

Arter teaches, leads, plays guitar

Ott Tammik
The Clackamas Print

Twenty years ago, instructor and Faculty President Dave Arter discovered his passion for teaching.

After receiving his PhD, Arter put Research Chemistry on hold, and by 1987 he was working full-time as an instructor at Clackamas.

"I love it. It is the most important and fun thing I do here," he said. "And it's not so much the classes I enjoy; it's the students."

At one point, Arter even gave some of his department chair responsibilities to other faculty members in order to make time for his classes.

He has a reputation for being a challenging teacher, but there is reasoning behind his requirements.

"I'm not a demanding teacher for the sake of being demanding," he said. "I'm demanding because if students don't learn the stuff well, they won't have a chance."

"If you're taking a history class, you're talking about wars and you know what that is, but in science, you're talking about molecules and you need to learn the language."

"We wouldn't be the first species to follow our nest," he continued, "but we're certainly the first to be able to recognize the effectiveness of our actions before we take them. This requires that we understand how the physical world works, and that's what science is about."

Arter has hobbies unrelated to his career as well. "They are two completely separate parts of my life, and I enjoy them both," he said.

He has been playing guitar since college, and on the weekends he enjoys jamming with his wife in their bluegrass band.

Other hobbies are more than simply separate from work; they could be deemed strange.

When this teacher isn't in the classroom, he's pushing around old wagons and cannons, reenacting Civil War era battles with the Northwest Civil Council.

Along with about 200 other members, Arter and his wife relive the period and their heritage through mock battles, hospitals and ball dances. His band performs at these dances every year, playing old folk songs like "Oh Susanna" and "Lincoln and Liberty Too."

In regards to the college, Arter feels that it is heading in a positive direction, and that the science department has a lot to offer students. He said Clackamas has a very broad course offering, and one of its special qualities is the large amount of courses that can be taken online.

"We've even had people take classes from overseas," he said.

One thing that Arter finds unfortunate, however, is the lack of science events and activities. This is largely due to the fact that there is no science club at Clackamas.

Nevertheless, science classes often take field trips - one of which is the geology observation tour to Death Valley.

Most students are not aware that there are also jobs on campus for those with an interest in science. Students can help a team of laboratory technicians set up labs by handling equipment and preparing chemicals for classes.

Positions as student tutors are also available. For more information, contact Joan Harrison-Buckley.

Arter has also been Phi Theta Kappa's regional coordinator since 1987. The "hallmarks" of this community college organization are scholarship, service, leadership and fellowship, and about 60 to 70 thousand new members join every year.

When first asked to be part of the organization, Arter said bluntly, "I don't do fraternities."

Now, however, he has a very different view:

"This is certainly an important organization, probably the best in the world, certainly the largest."

As one of his duties, Arter judges award entries for other regions. He said Phi Theta Kappa gives students the opportunity to go beyond what's offered in a regular class, and if it's working right, the students run it.

Arter believes Clackamas administration have also been doing their jobs well.

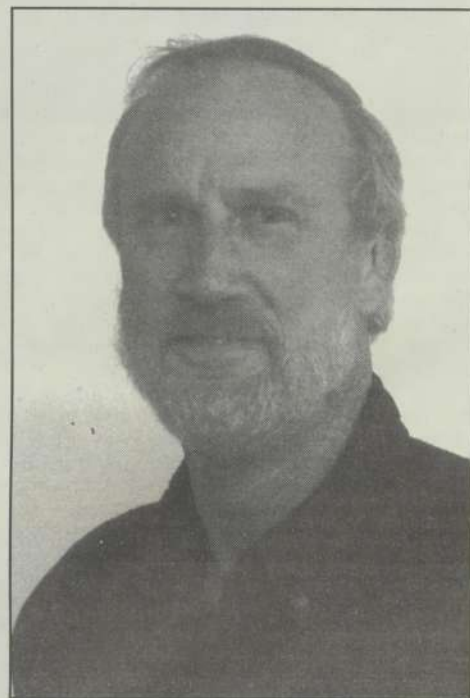
"I am very impressed with the president ... The board has been very responsive, and it wants the same thing that the rest of us want," he said.

He pointed to a framed page hanging on the wall of his office that reminds us of our efforts:

"You must love what you teach, and that you teach ... Without lowering your standards, you must never let a student become convinced that he or she no longer has a chance to succeed in your class."

"I'm demanding because if students don't learn the stuff well, they won't have a chance."

Dave Arter
Chemistry Instructor,
Faculty President



ARTER

When English majors need science

How to fulfill those pesky math and science credits

Jennifer Jenkins
The Clackamas Print

Every time registration for a new term is on the horizon, one large, communal scream can be heard throughout the campus.

It's the dread of signing up for the required math or science courses needed to complete a degree that, in most cases, has no value in the field in which you are majoring.

The term for these requirements is "Liberal Arts Education."

During my first attempt at college, I cursed the proponents of this education style. It seemed to be a way to extort more money out of college students, rather than make us "smarter." Now, in a second attempt, I am accepting the inevitable and looking for classes I can enjoy and still fill my degree requirements.

If you look hard enough and give it the "old college try," you too may find a math or science class that won't bring you to the brink of insanity. In fact, here are a few suggestions from the professionals.

Math Department Chair Kurt Lewandowski admitted that there isn't much wiggle room when it comes to fulfilling this portion of your degree requirement. He did suggest that those seeking an AAOT try MTH-105 instead of MTH-111. The class focuses on real-world applications of statistics and discrete math. It does require placing in MTH-95 or higher, but will satisfy the four credits needed.

For ASOT students, Lewandowski recommended taking MTH-111 to prepare for the degree-dictated MTH-243 and MTH-244. Together, these classes will satisfy the necessary 12 credits needed.

Science, on the other hand, has a lot of great options to get that lab science credit you may be missing. Both the Geology 100 and Environmental Science

100 series are geared toward the mathematically-challenged.

The ESR series includes the lab and lecture in one class period and is about how science affects the sustainability of our current way of life. Geology looks backwards into the Earth's history to explain how and why everything looks the way it does. The series really opens your eyes to what's around.

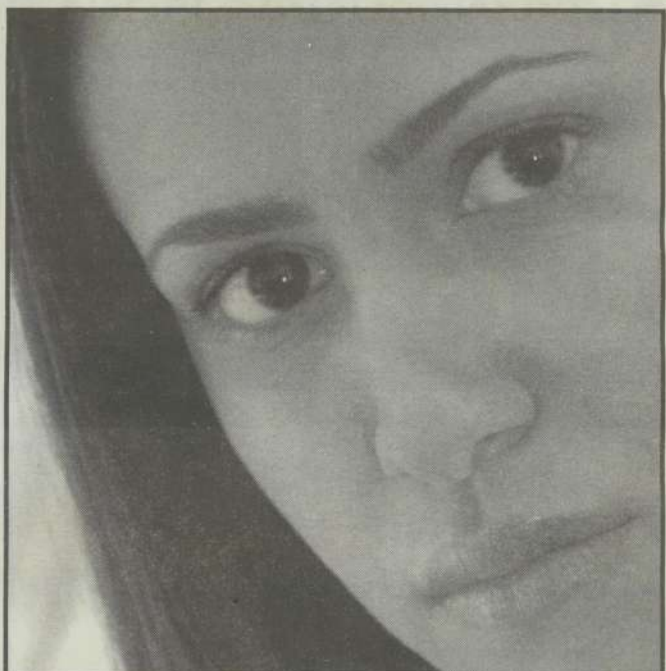
If you need that last lab science and don't want to devote a whole term to the endeavor, take a field-trip course. The science department offers a nine-day trip to Death Valley every Spring Break and a five-day trip in May to The Malheur Environmental Field Station in southeast Oregon.

Maybe you can't leave town. There are still really interesting options like Bird Identification, Plant Identification and Uses, Volcanoes and Earthquakes, and Astronomy.

With all these choices, it might be hard to limit yourself.



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