

# Here she comes, folks: Miss Clackamas 2002

DAISY BAIN  
A&E Editor

Clackamas student Alisa Mara recently won the title of Miss Clackamas 2002 and will be competing for the Miss Oregon crown in July.

The three competitors all attend Clackamas. Lisa Rocheleau and Serena Elder also vied for the award.

Mara is a 20-year-old Milwaukie resident who is a full-time student studying medicine. "I want to be a heart or emergency surgeon," said Mara.

Miss Clackamas was Mara's first pageant.

"I became interested when I saw what it had to offer," said Mara. Pageants offer many scholarships and opportunity to meet new people, according to Mara.

Contestants base their interviews on a platform issue. Mara's was diabetes awareness.

She wants to work on research and development for new innovations.

"My dad's diabetic," said Mara. "Before, I wasn't aware what diabetics go through."

She sang for her talent competition, which was her favorite part of the competition.

When asked what the worst part was she said, "I enjoyed the whole thing, but I think it's kind of nerve-racking knowing you're getting judged on everything."

Yes, they have the swimsuit competition at this level, too.

"I wouldn't mind being Miss America, that's a goal I think anyone would want to pertain (to)," said Mara. Even if she doesn't win, she will still compete because "it's so fun."

She never thought she would be competing. "It was something that I viewed in TV land, not in actuality."

The current Miss America, Katie Harman, was at the crown-



Clackamas student Alisa Mara accepts her Miss Clackamas 2002 award with her parents Joshua and Juanita Mara by her side. Mara's next competition is the Miss Oregon pageant in July.

ing of Miss Clackamas and will be there for the Miss Oregon Pageant. "It was really special that she was there," said Mara.

The Miss Oregon Pageant will run July 11-13, and there will be a parade, with details to be announced later.

To reach Daisy Bain, e-mail [daisybain@hotmail.com](mailto:daisybain@hotmail.com) or drop by B104.

## Potential nursing students await admissions diagnosis

ELISABETH MEYER  
Feature Editor

Prospective nursing student applicants who filled the Pauling lecture hall Thursday night, April 25, got some good information on program prerequisites but also left with some questions that won't have answers coming until June.

Due to a high dropout rate of second-year nursing students this year, CCC officials are re-evaluating prerequisites for application to the program, said Tina Criswell, the advising specialist who hosted the meeting.

"We looked at the (drop-out) student's academic record. Their transcripts showed that they had

gotten A's and B's," Criswell said. "Why weren't we able to catch that this person was going to have a problem? We started re-evaluating the measurements...to find out what we could change to the admissions criteria to make sure that we weren't setting somebody up for failure."

But no one is quite sure what the new standards will be. The admissions board is still discussing how GPAs will be computed, and the writing sample will be scored differently. Cut scores for the placement tests and the Nurse Entrance Test (NET) have both been raised.

To apply to the nursing program, prospectives must provide their GPA, placement test scores, a writ-

ing sample, and an acceptable score on the NET. The top 60 of the 100-some applicants then have group interviews with nursing fac-

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Tina Criswell  
Advising Specialist

ulty, and the final choices for acceptance to the program are made from the interview, Criswell said.

"There has to be some subject-

ivity (in the selection process)," Criswell said. "And there's very little, but this is it...it's not something that you can prepare for."

"I'm going to have to say, I don't know a lot of these things. We haven't thought all of the things through yet," added Criswell. "But I am like, hoping, hoping, hoping, that details will be finalized by June 1."

Much of the question and answer session centered around the concept of points. Nursing program applicants are ranked by the points they earn by taking classes, maintaining a competitive GPA and scoring well on the NET and placement tests.

Criswell advised students that there is a tradeoff between earning

more points by finishing courses quickly and keeping good grades. But no schedule for determining how points will be earned with coursework is available right now.

Open summer registration and fall term registration for returning students begins May 29, meaning that new nursing students will be waiting for information they need for scheduling while classes begin to fill.

The Nursing Department has scheduled two more informational meetings for Monday, May 6, from 10-11 a.m. and Tuesday, May 21, from 2-3 p.m. Both sessions are in CC127.

To reach Elisabeth Meyer, email [saladlass@hotmail.com](mailto:saladlass@hotmail.com) or drop by B104.



MAGGIE JIRASEK / Clackamas Print

Long-time instructor Jane Rickenbaugh is still kicking up her heels after 35 years of teaching communications and theater.

## Speech instructor's long tenure due to hard work, students, enthusiasm

JENNIFER KANE  
Staff Writer

From the minute I stepped into her office, I could tell Jane Rickenbaugh, the CCC Communications and Theater Department Chair, really enjoys what she does. Colorful pictures and flyers for plays cover about every inch of her office walls. Talking to her brought out even more enthusiasm. This year marks her 35<sup>th</sup> year with the college, and she shows no signs of slowing down.

In 1967, while teaching speech at Southern Oregon University, Jane Rickenbaugh was preparing to get married and move to Portland when she heard about a teaching position available at Clackamas, which was just starting out.

"It was a much different world than it is now," she said. She recalled the early years of CCC as being filled with sociability be-

tween faculty and students because the school was so small. She reminisced of bake sales on weekends to raise money. Also, Vietnam veterans were returning home and beginning to take classes.

Rickenbaugh can also be credited for the dance floor that is now a part of Randall Hall. She explained how the college had a football team back in the early days that was so terrible they actually lost every game for three straight years. So when the school decided to get rid of the program, the money went to building the dance studio. "Nobody ever said 'No. You can't do this.' You just had to work hard to make it happen."

She pays homage to practically everything when speaking about her longevity at CCC. But most of all, she credits her students.

"They've taught me about looking at life through different lenses," she said. From them she has learned the importance of being given chances and being sup-

ported in order to discover talent and creativity.

"I encourage risk taking and experimentation," she said. As a teacher, Rickenbaugh is very open to new things. She often hears from former students thanking her for the chances they were given in her class.

One of her students even received special funding for a business program he was working on. He never would have had the courage to present his plan without having taken her speech class.

Another student was able to present a eulogy at his uncle's funeral when no other family members would speak. Because of the communications program, many of her students are taking chances they wouldn't normally have taken.

"It's an exciting thing to see something flower [in a person] they didn't even know was there."

To reach Jennifer Kane, e-mail [jenk403@aol.com](mailto:jenk403@aol.com) or drop by B104.