

Brother and sister: Outcast OC girl moves away from home

Jeff Sorensen

The Clackamas Print

Editors' note: This is the first part of a three-part series on the Kamahoa siblings, Malia and Ryan.

Success in sports is sometimes defined by something other than stats and leaderboards. Sometimes, to a player, it's defined by little moments in a game that have a deeper meaning off the court.

Clackamas freshman volleyball player Malia Kamahoa, with her younger brother Ryan cheering from the crowd, had one of those moments this season ... a moment, according to their story, which might never have happened.

Bryan and Jackie Kamahoa, Ryan and Malia's parents, met playing volleyball in the service. Both parents now coach volleyball, and Ryan and Malia's oldest sister, Lelani, plays volleyball professionally. This family ... likes volleyball.

Malia began playing volleyball at a young age, but she has other interests in addition to sports.

With her sister staying focused primarily on volleyball, and her older brother, Derek, busy on the football and wrestling teams in high school, Malia's love of art and music made her the "odd man out" in her family.

"I was the 'darker child.' My parents never really understood me, and I definitely had my time

in high school where it was ... 'fun,'" she admits. "They don't get the tattoo or the lip ring, and they never will. They'll never really understand it, and that's okay. I love them, and I know they love me."

In spite of her interest in the arts, there was something about Malia that her family understood very clearly: Malia loved sports.

"I was her first coach," said Jackie. "She was a little 10-year-old, and I coached a 14-and-under team. She was the youngest player out there."

In addition to volleyball, Malia also played junior-varsity basketball for Oregon City High School when she was only a freshman.

"By nature, she's just athletic. No matter what ball she picked up, from when she was little, she was very gifted athletically," Jackie

said. After a year on the basketball team, Malia had to make a choice. She could stick with basketball, or she could continue to play for Nike's prestigious-volleyball club, where - her mom explained - she

had secured a spot on their 'top team' at 14 and played until she graduated high school.

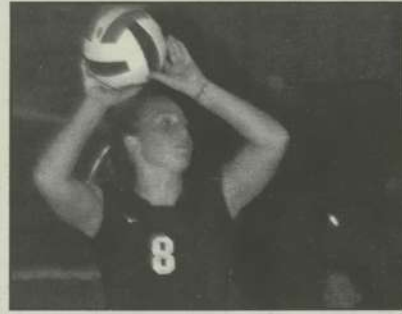
"Malia wasn't willing to give up volleyball, which was her first sport. After her first year, we said, 'You probably need to pick one or the other,' because her knees just weren't able to withstand both of them," she said. "Oregon City runs

a lot, and Malia hates to run, so it wasn't a hard decision for her."

After juggling four years of Nike and high school, Malia graduated class of 2002 and moved to Los Angeles for a few years where she lived with a friend and spent time with her sister. She also initially had no intention of coming back.



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FAR LEFT: Malia Kamahoa enjoys music and art, as well as sports. LEFT: Kamahoa took 10th place in assists for the NWAAC championship tournament, averaging 7.89 assists per game.

Inspired by music, inspiring new poets

Ott Tammik

The Clackamas Print

If he's not teaching or helping out at the Writers' Club, Clackamas instructor James Grabill is often busy composing his own work.

"I began thinking of writing as a part-time job I'd always have in addition to my money-making job," said Grabill, who has been hanging around the English Department for the past 16 years.

Grabill has published nine collections of his poems and two collections of essays. Of these works, four volumes have been finalists for the Oregon Book Award, and in 1995, he won with his book *Poem Rising Out of the Earth and Standing Up in Someone*.

Attending Grabill's class for the first time, a student might find a timid and soft-spoken character with shaggy hair. Grabill is very much a product of the '60s and is affected as much by musicians as writers.

In the age of rock and roll and the political chaos of the Kent State riots, not far from where he lived, Grabill recalls candlelit meetings, where he and friends would talk, play instruments and sing together. In the midst of the charged and confused youth of America, Grabill looked to express his own energy through writing, as he "gave himself to the process," to find "intensified meaning."

Inspired by the poetry of T.S. Eliot, he began writing as a senior in high school and soon found himself behind the typewriter more and more.

"My mom used to get angry at me, in fact, if I wouldn't come out of my room when I was in the middle of writing something," said Grabill.

Though Grabill has experimented with different genres of writing, he considers poetry clos-

est to his heart.

"Some poetry is like classical music. Some is like progressive jazz. Some is similar to sappy mood music. Some is like Indian reggae. Some is like folk," he said.

It was also poetry which led him to teaching, and eventually to Clackamas. Grabill now teaches a variety of writing and literature courses.

"Most of the classes I teach have been favorites at one time or another, including Creative Nonfiction [and] Poetry," he said, adding however, that Shakespeare is the most "enjoyable and fulfilling."

"The plays," he said, "are packed with riches. The language teaches about some of the origins of our present-day English. The material speaks to the roots of our souls, and the students add so much."

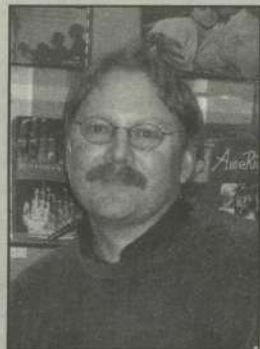
A loyal environmentalist, Grabill is excited about a class he is currently co-teaching called "Pathways to Sustainability." The course explores the effects of climate change and is "a look at what has become the primary challenge of our time," as described by Grabill.

Students find Grabill to be a huge support, and he encourages individuals with an interest in writing to join the Writers' Club on campus, welcoming writers of all types and skill levels.

"I think everyone who writes has a unique reason ... I do think everyone has a voice, everyone has subject matter, and anyone can choose the path of poetry. What everyone doesn't have, for whatever reason, is imperative to follow the path," he said.

Grabill suggests writers to practice the way a musician does: by learning "one's rhythms, phases and times of peak performance."

"Be open, humble, unique, assertive ... and here, everyone would need to continue on their own."



GRABILL

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To learn more, contact:

David Miller (503) 657-6958 Ext. 2257 millerd@clackamas.edu
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