

Budget in decline

By David Spears
The Clackamas Print

Unless you have been on a sabbatical studying the burrowing habits of earthworms in Outer Mongolia for the last few years, then you have probably noticed the economic storm gripping America.

Unemployment rates are up, housing prices are down. State unemployment is around 10.6 percent and economic uncertainty "is certainly the word of the day," according to Oregon's Office of Economic Analysis. This new economic reality has proven a bane to budgets everywhere, and Clackamas Community College is no exception. As Courtney Wilton, Vice President of College Services, explained it, "As the state loses money, the school loses money."

A deeper look at the numbers is very informative. Again turning to the Office of Economic Analysis, their latest information warns that "Oregon will also see a non-starter recovery in terms of job growth. Weakness remains in housing and commercial real estate and many financial institutions are still holding questionable assets."

Oregon is ranked the 44th state in terms of non-farm job growth according to the same report. Oregon's general fund projections have decreased \$377.5 million since the last forecast and over \$1 billion since the end of the last legislative session's economic forecast.

Despite a robust 14 percent growth in enrollment this year, the college is losing state funding faster than it can replace it with the increased revenue from more students. State support dropped from \$500 million in 2007-2009 to \$417 million in 2009-2011. It could continue to drop.

"You can do only two things really, make budget cuts or raise tuition. So do you keep raising tuitions or keep cutting the budget? You can only realistically raise tuition so much, and practically speaking we look at what we can continue to cut without impacting the education students get," Wilton said.

The college has been forced to do both. The school has left around 26 open positions unfilled and laid off 20 employees over the last biennium. Wilton commented that every position is under intense scrutiny. Wilton's own office is not immune to such scrutiny; it is one secretary short because they found they could get by without that position.

Tuition has also been raised \$12 per credit hour over the last biennium to try and offset some of the

budget gaps.

"The tuition raises have affected my budget because Pell Grants have gone down," said Sean Huggins, a student at Clackamas.

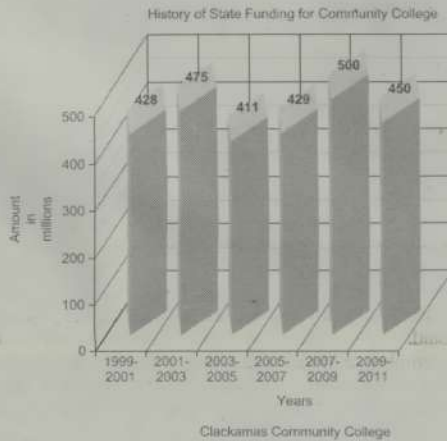
Huggins added that if not for the generosity of his grandparents, his own personal economic state would be far worse.

In spite of the hard economic numbers, not all departments and projects of the school have felt the slashing budget. A bright spot is the Veteran Center run by Veteran Affairs Coordinator Greg Myers. Myers explains that, thanks to two federal grants, he has "more than enough" to budget the needs of the center, which has been able raise over \$580,000 with the help of grants and private contributions.

"This is unprecedented for a community college. This usually (is a) university level thing," said Myers.

Even with the success of the Veteran Center, the economic realities are still present. The grants that are paying Myers salary are due to expire next July. The job fairs the center was able to host for thousands of local veterans will be at jeopardy unless Myers can find more funding. He was able to keep the cost of the fairs low by networking with local businesses to share the expenses, but without federal funding, he is not sure if they will happen again.

It all comes down to the fact that when the state loses money, the school loses money.



WORK: Hiring slower

Continued from Page 1

Another Work-Study student, Adina Reitz had a similar perspective on the process up until the point of actually getting a job. She and her husband both qualified for Work-Study, but with two children and a full class schedule, they really needed flexible working hours.

"We talked to them right from the beginning about a non-profit organization that my husband and I are both volunteering for (as a Work-Study option) ... but they drug it out ... and kept going back on things they had said," she said.

At the time of the interview, her husband was continuing to volunteer for a Work-Study position he was lead to believe would be

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We pretty much take everybody.

Katie Hovanac
Circulation Coordinator

approved, but he hasn't yet getting paid.

Rather than one group blame for this unusual shortage of Work-Study students, it's a combination of circumstances that likely lead to this situation. On the fact that jobs are available and eligible students do access to funding, it seems that eligible students are proactively seeking jobs even with the provided to them by financial

One possible explanation for this development is the result of a large influx of new students to CCC that has been reported at enrollment services. These students may be unemployed and seeking to be retrained, making them likely to be inexperienced in college processes.

The other piece of the puzzle is the fact that policy surrounding when eligible students are required to give up their Work-Study to a waitlisted student remains vague. There are currently 100 students on the Work-Study waitlist according to Stauffer.

Most of those students expect to get a job this year, but added that she was recently given permission to release an offer establishing a deadline for students to get a job by December. Now that the deadline has passed many job-ready students may be able to get positions quickly to end the employment gap.



John Petty Clackamas Print
Kari Tate does her daily work in the greenhouse.

Seasoned adult program offers history from the source

Survivors of the Holocaust share their memories in sessions at the Oregon Institute of Technology

By Conni Gaunt
The Clackamas Print

Ever had a history lesson that was boring? An event on Nov. 3 for the Fall Seasoned Adult Education series will not be that; it may possibly be the very best, live history story by two Europeans who survived World War II.

Valerie McQuaid, originally from Great Britain, came to the U.S. in her twenties with her mother. She worked and earned two master's degrees in the U.S. through the years, and before she retired, became Clackamas Community College's head librarian.

McQuaid has been the volunteer program coordinator for the Seasoned Adult Enrichment Program "for the past two years, with the help of about five volunteers and Jann York (of the Harmony Center)," said McQuaid. Jeannie Davidson, coordinator of North Clackamas Community Education and Senior Programs, said, "(The) senior education has been

going for 18 years."

The series began Oct. 6 and will run through Nov. 21. The sessions begin at 9:30 a.m. and usually run for a few hours, often with refreshments. One session costs \$3, \$15 per season term or \$30 for the year.

Each year, the Seasoned Adult Enrichment program runs in the fall, winter and spring, with seven events per term and an optional theater event they advertise. Most sessions will be held at the Oregon Institute of Technology building in room 191, located at 7726 SE Harmony Road in Milwaukie. For the least walking, the closest entrance is at the southwest entrance of the OIT Building, on the Harmony Campus.

Events scheduled include a presentation from a director of Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism, and two matinee performances of "Leading Ladies," a play about two Shakespearean actors, on Nov. 14 and 21. Tickets for the show are \$8 for seniors with no extra charge at the door.

Leif Terdal, from Norway, and Bill Brun, from Denmark, will share their WWII memories on Nov. 3. Their story is part of the Holocaust story.

"(I) was a young child when (my) community and country were attacked in April 1940 by the German Nazi's, when they invaded Norway and Denmark simultaneously, at 5 a.m." said Terdal.

"The Norway government never surrendered to

the Nazis," he said, even though Norway's military was dwarfed with only 7,000 soldiers in comparison to Hitler's 350,000 soldiers. Terdal's story is a courageous Norwegian resistance to Nazism.

"The Nazi's goal was to torture, imprison all Jews and desecrate or destroy their synagogues and punish, torture, imprison or kill any Norwegians who helped them," Terdal said.

There was a section at Auschwitz that held brave underground Norwegian resistance fighters and Protestant and Catholic clergy who resisted sent there as well.

On Oct. 27, 1941 at midnight, four-year-old Terdal, his mother, two brothers and other members of their community made their escape from Nazi-controlled Norway in a 50-foot fishing boat. They were attacked by machine gunfire from a Nazi aircraft miles after they left the shore. One of their crew members was killed, the boat was badly damaged and water poured into the boat. "Mother quoted Psalm 23, prayed for the Lord and believed the Lord was with (us), no matter the odds," Terdal said.

For the rest of the story, join them Nov. 3 for part of history.

For info on the Enrichment program, visit depts.clackamas.edu/comed/season.asp, look back of the Clackamas College fall schedule of classes or call York at 503-594-0640.

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