

Library opens its door to more than books

SALENA L. DE LA CRUZ
Staff Writer

The Clackamas library staff has united old ways of learning with new advances of technology to better serve students.

Starting this week in Dye Learning Center, room 112, individuals are on their way to becoming savvy information seekers, thanks to a new curriculum created by Instruction Librarian Shannon Stiles called Clackamas Library User Education (CLUE).

These CLUE sessions will tell students everything they always wanted to know about the library, the Internet, and research, but were afraid to ask.

There are two ways to become involved in the CLUE program workshops. Students can sign up individually out of their own independent interest, or they can have an instructor register them as a group, in conjunction with that class. The program can be held in the Library, or another facility or

classroom, and sessions usually last one hour. Several instructor-arranged workshops have already begun.

For those who dread stepping into the library for fear of not knowing where to look, the staff offers Basic Orientation. This workshop includes a basic introduction to the library, its policies, services, and physical layout. A few library tools may also be addressed in this session.

Workshop Two covers Research Fundamentals for those who could never quite grasp the concept of searching for the tools and information required of research, and then using them.

One of the sections of Workshop Two is the Online Catalog session, which consists of basic and advanced searching, reading catalog entries, and locating listed materials in the library. Throughout this session access can be obtained from home, on campus, or at work.

Some topics included in Research Fundamentals are Periodical Re-



SALENA L. DE LA CRUZ / Clackamas Print
Dara Davis, Heather Gilbert and Wendy McKay access the library computers' new CLUE program to study for their courses.

search, Book Research, Internet Research, Topic Selection, Source Evaluation, and research Selection. Subtopics include EBSCO Fulltext Magazine, Database, and Oregonian Online.

Workshop Three covers Discipline and Assignment-specific Instructions. The assignments are variations of those in Workshops One and Two, made more specific

and developed according to assignments.

All workshops are held at no cost to participants. Workshops are open to students, staff, and community patrons interested in learning new information or just wanting to touch up their current skills. Interested persons are not required to attend all of the workshops.

"I want students to become knowledgeable information seekers," commented Stiles, adding that "it's empowering to be able to locate information."

Instructional seminars are now informal, but by the end of the term the library staff hopes to make the program more formal and individualized. Curriculum will be introduced beginning Spring Term.

Once they see how the program works, the Library staff, under the direction of Stiles, hopes to expand and go from there.

"I hope for a good sense of control over searching strategies," said Stiles.

So far, the program has been a success in making instructors and patrons of the library feel more at home within its walls.

"The library is a vast array of information that provides credible resources to excel in my Writing 123 course," said Clackamas student Wendy McKay.

For more information on CLUE workshops, contact Shannon Stiles at ext. 2493 or by email at shannons@clackamas.cc.or.us

Year-round observatory may reopen by Spring

JANOS PLESKO
Staff Writer

The Haggart Astronomical Observatory, the only year-round facility of its kind in Oregon and Washington, will be reopened around mid-April, according to Ken Cameron, observatory director.

This observatory, located at the Environmental Learning Center (ELC), was shut down last October, due to safety concerns such as structural weakness, and dryrot.

Fundraising is going on right now, and the restoration work is also on schedule.

"They are going to remove the dome, and the deck up where everything sits," Cameron said.

The architect's plans are ready today, and the college is reviewing it now. If it is approved, then Clackamas will have to obtain building permits; that will take a couple of weeks, Cameron said. The work will then have to be put out for bids for contractors. The bids should be in by the middle of February, then the work will proceed from February to mid-April.

"We are hoping that enough of the work will be done, so that we can open up to the public again in mid-April," Cameron continued. "The final touch up, the fancy painting, will be done in May."



SARAH WELCH / Clackamas Print
Haggart Astronomical Observatory, located at the Environmental Learning Center, will reopen in the Spring.

The existing structure was donated from recycled wood, and lasted only 10 years, because the wood wasn't coated with preservatives.

"The 16-foot diameter dome and

the little building it sits on will both be lifted off as a unit by crane, so that they don't have to be rebuilt, and will be carried to the parking lot," explained Cameron.

Cameron also said that the Coast

Crane Co. will donate the work, at a savings of \$10-15,000. The cost of the entire rebuilding is about \$77,000, including the cranes.

"Right now, we are trying to get companies to donate plastic, lumber, and some structural steel that is needed. We already have electrical construction firms; they will donate all of the time for rebuilding the electrical system that is there. We have also had quite a few individuals who said they will donate labor," Cameron explained.

Cameron went on to say that the college is hoping to get the cost down to about \$40,000. The ELC has been promised \$20,000

from Clackamas' board. Also, the Friends of ELC have offered \$10,000. In addition, *The Oregonian* published an article in January entitled "Public's help urged to repair observatory" by staff writer Lisa Daniels.

"As a result of that, a woman walked in and wrote a check for \$1,000," Cameron said.

Cameron is hoping eventually to put murals on the outside of the dome, and get the Clackamas Art Dept. to paint the map of the sky, for use as a teaching aid.

"We are hoping that we can get [the observatory] back running," he concluded.

New York poet to read at Clackamas

Award winning poet Karen Swenson, a New York resident, will give a poetry reading Thursday, Feb. 4 at 10:30 a.m. in the Gregory Forum.

Swenson, a recipient of the Pushcart Prize and the Ann

Stanford Award, has taught at City College of New York and served as Poet-in-Residence at Skidmore in New York, Denver University, Scripps College in California and the University of Idaho.

Her book, *The Landlady in Bangkok*, was selected by Maxine Kumin in 1993 for The National Poetry Series.

Her newest book, to be published late this year, will be *The Latitude of a Daughter*.