

Adventurous librarian brings experience to Clackamas

JENNY CHAVEZ
Copy Editor

to access and evaluate information for just about any endeavor you pursue."

Halliday wasn't always a librarian. Her first degree was in biology education and in 1976 she joined the Peace Corps to teach math and science in Nepal for three years.

"It was the Peace Corps experience as advertised," remarked Halliday.

She taught in two villages - one Tibetan and the other a High Caste (Brahmin) village - after receiving an intense three-month cross-cultural training session.

Part of her training was total immersion in the Nepali language, including living with a Nepali family who didn't speak English. Halliday said she was glad to have had that experience.

"I wanted to experience life without running water or electricity," said Halliday. "It was an opportunity to step outside your culture and realize you've got one."

In Nepal, Halliday taught grades 6-10 in government-run schools. An average of 25 students was in each class and most consisted of boys. Sometimes there would be one girl in a class of 22. The girls were usually needed as child labor because the women did most of the agri-

cultural work. School costs were also a factor since families had to pay for education beyond the third grade. There were other reasons as well.

"Parents were afraid of their daughters sending love notes," said Halliday. "There was a significant fear that education was moral contamination."

Halliday went back to Nepal in 1985 and saw a total change. Besides finding running water and electricity in parts of the villages, she also observed that 50 percent of the students were girls. One theory for the big turnaround was because of the marriage market.

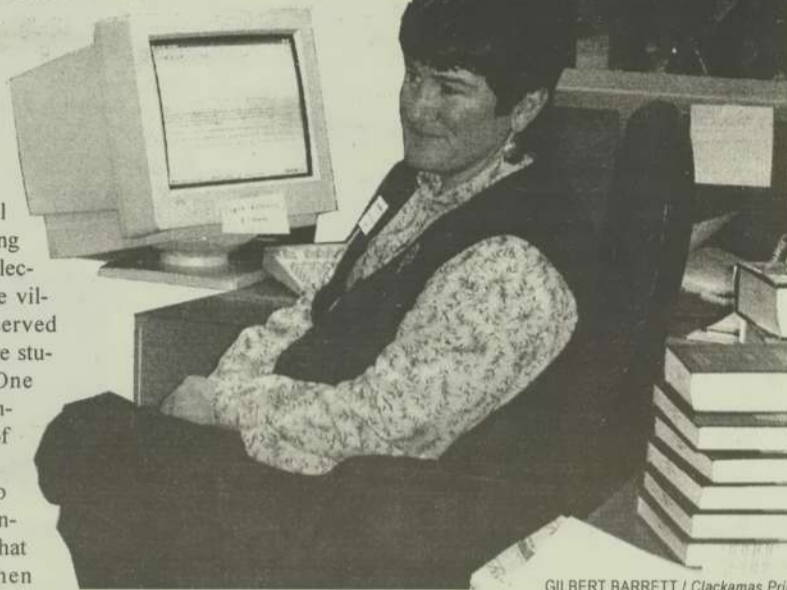
"I have nothing to back this up, but an anecdotal reason was that educated young men wanted educated young ladies," exclaimed Halliday.

After returning to the states, Halliday worked in Seattle as a fisheries biologist while pursuing her master's in fisheries. She discovered this wasn't the field she wanted to stay in.

"You go into biology because you like critters," said Halliday. "You end up torturing animals. Our mission was to come up with estimates of various fish populations in the Bering Sea and to do this we had to kill thousands of fish."

She then reactivated her teaching credential to teach biology

Below: Karen Halliday, the new librarian at Clackamas. She welcomes students' questions and is eager to teach research skills.



GILBERT BARRETT / Clackamas Print

"I really believe that learning to use a research library is liberating." Karen Halliday
librarian

Karen Halliday, former teacher, fisheries biologist and Peace Corps member, has brought a background of adventure with her to Clackamas College as its new academic librarian.

Halliday started at the college last fall as a full time librarian. She decided to relocate to Oregon from Utah to be close to her parents and found this job while searching through a library job listing website. She left a tenure position as a science librarian at the University of Utah to come work at Clackamas.

"I like the people here," said Halliday. "It really does have a nice community feel here and I really like dealing with beginning students."

Part of her job description is to give reference instruction to students, helping them learn how to research various topics. According to Halliday, learning how to do research in the college's library will put them way ahead of many students at the university level.

"I really believe that learning to use a research library is liberating for a student," said Halliday. "It gives you the power

about asking for assistance," said Halliday. "Always ask. That's why we're here."

Though Halliday liked teaching, she didn't like all that went along with teaching, especially discipline problems. She went back to school and earned her master's of library science at the University of Washington. As an academic librarian, Halliday can still enjoy being in the educational setting by using her talents in teaching and service to help students better their own education. She encourages students to come to the library more often and use the services available.

"People are often very timid

Writer of natural history books becomes new leader of support group

TAMOLIVER
A&E Editor

sonal essays. I did one about when my husband and I changed our last names when we got married; another about the birth of my daughter."

Lichen is also looking forward to having three books published by Sasquatch Press.

"They are natural history books that focus on a specific plant, animal or natural event, such as the red cedar, ladybugs or lightning," she said.

According to Lichen, one of the most interesting aspects of the re-

search for her books was delving into the folklore. For instance, she relates one of the stories about how ladybugs were named. When farmers prayed to the Virgin Mary (Our Lady) to save their crops, she sent beneficial

bugs to help them. These little beetles became known as ladybugs. Asked how she got published, she replied, "I really did my homework."

First, she took a trip to the library to look up regional publishers as she felt this was where her essays belonged. Also, she borrowed a book on how to write book proposals.

"You can do that [submit a pro-



JENNY CHAVEZ / Clackamas Print

Pat Lichen is the new leader of Chrysalis, a support group at Clackamas for women writers. She is the author of three books and several published articles.

posal] with nonfiction books, not like how you would submit fiction," she continued.

At home, she wrote her proposal and sent it, along with a couple of samples of her essays, to Sasquatch Press.

"I have some of their books," she explained. "I like how they were done."

And Sasquatch liked what they saw. They hired an artist to add illustrations to the books, which will be

published in June. Lichen is equally excited by her continuing commitment to Chrysalis.

"One of the first things you learn when you begin to get serious about your writing is that you can't wait for inspiration. It [Chrysalis] sort of gooses you to write more," she explained. "Also, the viewpoint of all these people helps you to understand what's clear in your own writing and what's muddy."

"When you begin to get serious about writing, you can't wait for inspiration" Pat Lichen
writer

Chrysalis, a support group at Clackamas Community College for women writers, has a new leader this quarter.

The group was formed eight years ago when a few students in Kate Gray's women's literature class at Clackamas Community College wanted to continue the writing they had been doing for the class. According to Gray, the women wrote up a constitution for the group, and she has been leading it ever since. However, Gray, who still teaches at the college, decided she wanted more time for her own writing.

Pat Lichen jokes that she inherited her new position as leader on the basis of longevity: she has been a dedicated group member for six years. She has had articles published in *Northwest Travel* and *Canoe & Kayak* magazines as well online for citysearch.com. Additionally, she has done commentaries on OPB radio.

"They call them commentaries," she said "but I think of them as per-

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