

Render yourself responsible for your rights

"Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom," (according to the student handbook). Throughout the year many unfortunate incidents in a long string of controversies have brought into question the right to teach and the right to learn; this

the pleasure or displeasure (depending on what side your on), of taking one of Darris' classes, I do find the entire situation unacceptable.

We are supposed to be free to learn, to gain knowledge, but even now as you read this you may discover our rights are few and far between.

For everyone who has ever thought of leaving the country to pursue different avenues of learning, I caution you, explore a little deeper; know if the college or university you are attending is a recognized institution.

Not long ago women weren't allowed to go to school. We are in

different times, but much the same situation. Why are there stipulations on our freedoms? We need to be responsible for how, what and where we learn, that's why. That is where the Darris situation comes into play. He believed he had earned his doctorate at an accredited institution; he was told it was acceptable. He should not be held responsible for the accreditation of his doctorate when he was led to believe it was up to standard.

To Dean Darris and students everywhere: band together; fight for your rights—your right to learn, to teach, but most importantly to be free.

Let your voice be heard—contact your local state department, start a petition, get some reaction out of your actions.

Questions or comments contact me, cccprint@clackamas.cc.or.us or call extension 2309.

Make a statement, be heard...



Salena De La Cruz
Opinion Editor

term is no different. Dean Darris has left to defend his doctorate.

Darris' right to learn has questioned his right to teach. He went to school at Berne University in the West Indies, in the Caribbean, for his Ph.D. Though I've never had



Letters to the Editor...

Instructor helps to develop 'free thinkers'

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on the behalf of Professor Dean Darris, Ph. D. of the Political Science Department at Clackamas Community College. I have had the privilege of attending lectures of Professor Darris for my second term. I am writing in support of the education I have received from Professor Darris. I have had the experience of different universities in the field of political science, and without a doubt—most enjoyed the education and discussion in Professor Darris' classroom. He is vastly knowledgeable in his field, always provoking new and independent thought by the students attending. An overcrowded classroom always impresses me, for it is the mark of a truly respected professor. Professor Darris' classroom is bursting at the seams with students. I feel that he is the reason CCC has so many students wanting to understand the political arena and be better citizens who contribute to their communities. He provided in-depth

understanding into all areas of government, economics, philosophy and international relations. He is a catalyst to better awareness about democracy and the society that we'll all play a large role within. Professor Darris promotes what Thomas Jefferson, a founding father, recognizes as every citizen's most valuable role: awareness and faith in self-government. Without instruction by inspiring educators such as Professor Darris to develop "free thinkers" and the sharing of diverse perspectives and ideals, we as a young society and future government will never know how to come to the fair-sharing decisions that include all of the population, "we the people." Please take into strenuous consideration that many students attend CCC and take Political Science because of the education provided by Professor Darris.

Stacey Steinwandel
Student

Education system destroyed with loss of teacher

What is wrong with today's educational system? How about too many teachers who no longer care about the subject they are teaching? What happens when an individual comes along who has the rare qualities of compassion for students and passion for subjects they teach? What if this same individual also has the ability to ignite the flame of the desire for knowledge in students? According to what I've seen in my time at this particular learning institution, they try to eliminate this individual; fight every move this individual makes on behalf of the student body. For those of you who do not know of whom I am speaking, this letter is about Dean

Darris. I am a student who has been to several institutions of "higher learning." Dean Darris is the only instructor I have found whose knowledge and passion for his subjects have created in me and others a burning desire to know more and better ourselves as citizens of this great nation. Dean Darris is a great asset to this school, a sparkling diamond in a sea of mediocrity. To lose him would be an immeasurable loss to this school and a great disservice to the student body. Students, unite and speak out against this injustice.

Kristina Wilson
Business Transfer

Where are the loyalties where instructors are concerned?

I am frustrated at the string of events occurring at Clackamas recently. We attend a college, community or not, it is still a college. When I arrived here I was under the impression that the conduct by students and faculty would be in accordance with those of an institution of higher learning. Recently, they have not been.

Dr. Epstein and Dr. Darris have both been harassed by everyone at this college. First, Dr. Epstein was accused of saying some harsh things and everyone was appalled at his statements, but shortly after when *The Print* ran a story to tell what had occurred, people were again outraged that they had not said it right. This college came out of that incident looking like no matter what was said, if it was in the least bit controversial or rocked the per-

verbal boat it was bad. Since when are conflicting opinions a bad thing in a so-called institution of higher learning.

This week the harassment of Dr. Darris also came to a head with another teacher at this college who is liked and respected by many of the students deciding it was best for him to leave something he loves doing. If this has you in an uproar, stop and ask yourself, **FIRST**—where were you when Dr. Epstein was being shown the door and **SECOND**—where is this college's loyalties when the best they can do is say they support their teachers after they continually allow harassment (cordial condolences at best)? The sad thing about this whole incident is that the students who got to have them as instructors are not losing, we benefited from them already, the real

loss is to this school who got lucky getting such an inspiring instructor and now will be less of an institution without him.

For what it's worth, and even though I am not going to be thought highly of after this letter, I will not be harassing you or snooping in your files. I will, however, get my education and then educate others on what has happened here, through rallies and other forms of public relations so that the students here and in this community will not let another teacher be harassed into helping dumb down CCC any further. Those are the non-violent, diplomatic, intelligent ways that Dean Darris taught as the backbone of being a citizen. Thank you Dr. Darris.

Matt Stekete
Undecided major

People who speak beyond status quo are removed from positions

Today I received a very disheartening piece of information. Dr. Dean Darris informed my class that he would no longer be teaching our class, and he would be taking a leave for a period of one year. At first I was overcome with shock. For those of you that do not know Dr. Dean Darris, he taught political science and philosophy. Taught in my previous sentence was an understatement. Dr. Darris has helped me and other students to realize our potential. He has also taught me the importance of an education and using that education to think critically about the world around me. As I think about this institution I am frustrated. Not only is this college and myself losing one of the greatest professors it has and will

have, this is one part in a string of ongoing incidents. First Dr. Epstein was harassed enough that he could not go on.

Now Dr. Darris is being by means of harassment made to take a year long sabbatical. I as a student am tired of the administration taking on and forcing out the instructors that care about my education. I know of other instructors that are part time that are great instructors that are continually misused until they find somewhere else to teach. I would like to know why the administration is doing this. It seems that if someone speaks his or her mind and it is not of the status quo that person is by some means removed. This also is not limited to instructors. Jennifer Rankin

was thrown out. The administration circumvented the system to summarily remove her from the position of president of the ASG. I am reminded of the lecture that Dr. Darris gave today. He talked about the early colonists and their will to live under a form of government that was not oppressive and represented them as free and equal citizens. We must break off the yokes of our oppression. We must take our education seriously. Because if we do not, people like the administrators of this college will make all of your decisions for you.

Matthew Coleman
Political Science major

'Why would a teacher...take a leave from his teaching position?'

To all those involved with and responsible for Clackamas Community College, have we not been told about the importance of learning history? Have we not been told that if we don't learn from history that history is bound to repeat itself? Does Socrates ring a bell? If so, then Dr. Dean Darris' PH. D should also ring a bell. What

is going on at Clackamas Community College? Why would a teacher who is respected so highly by students of Clackamas Community College need to take leave from his teaching position to defend his position with the administration of our college? Does the administration have any idea what they have done? I personally, as a student of

this college, a tax payer, a parent and a responsible citizen will do everything it takes to see it that the truth be known to all. For all those who are feeling the loss of Dr. Darris as severely as I am, you are not alone.

Julie Smith
Political Science/Criminal Justice major

Speak Out!

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