

# English switches heads

By Annemarie Schulte  
Arts & Culture Editor

"I seem to collect odd hobbies," said Clackamas English instructor Dave Mount.

That's an understatement; Mount plays the banjo, fiddle and the viola de gamba, which is like "a guitar you can bow", and plays in a band with his wife called Uncle Wiggly." In addition, Mount is into, and quite good at, a sport called "Ultra-running," which are races on trails more than marathon distance, up to 50 miles.

Perhaps the newest "hobby" Mount is adding to the list however, is Chair of the English Department, which he will begin this summer.

Not sure exactly what a chair of a department entails? The description of the department chair duties document reads, "The department chair supervises and facilitates activities, monitors the department's budget, serves as coordinator and represents the department throughout the college and community. The basic function of the position is to provide instructional and student services leadership and management."

Or as Mount humbly puts it, "I just hope I don't mess up the good work Kate [Gray] and Trista [Cornelius] did."

Mount was chosen by the department and dean to be the chair and agreed to it on the condition that in three years he will be free to take his sabbatical. Previous chairs Gray and Cornelius each served two year terms.

The new chair says that some teachers are reluctant to go for the position because "it's an honor, but it's also not teaching, and most teachers here like to teach."

Mount will be teaching two classes instead of four each term next year. He also added that a lot of English instructors feel the position will involve too much bureaucracy.

When asked why he chose to accept the position even though others were reluctant, Mount said, "I've been here over 15 years, and it seemed like life was handing me a chance to try something new, and how often does that happen? With complete safety. I can always go back to teaching if I want."

Mount grew up in California and moved here specifically for his job as an English instructor. And though he didn't run in high school, he became interested in ultrarunning while he was at grad school at UCLA, and the interest stuck with him. Mount was recently training for a race that would have been 50 miles on his 50th birthday but injured his knee. For Mount, running has been and still is just a way to unwind; he never saw himself as competitive until he started running races.

Cornelius, who was chair four years earlier and is a current English instructor at CCC, says she thinks it's great that Mount was chosen to be the chair and thinks

he's going to "do a wonderful job."

Mount has many goals as the new department chair, and in an e-mail to the department he stated, "I've met with Kate often over the last few months and begun to develop my understanding of the job. I see it as having two parts: to protect and support you all, so you can teach, and to be an advocate for our students. My challenge is to try to do those two things half as well as Kate and Trista did."

Also in the e-mail (in a long list of his future goals) Mount stated, "One specific goal I have is to revive the dying English department blog, or at least to find a fun and motivating way for us all to share ideas using some kind of technology, be it a blog, Moodle, Facebook or something new."

Regarding Mount's new position, former student Noah Gordon said, "I really couldn't be more excited for Dave or future students that he is the new chair of the English department." He added, "I believe Dave will make a very strong chair for the English department. The first reason is obvious: his passion in the field. Dave is also incredibly creative and open minded; both traits I believe will make for a strong leader."



Contributed by Dave Mount

Dave Mount plays with his band Uncle Wiggly at the Portland Old-Time Gathering in 2008. To the left of Mount is banjo player Maggie Lind; Mount's wife also plays in the band.



Illustration by Brian Steele Clackamas Print

## Top 10 things I'll miss/won't miss about CCC

Annemarie's



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**1. Won't Miss:** Outlaw. Ok, we kind of have a love/hate with Outlaw. They close early (if you go after 2 p.m. you can't even get a sandwich made), they're almost always out of something, they're slow a lot of times and many students complain of their steep prices. But regardless, I think they do an alright job, and I feel semi-guilty knocking them since one of their employees makes my wraps without me even having to say a word (she's memorized exactly what I get). So while I won't miss the downfalls of Outlaw, I'll definitely miss saying "hi" to them every day.

**2. Miss:** Extremely small classes. My current math class has about 20 students total, meaning that on any given day, I only have to share a classroom with about seven other people, and can get as much individual instruction as I need. This will be a distant memory once I move on to Corvallis.

**3. Won't Miss:** Obnoxious older students. You know the ones. The ones coming back to finish their education (which I applaud them for) but feel the need to "shush" younger students and treat us as below them. OK, I know you have kids as old as me, possibly even grandchildren, but don't shush me; I'm a college student just like you.

**4. Miss:** Being able to walk the entire campus in 20 minutes. I know I complain about having to walk "the WHOLE entire campus" (meaning from Randall to Rook) but once I get up to OSU and have to bike to every class, I'm pretty certain I'm going to miss our quaint, easy-to-find-things campus.

**5. Won't miss:** Oregon City and the traffic on 224. To all the times that traffic has been backed up on 224, making me late to class (me swearing every minute): I won't miss you.

**6. Miss:** Dutch Bros. This is a daily stop for me, and I'll so miss being asked "So what are you up to today?" while they hand me my raspberry Red Bull. No one does it like you, Dutch Bros, and I'll feel empty at OSU without you.

**7. Won't miss:** PARKING. Yep, I've totally written an article raging about parking at Clackamas. At Oregon State, I'll be biking everywhere and never have to find a parking spot before class again. I will NEVER miss the horrendous parking at Clackamas.

**8. Miss:** Knowing professors personally. It's not until these last couple weeks that I've realized just how much of the faculty I (and certainly other students) have gotten to know personally. It's humbling to chat with professors, and I feel their advice is the best source of encouragement we as students can get.

**9. Won't miss:** CougarTrax. It works, it doesn't, it's down, it's up. You try to sign up for classes at midnight (due to our desperate attempts to get into just ONE of the classes we need so we can graduate on time) and the system crashes. It stays down for a couple days; the only way you can register is by waiting in a massive line in Roger Rook. Again, I won't think twice about leaving the hassle of CougarTrax and registration behind.

**10. Miss:** Writing these Top 10's and *The Clackamas Print* staff. By far what I'll miss the most. I've now written 24 of these weekly top ten columns (I think of things in lists of 10, in my sleep). And *The Print* staff—you guys are the weirdest, most eclectic bunch of people I've met, but I've spent more time with you guys than anyone else on campus, and I'll miss seeing your faces and stressing out with you on a daily basis. Someone once said "*The Print* is by far the most stressful class on campus," but none the less, I'll miss it. Lastly, I'll miss our adviser laughing aloud as she reads this article.

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