

# Applaud from abroad



Contributed

Students enjoy traditional festivities in Barcelona, Spain, as part of a total immersion Spanish class, one of the many exchange opportunities available at Clackamas.

## Matt Garrison

Associate News Editor

The study abroad program offers intense learning of foreign languages via application and visitation.

"Clackamas, through a consortium of six other colleges, is able to offer students ... study abroad opportunities," said Irma Bjerre, chair of the foreign language department.

These colleges are Mount Hood Community College, Rogue Community College, Portland Community College, Central Oregon Community College, Linn-Benton Community College and Chemeketa Community College.

In Alajuela, Costa Rica, from

June 28 through July 29 of 2008, classes pertaining to Spanish immersion, as well as field biology and ecology, will be held.

"Students can earn four credits of college Spanish in a home-stay environment," Bjerre said. "They can also spend two weeks in four ecosystems on the Pacific Coast, the wetlands, lowland tropical rainforest and the cloud fores. They can study at field stations with ecology and wildlife researchers, supported by an experienced Oregon biologist."

The Intensive Spanish Program will take place in Guanajuato, Mexico, from July 13 through July 27 of 2008.

"This is an intensive two-week session ... for credit in Spanish 101 through 103, 201 through 203 or Spanish Conversation 211 through 213," Bjerre said. "You

will be living and studying with students from all over Oregon."

In Stadthagen, Germany, students will have the opportunity to study the German language and culture.

"Our students are hosted by the families of the Stadthagen students who plan to come here (Clackamas) in the fall of 2008," said German Instructor David Miller. "The families provide breakfast, a sack lunch and dinner."

"From June 17 through July 9, students attend classes with German students, go on outings to surrounding cities, such as Hamburg, Bremen, Berlin and Hamlin, and visit various industries," Miller added. "At an additional cost, there is also an option to spend a weekend in Berlin."

# FAFSA: Keeping it quick and painless

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"Jan. 1 is the soonest you can fill out the FAFSA form for the upcoming school year," she said. "Some of the funds are on a first-come-first-serve basis, so it pays to do it early."

In addition, at the event Financial Aid Department employees will discuss students' options when searching for funding.

"They will talk about scholarships, veterans' benefits, the Workforce Investment Act and the Career and Employer Center," Iven said, "and there will be computers and people there to help you fill out the FAFSA."

Individuals planning to attend should not come empty-handed.

"Students should bring their Social Security number, birth date [and] financial aid pin number," Iven said. "If possible, bring your parents with you, and make sure you have them bring the same information about themselves.

"Also bring proof of your income, which could either be your

W-2 form for the 2007 year, or bring your last year's 2007. A 2006 tax return help. If you have any cash or assets, bring that also anytime between 9 a.m. to receive help from the staff."

On Thursday, Feb. 7, 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., various events will be in the Gregory Fox event known as Transfer

"It's a fair where students get information about four colleges around Oregon, also colleges from different parts of the Northwest," Academic Adviser Jessica

Attending Transfer students will receive some of the stress relief with transferring.

"Students can find out the application process and student aid," Walter said.

"They should visit [clackamas.edu/advising](http://clackamas.edu/advising) going to the event so they know what to ask," she added. "It can also help brainstorm

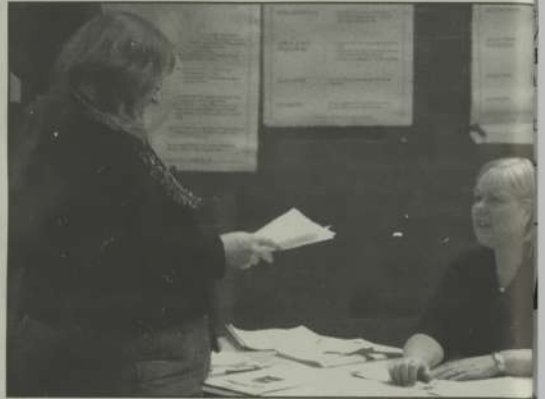


Photo by Megan Koler Clackamas

Shelley Shaw, advising scholarship coordinator, right, and a prospective student find scholarships as part of the college's continued effort to help finance education and inside the walls of Clackamas.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### In response to Pregnancy Resource Center advertisement

Dear Editor,

In your paper I saw an advertisement that I believe to be misleading. The ad was for the Pregnancy Resource Centers (PRC) of Portland.

The initial reason for my concern is that I have read reports about so-called "clinics" that offer pregnancy tests and information to young women and then provide biased, misleading and even completely incorrect information to try to sway the pregnant women into keeping their pregnancy. Some of these "clinics" have even been reported as showing young women false ultrasounds that make their baby appear weeks or even months older than they really are. I am not saying that this organization provides false ultrasounds - I don't know - but I do think that their ad makes them look like something they are not.

When I went to look up the

Pregnancy Resource Centers of Portland on the Internet, I discovered that they actually have two completely different Web sites. The first one, which was used in their ad, is [www.proofportland.com](http://www.proofportland.com). Initially, it seemed to be pretty neutral on their stance on abortion and emergency contraceptives (the "morning after" pill, or ECs), although some of their personal stories seem a bit strange.

At first, I thought that I might have been wrong about this organization and that maybe they are legitimate. Later, I Googled "PRC of Portland," and I found a completely different site, [www.portlandprc.org](http://www.portlandprc.org). This site made it very clear to me about the type of organization PRC is: pro-life, pro-abstinence and religiously motivated.

The fact that PRC had two completely different Web sites was very suspicious (and I still have many unanswered questions about it). I decided to look them up on the Better Business Bureau's Web site, which lists them as a charity, to see if they had any information. According to them, the PRC of Portland have either declined evaluation or has not provided current information despite

request written requests by the BBB regarding their charity status. They continue in saying that "the BBB believes that this lack of cooperation may demonstrate a lack of commitment to transparency."

The reason I believe the PRC ad is so misleading is that it made statements saying, "Are all your questions answered?" and "Have you explored all your options?" The fact of the matter is that this organization will not allow you to explore all your options, and they will not answer all of your questions in an unbiased manner without their personal agenda in mind, to get you to keep the pregnancy no matter what.

To be honest, there is no guarantee that they will even give a client correct information. One of the informational pamphlets provided by a PRC in Milwaukie turned out to have some information in it that was either taken out of context, person opinion or was blatantly false. An example of this is saying that one of the three ways a birth control pill works is by "causing an early abortion," which is not the case and has absolutely no medical information to back it up.

Because the Pregnancy

Resource Centers of Portland offer help to young mothers with things like housing, food, clothing and adoption services, they might be a good resource if you are pregnant and have already made up your mind to keep the pregnancy. But if you have not made up your mind about your pregnancy, please, please go to an organization that will help you explore all your options with correct and, even more importantly, unbiased information so that you can make an informed decision that is truly right for you, whatever that decision might be.

Kelly Forbes  
CCC Student

### In response to "Spray Those Stalkers"

Dear Editor,

I am responding to the article "Spray Those Stalkers" written by Emily Walters in the Nov. 28, 2007 edition of *The*

### Clackamas Print.

The article left some impression that (1) the college is unsafe and (2) Taser instructors of Mace and other of weapons are encouraging our campuses. Neither of impressions is accurate.

Clackamas is one of the safest community colleges in Oregon and maintains that standard by being the only community college with armed and trained enforcement officers. Additionally, the college has a cadet program that augments campus patrols with Clackamas Justice student interns. Furthermore, each month, Campus Security Committee reviews security activities on our campuses and makes recommendations where necessary.

Anyone bringing weapons like those mentioned in the article onto any of our campuses violates the college's administrative regulations and will be subject to disciplinary action.

Thank you for allowing me to clarify the college's security policies. We take safety seriously, and are proud of our program and record.

Bill Leach  
Dean of Campus Services