

Communication fundamental for Hughes

Former student thrives toward goal of teaching

Karlin Johnson
Feature Editor

I started doing the assistant coaching, I sort of realized that I could explain it and I got excited about it, and people wanted to listen to me and it kind of just became," said Hughes. "I mean it was just where I knew what I belonged; it was where I knew what I wanted to do for the rest of my life, which was to teach."

Since then, Hughes has been doing "anything and everything possible" to

move toward her goal of being a Communications instructor. After getting her AAO at Clackamas, she moved on to PSU where she graduated with a bachelor's degree. She is now attending the University of Portland, working toward a master's degree in communication, and will graduate in December of this year. She is also the head coach of U of P's speech and debate team.

The next step for Hughes was to get some experience by doing an internship at a college.

"I contacted Kelly and Frank and asked them if I could do [an internship] here because I know Clackamas, because I know them, and I know that my working relationship with them would give me guidance and a more personal touch, in a sense, with the things that they felt that I could do to improve," said Hughes. "If I was working with someone that I didn't know, I may not have gotten that one-on-one time that I really wanted. I wanted to pick their brain; I wanted to know what their thoughts and ideas were for a new instructor just coming in."

"I think communication is the key to everything," said Speech and Communications Student Instructor Kerrie Hughes. "If you know how to talk you have the capability of expressing yourself, asking for things, presenting yourself in ways that most people don't have the competence to do, and for me to be able to teach someone the skills in doing that is a great experience."

Hughes, a graduate of Clackamas, has returned to the school to gain experience and knowledge by working closely with Speech and Communications Instructor Frank Harlow. She is currently teaching two of Harlow's Speech 111 classes this term.

When Hughes was a student at Clackamas, she was a part of the Communications program and the speech and debate team.

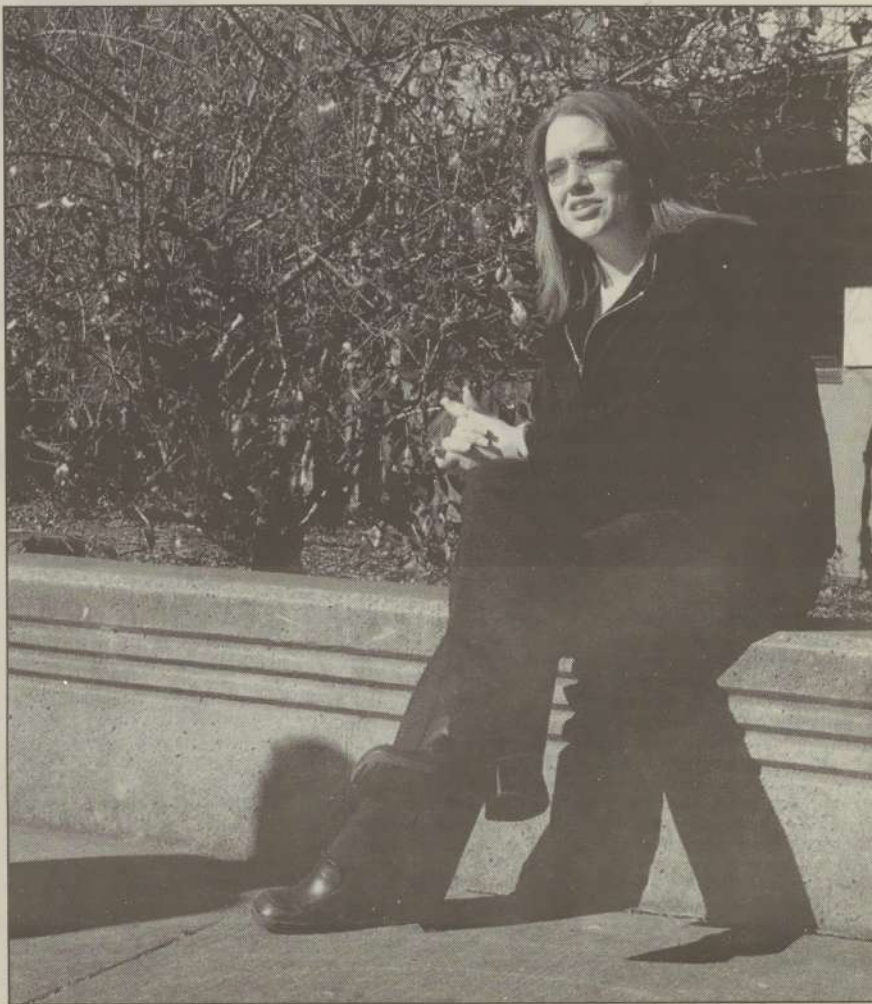
"I love [being back to teach here], it's my dream to do this," said Hughes. "I started here [at Clackamas], and between Frank and [Speech and Debate Team Coach] Kelly Brennan, they kind of showed me what it was that I wanted to do with my life."

It was during her last year of speech competition at Clackamas that Hughes realized what her passion was.

"I'd started doing some assistant coaching with Kelly and that's when I really got into it. Coaching and teaching are a lot alike, and so when

"I like to watch [students] go through that transformation where they start believing in themselves as speakers, because that's the whole goal—to give them the tools so that they believe in themselves."

Kerrie Hughes
Speech and Communications Student Instructor



Michele Cooper Clackamas Print

Speech and Communications Student Instructor Kerrie Hughes views communications as "the key to everything," and brings that philosophy to her Speech 111 students.

Hughes expresses that, in a way, becoming a teacher is giving students the same great experience she had.

"I have a speech teacher who did the same thing for me, and kind of tuned that light on for me and showed me that if you really do work at communications, that other things kind of fall into place," she said. "People respect you, they look at you different, the whole nine yards."

For Hughes, to give students this same experience is to see them grow into themselves.

"To help [students] get over that anxiety or the fear of public speaking, I think, is one of my greatest joys," said Hughes. "I like to watch them go through that transformation where they start believing in themselves as speakers, because that's the whole goal—to give them the tools so that they believe in themselves. I'm addicted."

After graduating, Hughes plans to "see what's out there," and keep her eyes open for opportunity in the job field.

For those who may shy away from speech and communications classes, Hughes has a bit of advice.

"Everybody has the ability to communicate, you just need to find something that you like to talk about, and once you find that passion and that desire, you use that in everything else that you do when it comes to communication or public speaking," she said. "You'd be amazed at how much easier it becomes because you start to believe in yourself and your abilities. Never give up."

Club open to speakers of German language

Katie Wilson
The Clackamas Print

"I tell the students when I present things and I invite them, and when they come that's a meeting," said German Club Advisor David Miller.

The German club comes to a total of one advisor, Miller, and the club president. The German students are all nominal members of the club, but are not very active in it.

The German club doesn't let their low membership drag them down, though.

They sell sodas in the Foreign Language Center, Barlow 203. There the students and faculty can get their pop for 50 cents instead of \$1.25, the vending machine price.

The club has two basic goals: to practice German and to learn more about the cultures of German-speaking countries.

They fulfill these goals in various ways.

At noon every Tuesday in the Bill Brod Community Center they have a weekly Stammtisch where

German speakers come and, well, speak German. This helps fulfill the goal of practicing German.

The main way they learn more about the culture of German-speaking countries and help educate others is through the college's International Celebration.

The French and Spanish clubs also participate in this celebration with the German club, selling ethnic food and putting on all sorts of entertainment.

In the past, before Miller became the German club advisor, there was an accordionist and a lot of polka music. This year's German show, however, is composed of songs and presentations by the German-American School—a bilingual school in the Portland area—and power point presentations about Grimm's fairytales. The fairytale presentations have graphics representing well-known fairytales such as Snow White and Sleeping Beauty with a soundtrack displaying how the tales sound in German.

Come to the Community Center May 2 to the International Celebration and support your local German club.



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