

Cornelius at the English helm

Instructor who 'fell into' teaching will chair the department for two years

M. P. Delzell
The Clackamas Print

A new day in the Clackamas English department is born: Trista Cornelius has taken over as department chair. In her fifth year at Clackamas, Cornelius has jumped at the opportunity to take over what she said is an intense, but excellent job. Emily Orlando, former department chair, retired at the end of last year. Cornelius will run the department through 2008, and then English Instructor Kate Gray will take the position for two years. Alternating the position will help Cornelius in the long run.

"It's easier, so I could keep a healthy balance," Cornelius said. "I want to teach more, because right now I don't have enough class time." She described her new position as fresh but fast-working pace with something different every day; she also said the department has been very supportive.

"I'm in charge of scheduling classes—that means scheduling almost 40 faculty members, over 100 classes, and fitting them all into seven classrooms. I manage the budget and try to stretch our resources to meet our needs, like funding the Writing Center and purchasing equipment for our growing Media Studies courses," Cornelius said.

"I also deal with problems, students concerned about a class, questions from faculty, etc. Opportunities come my way too; I get to connect students with other people and resources that will help them meet their goals. I get to be the same for faculty, share their vision with others on campus, and try to make connections and keep things moving, so new classes, programs and collaborations happen. What I

like about the job is also what's challenging: I never know what's going to happen each day, and there is never enough time or energy to get it all finished."

Although she is new to the department head job, teaching is something Cornelius has been up to for more than a minute. She has taught at Portland State, Marylhurst, Portland Community College and Pacific University, before venturing over to Clackamas.

"I sort of 'fell into' teaching, discovered I loved it, and then faced the harsh reality that full-time English jobs are extremely difficult to get," Cornelius said. "There are few jobs and many people applying. I saw Clackamas had an opening, and I applied, but I did not know anyone at this campus, so I did not think I had a good chance at getting an interview. The day before my interview, I came to campus and walked around and I knew I had to be here because there seemed to be community here and people who really enjoyed their work. To this day, I have not met staff or faculty who are 'burned out' or don't care, as I saw at other places. There's a constant feeling of potential here."

Caring about the campus and making sure that students feel connected aren't the only things that Cornelius has accomplished. Recently, she started promoting a literature campaign of sorts, called "Reading is Sexy."

"I saw the 'Reading is Sexy' design at buyolympia.com, which is an online collection of crafts, artwork and gifts by independent designers," Cornelius said. "I don't know much about the person who created the design, but I loved the idea. So, I



Jeff Sorensen Clackamas Print

Cornelius shows off her "Reading is Sexy" button. She hopes to build renewed interest in Clackamas literature and writing classes.

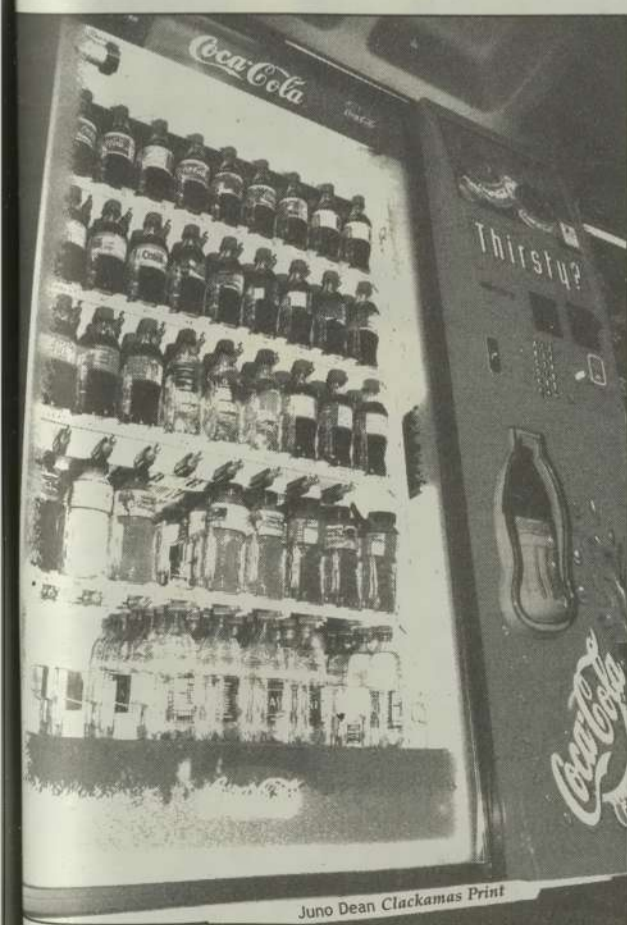
bought stickers and buttons for the English Department as part of our 'campaign for literature.' We want to revitalize interest in our literature and creative writing courses and build a strong community of students who work on their craft in our Literary Arts Center. We want more literary student life in upper Rook, and we have many resources to share with students, from books they can borrow for free, to technology they can use to design a collection of their own writing."

"Reading is Sexy... means it's hip, it's fun, it's a cool thing to do, it's

liberating, and it's DIY... do it yourself. Reading can be a profoundly life-changing experience. Many of my students have said they feel 'less weird,' 'more normal,' and 'less alone' after reading a collection of short stories in English 104. You get a peek into others' lives, real or fiction and you understand yourself and the world around you better. It's like Popeye and his spinach, you read a book and you build intellectual muscle that gives you power in the world."

And that's how Cornelius can shake it up here at Clackamas.

Coke in Barlow, Randall raises money for athletic department



Juno Dean Clackamas Print

Frank Jordan

The Clackamas Print

Vending machines on the Clackamas campus have been a food and beverage option for students for a long time, but there are a few machines that have helped out the Physical Education and athletic department for the last 15 years.

These five machines, of which two are located in lower level Barlow Hall and three in Randall Hall, underwent some minor changes this past summer. The soda machines have dispensed Pepsi products in the past, but the change was made over the summer to Coke products. The price, however, remains one dollar for all of the products in these athletic department-sponsored machines.

According to Oregon State Law, any vending machines located in public buildings are regulated by the Oregon Commission for the Blind, which has right of first refusal as far as the regulation of vending machines. For the last 15 years, that organization has given that right up to the college to do with the vending machines as they see fit, especially the ones sponsored by the athletic department.

This year, the Commission for the Blind exercised their

right of first refusal on the vending machines, but gave the athletic department permission to continue their sponsorship of their machines, although the Commission now will oversee the machines.

"They [Commission for the Blind] seem to be good people to work with. They have visited us a few times and seem to be pleased with what we are doing," said Athletic Director Jim Jackson. "We have done this for a while now and although this is a minor portion of our booster club budget, we have reaped some benefits from the machines."

The Clackamas Athletic Booster Club is the primary recipient of the money raised from the vending machine sales, but the entire P.E. and athletic department has gotten some benefits from the money raised. The machines generate about \$25,000 per year and money has gone to purchase P.E. gear, equipment for

the weight room and has been spread to each of the college's athletic teams in one form or another. It has also helped to defray travel costs for the athletic department staff to go to various meetings and seminars around the region.

"It really has been a mainstay of booster fundraising and allows us to help the students at the same time."

Jim Jackson
Athletic Director

"The machines have been a good supplement to the budget and have allowed us to keep some fundraising structure for the booster club," said Jackson. "It really has been a mainstay of booster fundraising and allows us to help the students at the same time. We have had the luxury of keeping the prices low on the items in the machines, especially when prices are going up all around us."

So, the next time a student is feeling parched and all he or she has is a dollar, stop by the machines located in lower level Barlow, lower level Randall — by the softball/baseball offices — or the machine located in second floor Randall — and grab a Coke and a smile!

money from the Coke machines in Randall and Barlow halls helped support all the sports teams at Clackamas.