

Gamer girl makes time for grades



photos by NIC DELZELL CLACKAMAS PRINT

Nic Delzell
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

Watch out now! Sophisticated, soft-spoken and stylish Clackamas student and grade gangster Carmen Richard is busting a move with her education.

When it comes to her learning, this schoolgirl doesn't front: she has a 3.8 GPA and has maintained a 4.0 during spring and fall of 2003. Richard said her cumulative grade point average is rising steadily.

"I think it's about uncovering your learning style and finding out what works best for you," she said.

Richard currently represents Milwaukee, but has also lived far up in the north side; she attended and graduated Victoria Composite High School located in Edmonton—Alberta, Canada. Richard's journey at Clackamas started in 2001 and she is looking to conquer her AAOT by this spring.

"I don't think I had what it took to get into a university [before CCC]," she said. "My grades used to suck."

In her extra time, she takes

pleasure in a myriad of different forms of entertainment, including reading, music and video games.

"I play geeky video games and read nerdy books," Richard said. "I listen to industrial, technological, dark, yet up-beat music."

Richard's ties with The Clackamas Print include her relationship with her favorite staff member, A&E Editor Isaiah Creel and her brief stint serving as a production assistant.

"The Clackamas Print was chaotic, but it was fun at times," Richard said. "Other times I felt kind of lost."

In addition to school, Richard enjoys cartoons. She particularly likes "Aqua Teen Hunger Force"—but only the early episodes. She's also down with the "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles."

"My favorite Ninja Turtle is Michelangelo, 'cause he's a party

dude," she said.

Although Richard has no zealous gangster rapper, she's a zealous fan of hip-hop artist Bus Driver. When it comes to color affiliation, she goes with red. And with the right timing, one can catch her chewing on her favorite food, sushi.

Like every other student, she has experienced the difficulty of finding good parking on campus. Richard, however, has a sense of humor about it.

"The pain-in-the-[rear] parking is also my favorite part of Clackamas," joked Richard.

Next fall, Richard plans to transfer to

Portland State University (PSU) to follow up her spell at Clackamas with a degree in business. When finished at PSU, she wants to focus on design school.

"I want a master's degree in design if I can find someone who offers it," Richard said.

"I think it's about uncovering your learning style and finding out what works for you."

Carmen Richard
CCC Student



Campus cat club caters to cuddly critters

Karen Hill
FEATURE EDITOR

It all started with a cat named Bobby.

Bobby was one of the hundreds of stray cats found wandering on the college campus searching for food and a home. Luckily for Bobby, the CCC Campus Cat Colony Club came to his rescue, providing him with a home—some cats aren't so lucky.

Diane Dennis, Oregon City school district teacher, began noticing an increasing number of feral (wild) cats on campus, while taking math courses at Clackamas Community College.

Other faculty began noticing the problem as well.

Unbeknownst to each other, the faculty, as well as Dennis, began collecting the cats, taking them to vets to get fixed, finding homes for them when possible and returning the rest back to campus.

"We discovered that when people try to help the problem [of stray cats], by removing them, the cats are only replaced by a new batch," said Dennis.

Dennis discovered that fixing

the cats helped to keep the number to a minimum, but the best way to reduce the number of cats on campus, was to trap a few of them and feed them regularly on campus.

"They establish a sort of permanent space so they tend to drive off other cats, which helps to keep the population from growing," said Dennis.

Dennis, as well as faculty members Gary Nelson and Karin Redston, decided it was time to take a more

organized approach in addressing their rising concern of stray cats on campus.

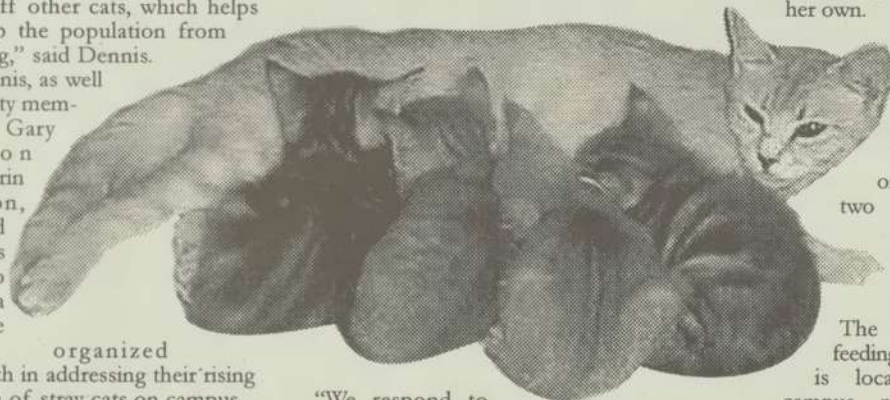
Nelson put a proposal to the college, requesting permission to start a cat colony on campus, in which they can set up feeding station for the cats and trap and fix cats.

The college granted Nelson's request.

"The college agreed this was a good thing to do," said Nelson.

Shortly after, under the guidance of Nelson and Dennis the "CCC Campus Cat Colony Club" was formed.

Currently, approximately a dozen active club members attend to the population of stray cats on campus, helping when needed.



"We respond to the needs on campus as they come," said Dennis. "We try to assist other cats in the community."

The club members soon found, they weren't the only ones interested in helping stray cats. An employee at the Clackamas County Senior Services center, located on

Beavercreek Rd., had been catching and fixing cats for years. When the club presented the idea to set up a feeding station at the center, she was more than happy to oblige.

"She was delighted to help out," said Dennis, since this was a problem she had been trying to fix on her own.

The senior center

became one of the two feeding stations set up for the cats.

The second feeding station is located near the cafeteria. It serves as a place the cats can come and find food on a regular basis.

The construction workers at the Gateway building construction site also had a watchful eye out when it came to homeless kittens.

"They found bottle-size kittens hidden under a tarp at the

site. The mother cat had apparently got frightened and ran off when the trap was uncovered. After several trips back to the site in attempt to catch the mother, Dennis came across the cat, only to find that she was tame.

The club started approximately 10 years ago, and continues to pro-actively attempt to decrease the number of cats on campus.

Through rummage and craft sales, as well as a variety of other fundraisers, the club raises money to pay for the costs of fixing and treating cats.

"The average price to take a stray cat to the vet for tests and to get fixed is \$100," said Dennis, "and the adoption fee is only \$45."

Dennis invites anyone interested to join the club.

"We're looking for people who want to take a cat while it's waiting for a home," said Dennis.

The club also welcomes anyone interested in making crafts to sell as a fundraiser, and any donations of much needed towels and blankets are always appreciated.

For more information about the CCC Campus Cat Colony Club, please contact Diane Dennis at (503) 632-5868.

Spanish instructor proves it's never too late to pursue passion

Cyndee Mady
CO EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Though *Maestro* David Miller, Spanish department chair, has been a teacher at Clackamas for the past 10 years, his love for foreign language came later in life.

Miller learned Spanish in his thirties and it wasn't until he was working as an migrant-training counselor for employment that he realized his passion.

"One day I was short of sleep because we had a colicky baby and dragged myself off to work with double-esspresso (and I think I was also sick). I had to explain something about Spanish itself to somebody," said Miller. "I just noticed that despite [being] sick and sleep-deprived, as soon as I started talking about the language, I was able to forget about how bad I felt. So I thought, 'Wow, that would be a pretty good thing to make a living at, if it's something I can do even when I feel bad.' It was kind of a moment of clarity."

Before settling on a major, Miller

attended seven four-year colleges spanning Oregon, Washington and Montana.

"I switched my major five times as a freshman—probably 10 times in my life," he said.

Miller was working on his master's degree in public administration at Lewis and Clark when he suddenly changed course and transferred to Portland State University (PSU) to pursue a master's in Spanish and German.

Though he already had a BA in history, he needed to first get a BA in foreign language before he could pursue his objective of attending graduate school for Spanish and German. Three years later he achieved his goal.

"It took me until I was 40 to figure out the simple principle that I should do something that I'm good at and

that I'm interested in rather than because I think that it's good for humanity or prestigious or whatever other dumb reason I had for picking a profession," said Miller.

Due to Miller's own struggle to find his career path, he advises students against trying to find themselves in college.

"Let the world knock you around a little and then go to college, unless you know exactly what you want to do," Miller recommended. "[Instead of] hanging out sort of half-heartedly in the cafeteria all the time not being very interested in anything—quick, go get a job, do anything, pump gas, wait tables—until you have a clearer idea what you want to do. I wasted so much time hanging out in college, spending my mother's money."

Miller and his wife of 16 years, Sonja, have three children—Ben, 14,

Nick, 12, and their adopted daughter Ali, 9. So does Miller impose his love of language on his family?

"It just confuses family with profession," he said. "[Although] sometimes I'm sad that they don't speak a foreign language."

In the fall of 2005, Miller will step down as department chair in order to apply his efforts to teaching German and promoting the student exchange program, in addition to teaching first-year Spanish.

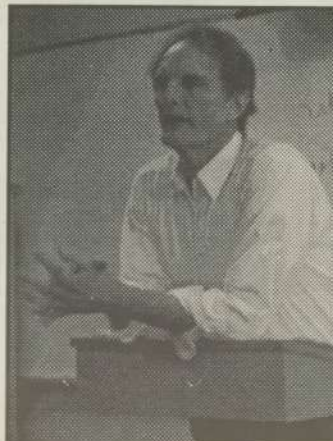
"If you give me half a chance, I'll bore you to death talking about language," he said. "I just love language."

Miller's students, on the other hand find him anything but boring. "I like the class because I like the way he explains assignments and then relates them to what we are learning," said first-year Spanish student Crystal McNamara. "He takes the time to go over whatever questions we have. He's very energetic, so he keeps our attention."

Spanish student Josh Hitch appreciates Miller's dedication to students.

"I enjoy the class a whole lot. Mr. Miller actually makes it easier; he makes us feel more comfortable," he said. "He lets you go back and fix all of your mistakes on tests and then re-grades them. He makes the atmosphere a lot more enjoyable, which makes it easier to learn."

"I think he's a great teacher, one of the best I've had so far," Hitch added.



MILLER