

# Exploring her own backyard

## Instructor Sarah Hoover shows students that geology ro

**Karlin Johnson**  
Feature Editor

Explosions of lava and ash may be frightening and horrific to some, but to Geology Instructor Sarah Hoover, whose main focus of study was volcanology, a volcanic eruption is an exciting adventure that can be used as a teaching tool for her students.

"You may have to deal with an explosion," said Hoover, "so it's very cool that geology is so in-your-face."

Hoover explained that any of her colleagues or students can easily tell you how excited she is about the recent activity in Mount St. Helens.

"[My students are] probably sick of me talking about it," said Hoover. "I use

it a lot to try to get them excited and interested in what's going on. I think that's what's so cool about it, is that it's such a great tool to get students suddenly realizing that geology effects them."

For the Keiser, Oregon resident, geology and volcanology have been a fascination since she was in her mid 20s.

Hoover became interested in geology after signing up for a

Geology of California class in community college.

She explained, "I was like, 'This is the coolest stuff in the whole world! Nobody told me about this when I was younger!'"

After community college Hoover moved on to attend North Carolina State University, which is where she decided to become a geologist.

Hoover had been working full time at Western Oregon University, and had been doing part time work off and on at Clackamas for about four years, but is now a full-time instructor at the college.

Aside from teaching general geology, Hoover is teaching Geology of the Northwest this term, where she explains that

she has been able to use Mount St. Helens as a good example of "why things are so different [in Oregon] than they are in other places."

Hoover is slated to teach Volcanos and Earthquakes spring term, a class that anyone can take without taking a geology pre-requisite.

"[The class is] really friendly for students who are interested in where they live," said

Hoover, who finds Oregon to be a fun place to learn.

"I love camping and hiking but I think most geologists do," she said. "I'm really excited about where we live; I think it's probably one of the greatest places to observe the outdoors, and luckily my husband shares the passion with going camping and traveling."

For students who are interested in science, need to take a science sequence for a degree or transfer, or are looking for something that interests them, Hoover strongly suggests geology.

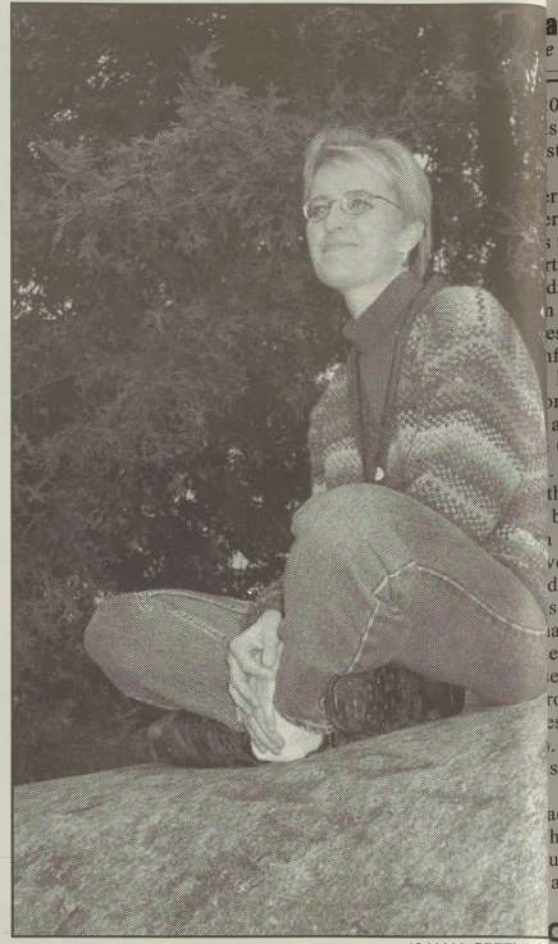
"Part of the thing about being in college is being able to explore things that you never thought about before," said Hoover. "Find something you never thought you would be remotely interested in, and give it a try. I mean, it's ten weeks of your life and probably most classes you can find somehow apply to your degree."

Hoover can explain that geology helps people understand the world around them.

"[People] should be educated about the issues--where to build a home because of land slides, how do rivers effect where you build your house? I mean most geology would help you with that," said Hoover. "Faulting, earthquakes, you know, why do we live in an area where we have the potential of getting a nine point earthquake? There's lots of issues."

Hoover explains however, that there are more fun reasons to take geology as well.

"When you go hiking it's a lot more fun because you know



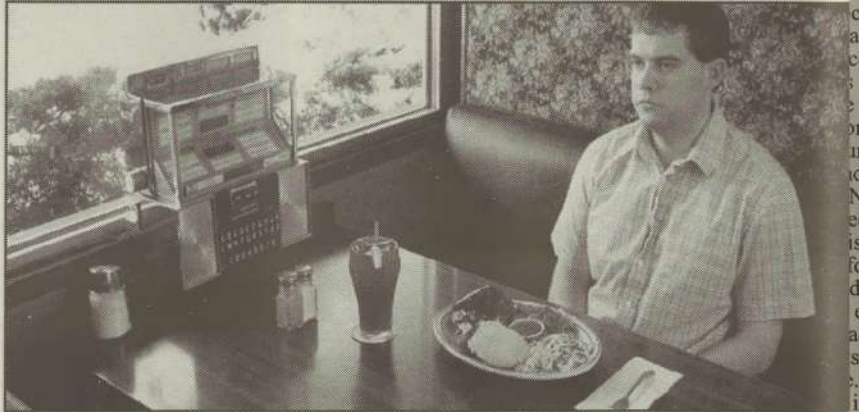
ISAIAH CREEL Clackamas Community College

Geology Instructor Sarah Hoover is excited to show her students that geology can effect their lives even when you're looking at and you know what you're looking at and you know why it is," Hoover smiles. "It just gives more richness."

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## Area college student dating se

THINGS ARE REALLY STARTING TO HEAT UP



Eric Peterson, top, has one of many romantic dinners with himself at their favorite restaurant.

By LISA CHENEY

Local college student Eric Peterson recently announced that he's entered a committed relationship—with himself. Peterson vehemently denied rumors that the two were dating other people. "We're totally committed to each other. We've never been happier." When asked what prompted the campus heartthrob to take himself off the market, he chalked it up in large part to his current financial situation, claiming that monthly fees from his checking account were making it too expensive for him to date around. "It was partly a

cost-effective decision on my part, but it's been nice for us to spend more time together." Peterson was apparently unaware of Free Checking Washington Mutual. It's an account with no monthly fees and the option to add Deluxe services like free online bill pay. He could have gotten Free Checking just by visiting a Washington Mutual Financial Center, then signed up for online bill pay at wamu.com. "Dang," said Peterson. "If I had known about Free Checking Deluxe, my current dating situation would be different. I probably wouldn't have settled down with someone so

**"We've never been happier."**

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