

Clackamas welcomes native Alaskan librarian

Karen Hill
FEATURE EDITOR

The average American has at some point or another experienced a lengthy search, wandering up and down the aisles of the local library, attempting to decipher the cryptic number and letters posted on the binding of library books, determined to find a particular volume among the hundreds filling the shelves.

Although the task to find one book among the many may seem a little daunting at times, there is a method to this madness. And Susanna Flodin, librarian at Clackamas Community College, is part of it—the method, that is.



FLODIN

"I had a great elementary school librarian," said Flodin. "She taught us how to find things that we wanted and was always available to help us find things to read."

Flodin now repays that service by helping students here at CCC. Her official title is the cataloging/technical systems librarian and she works to keep things organized.

"Cataloging is a two-part process," she explained. "The first part is the process of describing an item, such as the title, author, publisher, number of pages, height, etc ... the second part that a cataloger does is assign a call number and subject heading."

"Personally, I really like cataloging," she said. "I just like to do that."

Another aspect of Flodin's job is to create records in "Cougar Cat," the library's online catalog system, allowing patrons to come into the library and conduct a search of the library's offerings. Flodin also has a hand in the technical side of the library.

"The Technical Systems part of my job involves working with others to keep the online catalog up, running updates and solving any problems that may occur. I also work with the vendors to keep access to online products that the library subscribes to," she said.

Although Flodin may seem the epitome of organization, she admits that as a teenager, her room didn't always reflect the position she now holds.

"[It was] a disaster," she said. "But I knew where everything was!"

Thirty-two year-old Flodin was born and raised in Fairbanks,

Alaska. She received her master's degree in library science from the University of British Columbia. Library science, she explained, is a general degree for anybody wanting to be a librarian.

"You can go anywhere and do almost anything with it," said Flodin. Options in the field include marketing and competitive intelligence, which involves researching the advancements of competitors and, well, competing.

Flodin moved to Oregon in December 1999 to pursue a job as a librarian at the Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls. She worked there for four years before an opening at CCC caught her eye. Her responsibilities are essentially the same, except the position at the community college allows for three months of summer vacation. Flodin jumped at the opportunity and began at CCC in January 2003.

"I'm slowly moving my way back north," said Flodin. She anticipates to someday find a job in Fairbanks, which currently offers no job openings in her position. "Hopefully the next move is all the way back [to Fairbanks.] I don't like moving."

In the meantime, Flodin offers a few suggestions to students that are overwhelmed at the sheer idea of locating a single title among the hundreds lining the shelves.

"There are helpful, get-started information sheets near the reference desk for a number of different subjects," said Flodin. "A virtual tour and other information about the library is available off the library's home page. And ultimately, if you need help, please ask a Reference Librarian; that is what they're there for."

Grant offers free classes for prospective teachers

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FEATURE EDITOR

A federally-financed program at CCC offers 25 students the opportunity to take classes which introduce them to careers in education and provide hands-on experience in the classroom.

Clackamas Community College received a \$900,000 federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education's

Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers to Use Technology program. The grant pays for the tuition and fees for 25 students to take eight courses over the three terms, a total of 24 credits.

The courses' curriculum includes multicultural education and teaching strategies, as well as learning to apply the latest technology to the classroom. Students learn to use programs such as PowerPoint for class presentations and Access for class databases.

The program also focuses on pairing students with a teacher from a Clackamas County school.

This allows the student hands-on experience in the field; traditionally students usually do work in the classroom until their junior or senior year, according to Laurette Scott, faculty in Education and Human Services.

The courses cater to a wide range of ages and abilities. There are people in the classes that already have degrees, and some are coming right out of high school, Scott said.

"We're very diverse," she added. "Students range from 18

years to 50 years."

Thanks to the grant, teachers at CCC can also enjoy the benefits of the program. The program offers courses to staff and faculty, providing instruction to learn how to fully utilize the technology available to them in the classroom.

"We're impacting a number of people," said Len Eaton, program director. "More than just teaching students to become teachers, we're teaching teachers who currently teach now, as well as faculty, to use technology."

Recently the college activated a Help Desk for JIT ("Just in Time") assistance, a service funded through the grant as well. The Help Desk offers over-the-phone assistance for Clackamas teachers needing help using Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Photoshop and a number of other applications.

Scott feels confident in the program's ability to introduce students to a teaching career where they will feel capable of making a career decision early in their schooling.

"The people who come out of here know they want to be teachers," said Scott, "and they feel confident in that decision."

Currently the program has 23 students, which means possible openings spring term. Students who begin the program this spring can take the completion of the program next fall and winter term.

For more information on this program, contact Laurette Scott at (503) 657-6958, ext. 5195 or send an email to laurette@clackamas.edu.

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Laurette Scott
Education and Human Services

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