

Mom of two juggles job, children



Jessica LeClaire
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

With two kids and a career in teaching, student Adrienne Thomas, 29, finds time to attend school in order to eventually start a career as an elementary school teacher. She has been at the college for one year.

"Eventually I would like to become a grade-school teacher because I want to make a difference in children's lives."

Going back to school has been a great experience for Thomas.

"It is fun to talk to my children about what I learn in school," said Thomas, who has two sons, Simon, 9, and Matthew, 7. "If they have a question about their homework, I can tie it into something I know and it helps me relate to them more."

The current status of the economy has made her current profession less enjoyable for Thomas. According to Thomas, a haircut is not a necessity to most people these days.

"The hairdressing profession has changed," said Thomas. "It is not the same industry as it was when I went into it."

Thomas is attending CCC in order to get her AAOT degree and will transfer to Portland State University. She has been at the college for one year.

"I have really enjoyed attending CCC," said Thomas. "I enjoy the variety of the students as well as the different perspectives of the younger students."

While at Clackamas, Thomas has come across many instructors that she has enjoyed taking classes from. The two that have had the most influence, she said, were her sociology sequence instructor Karen Lamborn, as well as her science sequence instructor Bob Misley.

"I admire [Karen] Lamborn; she is a really great person," said Thomas. "[And] I like Bob Misley because I love his dynamic teaching style. I am really looking forward to the Fort Clatsop trip that our science class has coming up."

According to Thomas, life is what one chooses to make of it and when times get hard, one just has to push through them.

"My advice to other mothers that are going through school right now is not to overload. Use all the resources available to you," said Thomas. "College is



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Thomas finds time to take a break from her studies and spend some quality time with a cuddly friend.

set up today so that you can do anything you want to do. Anything is possible. It just takes time."

Webmaster Walch works computer kung-fu at Clackamas

Bethany Monroe
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

While browsing for classes, hunt-graduation details or checking online, CCC students have member Dean Walch to help for making a host of campus information available with a few clicks of a mouse.

Walch is the website coordinator for Clackamas College, where he is in charge of updating Clackamas' main website as well as assisting departments with their individual sites. He also handles media presentations for the college's office.

Walch has been working for Clackamas College off and on since he was a student.

Walch actually was a high school student and got my adult high

school diploma here," said Walch.

Walch transferred to Marylhurst University, where he majored in art, after studying for a few more years at Clackamas.

Once he earned his degree, Walch taught at Marylhurst and ran his own business. Eventually, he was drawn back to Clackamas.

"I just felt that [CCC] did so much for me that it's really an honor to come back and work and help out other students," Walch said.

Walch now occupies an office in Barlow Hall. Filled with a candy machine, a Mr. Potato Head figure, a

SpongeBob SquarePants doll and a variety of other amusing items, Walch's office is far from drab.

"I just felt that [CCC] did so much for me that it's really an honor to come back and work and help out other students."
Dean Walch
Website Coordinator

"I've always surrounded myself with toys for some reason," said Walch. "I think it just makes people more relaxed when they come in."

Aside from his work at the college, Walch is an active member of the Oregon City community.

Tim Powell, who co-chairs the Neighborhood Association along with Walch, nominated him for the Hearts and Hands

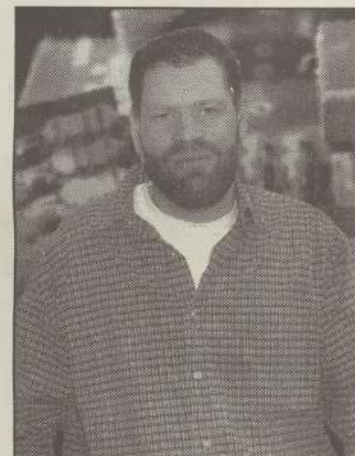
Award, which recognizes outstanding volunteers in the community.

"[Dean Walch] is an inspiration to the neighborhood and the community," Powell wrote on the nomination form. "[He] not only works in the neighborhood to make it a better place, he is involved with the Citizen Involvement Committee as well, working to make Oregon City as a whole a better place ... Dean is a tremendous leader and deserves the thanks of his entire community."

Walch was recently honored, along with about fifty other volunteers, for their work in the community by the Clackamas County Volunteer Connection. As an Oregon native who grew up on a farm in Molalla, Walch's commitment to his home state runs deep.

"I've traveled quite a bit in the

states," Walch said. "But I've never found a better place than the Willamette Valley to live."



WALCH

EMT student on the road to her dream as future paramedic

Milliary Ferguson
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

In one year of the Emergency Care Technician program under her belt, student Jessie Thompson is ever nearer to a career as a paramedic.

The decision to be a paramedic, for her, one made go.

"I've just been drawn to health care since I was in high school," Thompson said.

When her training began, she enjoyed the rush of getting quickly working with patients to diagnose their ailments and knowing what to do

in emergency situations.

After taking a long list of science, health and math classes, Thompson now holds the rank of EMT Basic. It may sound glamorous, but the title mainly allows her to drive stable patients from facility to facility in a wheelchair van. In addition, Thompson has been trained in airway management, assistance in labor, bandaging and splinting wounds, spinal immobilization and rescue.

These skills have come in handy a couple of times when Thompson was called into action.

"At church, a 16-year-old boy got hit over the head with a metal pipe and split his scalp open. I was able to stop the bleeding and

calm his mother down. She was flipping out worse than he was!" Thompson said.

Another incident when Thompson's training was called upon occurred on I-205, where she came upon an accident. Before the paramedic arrived, she was able to stabilize the victim's spine in order to prevent further injury. The amazing part is that she did this with her bare hands—not the traditional neck brace paramedics have.

Within the next year, Thompson plans to receive her EMT Intermediate.

"Besides [EMT] Basic abilities, I'll be able to give IVs, put a tracheotomy in and give some med-

ications," said Thompson, "but what I'm going for is my EMT certificate."

The EMT certificate proves that the holder has taken all of the classes and prerequisites necessary to attend school for her paramedic degree. Thompson hopes to go to OHSU.

"When you're a medic, you're basically in a moving hospital. You can do everything a doctor can do," said Thompson.

Aside from being a lot of work, the path towards becoming a paramedic has rendered some interesting experiences for Thompson.

Recently, she played the victim for training exercises called Mass

Casualty Incidences (MCI) drills, during which police and fire departments learn how to quickly and effectively handle a large-scale disaster.

"We [acted] like victims of a bombing so the fire and police department could learn to manage a [mass casualty] scene. I was a victim very close to the bomb. I had an open fracture to my right arm and a leg injury," Thompson recalled.

Thompson plans to get her EMT certificate within a year, and finish her paramedic degree in two. Last week, Thompson was honored to receive the Randall Carpenter Scholarship worth nearly \$1,000.



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