

# ASG advisor says goodbye after 30 years of teaching

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Norm Berney, advisor of the Associated Student Government (ASG), who also works with high school recruitment, is saying goodbye after 30 years of teaching at Clackamas.

Berney, who was born in Oregon City, has dedicated his life to working with students, even though teaching was not one of his top career choices.

"I didn't really plan to be in education. I thought about teaching, but I wasn't sure whether I was going to do it or not. The opportunity came up to work as a coach when I got out of college at the age of 23. I took the chance, and I really enjoyed it. That's what got me hooked on working with students," Berney explained.

After finishing his bachelor's degree in social science and his master's degree in guidance and counseling at Eastern Oregon College, Berney worked at a small high school in eastern Oregon as athletic director and social science instructor. He then came to Clackamas in 1971 to coach wrestling, track and cross country, was hired as a classified employee the following year and then became part of the faculty in 1974 as guidance counselor. In 1992, after participating in an exchange program to England, Berney took the job of advising ASG.

"After my exchange to England in 1991, I came back to the counseling department and worked with high school recruitment for a year. Then the advising job came up, and I thought it would be kind of fun to give it a try," explained Berney.

Berney has always enjoyed working with students, and he recalls his time at Clackamas as enjoyable.

"It has been a lot of fun, and I really enjoyed working with the students. As in any job, there are good and bad experiences. I had my highs as well as

my lows, but I can say over the years, it has been a very enjoyable experience," confirmed Berney. "It's all about learning and education; it's not always going to be smooth in life."

During his career at Clackamas, Berney has experienced many memorable moments. One of them came in 1997, when students awarded him with a little trophy to remind him of all the contributions he made to the college.

"I really appreciated it. It wasn't that much what was written on there, it was the effort the students made to put it together and just thanked me for some of the things I supported them on," Berney said. "Any time that the students gave me some recognition for what they felt I contributed, I really felt good about it."

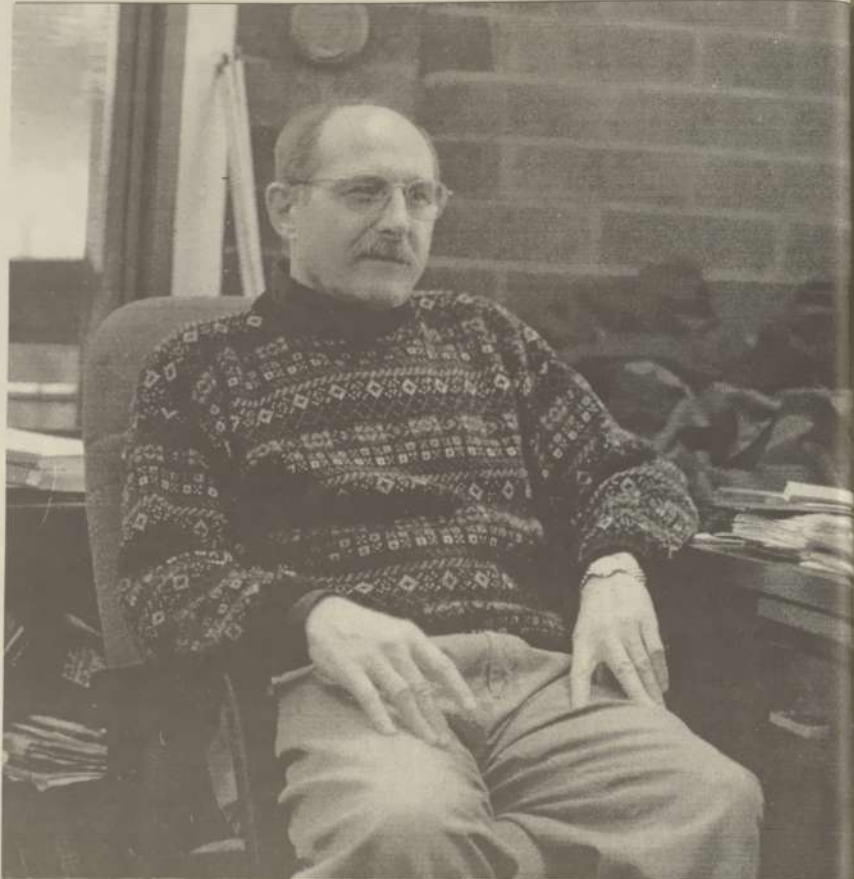
Being awarded Oregon Wrestling Coach of the Year in 1976, 1977, 1979, 1980 and 1983, as well as receiving the National Advisor of the Year Award in Washington D.C. at the American Student Association of Community Colleges (ASACC) conference

in 1999, has highlighted Berney's career. Berney has already made plans for his upcoming retirement, including spending more time with his wife, his 16 year old son and his 17 year old daughter, after retirement.

"I have a lot of things to do and I also have two teenagers at home that I'm working with. First, I have to get things organized, clean out my office, for example," Berney said.

Leaving Clackamas, Berney has come to realize that retiring has its positive as well as negative aspects.

"I don't feel good about leaving. A lot of people can't wait for the day they can get out of here. To me, it's just a situation where I can do just as well and even better financially being retired, plus I have more time for my family," stated Berney. "I'm really going to miss having the students around. I can honestly say, I liked going to work



Norm Berney, advisor of the Associated Student Government (ASG) and coach and instructor at Clackamas since 1971, reflects back on his career. Berney is to retire at the end of winter term.

every day, and the students kept me going."

No official retirement date has been named so far, but Berney is planning to work as a full-time employee until the end of winter term and then finishing up the year on a part-time basis.

"I have to make a transition now because I won't be seeing the students on a regular basis anymore. Maybe I will try to do some volunteer activities, try coaching again," Berney said.

Perhaps Berney will find more time to spend with his watch business, which is a family business out of Switzerland. More likely he intends to de-

vote himself to the activities his children are in as well as see more of the local things.

Before leaving, Berney has one piece of advice for all new incoming instructors.

"The key thing, in anything you do in life, is that when you get up in the morning you want to go to your job

and enjoy it. Then, when you leave at the end of the day, you feel satisfied and you know that you have accomplished something," Berney explained.

"I really believe in the college and believe in our students. We have a fine college here and our key goal should always be the students and how we can serve them."

## Two Clackamas students to release hip-hop CD

MICHAEL CHOE  
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"Live from Felony Flats Vol. 1," a hip-hop CD recorded by two Clackamas students, Jon Pettricciani and Jake Riley, is to be released in early spring 2001.

Within the past four years, Pettricciani and Riley spent most of their leisure time recording hip-hop tracks at their studio called the "flatlands," located in South East Portland.

"Four years of hard work, but it will be worth it when the money starts rolling in," said Riley.

Various artists, including "Ozone, I-Mobb, Revelations, Bitch Huntin' Season and Lebanese G's," contributed to this compilation where many local acts come together.

The production team consists of "Maestro, Parmesan, and Tag King Fresh." After releasing the album, each artist on the compilation plans to release his own solo CD within the next year. The concept is not a new one. One of hip-hop's most notorious

groups, the "Wu-Tang Clan," started very similarly. Using funds accrued from the group's LP, their solo LPs were launched later.

The key to their music is staying true to the essence of hip-hop while also having fun. Avoiding the usual "pop culture" influence in their sound is a feat the artists are very proud of.

"We're proud to *not* be on the radio," said Pettricciani.

The CD should warrant some airplay. It shows how much fun the artists had recording their songs.

"Lifesavers" another local group that just signed with a major independent label, "Soulsides of San Francisco," represents some key artists including "Blackalicious, Dj Shadow and Latyxx." According to Pettricciani, the "Lifesavers" are good, but not as good as they are.

Students should reserve their copy before production, so they can claim they knew the artists before they were famous! This is a CD just waiting to pop off in a major way.

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