

Librarians don't necessarily read

Caitlin Taylor
Clackamas Print

Your typical librarian wears glasses, dull clothing or would rather sit on the couch with a good book instead of doing anything else. Friday night, then Terry Mackey is definitely not your typical librarian. He is donning an array of bright suspenders, Mackey isn't all about reading, but more into saving the environment.

Reading every book in the world has never been on Mackey's to-do list, though he is the library at Clackamas Community College, but he is doing the environment better, and a future for him and his wife.

When saving money is a priority, Mackey is proud of the decision to install solar panels on the roof of his house located in Clackamas. He has always been interested in the environment and to preserve the planet. As a graduate in environmental science, he read about the planet's predicaments for the future. The book talked about how each of the planet's resources would last, and it pointed out that the planet is quickly using up its resources 20 years faster than expected. The simple fact inspired Mackey to change his future.

He and his wife of 29 years, went for a decade without a refrigerator in their house. They trained their Great Dane, to a wagon, to the local grocery store and laundry mat. Then one day, they decided to install minimum solar panels on the roof of their house. With 30 panels, the Mackeys became the fifth biggest individual electric generator in the Clackamas, Oregon. The energy coming from their house is so strong, that if you want to turn off the electricity, you actually have to come to the Mackeys' house to do it.

The electricity coming from our house will knock you on your butt," Mackey.

To install and maintain the panels cost the Mackeys a whopping \$42,000 dollars, including tax breaks they received from the government of \$8,000. However the money doesn't concern Mackey. He could have put his money into a retirement fund that would now be nearly depleted because of the economic crisis, or he could invest in the future. He chose the future.

Mackey realizes that the rest of his generation will get money when they get older and retire, but Mackey will never have to pay an electrical bill, which he thinks makes it all even. Except with his way, he is helping the world out a little bit.

Mackey tries to include environmental preservation into his everyday life besides the panels. He drives a Honda Insight, the most fuel efficient car in the world and tries to bike to work at least twice a week. But, with a 42 mile round trip ride, biking is not always the easiest option. One day both Mackey and Kitty want to invest in a purely electric car, which they will be able to charge off of the energy coming out of their roof.

"I can only do so much," Mackey said about the oncoming hard times with the economy and also environmentally. "Global warming is inevitable; it is just going to get hotter."

Mackey hopes that he can help with his solar panels, but worries about future generations, and what they will have to sacrifice because of the world's current carelessness.

Mackey started working as the librarian at Clackamas Community College about ten years ago, even though becoming a librarian was never his intention.

"I don't like to read. I'm lucky to read a novel in a year. I just wait for the movie to come out," he said.

Instead, Mackey wanted to be a lawyer. He took all the right steps in school to become a lawyer. But then, just like Robert Frost's infamous poem "The Road Less Traveled," Mackey was forced to make a decision about his future - either a one way ticket to law school, or working at a law library in Wisconsin.

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Terry Mackey
College Librarian



John Shufelt Clackamas Print
Always noticeable in his brightly colored shirt, tie and suspenders, Terry Mackey works in the library. Here he is seen with graduate assistant Amy Stanforth.

When he made his decision he was wary about the outcome, but realized while working at the library he had definitely made the right decision. He would see the lawyers coming in to do research and would always think, "God that could have been my life. I'm glad it wasn't."

Around the same time Mackey worked at the library, he and some other associates worked together on procedure manuals for legal issues. They would re-enact a divorce or child custody case as they wrote the manuals. The books are still used by lawyers all around Wisconsin, something Mackey is very proud of.

Besides his passion for saving the environment, Mackey's adoration for his wife is clear. When they got married they created a mission statement to their marriage: we are two playful otters in the beaver pond of life. This is the statement they live by, and anytime they need to make a decision they ask what would an otter do, and the answer always is that an otter would have fun.

They met in Wisconsin, while in an environmental college, and have been inseparable ever since. They are both librarians, and have followed each other around the United States

through Montana, Utah, Indiana and now Oregon. They have both made sacrifices for each other, and those sacrifices, he says, have led them to Oregon, where alternative energy is embraced.

Kitty makes all of Terry's clothing including his vibrant ties and suspenders. The only parts of his wardrobe that he buys are his socks, shoes and pants.

"I think it is sort of her way of branding me," Terry said with a smile.

He and Kitty have never shied away from doing the improbable, and spontaneity is no stranger to them. At one point, they sold all of their belongings and bicycled across the country to Indiana where they went to graduate school.

Currently, the Mackey family uses 14 kilowatts a day of energy. But, their goal is to continue to lower that number as time goes on.

"You start to compete with yourself about your energy usage," he said.

The couple uses a few simple steps to work on decreasing their kilowatts used. All of the power cords in their house are connected on power strips, and at night before they

go to sleep, they literally turn their house off, unplugging the power strips. They also condensed their multiple belongings, like clocks.

"How many clocks do you really need?" Mackey joked. He says he always gets to work on time, so two clocks are plenty. The family also uses rechargeable batteries to help lower their energy use.

Mackey is not necessarily average. He constantly works to change the environment and he describes himself as an introvert and a hobbit. However, he never worries about being forgotten. Anytime he goes somewhere or gives a presentation about his solar house, he realizes the chances of people remembering what he said let alone his name are not high. So he adds a lot of color, and eccentric patterns to his wardrobe so he will never be forgotten.

"No one ever forgets me," he said.

Editors Note: Caitlin Taylor was the 2009 Skill Competition winner for journalism. This is her winning article.

Beauty queen inspires education with her music



Nick Kornafel
The Clackamas Print

Look out Miss Oregon City, there's another beauty queen on campus.

Julia Pidasheff is attending her first term here at Clackamas. Pidasheff went to Clackamas and Oregon City High spending two years at each before graduating from Oregon City High in 2007. She then took an entire year off to work at Panda Express so she could save some money and decide what direction she was going to take her education.

Pidasheff is enjoying her time at Clackamas and is working on her AAOT so she can transfer to Willamette or Marylhurst.

Pidasheff was born in the Ukraine before her parents moved to California where she lived until she was 12. She has a deep love for the United States, saying that she took her first steps on American soil and wants to do whatever she can to make a difference.

During her high school career, Pidasheff was involved in a number of extracurricular and charitable activities such as Key Club, speech and debate team, leadership programs and was involved in a program called "Students Today Aren't Ready for Sex." She even started her own orchestra specifically for kids who can't afford music lessons. Despite these many distractions, Pidasheff got mostly A's and B's.

Pidasheff only started her pageantry this year on Feb. 21 and has already become Miss Clackamas making her eligible to compete in the Miss Oregon pageant in July. What drew her to the pageant are the many opportunities it presents through its scholarship program, and that the pageant allows her voice to be heard.

"I want to do something with this title," said Julia Pidasheff.

And, "something" is exactly what she has been doing, even before she got her title, through a program she started called "Friends of Music." It's a music-based therapy program for kids and young adults that uses

music lessons as a way to reach out to them so they can discover themselves and their hidden talent.

"(Friends of Music) can reach a lot of people, disabled or otherwise," said Linda McBroom, director of Miss Clackamas Pageant. "Julia has done great things with her music. I think she has wonderful potential."

Pidasheff was inspired to take this cause by her younger brother, Mark Pidasheff. She loves her brother very much and wants to make sure he and all special needs kids get the help they need.

"Just because disabled people are the minority doesn't mean they should be ignored," said Pidasheff.

When Pidasheff isn't participating in pageants, studying or traveling the world for the greater good, she enjoys shopping, finding new restaurants and "Bubble Tea" shops. She also enjoys romance movies and war movies like "Rambo." Her newest venture is learning to ride dirt bikes.

"I have a list of things I want to do before I die," said Pidasheff.

Contributed Photo
Pidasheff won the title of Miss Clackamas in 2008. Here she is pictured with her winning tiara. Her talents are playing piano and singing.