

Life after Clackamas: retirees look forward to other pursuits



Science Chair plans to return to CCC as a student

Hal Bender has been working here since September 9, 1969, and is currently the Department Chair of Science. Previously, he taught for three years at Crystal Spring High School for Girls in California.

"I think that one of my fondest memories was that one day one of my students said, 'So everything is made up of 90 - 100 elements... wow.' That realization is quite something," said Bender. Bender originally planned on retiring in June.

"For a while I wanted to outlast Jane Rickenbaugh. It teaches you the power of dance," said Bender.

Bender and his wife have already bought five acres of land and plan on being farmers. They are looking forward to some horticulture classes offered at the college.

"The place has grown considerably, in terms of students, staff and the diversity of classes. It is much more involved," said Bender.

CORY PRICE Clackamas Print



Rixford looks forward to time with family

Betsy Rixford has worked at Clackamas Community College for the past 14 years. Rixford is currently the Life and Career Options Secretary. She really loves her department and coworkers.

"The most rewarding aspect was knowing the people who have taken classes here and to see them move on with their careers," said Rixford. "I'm going to miss the people I work with and the students. Not some of the work, but I'll miss all the contact with the people. It's a great department; that's why I'm still here."

Rixford is retiring near the same time as her husband and plans to spend the first ten days of her retirement birding in Texas. She is also planning on getting into volunteer activities and spending more time with her four children and her grandchildren.

"The one thing I really valued are the students I've known," she said.

LUKE MAHAN Clackamas Print



Drafting Chair has gained insight from CCC

Terence Shumaker has been working at the college for 28 years. He is the Department Chair of Drafting Technology. He previously worked part-time at PCC and as a freelance drafter.

"The big thing that I have gained is the awareness of life and what people need. Also, I have learned the definition of fairness. If something is fair they get what they need, not what they want. I have also learned how to listen," said Shumaker.

In Shumaker's free time he plans on doing a lot of traveling, volunteer work, writing, working on his house and playing his harmonica.

"A lot of people talk about the Clackamas way," Shumaker said. "It's just one of those things that if you try to define it you can't. Things just work here."

MARK FALLING Clackamas Print



President's assistant will maintain position part-time

Suzy Alexander has worked for 21 years at CCC. She officially retired Dec. 31, 2002, but is still working part-time here as the Executive Assistant to the President.

Alexander worked in Student Health Services and Student Publications from Oct. 1981 to Jan. 1989, was the FIPSE Grant Alcohol/Drug Coordinator from Oct. 1981 to Jan. 1992, and was the Administrative Assistant to Office of College Advancement from Jan. 1992 to April 1995.

"I have gained friendships, knowledge, memories to cherish and a belief in myself. I've gained self-confidence; I found myself," said Alexander. "[My job] gave me the opportunity to do things I wanted and I discovered skills I didn't know I had. I will miss the people and the stimulating environment."

The current situation with PERS affected Alexander's decision to retire.

"I didn't want to retire for a couple more years. What helped was that I could still retain my position part-time," said Suzy. "I plan to work part-time at the college as long as they'll have me."

Alexander plans on spending more time with her family and is looking forward to traveling, golfing, gardening, hiking and continuing to be involved with the causes of the college and help the kids and the community. She is also planning to pursue a new career and may go back to school.

LUKE MAHAN Clackamas Print

Hart plans to travel, garden, volunteer with new free time

Pennye Hart (former student) has been working at Clackamas Community College since June 22, 1981. Hart is the Human Resources Assistant Administrator. She is a human resource specialist. She has previously worked in the Business Department, the Office of Administration and the library.

"I once was very shy, but I feel that I have opened up, and that I have more confidence," said Hart. "I really enjoy being around students. I'll miss the people contact. It's like a family. I won't miss getting up early in the morning."

Most of Hart's grandchildren live out of state, so she and her husband plan on traveling. In her spare time, she plans on reading, gardening and volunteer work.

Hart is retiring because of PERS and her husband has already retired and "he's been after me" to retire, she said. *Pennye Hart is not pictured at her request.*

Compiled by Mark Falling

International Hour to benefit Mexico trip

German instructor Dick Stones will speak at today's International Hour at noon in CC127.

Admission is free, but donations are encouraged. Proceeds from the event will go toward the cost of the summer trip to Cuernavaca, Mexico this summer, said Spanish instructor Irma Cristina Bjerre.

"The whole idea is to attract faculty, students and people in the community to fundraise a little bit of money for students," Bjerre said.

In the past, the Foreign Language Department has sponsored International Luncheons to benefit students, but like the Brown Bag series, this year's presentations will not include food.

Stones will tell the audience about the college's exchange program with a school in Stadthagen, Germany. During his upcoming sabbatical spring term, he plans to work with schools in western Austria to set up exchange programs there.

Compiled by Elisabeth Meyer

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