

'Flame on!' for Fire Science class

Bebe Stone
Clackamas Print

We seldom hear about firefighters actually starting fires.

"When conditions are right, torch it," says Tom Laugle, head of the Wildland Fire Science program.

He is referring to a "burn-learn" live fire exercise at Camp Rilea on the coast and the closed area used for the training. It is only one of the many ongoing parts of the program. Another major involves land-logging helicopters on campus as part of an air operations course?

It is the only program of its kind in the metro area and has received strong support from not only the school but various local, state and federal agencies. It has seen rising enrollment in its first lifetime – a trend exhibiting no signs of slowing. The program deals with wildland, as opposed to urban or structural, firefighting.

Laugle takes pride in the number of instructors the department has. All are qualified as at least a Division Supervisor, with 10 years of on the job experience.



Matt Olson Clackamas Print

The students of Tom Laugle's Fire Science program hone their firefighting skills in the field. The nationally certified program prepares students for positions in wildland firefighting.

One such instructor is Joe Crawford, a veteran trainer from the Oregon Department of Forestry. Some courses, which are certified at the state and national levels, are similar to state-level training.

"Basically, it's the same training as CCC," says Crawford, referring to the FRP-130

course that qualifies students as Firefighter II, the "entry level position for wildland firefighting."

Laugle hints at the rigorous certification process when asked if the three-year-old program has won any awards.

"National certification is enough," he says with satisfac-

tion.

Because of this close relationship, students find that ODF training can help count toward a one-year certificate or a two-year degree. The department also stands ready to train National Guard troops in the event of an emergency, or provide upgrade training to existing

firefighters. Lupe Martinez from the Counseling Department is also on staff to assist Hispanic students with their English skills to help comply with state and federal regulations.

The department is also spearheading the development of 3-D topographical software that helps firefighters see the lay of the land. Laugle envisions its use in the field eventually. "We wanted to take leadership in that," he says.

Another exciting development is a donation of land to be used by the program from Marc Crain, battalion chief with Clackamas Fire District #1.

However, Laugle is careful to concentrate on what he sees as the core strengths of the curriculum.

"Practical is a very big part of the program," he says. "We want to simulate everything that happens to them on the fire line."

He also stresses that many classes are open to the interested student, including the map and compass and survival courses, skills that not only help the seasoned firefighter, but the community at large.

Speech team takes on 4-A opponents, comes out on top

Kimberly Maier
Clackamas Print

The speech and debate team at Clackamas has won 2,683 trophies for their excellence in speech forensics in just the last 10 years.

A lot of students who win trophies are people who have never debated in their lives. "You will hear someone and say, 'you would be really good on the speech team,' then they get them to join and they go on with us," said Dr. Brennen, coach for the speech and debate team. "But it's not just about winning trophies. Students walk away with this and they've learned research skills, argument skills and they become more knowledgeable all around."

The debate team has about 15 students competing each year. The debates take place on the weekends, and the team attends about 10 tournaments per year. Clackamas has competed in the largest championship for com-

munity colleges, placing in the top three 8 out of 10 times.

"One year we missed the gold by two points," Brennen said.

"A lot of students get scholarships for a four-year college for their competing and speaking skills," said Brennen. "We do the best that we can to make sure that deserving students get scholarships. Sometimes we will split them up to make sure that happens."

Students who choose to join the debate team will have the chance to compete against four-year institutions as well as other community colleges.

"We've beat Willamette, UCLA ... The four-year colleges really hate being beat by a two-year college," Brennen said about the friendly rivalry between Clackamas and other schools. "What's interesting is that the coach at Mt. Hood and I went to college together and now we're coaching rivaling teams."

The debate team is lucky

to have encouragement and support from administration members such as Bill Briare, Dian Connert and Joe Johnson.

"As cheesy as this will sound, the speech team can only be as good as the opportunities they're given," Brennen said. "PCC scrapped their speech and debate program which is so unfortunate. When you cut a forensic program, it's like going to school to be an actor and you find that the school has cut the stage."

The debate team at Clackamas used to have a small trophy case in the McLoughlin building. They were given a much larger display case in the Niemeyer building and Brennen says they are already running out of room.

"After a tournament, the awards are sent home with the winning students for them to caress their award and hold it, and then it's brought back to the college after the weekend," Brennen explained. "At

the end of the term, students are allowed to take the trophies home to keep, but many

don't want to keep them. Those are the ones that end up in the trophy case."

INFORMATION SESSIONS



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10TH

UNDERGRADUATE INFORMATION

9:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M., FLAVIA HALL SALON

Discover the convenience of flexible scheduling – online, or on campus, days, evenings and weekends. Meet the academic department chairs and advisors. Learn about scholarships and financial aid options.

For more information or to reserve a place, call 503.699.6268

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New courses explore gender issues

Sam Krause
Clackamas Print

Jackie Flowers has introduced a new sequence in the college's curriculum: gender studies.

For the Winter Term, Flowers, a social science professor, will be teaching Gendered Identities. In the fall, Gender and Cultural Studies was offered. It's an easy class and we've had advertisements from 20s on, since the '20s was the Golden Age for advertising," Flowers said.

The other course offered will take place in the spring. It will be in American History

will cover "gender experiences in American culture."

"[It's about] how we define masculine and feminine-how it's changed, defined and expressed," Flowers said.

According to Flowers, this college is the only one in the state to offer gender studies. Also, it counts as a sophomore inquiry class at PSU, making it easier to transfer credits here at the college and enroll as a junior at a four-year college.

Another teacher involved with gender studies is Kjirsten Severson. She is a sociologist and philosopher here at the college. Severson has been instructing the Women Studies course since March of last year. It's not prereq-

uisite to the gender studies sequence, but Severson and Flowers agree that taking Women Studies before taking the sequence is a good idea.

The Women Studies course is an intro to gender embodiment.

"It's an explanation of the [gender] differences we have always known and therefore don't notice," said Severson.

Flowers said that the classes mainly deconstruct the idea that if one gender is one way, then the other is going to be the opposite.

Flowers and Severson hope to expand the gender studies classes and make Women Studies a prerequisite sequence as opposed to a single class.