

# Longtime instructor teaches lessons of English and war

*Allen Widerburg has taught at Clackamas for 25 years and has become a staple of the English department*

**Jess Sheppard**  
*The Clackamas Print*

Instructor Allen Widerburg has taught every English-related class Clackamas has to offer.

Widerburg has been employed at the college for 25 years, 20 as a full-time teacher and five as part-time. In total, he has been working with students for over 35 years.

"I've taught everything at one time or other," he said.

Included in "everything" is world literature, fiction, poetry and Celtic mythology.

Widerburg's Literature of War class is being offered in the spring as well. The course will introduce students to novels and collections of

poetry written in the times of several different wars. It has not been available at Clackamas for almost five years.

"Students will be required to read one book out of class and give a report on it," Widerburg said.

Widerburg earned his bachelor's degree at Utah State University before coming to Oregon. His life has been as diverse as his classes.

"I came up in the '60s on a motorcycle (and) met my ex-wife," he said. "Then, I got drafted."

Widerburg served for a year in the Vietnam War and spent another year at the military fort in Texas.

After his return, in 1975 he earned his Master of Arts degree in English at Portland State University. He soon resumed teaching — but not just in the United States.

In the spring of 1999, Widerburg was chosen as one of three Oregon instructors to participate in a one-term exchange program with the University of London.

"London is one of the most wonderful cities I have ever seen," he said. "They have wonderful museums, tons of bookstores and theaters."

He has also taken sabbaticals in India and Vietnam.

"I thought I'd go back (to Vietnam) when no one was shooting at me," he said. "It's a beautiful country without all the helicopters."

Although he enjoys every class, Widerburg is particularly fond of teaching fiction.

"Talking about fiction and writers is fun," he said.

Widerburg was one of the driving forces behind the creation of the Writer's Club. Many of the group's original members have gone on to become instructors and professors themselves. Some have even had their works published.

The general purpose of the Writer's Club is to "encourage people to write," Widerburg said.

Widerburg used to oversee the Writer's Club, but he was forced to

take a medical leave because of physical operations. In his absence, the club has been in the hands of members and English Instructor Grabill.

"I'm going to pick it up again in the fall," he said.

The Writer's Club meets Friday from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Literary Arts Center, located in Roger Rook Hall.

**"I came up in the '60s on a motorcycle (and) met my ex-wife ... then, I was drafted."**

Allen Widerburg  
English Instructor



Kayla Berge Clackamas

English Instructor Allen Widerburg stands in front of a shelf of books in his office in Roger Rook Hall. Widerburg's travels have taken him to London, India and Vietnam.

## Making the most out of the Advising Center

*The Advising Center offers tips for students that can help them utilize this free service most effectively*

**Jess Sheppard**  
*The Clackamas Print*

The thought of balancing a schedule, working out prerequisites and wading through the financial aid process can be daunting, but the staff of the Advising Center can help.

Located in the Bill Brod

Community Center, the Advising Center employs five professional academic advisers who are ready to assist students with any problem related to their education at Clackamas.

"There's always an adviser available on walk-in," said Lead Academic Adviser Jessica Walter.

Students need only sign in at the center's front desk, and the next available adviser will be with them shortly. If desired, they may also request a specific adviser.

Appointments can be made ahead of time in the case of pressing issues, such as concerns regarding schedul-

ing. When an individual has a question pertaining to a career path with which the advisers are unfamiliar, he or she is referred to the faculty member who is most qualified to answer.

"We have a close relationship between us (the advisers) and the faculty," Walter said.

This differs from the system used by many universities. These schools organize their advising programs by department. For example, all music majors visit a certain adviser, while biology majors consult someone completely different.

Walter, who has been at Clackamas for two years, previously worked in the university setting. She spent three years at the College of Arts and Media, where she was a health science adviser and, while completing her grad program, a counselor.

"Different colleges have different academic advising setups," Walter said.

But, like all systems, centralized advising isn't perfect.

"The center gets very busy from about 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.," Walter said. "It's much

easier to get in and out in the morning."

Walter also recommends that students bring a copy of their transcript or academic evaluation. Both can be printed from CougarTrax, through the college Web site.

For new students, she has some practical advice.

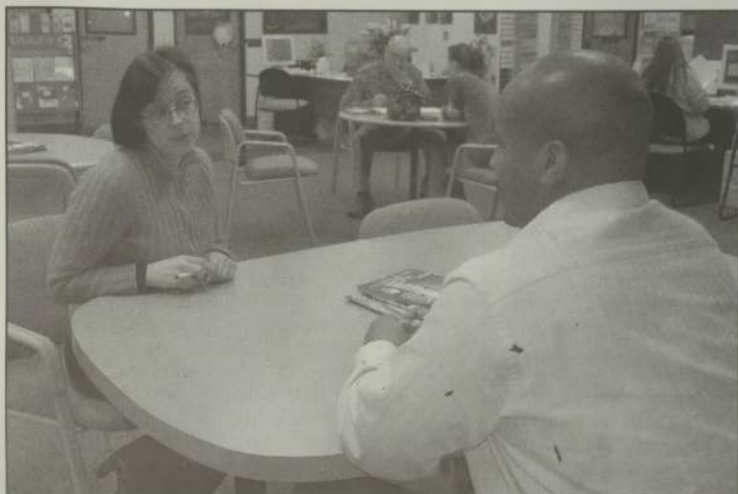
"Take your placement test seriously," she said, "and take a break between them. Get up and walk around before the next test."

Walter highly recommends attending a New Advising as well.

**"We have a close relationship between us (the advisers) and the faculty."**

Jessica Walter  
Lead Academic Adviser

"The hours are definitely nice," she said. "Last semester, I suggested a free coffee class. New Experience 100) and Success 120). As a student, I was encouraged to apply for financial aid and scholarships. To make an appointment, simply walk in to an adviser, inquire at the Advising Center's front desk."



Emily Walters Clackamas Print

Lead Academic Adviser Jessica Walter talks with Counselor Tony Davis during a slow period of the day in the Advising Center.

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