

Helen Wand: finding careers in healthcare

Clackamas CLA program head, Helen Wand, pushes for more lab assistants in a recent article

**Andy Zehrung
Katie Wilson**
The Clackamas Print

Helen Wand, head of the college's clinical laboratory training department, recently published an article in "The American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science" journal, addressing the lack of medical laboratory personnel. Currently there are more clinical laboratory technicians than there are assistants, and the technicians are being made to do work such as collecting specimens and running simple tests which could easily be done by the lab assistants.

If the assistants do the simpler work, they will free up the clinical laboratory technicians for more complex testing. Wand hopes some actions will be taken due to her article.

"Those that read the magazine are the ones who are hiring," she said.

Another of her goals with the publication of the article is to spread the word that competent laboratory assistants should be and are being well trained.

Clackamas is one of only four colleges in the entire country that have a clinical lab assistant program.

"Healthcare is one of the few areas that have steady family-waged jobs," she said. "The program [here] is designed to help get people out into the field quickly."

According to Wand the healthcare field has many opportunities for people with only one year

of training to begin working and have room to grow, both in knowledge and wages. Two of the college's students from last year, for instance, are currently working in the field

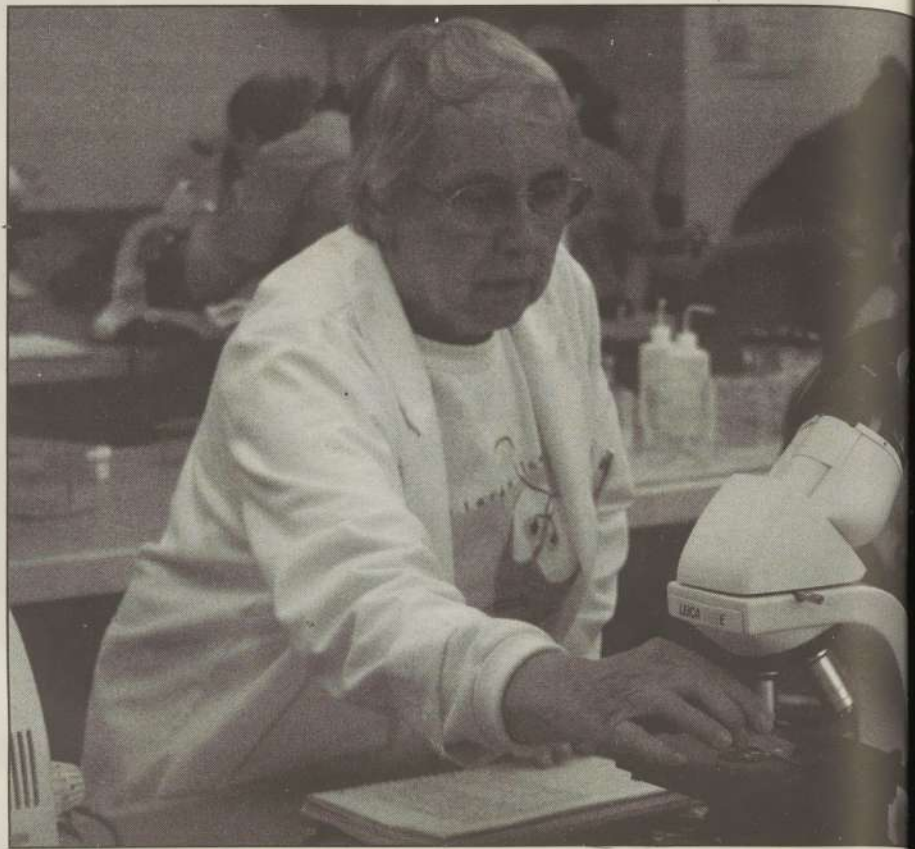


Photo by Andy Zehrung Clackamas

Helen Wand trains future lab assistants in the Clinical Lab Assistance Skills I and studying towards associate degrees at Portland State University (PSU). Wand taught at Clark College before coming to Clackamas. She began the medical laboratory assistant program in January of 2003. This she is teaching her group of future lab assistants.

"The program [here] is designed to help get people out into the field quickly."

Helen Wand
CLA Program Director

Campus SAFETY



All reports are taken from CCC's campus safety incident logs. Summaries are edited for clarity, not content.

**10-13-05
3:25 p.m.**

Reported a white male juvenile in mask in mall area.

**10-12-05
4:37 p.m.**

Three white male juveniles jumping steps and benches in lower Barlow courtyard. Made contact and told them to leave.

4:45 p.m.

Group of juveniles hanging out by rock pile. Made contact and told them to leave.

**10-11-05
10:45 p.m.**

Car with couple making out inside. Told them campus was closed. They left.

**10-10-05
5:17 p.m.**

Contacted group of juveniles on bikes by community gardens. Told them to leave.

8:51 p.m.

Investigated possible vandalism to a truck. Contacted owner. No crime committed.

'Operation Backpack' aids students, teachers

James Tombe

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Last September, Clackamas participated in "Operation Backpack," a charity program for students and teachers affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Janet Paulson, of the Public Affairs office at Clackamas, helped spearhead the college's involvement.

"Everyone felt so affected," Paulson said. "[We] just wanted to help people."

"Operation Backpack" was a coordinated effort between the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon National Guard, and part of a larger, national program set forth by the Council of Chief State School Officers.

The goal of "Operation Backpack" was to prepare "resource kits" for students and teachers, so that the victims of Hurricane Katrina could continue with their educational goals.

Paulson said the charity was "a natural fit" for the college, "having to do with education."

Students' kits included the usual school items, such as spiral notebooks, ink pens, pencil sharpeners and glue sticks; teachers' kits also included resource books, lesson plans and storybooks. In addition to the educational fare, each kit

included personal hygiene items as well, such as toothbrushes and toothpaste, bars of soap and tube socks.

Clackamas provided 40 backpacks full of the much-needed school supplies.

"We were surprised by the outcome," said Paulson of the effort put forth by the Clackamas community. "The backpacks were just overflowing with stuff ... they were full."

Over 4,000 "resource kits" were collected for "Operation Backpack" across the state.

State School Superintendent Susan Castillo stated her appreciation of all who were involved in making the program a success.

"I want to thank everyone who helped with this effort," Castillo said. "It was wonderful to see so many schools, local businesses and community groups from all across the state get involved."

The Oregon National Guard and Brattain International Trucking handled transportation of the kits, with the intention of delivering them to hurricane victims in Texas, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Portland.

For those who still wish to make donations for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, contact the American Red Cross, Mercy Corps or Northwest Medical Teams.

"The backpacks were just overflowing with stuff ... they were full."

Janet Paulson
Public Affairs Office

CAMPUS EVENTS & NEWS

Clubs Fair is today from 11-1 p.m. in the Community Center. Learn about different campus clubs and get some free candy.

This evening from 6:30-7:30 p.m. is the **College Prep Night**. The free seminar will be held in the Fireside Lounge at the Community Center, and will cover the application process, college programs, financial aid, and more. For more information call Student Outreach at 503-657-6958, ext. 2455.

There is a **reading by Judith Barrington** tomorrow at noon in the Literary Arts Center (RR 220). English-born, Portland-based Barrington is a poet and essayist, whose new book, "Horses of the Human Soul," is a finalist for the Oregon Book Award.

ASG is hosting a **Red Cross blood drive** on Wednesday, Oct. 26 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Gregory Forum. Give blood, donate plasma, and band-aid. For more information or to sign up to give blood call ASG Office at 503-657-6958, ext. 2245.

Portland-based writer and publisher **Kevin Sampson** is giving a reading from 7-8 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 26 in RR 220 at the Literary Arts Center. The event is free.

Phi Theta Kappa wants your socks. They are sponsoring **SOCKtoberfest** for the benefit of homeless youth. They are looking for new or used (clean and without holes) socks, which can be dropped in the drop box at the Community Center. The socks will be collected from now until Halloween.

Have a car with a manual transmission problem? Miller's Power Transmission class needs projects! The class needs clutch jobs, CV joints and differential work. Also, General Auto Repair class on Fridays is looking for minor repair work including tune-ups, brake work and basic diagnosis. Repairs will cost parts plus 20 percent. Contact Pam Brown for more information and an application: 503-657-6958, ext. 2353.

Information compiled by Katie Wilson Clackamas