

What Wu can do for you ...



Wu (left) and College President Joanne Truesdell (right) sit down in the Fireside Lounge with students. Wu invited every student on campus to come and ask him questions in person.

Lydia Bashaw Clackamas Print

Sam Krause Co-Editor-in-Chief

Congressman David Wu, D-Ore., visited the college last Wednesday to talk with staff about the improvements being made to the Environmental Learning Center, and also to have a round-table discussion with students to discuss their needs.

After 45 minutes of ASG bombarding Wu with questions regarding inflated textbook prices, Wu gave *The Print* a chance to pick his brain for a few minutes.

The following is a transcript of the interview.

The Clackamas Print: We have a lot of Iraqi war veterans here at the college who have served in the current war and also the one back in the nineties. Services for post-traumatic stress disorder aren't necessarily available. Some are available, but aren't enough. I was wondering if you could speak to that.

Congressman David Wu: That is one of the great problems and tragedies. The positive side of things is that, ranging from battle armor to on-the-field health care, that's gotten better, so survivability has gotten better, and that's the positive end of things. The negative end of things is that we have very seriously injured people, physically injured people and, as you say, traumatic brain injury ...

CP: Record casualties ...

Wu: Yes. And I'm very, very concerned that this administration has not ... There are long after-effects of a war, and the injuries that you asked about are one of those long-term

effects that affects individuals and has a real cost to a society and requires resources to address ...

Well, first of all, I don't believe we should have gotten into the Iraq war in the first place. But if you are in a conflict, you have a moral and a public policy obligation to provide for the veterans who come back — especially those who are injured badly. That is one of the reasons why in the Iraq supplemental bills that we've just considered, we've increased the amount of veterans' benefits and veterans' health benefits over what the administration asked for out of just the concern that you have just identified, Sam. And I believe that it's up by \$4 billion, but I'm not sure.

CP: I don't know if you know who Kurt Schraeder is, but he's a [state] representative from Canby. He pointed to one of the issues [in general] at community colleges is poor management on the part of the administrations and school boards [*The Sunday Oregonian*, April 8, 2007]. I was wondering if that issue has been brought to you at all.

Wu: Senator Schraeder has his obligations, and I have mine. From my perspective, we have underinvested in education. We certainly have a right to expect efficient education. But from my perspective, overall, we haven't put enough into the seed corn in our society, and that's education and research.

I would be hesitant to point fingers at an administrative base that I personally don't know about as an explanation for underinvestment, if we have an underinvestment prob-

lem.

Was that politely enough put, Sam? I just want to be as polite as I can.

CP: One more question. Tuition rates are just sky-rocketing. U of O, PSU. Here tuition went up; it's not much, two bucks, but it's a disturbing trend. What has been going on, on a consistent basis, that you have been doing and your committees have been doing to curtail this?

Wu: I think one of the most important things we can do is to improve financial aid, and unfortunately one of the results, I think, of the economic and foreign policy that this administration has pursued is downward pressure on a lot of other areas, including a \$20 billion cut in college financial aid. That's one fork to reverse those cuts and to make sure that — I'm not sure we'll ever have enough — at least [we] have more college financial aid.

The other fork in the road is to ensure the administrators here, the state legislatures in Salem and elsewhere have a clear sense of the effects of their decisions on tuition costs. I think the state institutions in Oregon have had a more significant increase in tuition, and part of that can at least be attributed to budget cuts at the state level, also.

So, there's a financial aid component that's about federal financial aid, and there's a state and local component about coming up with state monies or local money to help hold down tuition increases. And that's sort of like the two sides to the coin that have to come together to make college at least slightly more affordable to you.

Graduation Ceremony 2007: Get it while its hot; standing room only

Megan Koler News Editor

It's now time to leave this place.

Next week, on Thurs., June 14 and Fri., June 15, at 7 p.m. in Randall Hall, hundreds of Clackamas students will be celebrating the completion of their GED's, certificates and degrees. Students receiving a GED or Adult High School Diploma will attend Thursday night's ceremony, whereas those receiving a certificate or degree will attend Friday's.

Most deadlines have passed for graduates; however, not all hope is lost for absentminded students.

"If they are completing their degree requirements through Fall Term, they're encouraged and welcome to walk," said Janis Rosenlof, executive assistant to vice president of instructional services. "They will, however, be invited again next year."

The doors to the Randall Gym will open to general admittance at 6:15 p.m., though organizers recommend that guests arrive no later than 6:30 p.m.

"The gym is usually over capacity both nights, generally, so there will be additional viewing in the lobby of the gym and in the Community Center," said Rosenlof. "We even have a big screen in the Gregory Forum so people can go and sit down and watch."

In addition to speaking at the commencement ceremony, College President Joanne Truesdell will be looking back at her very own graduation from CCC.

"It's my 25th anniversary from graduating from Clackamas," said Truesdell. "I've invited my parents over, and they're coming."

The message she hopes to convey at each ceremony is "I did it; they can do it."

"I think what's most important is that parents and others who support their graduate know that the work they do is incredibly valuable," she said. "It's hard work, and it pays off in the long run for everyone."

With an average student headcount over 30 thousand this year, it can be difficult for a college president to know everyone. However, Truesdell feels an impression has been made.

"This student body has taken special care in being thoughtful about Clackamas as a college," she said. "That is sometimes not seen in other colleges; sometimes it's just easier to throw stones. Our students are involved in fixing the glass house."



Andrea Simpson Clackamas Print

Harmony Campus simply groundbreaking for health



Yesterday was the ground-breaking for the Allied Health Sciences building at Harmony Campus scheduled for construction in July. In an effort to fill the demand for health care professionals, the college, Providence Hospital and other local businesses collaborated on the development of the program and the building. Attending the ground-breaking was (from left to right): Department Chair, Librarian, Library Services Terry Mackey; Part-time Association President Rosemary Teetor; Full-time Association President and Department Chair, Physical Sciences Dave Arter; Dean of Human Resources Dennis Chapman; ASG President Tim Lussier; Dean of College Advancement Shelly Parini; Outgoing Dean of Student Services Jan Godfrey; Vice President of Student Services Baldwin van der Bijl; College President Joanne Truesdell; and Director of Public Affairs Anne Donelson.