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Nurses, actors, lend me your mind

By Joshua Baird
The Clackamas Print

Southern Oregon University is located in Ashland, home of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. The Shakespeare Festival runs from February until October every year and hosts 11 different plays. This year, as well as 2011, the festival will spotlight four of Shakespeare's classics, including "Hamlet," "The Merchant of Venice," "Twelfth Night" and "Henry IV."

"I was thinking about getting a troop together for next year and trying to get a spot in one of the outdoor venues. Maybe one of the comedies. 'As You Like It' has always been a favorite," said Cody Foote, a theater student at Clackamas Community College.

Theater is a major draw for a number of students at this campus; however, it is by far not the only major that SOU is known for. According to Corey Stacey, who was a theater major at SOU, the college is also a great place to study business as well as nursing.

"It's the major goal of most [nursing students] to get into [Oregon Health and Science University]," said Stacey.

Nursing, as it turns out, is a heavy focus at Southern because it is home to one of OHSU's campuses; the other three are in Portland, La Grande and Klamath Falls. OHSU is one of the top health care training facilities in

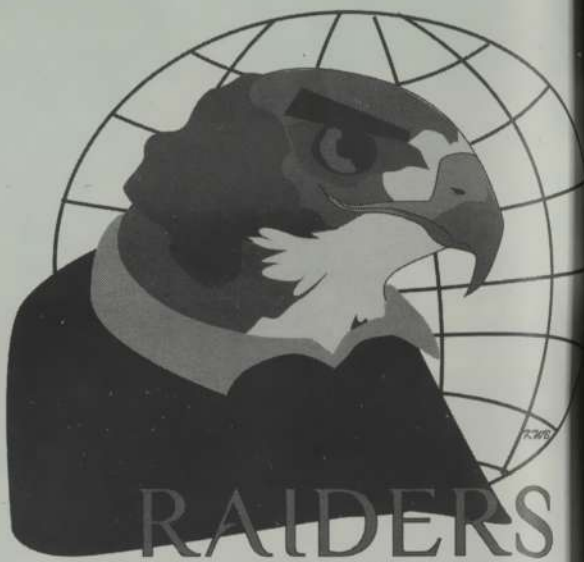


Illustration by Kayla Berge Clackamas

the country.

If you plan on going to SOU, now would be a perfect time to start applying for admission since summer is about to begin. If you aren't taking any courses during the warm months, you may want to take a trip down to Ashland and check out the campus.

"It seemed alright. It's a really nice campus," Stacey said.

As for the instructors, like many schools, SOU has its mix of great teachers and others that most students wish they could avoid; however, the bad instructors seem to be few and far between.

"[They were] all fantastic. I had no bad experiences. [Instructors] all seemed to be doing it," said Stacey.

For an Oregon undergraduate, tuition and fees are \$6,711 in time of this writing, with room and board costing \$8,454. Books and supplies coming at \$1,350. This comes to a total of \$16,515 a year, which is an average for an Oregon university.

SOU's office of admission is located at 1250 Siskiyou Blvd., Ashland Ore. 97520, or you can reach them by phone at 541-482-6411.

OPINION: Rising tuition costs continue to cause anxiety for students



By Annemarie Schulte
The Clackamas Print

I sometimes lay awake at night, thinking about my student loans.

"Knowledge is power; knowledge is power," I repeat in my head, assuring myself it's worth it.

But even with scholarships, my parents' generous help, tuition waivers and unsubsidized student loans, I'm going to throw my mortar board in the air and then have to stare \$15,000 of debt in the eye.

And that's just for my bachelor's degree. If I go to the grad school I really want to, I'm looking at another \$20,000. It's possible I might die still in debt with my student loans. "Just like me," my mom would say, who took out student loans for years on end so that she could complete her double master's degree with four kids.

Why is getting an education so debilitatingly expensive? I thought going to school was supposed to be a "good choice" for us, but it certainly doesn't feel like it with all the stress of the expenses of college life. Even though my parents tell me my education is "the greatest investment I'll ever make," I still cringe at the idea of being a new grad and saddled with student loan debt. What if I don't find a job right away? What if I

fall flat on my face in "the real world"? These are the thoughts that keep me awake at night.

Even at Clackamas, a community college where most people who can't afford a state college turn, tuition increases year by year, and it's hard for us to comprehend why. Personally, sometimes it makes me just want to say "OK, you win and drop out. I know that's incredibly immature and I won't, of course, but it's always a temptation. Not having thousands of dollars of debt at a young age always sounds attractive I suppose, no matter the cost (even if it is a college degree).

In a Jan. 14, 2009 article, the Associated Press reported, "Even in good economic times, state and colleges have largely failed to hold tuition increases in line with inflation. Now a slumping economy forces states to slash spending, students can expect the sharpest increases in years."

The story added, "Families are calling colleges to absorb as much of the burden as possible instead of passing the extra costs of tuition on to students."

Getting a college degree used to be so much cheaper and much more attainable. Today, students simply are not getting college education not because they don't want one, but because they just can't afford one or can't find the money to get one.

Classes are getting bigger, fewer students are being admitted and tuition is going up. This really is the message America wants to send to our generation? Perhaps I'm being facetious, but I just feel like we're being told, "Sure, get a college education, get 'ahead,' but remember you're going to be paying for it for the rest of your life."

Yes, I will truck on and continue to rack up my student loans (along with, hopefully, knowledge) but this college-tuition-rising thing is getting painfully out of control. I hope someday it reaches a point where it no longer continues to climb.

And so what have I really learned from college? Knowledge is power ... and expensive.