

Speech & Debate Team rocks

Lydia Bashaw
The Clackamas Print

The trophy cases in the Niemeyer Center hold many treasures, including those of the Speech and Debate Team.

Since 1966, Clackamas has had a very active and successful Speech and Debate Team, which has won hundreds of big-time competitions throughout the United States.

Competitions are based on the ability of a team to persuade and present material well. There are four separate areas to compete in: Debate, Extemporaneous and Improvisation, Interpretations and Platforms. Debate is the most common, where two team members form a partnership to argue on an issue. There is very little preparation time, and speakers are judged on whether their arguments persuade the audience to their side.

Extemporaneous and Improvisation sounds as if it is a speech given with little preparation. Interpretations rely on written dramatic works and prose. The competitor must prepare his or her piece before time and then give an interpretation of the work. The final area is Platform Speaking, which is much like a persuasive speech.

"My favorite aspect of Speech and Debate is that it teaches you to articulate in ways that are persuasive," said Meagan Kowaleski, a first-year debater. "It also teaches you how to feel out nonverbal and verbal cues from the audience. It's all about communication. Everything we do is communication."

Clackamas' 2007 Speech and Debate Team followed in the footsteps of the past, bringing home numerous trophies and awards. They placed first in two of their three events during the Fall Term and won the Jan. 14 and 15 competition at Columbia Basin College. After dominating the fall and winter competitions, the team set their eyes on the Phi Rho Pi National

Speech Tournament in Houston, Tex.

"We had a very solid team that worked well together," said Kowaleski. "It was all about a group effort. It's a competitive sport, but we root for each other."

Kowaleski was awarded a scholarship to Willamette University for her accomplishments on the team.

"I really fell in love with [the team]," she said. "I will definitely continue with it."

At Nationals this year, Speech and Debate brought home six national awards, including fourth place out of 190 community colleges nationwide. Laura Lingmann won the silver medal in Informative Speaking. Bronze medals were won by Meagan Kowaleski, Michael Miersma and Terra Vandewiele. Bryan Maurice and Kristin North also contributed to the placement of the team in the national standings.

"We so kicked butt," said Vandewiele. "We were so close to winning. I thought we should have won overall."

As for the great season, coaches Kelly Brennan, Orv Iverson and Brian Everest earned some of the credit. Everest, a former CCC

debater, came back to help coach. Seventy-year-old Iverson was a great help to the team's informative speaking.

"It's nice to have coaches with a lot of experience," said Jason Thomas, a soon-to-be graduate and first-year team member. "The diversity of leadership was very helpful."

With several students graduating and others transferring out, the team will be in need of new members. Speech and Debate Team is a good opportunity for those interested in politics or other professional fields that require public speaking skills.

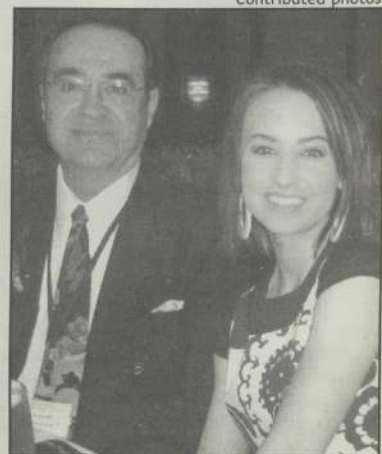
For students interested in the Speech and Debate Team, contact Kelly Brennan at ext. 2726.



Contributed photos



TOP: The Speech and Debate Team visits NASA's Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston, Tex. Back row: Kristen North, Michael Miersma and Bryan Maurice. Center: Terra Vandewiele. Front row: Meagan Kowaleski and Laura Lingmann.



LEFT: Brian Everest and Kelly Brennan at the awards banquet. Clackamas took fourth place out of 190 community colleges. RIGHT: Orv Iverson and Laura Lingman (silver medalist in Informative Speaking) partake in the award festivities.

Clackamas' best spots for studying

Heatherann Price
The Clackamas Print

If serious study time is called for, there are many places on campus where one can go for some peace and quiet.

The first rule of thumb is to stay out of the Cougar Café. Go in, get your food and get out. Do not try to get any work done in this crowded, loud, but sunny room; there are too many distractions for anyone to focus.

If staying close to food and refreshments is important, just walk one room over. The Community Center lacks windows, but has armchairs, tables and a couch. It also puts you next to the Fireside lounge and the councilors' offices.

In addition to the many student resources available, the Roger Rook is equipped with armchairs as comfortable as the ones in the Community Center, and has large floor-to-ceiling windows. There are computers as well.

Upstairs there is the Winkleskey room. It has more comfortable chairs, is spacious, but lacks windows. There is room for a lot of people, and skylights let in the light, though it does not have other windows to the

outdoors.

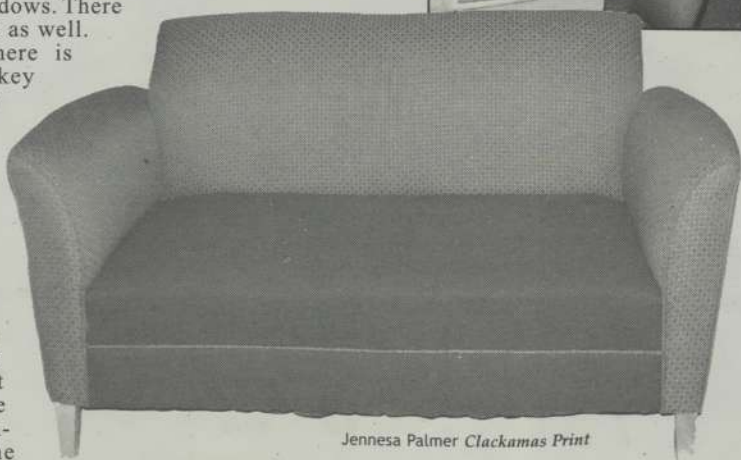
As long as wind and lack of electricity are not issues, take a walk around the Pauling Center. There are benches and plenty of grass to sit on.

Head over to the Dye Learning Center. The courtyard out front has flat, concrete surfaces, as well as a grassy area where one can sit, read a textbook and enjoy the sunshine.

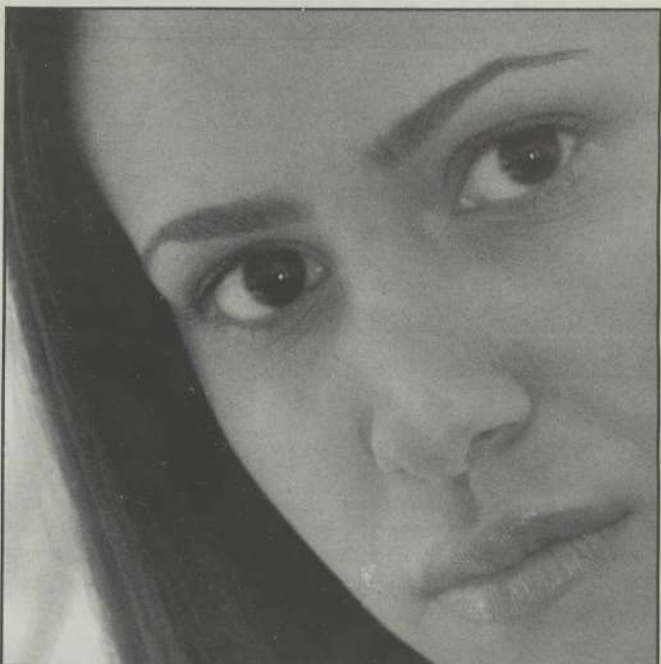
Walk inside to well-lit, open rooms filled with resources and helpful people. Computers and the library's Web page connect students to just about everything they might need. Research librarians are available for assistance.

The Oregon City

campus is a lovely campus with various places to relax and study. Take a look around; you may be surprised at what there is to find.



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