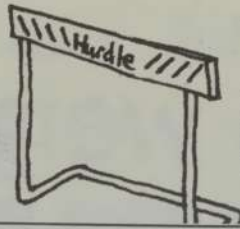




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Clackamas Community College, Oregon City, OR

Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2010

Volume 43, Issue 10

Biology class goes coastal

By Kayla Calloway
Copy Editor

When the alarm went off at 6 a.m. Sunday morning, two things immediately ran through my mind. The first was an affirmation of my hatred of morning. I'm a generally crabby person when woken up prior to 10 a.m. The second thought was stemmed from excitement. That morning, the reason my alarm was set to an ungodly hour was the morning of the first trip to the Oregon Coast with my biology class. I must admit, the main reason for my waking up for the Natural History of

the Oregon Coast class was the fact that the lab took place at the Coast. I love the Coast. I love everything about it so much so that I don't detest waking up early for it.

So when my alarm went off Saturday, I hurried to get to Clackamas Community College on time, fearing that if I was even a minute late, I would miss the vans.

Arriving at the school, I was immediately aware of my instructor, Jennifer Bown, and her excitement. Inside the classroom, Bown is very animated, using her entire body during her lectures.

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College possibly blocks out Blackboard for newer system

By Abigail Neet
News Editor

In July, Clackamas's contract with Blackboard, the current online system, will end, and the college is deciding whether or not they will renew that agreement. The college is in the process of approving a new Learning Management System. Moodle is the LMS in discussion and is being used by some teachers as a pilot to test it out. Decisions have been done regarding how students are reacting to Moodle. Whether or not the school will move to Moodle will be decided in February. Beining, head of Distance Learning, is currently working on a comprehensive implementation plan for Moodle, which he will present to the President's Council. The plan will include faculty training and support, a

course transfer plan, as well as student training and support. According to Beining, one of the main benefits of switching to Moodle is financial.

"Moodle would cost approximately half of what Blackboard costs," Beining stated.

Beining said the savings would go back into the LMS department and would also be used for the conversion and training process if Moodle were approved.

If Moodle is chosen, summer term courses would begin conversion right away.

"We have found it is better for teaching and learning," Beining said.

Other colleges seem to agree as many are also piloting Moodle. Portland Community College is now piloting Moodle. Linn-Benton, Columbia Gorge and Lane have switched from Blackboard and are using Moodle.

Portland State University is also in the process of finding

a new LMS, and Moodle is being discussed as one of the options.

According to a Fall 2009 survey using 109 students, 75 percent of them discovered finding materials and resources on Moodle to be easy or very easy compared to 25 percent who found it neutral or difficult.

A larger 83 percent also found using the Moodle system to be satisfactory, and 72 percent of students surveyed actually preferred Moodle to Blackboard, out of the 72 students who had previously used Blackboard.

A Clackamas student enrolled in a class using Moodle, Heather Smith, stated, "It seems like it may be able to do more than Blackboard could. I personally like the look and feel of Moodle better than Blackboard, and yes, Moodle is easy to use."

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