

# Mathematic gymnastics: Instructor portrays math in new light

**Amanda Polopolus**  
The Clackamas Print

With seven years of teaching under his belt, Math Instructor Adam Hall has discovered a way to show students that math isn't just a mandatory class.

"I like to tell students that learning math is like a gym for the mind; Think of math and English classes as exercises like the bench press and curl ups," said Hall. "It's all about developing the mind. Taking care of your mind is just as important as taking

care of your body; if you don't, you're missing out on something pretty incredible that everyone wants to have: knowledge and deep reasoning. The question is, do we have the discipline to do it?"

Born in Yakima, Washington, Hall grew up mostly in the Portland area, living here off and on. He graduated from Portland State University with a bachelor of science and master's degree.

"I was wondering what to do for a profession and I liked school, so I decided to stay in school," said Hall, who thought there was "a need for good math teachers."

Although Hall lives close to campus, location isn't the only reason he came to Clackamas.

"This community college really has some advantages over others; we're compensated well and I like the philosophy of how the college works. Everyone works together

well; we all have an excellent working environment," he said.

A live-in math teacher is an extra bonus for the three children of Hall and his wife of 16 years, Yolanda.

"[My children] seem to be doing pretty well," said Hall. "Hopefully they'll pick up the genes."

Hall's class may be constructed a little differently than other math classes most have taken.

"I like to lecture for half of the class and let the students work for the other half of the class." This gives the students a chance to practice what they just learned from the lecture and ask any questions they may have.

Hall also has a different approach to the grading process. Although it changes slightly from term to term, Hall adds whatever points a student has missed onto the worth of the class final.

"I picked this philosophy up at a job in Illinois; everyone, all of the teachers did this and it seems to be easier for students and keeps the workload reasonable for everyone," said Hall.

Hall also has some life advice

he'd like to give to students.

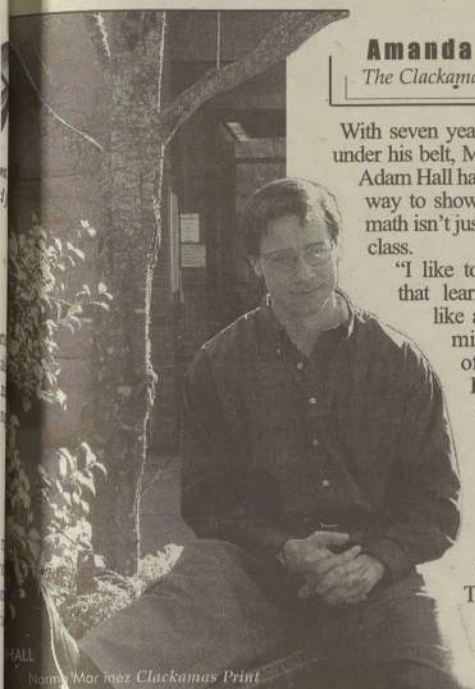
"Keep it simple. Find a few basic things to focus on or things will get too complicated," said Hall. "Like, when I think about my job, I think 'Clearly communicating math to people is the essence of my job. Making sure I treat people with respect and fairness.' They may not always like my decisions but if I'm being respectful [they can learn to respect my decisions]."

Students in Hall's classes seem to read this communication well.

"Adam's pretty energetic," said student Donovan Affray. "I think his lectures are insightful to the math process."

Although he's a nice guy, Hall wants students to know that his classes are not ones to glide through effortlessly.

"I'm not the easiest teacher, but I'm fair and reasonable. I want the students to come out of my class knowing the material reasonably well," he said. "I enjoy working with people, I love this job, and it's great to see people developing themselves."



HALL  
Photo: Mor meez Clackamas Print

# Summer '05 trip to Spain, Portugal offers history, culture

**Stille Wilson**  
Clackamas Print

It's going to be a nice way to get out of Portland and Oregon," said Ceramics and Art History instructor Nora Brodnicki of the trip to Spain and Portugal that she and Religion and Social Science instructor Bill Briare have planned for the upcoming summer. "I've never taken a group to Europe," said Briare, who has taken groups of students all over the world to Egypt, Thailand, England and Israel to name a few places. "We're planning a trip that's open to everyone and anyone," said Brodnicki. "The trip is an opportunity for anyone who is interested, not just students. Going through EF Tours, the cost is approximately \$2,400 per

person for under 25 travelers and just over \$2,600 per person for over 25. The cost covers airfare to Spain and back, hotel rooms, breakfast and dinner (but not lunch), tour costs and museum fees.

What the cost doesn't cover is personal insurance, beverages and daily lunches, customary gratuities for the tour director, driver and local guides, public transportation to free-time activities and, of course, any souvenirs one might want to bring back to Oregon.

The tour begins in Spain's capital, Madrid, home of bullfighting and the Prado Museum, wherein is displayed many great works of art by Goya, Botticelli and Bosch, among many others.

"I'm really excited to go to the Prado," said Brodnicki. "'The Garden of Earthly Delights' [a painting by Bosh] is one of my

favorite paintings." There will be a guided sight-seeing of Madrid with an optional flamenco evening. The next day will bring with it an optional excursion to see the architectural wonders of El Escorial, Valley of the Fallen (Valle do Los Caidos), and Segovia.

After spending four days in Madrid, the plan is to ride by bus northwest through the Sierra de la Cabrera to Santiago de Compostela. Since medieval times this holy city has been a major pilgrimage site, its claim to the title of "holy city" being the tomb of the apostle St. James.

Following two nights in Santiago de Compostela, with attractions including a guided tour of the city, the group will travel to Lisbon, Portugal and stay there for two days. In Lisbon

there will be the opportunities of walking tours, guided sightseeing and a visit to the Mosteiro dos Jerónimos built by King Manoel. The king is now buried there along with the famous Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama.

"There's a lot of flexibility in the trip," said Brodnicki. Those attending the trip can expect a main tour with branching off here and there.

People interested in going should contact either Brodnicki or Briare before the end of February. Nora Brodnicki can be reached at the college extension 2347. Bill Briare's extension is 2457.

They are also having two informational meetings, both of which are in McLoughlin Hall. The first is on Wednesday, Feb. 9 from 5:15-6 p.m. and the second is on Friday, Feb. 11 from noon-1 p.m.



Internet Photo  
San Lorenzo de El Escorial is one of many sites to see on the '05 trip to Spain and Portugal, which is open to all students.

# Hablando nuestro idioma

A weekly Spanish-language column

## Spanglish 'Ni de aqui Ni de allá'

**Norma Martinez**  
The Clackamas Print

El idioma Español es extenso, con sus diferentes variantes dependiendo a la región. Hay innumerables formas de llamar a un objeto, así como muchos objetos llamados de la misma forma. Cuando el hispano viene a este país, se ve envuelto en un "Nuevo idioma", que aparte de del Inglés lo podríamos catalogar como que no es "ni de aquí ni de allá". Que a la vez si el hispano no tiene bien simentado el suyo (el español), le transforma su modo de expresión.

El termino *spanglish* podría ser definido como: cualquier forma de español que emplea una gran cantidad de palabras del Inglés, especialmente como sustitutos de existentes palabras en Español, o también puede ser la adaptación de una palabra en Inglés que cambia de alguna forma al Español. Para que el *spanglish* se manifieste en una conversación, se nece-

sita la falta de conocimiento en algunos de los dos idiomas por parte de los hablantes. El origen del *spanglish* se remonta a 1848, con el Tratado de Guadalupe Hidalgo, mediante el que Antonio López de Santa Anna vendió a Estados Unidos buena parte del territorio mexicano, con todo y sus habitantes, por 15 millones de dólares. Desde entonces, la mezcla entre lo anglosajón y lo hispano no se ha detenido.

La mayoría de los hispanos en este país hemos alguna vez experimentado este fenómeno, o nos hemos dejado llevar por él en cualquier simple conversación: Feeling sick? No te sientes bien? Watch un poco de televisión. Drink your té con miel y limón. Habla on the telephone. Before you know it, y de repente, you'll be feeling ¡excelente! o algunas otra frases como: "voy a delibear las groserías" para decir "I am going to deliver the groceries". O tambien: "voy a vacunar la carpeta", que viene de la frase "I am going to vacuum the carpet", "you got a mancha on your

camisa". Es una mezcla de frases que juntas hablan un idioma que representa a los hispanos. Para muchos, el *spanglish* es más que un lenguaje. Se ha convertido en una forma de vivir es como una manera de sér.

Es un fenómeno que ha traspasado barreras y ahora se puede hacer notar en películas, música, libros, y sobre todo en las calles. Siempre existen dos lados de un asunto como en el caso del *spanglish*. Algunos piensan que es una nueva sensación. Otros creen que daña a los hispanos y a «la lengua pura», el Español. Otros son de la opinión de que el *spanglish* deve ser algo normal. Y muchos otros solo se ven indiferentes a ésta ola de language. Pero devido a su tal revolución "we are never going to know" (nunca vamos a saber) cuando es que va a terminar, pero de lo que si estamos seguros es de que "due to" (devido a) este idioma a los hispanos nos cosenosen más donde quiera. Y tu "What do you think" (que piensas) ha cerca de él?

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