

Student finds calling

Katie Wilson

The Clackamas Print

"I grew up with music always there," said Clackamas music student Kathryn Erland, "I can't imagine life without music." She has been singing ever since she can remember, but according to Erland it was never really a focal point until several years ago.

Before attending the college she had been, for the most part, home-schooled. She started at Clackamas two years ago, when she was 16, with teaching in mind. What exactly she wanted to teach, however, was still undecided.

"I always knew I wanted to be a teacher," she said, "just not what kind. I took some writing classes and decided I didn't want to teach that. So I started thinking about other things I liked and I thought: music."

Erland began taking music classes right at the time the music department was beginning the transition from the Randall hallways to the Niemeyer Center for the Performing Arts last year.

She is now a second-year music student, and a part of two Clackamas choirs, Mainstream and Chamber Choir, and is working towards her Associate's Degree in music.

"It's a very tight-knit group," she said of the music department. "The teachers seem to communicate well with one another."

Erland stays very busy, in school and out. She sings in her church choir, takes a part in various church plays, and sings in a band with several of her friends.

"It's fun to get together and have good Christian fellowship in the context of music,"



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Kathryn Erland, a second year music student, wants to teach and bring the skills she's learned to others.

she said.

This summer, hardly two weeks after school got out, she went to France. She made a rapid tour of Paris and stayed a week at a tiny medieval village in the southwest of France.

"Going into [the trip] I wondered how stereotypical the French would be," she said. "It ended up being about 50/50. Some people were really nice, and some weren't ... and I still love [the French language]."

This term she is a tutor for the French language program here at the college.

"I always knew I wanted to be a teacher, just not what kind."

Kathryn Erland,
Music Student

What classes do I need

CJ Ciaramella

Feature Editor

One of the biggest challenges that new students here at Clackamas face is trying to figure out which classes they actually need to take. Luckily, first term students have a wealth of resources available to them that they might not be aware of.

Ariane Armstutz, the lead academic advisor at the Counseling Center, said that one of the most common mistakes new students make is "taking classes that they don't meet the requirement for or just don't fit in. That can be overwhelming." This is where Armstutz and the Counseling Center come in. The Counseling Center helps students determine what classes they should take and develop an educational plan.

When asked about other mistakes new students often make, Armstutz replied, "Not meeting with an advisor is a big one." Setting up a meeting with an academic advisor is simple. Armstutz explained that that the advisors see students on a drop-in basis. There is no need for an appointment.

The Counseling Center makes a point of working with each student personally to develop a schedule that works.

As Armstutz explained, there is no one plan that works for everybody. "We say in our new student advising-session that we don't have one list that works for everybody," she said. "We like to work individually."

To this end, the advisors tell students to ease their way into the college life. Armstutz

said that the best advice to give to new students regarding how many classes or credits to take is to "start smaller and successful at those. Then take it from there. For full-time students we say no more than 12 to 15."

The New Student Advising Sessions offered by the Counseling Center are an option for students wondering what classes they need to take. The session consists of a meeting that orients students to college and the different programs and degrees it offers.

The New Student Counseling Success course, HD-101, which requires a meeting with an academic advisor, is a good resource for first-year students.

"The student success course we highly recommend," Armstutz said. "It makes sure that a couple weeks in, you're not starting looking long term."

Besides offering advice on what classes to take here at Clackamas, the Counseling Center also gives students opportunities to look at transfer options for when their careers here are over. It helps in four-year colleges and universities to set up tables at the Community Center the coming month, Link Community College, Marylhurst, and PSU will be participating, among others.

The Counseling Center takes students to prospective colleges and universities, have transfer tours coming where we take a van of students to tour the colleges, meet with admissions officers, Armstutz said. There will be a tour of Portland State on Nov. 12, and a tour of University of Oregon on Nov. 14.

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