

# Language instructor's calling a 'sign'



Brie Daykin Clackamas Print

American Sign Language Instructor Deb Jaussi has taught throughout the USA and guided groups of students all over the world.

## Katie Wilson

The Clackamas Print

"I would definitely say that I found my niche here at the college level," said Deb Jaussi, American Sign Language instructor at Clackamas.

Jaussi has taught nearly every age range possible, from pre-school to high school, and now at Clackamas Community College, where she has been teaching part-time for two years.

"I enjoy teaching adults," she said. "I enjoy having the higher college level ... the students are here because they want to be here, and I have a lot more interaction with them."

Jaussi first became interested in sign language when she was growing up in Idaho.

"I thought it was cool. I used to watch it on TV," she said.

At Idaho State University, she took a sign language class and found her calling.

"When I was in college," said Jaussi, "the people that they were letting into the sign language classes were the ones that were going to major in that. I hadn't really decided what I wanted to be, but I wanted to take a sign language class, so I kind of fell into being a sign language major ...

I took all the classes and just stuck with it."

Majoring specifically in education for the deaf, Jaussi has since taught all over the United States in high schools, schools for the deaf, middle schools—everywhere.

Now living in Oregon, she teaches first- and second-year American Sign Language at

Clackamas. She also teaches in Wilsonville, has added a high school class, and is planning a summer class.

But she doesn't just teach; she's a student, too.

"I love being here on campus because I can experience and take advantage of also being a student ... I love to learn. I don't ever want to stop learning and I love just sitting in the classes. I don't like the tests, though," said Jaussi, laughing.

In addition to teaching and studying for tests, Jaussi enjoys traveling. For six years she has been a delegation leader in Portland for an organization called People to People, which was set up by President Eisenhower in 1956.

"I take groups of students all over the world," she explained. "It's an educational tour. [The students] go and they learn about the cultures. We stay with families at one point in the trip so [the students] really get what it's like to be in that culture. It's very educational and they get high school and college credit for it."

With summer coming up, Jaussi is looking forward to more traveling. She has been all over the world; Venice is her favorite city. Last year she went to Australia; this year it's China.

"It's an incredible experience," she said. "The only places I haven't ever been that I still want to go to are South America and Africa."

Even with all her summer plans, Jaussi is already thinking about the next school year.

"It's been a great year," she said. "I really hope to expand the Sign Language program—it was kind of falling apart. Now we have a second-year class and I really want to build the program."

*"I love to learn. I don't ever want to stop learning."*

Deb Jaussi  
American Sign  
Language instructor

## Interesting classes to check out on fall term schedule

### Claramella

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The upcoming fall quarter will give students the opportunity to take in many new and exciting classes in subjects such as literature, anthropology and foreign language.

The new class being offered this fall quarter is English 215: Literature of the Beat Generation. The class is being offered online, and will survey the writings of the highly influential "beat" generation of the 1950s, often referred to as "beatniks." The course will cover the more famous authors such as Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg, but it will also delve

into lesser known—but still highly influential—members of the beat movement, such as Diane Di Prima, Gregory Corso, Michael McClure, and Gary Snyder.

English Instructor Jim Grabill, who is teaching the class, is excited about the opportunity to explore the passionate writings of the beat movement with students.

"It was a movement that still has an affect on writers today. They were so honest, musical, took a lot of risks," Grabill said. "They erupted with poetry and fiction that addressed the essential questions of our time, and extended the experiment of Walt Whitman, among others, in expressing the irrepressible

American soul."

Also being offered in the upcoming fall quarter is Anthropology 231: Indians of the Pacific Northwest. The course is being taught by resident Anthropology Instructor Robert Keeler, who is looking forward to the prospects.

"It's a class we've done a couple of times before, but this is the first time in a couple of years it's been available," Keeler said. "I'm happy to have it back on the books."

One of the most interesting aspects of the course is that it will intertwine with other classes that will be available in the following terms. In the winter term, Native

American Literature is planned, followed by Native American Mythology in the spring term.

"We're pretty excited about having the three classes dovetail together," he said.

The course will be an overview of tribes from the coast of Alaska all the way down to Oregon, but it will focus mainly on tribes from the region.

"They're pretty exciting," said Keeler, speaking of the Pacific Northwest tribes, "[They had] complicated social organizations, art, etc."

Keeler says the class will look at archeology, history and ethnography, but it will also look at some art. A trip to the Portland Art Museum might also be included.

The foreign language department will also be offering some new courses; an American Sign Language sequence is scheduled for next fall quarter. American Sign Language is the predominant sign language in English-speaking North America. It is not, however, a direct transfer of English to sign language, but a free-standing and complete language of its own.

These are only a few of the new classes being offered next fall, however. There are many more. Students may find a listing of fall classes in the new fall preview guide, available throughout the campus or online at the college's website, <http://www.clackamas.edu>.

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