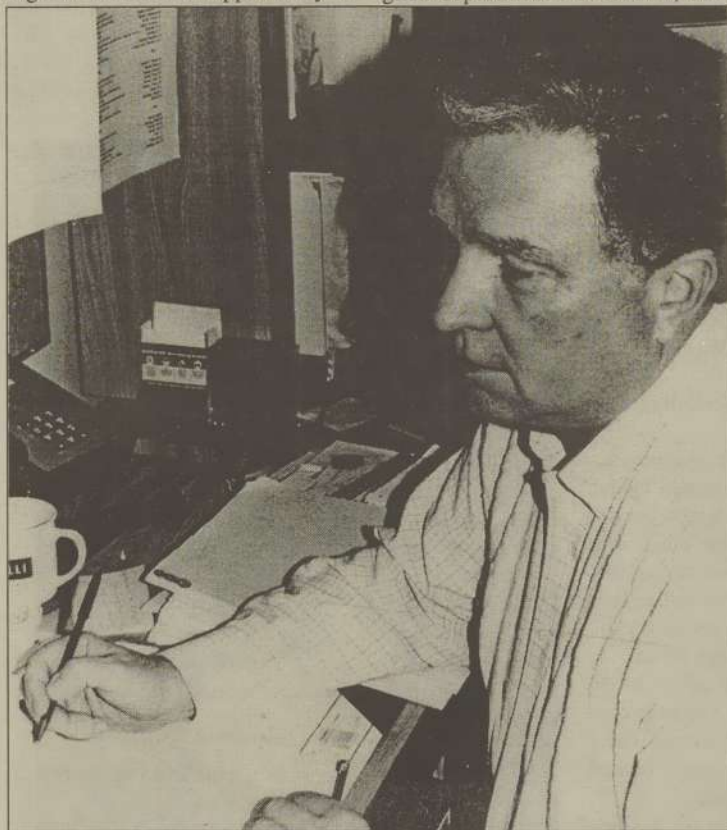
Richards expressed a concern regarding the lack of student interest in the written word. He cites the diversions such as television and video games as possible causes for the loss of respect for the language.

"When students here are exposed to the richness of the language, sometimes unfortunately for the first time in their lives, I find that very rewarding." He pointed out that opportunities are readily available for students to succeed if they are able to balance the social issues in their lives appropriately.

In retirement, Richards looks forward to traveling Europe with his wife. Having visited England and Ireland three years ago, he plans to return and add Italy to the journey. He smiled as he remarked how refreshing it will be to read for relaxation, rather than analyzing the text as an English teacher becomes accustomed to.

Over his years of teaching he has found that "being in touch with students on a day to day basis keeps your mind young. You are always being challenged."

After being part of the college for so long, he will find it odd not to be faculty. He has not stopped being involved in the college, however. Richards still plans to be on the Foundation Board.



PHOTOGRAPHER / Clackamas Print

Department Chair Tom Richards has given his all to make English at Clackamas a special experience.

Tom Richards

- 28 years at Clackamas.
- Head of English Department
- Masters in English from Loyola University
- Looks forward to traveling in Europe.
- Plans to be on Clackamas' Foundation Board