

Trevor Dodge: English instructor gets creative with class, opens discussion

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Feature Editor

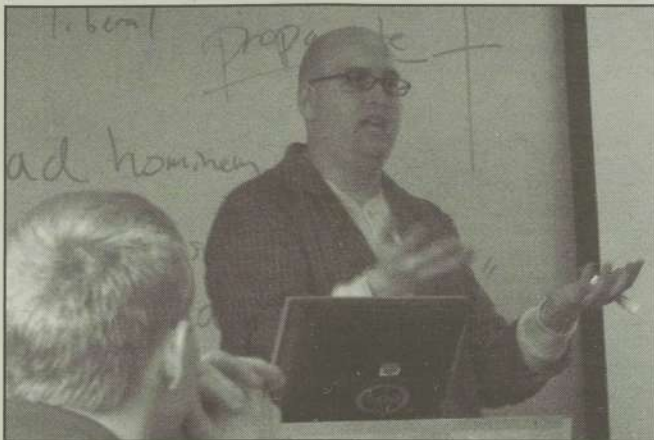
When English teacher Trevor Dodge talks about writing, either in the classroom or in casual conversation, he usually ends up on a wild tangent, but that's just the way he likes it.

Dodge, who was hired this year as a full-time instructor, specializes in teaching creative writing courses, where extended discussions are de rigueur, but often yield tantalizing ideas.

Without a doubt, they are the most exciting, and definitely the most diverse [classes taught], Dodge said. "There's one kind of student who loves creative writing."

It's the enthusiasm of his students, according to Dodge, that really make the classes interesting.

"The creative writing students are definitely into it," he said. "They put their money



DODGE

Jeff Sorensen Clackamas Print

where their mouth is."

By "put their money where their mouth is," Dodge means they participate in the workshop-style class, not only commenting on the works of others, but bringing their own pieces to read to the group.

When he's not helping others to write, Dodge is working

on his own craft. He's a member of Chiasmus Press, an independent publisher in Portland, which he helped start with his friend and fellow teacher, Andy Mingo.

"The very first time I met Andy, actually, was at a reading at Powell's," Dodge said. "We just hit it off - similar lit-

erary tastes, etc. After the reading we went out for drinks."

That night Dodge, Mingo and Mingo's wife Lidia Yuknavitch brainstormed the idea for Chiasmus Press, but Dodge didn't think much of the plans until Yuknavitch gave him the proverbial kick in the pants. Dodge explained:

"Sure enough, Lidia called back a couple weeks later and said, 'No, I'm serious. It wasn't just the scotch talking. Let's do it!'"

Working on the press has not only given Dodge a creative outlet for himself, but also an opportunity to connect with some of his favorite authors.

"A lot of the writers that I love have been published by that press," Dodge said, "so I feel blessed, however tangentially, to be a part of it."

Dodge has a book of his own - a short story collection - being published by Chiasmus. It's called "Everyone I Know Lives on Roads."

"My idea for hooking these

stories together was 'intersection,'" said Dodge. He said the idea of roads, and the way they connect everybody, led to the title. Some of the stories will only vaguely connect, while others will clash together.

Right now Dodge is in the process of working on the design of the book - one of the luxuries, he claims, of working with a small press like Chiasmus.

"With small press publishing, you get more hands on," he said. "... That's not true of the New York publishing houses at all."

Another perk of working with Chiasmus is the structure.

"It functions as a collective, where no one person is leading it," he said.

At the moment, Dodge is looking forward to his Advanced Fiction Writing class, where, along with doing "some cool things with publication and maybe hypertext," there is the promise of more idea-generating tangents and digressions.

Horticulture club sends team to Utah for work experience

Alex Case
Clackamas Print

College and university teams from horticulture departments

across the US will meet for the Student Career Days, put on by the Professional Landcare Network (PLANET).

The event will be held March 23 through 26 at

Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. Students from Clackamas Community College will be attending as well.

Students will have the opportunity to network with fellow horticulture students and potential employers, as well as learn from their expertise through many workshops. There will be competitions ranging from "Interior & Exterior Landscaping"

to "Sales Presentations." Clackamas' PLANET Club has entered students in 16 of the 25 competitions.

Clackamas' group consists of the club's faculty advisor, Bruce Nelson, and six students. This is the ninth year Clackamas students have attended the Student Career Days, and the seventh year Nelson has attended. Several of the students going this year have gone to previous events as well.

Competitions aren't the aspect of the event that Nelson wants to focus on.



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"Mainly, I want our students to see that it's a nationwide industry, and that they do things differently in Atlanta than they do in New York," said Nelson.

Indeed, students from Clackamas and other schools will get opportunities to learn from companies from all over the continental US. Workshops are being sponsored by companies from California, Connecticut, Maryland, North Dakota, Texas and Virginia, among other states.

"It's a great opportunity to network with industry specialists," said Lisa Buchanan,

the PLANET club secretary.

Quality is the primary measure for all the events. Pressure is on the competitors to show measure of their quality, with presentation events such as "Sales" being just as difficult as events in the field, such as "Irrigation Assembly."

"It's pretty nerve-wracking," said Nelson.

But ultimately, attendees report that it's a memorable, enjoyable and educational experience.

"I'm always amazed at how excited the students are when they get back," Nelson said.

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