

# Rhododendron garden will blossom on campus

CORINNE RUPP  
Staff Writer

The first phase of a new rhododendron garden being installed at the Beaver Creek Road entrance to Clackamas began last week.

When the three-year project is completed, the new garden will reach from Beaver Creek Road to Douglas Loop with a colorful assortment of rhododendrons.

New strolling walkways are being added; and the jogging path is being repositioned during this project to come out a safer distance from Beaver Creek Road. It will remain open during construction.

This new garden isn't meant to be just a pretty addition to the campus. It will also be used as a learning project. Students from the horticulture department are doing all the manual labor.

"It's sort of exciting to have something to work on that's real life," said horticulture Instructor Bob Nelson.

The landscape installation students are digging the

paths and preparing the beds for the fall planting of rhodies. In the spring the turf classes will begin bringing the lawn back to life while the irrigation classes will install a watering system to keep the newest plantings from drying out.

"It is a lot of hard work," agreed Nelson, "but it gives the students some hands-on experience in all kinds of weather."

Help for the project has been donated to the college by local businesses. The blueprints came from Andy Rice, a landscape architect who has worked with the college before; and local nurseries have donated many rhododendrons. Horticulture students have propagated many more rhodies from bushes around the college, and the wood mulch on the walking paths and in the flower beds come from shredded trimmings of trees on campus.

The first phase of the project should be complete this spring, covering about a third of the area from Beaver Creek Road to Douglas Loop.



Mike Snyder, left, helps Alex Stevens learn how to operate the tractor during horticulture class last Thursday. The supplies for the rhododendron garden have been donated by local businesses.

MIKE POLLOCK / Clackamas PR

## Federal grant launches 'classroom of the future' at Clackamas

DIANA SCRIVENER  
Editor-in-Chief

A "classroom of the future" containing high tech work stations and teaching material was launched this fall as the result of a 1.75 million dollar grant from the government.

The Title 3 grant, called *Strengthening Institutional Programs*, which Clackamas received from the US Department of Education last year, will be distributed to the college over the next four years. It is intended to boost student graduation rates and lessen dropout rates.

According to Melissa Banks, research assistant administrator for the college, 30-35 percent of students enrolled at any given time are likely to return the next year.

"There are a lot of things that happen, and we lose our students," said Jack Scrivener, Title 3 project coordinator. "If we can give students a feeling that there is a community of concerned individuals, that when they have a problem are there to support them, then research across the country says that that makes it easier for students to stay in school."

### Grant proposal

The grant proposed the development of four "cohort" groups on campus, to raise attrition rates of students in those programs four

percent each year. A cohort is a learning community in which students who are studying the same programs work together to support one another, and work as teams on projects.

"That is the project we are doing, asking does this give students the additional support they need to increase their level of success," explained Scrivener. "The whole idea of cohorts is based on the educational philosophy of a learning community."

### PSU cohort launched

The first cohort group was launched this fall and is called the PSU co-admit cohort. It created two freshmen integrated inquiry courses: Faith and Reason, which combines science and religion, and Metamorphosis, combining science and literature. Both these courses are co-taught by two instructors at a time.

The "classroom of the future" was developed for this cohort. It includes 12 computers with dvd (digital video disc) players and zip drives, and many high tech teaching tools including a lectern, which houses a touch screen monitor to control the sound

equipment, VCR, and other equipment in the room. All this equipment was supplied through the grant money.

### Future cohorts proposed

Next year a cohort will be launched for the Bridges program, which is part of Clackamas' Family and Human Services department and designed to assist young adults, aged 16-22, go to college or be successful in work. By the year 2004, a cohort will be launched for older working students in a liberal study major through the accelerated degree program (ACD), and a Latino cohort will be developed to serve the needs of Latino students on campus.

"We want to supply support in the form of newsletters, so that people can communicate with each other, and they know what is going on in the cohort," Scrivener explained. "We also might do some seminar classes... to bring students together to discuss their courses... depending on how the specific cohort instructor wants to

develop the course."

Although a classroom of the future was developed for the co-admit cohort, every cohort will have different equipment as necessary.

"Each of the cohorts may have different needs; that is why we did not want to lay out a template and say everybody had to fit in this model. We want to see what the needs of each of the individual cohorts are and develop the support to meet those needs," said Scrivener.

### What the grant provides

Along with equipment, the grant provides funds for instructors for 'release' time for course development and piloting the course. After the grant period is over, the departments are responsible for paying for the program.

"It is assumed by the Feds that if we develop programs that are useful to students, then departments or divisions would want to continue those programs," Scrivener explained.

The grant also provides money for staff development, supplies and equipment, funding for travel, training related to cohorts and money for an endowment.

According to Scrivener, students not only benefit from being in a cohort learning community, but also benefit indirectly through the staff training that oc-

curs through the grant and training center.

### Endowment

The endowment, which puts money into a fund matched by the government, will be used after the year 2004 to fund the training center for faculty and staff. The training center, now located in McLoughlin, houses equipment which faculty can check out for their classes. It also contains resources such as books and video tapes.

According to Scrivener, if the Clackamas bond passes, the college expects to expand the learning center to include computer training stations for faculty.

The idea of cohorts is not completely new to Clackamas, as the nursing and accelerated degree programs currently work in this community teaching style.

"If the cohort programs are successful, I would like to see more attempts at adopting learning communities around campus," said Scrivener.

*"The whole idea of cohorts is based on the educational philosophy of a learning community"*

Jack Scrivener  
Title 3 coordinator

## Colloquium: Tempers rise at Palestine - Israel debate

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humanity of the Palestinians for allowing the Infatata to continue.

"He (Epstein) doesn't consider them (the Palestinians) to be human," remarked Kheirabadi. "They love their children. They do not love their children less than the Israelis love their children."

Tempers rose in both speakers throughout the rest of the discussion.

"A Palestinian born in Israel and kicked out in 1947/48 has no right to return (under current Israeli law) but a Jew from anywhere has that right," Kheirabadi stated.

"Everyone needs a place to live," he continued, and said that

Israel's system of border control around Palestinian land is racist.

"It's not racism, it's security!" exclaimed Epstein.

The tempers continued to flare through the question and answer period with Kheirabadi challenging Epstein's facts.

"I back up my statements with

documents." Kheirabadi said, "You come with nothing in front of you and expect them to believe you."

Moderator Bill Briare, Clackamas instructor of social sciences, ended the hour long forum with a poem on peace.

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