

# Language student finds her calling

By Le Wilson  
Clackamas Print

Everybody does Spanish," Emerson said when she first enrolled at Clackamas Community College five years ago. She decided to learn French. Instructor Heidi Cropsey told Emerson that the course was difficult, but Traci wasn't going to let that beat her. She dove in and from day one she was in Heidi Cropsey's office after class trying to get every concept explained perfectly. Emerson is 20 years old no longer a student at Clackamas. Instead she is an instructor for the first year French class as well as a French teacher at Covenant Christian Academy in Oregon City. "I love teaching," Emerson said. "The students I've worked with tell me and say, 'I got an 'A' - thank you for helping me!' it's such



Contributed Photo

Traci Emerson, a former Clackamas student, is now a French tutor for the college at only 20 years old.

a rewarding feeling." Emerson says she feels a great sense of responsibility for her students—one of the reasons her students love her. She takes the time to help them and make sure they understand no matter how small the question might be. She is always encouraging students to call her any time they have a problem. So besides tutoring and teach-

ing, what does Emerson do?

She is a student at Portland State University where she majors in linguistics with a minor in French and Spanish. Someday she would like to teach French in Spain or Italy, obvious choices since she can speak French, Spanish and a little Italian.

Her interest in languages fuels a love of the countries they belong to. "Languages open up an area

of your mind that helps you understand other people... You're not just learning a language, but also how another culture thinks," she said.

Emerson believes the immersion method of teaching foreign language—when students are set waist-deep in the language and almost no English is spoken in class—is by far the best method.

program] is excellent," Emerson said. "I'd love to see it grow. Madame Cropsey is wonderful... you should be doing this article on her because she's such a patient and incredibly dedicated teacher. I have learned so much from her—that's why I'm back here [at Clackamas], I'm studying her now... how she teaches."

Emerson has accomplished quite a bit for being only 20 years old, and many French students will be forever grateful for the help she gave them. But Emerson doesn't want to take all the credit for what she has done. "God gave me the ability to learn languages," she said. "He gave me this gift and I'm just trying to be a good steward of it."

*"When students I work with come up and say, 'I got an 'A' - thank you for helping me!' it's such a rewarding feeling."*

Traci Emerson  
French Tutor

## Car safety tips: How to be security savvy

By James Tombe  
Clackamas Print

According to the "2002 National Crime Analysis" by the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office, there were almost as many thefts from vehicles in 2002 as from homes and supermarkets combined.

The National Crime Prevention Council warns that in the United States a vehicle is stolen every 20 seconds. Vehicles make easy targets, but it doesn't have to be one of them. Following a few simple tips will reduce your chances of becoming a victim.

First and foremost, common sense prevails. This means lock doors and close the windows. Don't forget to include the sun visors. Also, don't leave valuables in plain view. This alone can save many from theft.

There are enough cars with valuables in plain sight, no keys and often left unlocked that they don't need to break the ones with alarms and keys to see," said Clackamas County Sheriff's Deputy Mark Koberstein on the subject of vehicle safety.

But stereos and compact discs aren't the only things thieves look for nowadays. In today's world, personal information is a valuable commodity. "Don't leave important documents such as bank statements, credit card bills/statements or personal information in your vehicle," cautions the

Pennsylvania Auto Theft Prevention Authority. "Thieves can use this information to steal your identity and access your bank and credit card accounts."

Never keep a second set of keys on the vehicle. Thieves know all of the best hiding places.

When choosing a place to park, look for one that is well-lit with plenty of traffic. Park with other vehicles so that the chances of yours being singled out are lessened.

Never leave the vehicle running while unattended (especially tempting as the weather gets cooler).

Carry the registration and insurance with you instead of leaving them in the vehicle.

In addition to protecting your vehicle, there may be financial rewards in getting an alarm.

In their pamphlet "Preventing Auto Theft and Theft from Auto," the Minneapolis Police Department recommends contacting your insurance company before buying an alarm system. "With the right features," it states, "you may qualify for a discount."

Saving money while protecting oneself from theft certainly makes good sense. For more information on how to better protect your belongings and your favorite mode of transportation, contact Deputy Mark Koberstein, of the Community Safety Action Team, at (503) 722-6754 or browse their web site at [www.co.clackamas.or.us/sheriff/csata.htm](http://www.co.clackamas.or.us/sheriff/csata.htm).



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