

# Club guy' helps the campus and hopes for life in Hollywood

The native enjoys position student government while trying for transfer degree

## Mondo Borboa

Clackamas Print

College community is often a hodge-podge of various extreme hobbies and activities. People frequently get together to share their general political or religious thoughts on life and religion and, strangely enough, discuss their origins.

Some of these interests fall under the purview of Student Senator Javier Montero. It is his job to help students develop ideas and submit them through the club process.

Most people know people are interested in difficult stuff," he said, "so we help them with the necessary paperwork, find an event and make it official."

Montero's outgoing personality and a love for interaction with new people are critical elements for this student government position. Friendly and engaging, Montero is a problem answering questions or spending time with students to get them all

communications major, his interests range from art and film to stage and screen. He hopes eventually to move down to Hollywood, Calif., and work in the film

industry.

On-campus groups range from religious Christian organizations such as the Latter-day Saints Student Association (LDSSA), to the political Clackamas Community College Republicans, to alternative interests including the Gay Straight Alliance.

There are also academic groups, like the Horticulture Club, and honor societies such as the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK).

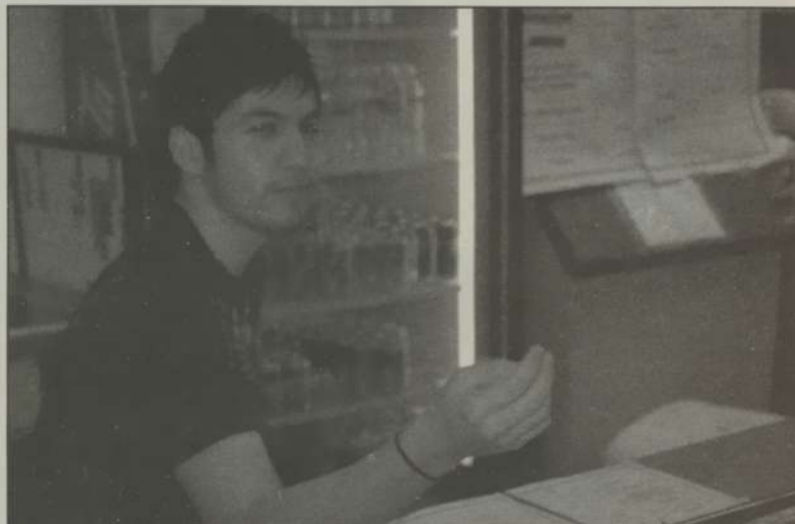
As the appointed "club guy" for the student government, Montero is the liaison between student-run organizations, the campus hierarchy and any special needs or equipment they might request.

Already this year, he has helped students kick off two new special interest clubs: the REAL club, a Hispanic-interest group; and the Veterans Club, a military veterans association.

Club liaison is a job Montero fell into last year almost by accident. While taking a French class with friend and fellow senator Nancy Baltazar, he was encouraged to join the Student Senate by Baltazar instead of just hanging out between classes.

"I looked around a bit, filled out an application and submitted it to the student government," he explained. "I said I'd be willing to take any position, and they assigned me as the club liaison. Fortunately, it worked out really well."

Originally hailing from Chile, Montero was 14 years old when his family came to the United States for his brother's wedding. The family later decided to stay permanently.



Mistymarie Wilks-Salguero Clackamas Print

Student Senator Javier Montero works the concession stand during a home basketball game for the Associated Student Government.

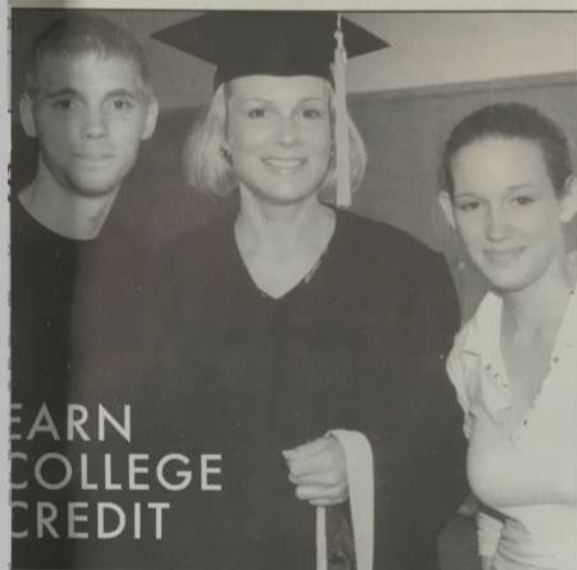
Now 21, Montero is a scholarship student studying for a transfer degree. He hopes to eventually attend a higher university.

"I love working with people," he said. This is fortunate for him because his scholarship is devoted to service toward the community and volunteer work.

"When I first started my community service, the organizers usually asked me what prison I had come from," he said with

a laugh. "I guess most people don't think of 'community service' the same way I thought of it."

Students interested in joining a campus club can see the full organization list by visiting the college Web page and looking under the "current students" tab and then "student clubs." To become involved in student government, call 503-657-6958, ext. 2245.



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## Veterans: VA to assist with meetings

Continued from VETERANS, Page 1

In addition to being the veterans service coordinator and a financial aid assistant, Maggard has also volunteered as the Veterans Club adviser.

Although all service members are told about their G.I. Bill benefits before their discharge, the military does not explain the details of how to access their educational benefits. That is where the school's own Veterans Affairs (VA) office and people like Maggard come in.

"We are trying to work out a system of getting the veterans into my office when they initially register as students," Maggard said. "Once here, we can get them financial aid, scholarships, grants and many other benefits they are entitled to."

According to rough statistics supplied by the Clackamas Veterans Affairs office, approximately one third of all veterans attending the college are vocational rehabilitation students. These are the people who have suffered extreme physical trauma and must now learn to live and work with a disability.

The Veterans Club's focus is more than simply

educational assistance. The group is concerned just as much with veterans' mental and emotional health, offering aid and fellowship from others who have been through similar experiences.

"We have been talking to the local chapter of the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) and the Clackamas County VA office," Cooper said, "and they are all onboard with helping us out."

The local VFW has promised its help in the form of fundraising, proposing making its meeting hall available for use by the club.


The county VA office has made similar pledges, guaranteeing all the assistance it can provide.

"Even current students, who have been attending Clackamas for a year or longer, are eligible to receive their benefits retroactively," Maggard said. "So we hope to reach out to people who might have fallen between the cracks."

The club's first organizational meeting will be March 5 for the election of officers and to set the group's agenda for the year.

For more information, call Jonathan Cooper at 503-312-8338 or Sharon Maggard at 503-657-6958, ext. 2554.

**Announcing the Formation of a CCC Veterans Club**



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STUDENT SERVICES

1<sup>st</sup> Meeting March 5 at 1:00 PM in the Fireside Room

Everyone welcome - Vets, staff, and anyone else wishing to support or

learn more about our Vets.

There will be a discussion about the direction of the club and election of officers. Address any questions to Sharon Maggard, Club Advisor at x 2554 or Jonathan Cooper, club organizer (503) 312-8338

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One of the Veterans Club flyers posted on campus, inviting anyone to come to meetings, the first of which will be today at 1 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge in the Community Center.