

New class gets motor running

By Jaime Dunkle
News Editor

Anyone on campus the past few weekends may have seen the engines of motorcycles revving in the morning. Because motorcyclists in Clackamas County don't have to ride far for license endorsements anymore, Team Oregon classes are now available on the weekends at Clackamas Community College's Oregon City campus. CCC started hosting Team Oregon classes in the modern in the Barlow parking lot on the weekend of Oct. 16. Basic rider training is a 15-hour program; six hours of instruction and nine hours on the bikes. The writing and riding exams are 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Fridays, 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays, and 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Sundays. Bikers and weekend warriors can register on Team Oregon's website.

The motorcycle safety program provided by Team Oregon has trained more than 100,000 riders in its 26 years of operation, according to the official 2010 Team Oregon fact sheet.

Team Oregon is a conjoined effort between the Oregon Department of Transportation and Oregon State University. ODOT provides supervision and funding for motorcycle classes, according to Robert Reichenberg, Oregon's communications manager. There's also a Governor's Advisory Committee on Motorcycle Safety," Reichenberg said.

The committee advises the Governor and ODOT's Transportation Safety Division, focuses on legislation, provides a forum for motorcyclists, and informs the public about motorcycle safety, according to the committee's official news found on Oregon.gov.

CCC repaved a section of the Barlow parking lot to provide suitable asphalt for the motorcyclists.

One of the biggest problems in motorcycle training is finding pavement that is appropriate and safe for conducting motorcycle courses, and we are always on the lookout," Reichenberg said. "Our operations manager, Ron August, has been in contact with Clackamas Community College for quite some time, and eventually worked out an agreement for us to bring the motorcycle safety program to campus."

Recovering a previously damaged section of Barlow



John Petty Clackamas Print

Students of Team Oregon's new motorcycle class line up and get ready to practice their riding skills. When students are riding, safety is the main point of emphasis.

parking lot cost the college \$28,000, according to Bob Cochran, the dean of campus services.

"We will be reimbursed by the Team Oregon program," Cochran said.

After the college is repaid, Team Oregon plans to make back their investment.

"For every person that signs up for a class, a portion of that goes to reimburse Team Oregon over five years for that \$28,000," Cochran said.

Team Oregon is already hinting at extending the contract with CCC.

"We're looking at a very long term relationship," said Ron August, operations manager and instructor for Team Oregon. "At this point in time we know it will be at least five years."

Daylight is sparse during the fall, which means less rid-

ing time for students. The classes will only hold up to 12 students per weekend until the days grow longer. Classes can hold 24 to 36 students throughout the remainder of the year, according to August.

No single Team Oregon instructor is appointed to teach at CCC. Team Oregon has 170 instructors, and they rotate locations, according to August, who has been with Team Oregon for 11 years.

"We're here to serve the needs of the riders of Oregon, particularly those around this area," August said. "It's a lot easier for the people that live around Oregon City, Clackamas, Molalla, to get to this bike training than it is to get to our other sites," August said. "And we're pleased to be here."

To get a motorcycle endorsement, go to www.teamoregon.orst.edu.

Foundation seeking new funds

By Jaime Dunkle
News Editor

More money may be added to the next round of scholarships. That's if the Clackamas Community College Foundation's aim for 37 new donors is successful. This is good news for students, especially with looming state budget cuts and the difficulty of tuition waiver evaluations.

The CCC Foundation is a group of volunteers working on applying various donated funds to the college, such as textbook grants, facility upgrades, and scholarships.

The Foundation's most recent endeavor is the Pathways to Success, whereby Foundation members seek out scholarship funds from people in the community.

This year we set a couple of priorities, but the first was to secure new scholarships, which means securing new scholarship donors," said Chuck Martini, executive director of the CCC Foundation. "And that's where we rely on our advisory board, because they are our arms and legs in the community. They work with people, they have neighbors, they frequent establish-

ments. A landscaper may offer a donation to the landscaping department, or a dentist may be interested in offering funds to the Dental Assisting program, and that's how the Foundation members are thinking when seeking new donors," Martini said.

The Foundation decided on 37 scholarships because they want to offer scholarships to every high school in the CCC service district. CCC has all of Clackamas County except Lakeview, Sandy, Damascus and Boring, according to the CCC profile on the Linked In website.

The Foundation offers a scholarship — one based on academic merit, and one based on just sort of potential," Martini said. "These may be a little more for students facing challenges in their lives, and that's the major financial challenges."

Most of the funding comes from endowments, but the Foundation applies unrestricted funds to some scholarships. The goal is to make sure the new sponsors of those scholarships are designated to different CCC programs, such as horticulture and welding.

The Miller Foundation's challenge granted a match-up incentive to facilitate scholar-

ship fundraising for all community colleges in Oregon.

"All 17 community colleges in Oregon were awarded a challenge grant from the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation, and what they did was they set aside \$1.5 million for community colleges in Oregon," Martini said.

A prorated scale based on a full time equivalency enrollment calculation determined how much money each college received. Clackamas' slice was \$110,000. The college had to match that amount in new or increased contributions toward scholarships over the previous year, in order to win the Miller Challenge grant, according to Martini.

"We have done that now for two years, and we are working on year three," Martini said. "And year three will be probably the last year of the Miller Challenge."

The Foundation awarded 265 scholarships this year, and 695 students applied, according to Darcie Iven, the scholarship coordinator at CCC. The Foundation issued \$580,000 in scholarship funds to students for the 2010-2011 school year, so far.

Aside from the pathways project, other new scholarships have been added this year. When more funds are added throughout the year, applicants who made the deadline but were not awarded may receive a scholarship after all.

"I think this is the first year for the Courtney and Hilary Wilton Scholarship, and that's for \$750," Iven said.

New scholarships will be useful because CCC is looking at cuts to the tuition waiver programs, which gives free tuition to students in theatre, journalism, athletics, ASG and other departments.

CCC Foundation President Chuck Mitchell is also on the scholarship reading committee. Sometimes students' stories have a striking impact on him.

"When I read scholarships, the first time especially, I gotta tell you, I was brought to tears by some of the (applications) we got from people," Mitchell said.

For information on creating an endowment to honor a loved one, please e-mail CCC Foundation Executive Director Karen Martini at karenm@clackamas.edu. To make a donation with a credit card, call 503-594-3130.

Video games under fire

By Pamela Hollis
The Clackamas Print

In "Schwarzenegger v. Entertainment Merchants Association/Entertainment Software Association," the State of California went before the Supreme Court on Nov. 2, to tell why all video games with violence toward any human form should not be sold to minors in California, claiming they contain obscenity.

But the video game lobby pleaded it has been singled in the case, adding there are no laws that ban the sale of mature books, videos, music or other media to minors.

"This is a wake-up call for gamers to get organized and protect their rights," Jeff Brown, vice president of public affairs for Electronic Arts, Inc., said in a statement. "Censorship and content restrictions are a very real threat to video games. Any gamer who has not registered with the Video Game Voter Network loses the right to complain when the government starts taking games off the market."

The Federal Trade Commission has previously cited a mystery shopping report that found that 80 percent of stores turn away minors trying to purchase M-rated games versus only 35 percent of stores that turned away minors for trying to purchase music CDs marked as containing explicit content. The same report found the majority of U.S. video game players are older than 18, and less than 25 percent of the video games are given a mature rating.

Freedom of speech is not the only issue at hand with this case; there is evidence that playing violent games is harmful to children in the long run. A study of brain activity from the Indiana University School of Medicine provides

evidence that children become more emotionally withdrawn after playing violent games. A scanning technique was used to study the adolescents' brain function during a series of tasks measuring inhibition and concentration. The group that played violent games showed less activity than the control group did in the prefrontal region of their brains, which is involved in inhibition, concentration and self-control.

This suggests that violent games can desensitize players to real-life brutality, causing them to be less alarmed when viewing footage of shootings, stabbings, prison fights, courtroom outbursts and confrontations with police.

"These findings raise concern that these types of video games are having some sort of an effect on the brain and likely an effect on behavior as well," said Dr. Vincent Matthews, professor of radiology at Indiana University School of Medicine.

"There are absolutely things that should be kept away from kids, but then again some of the best games are excessively violent," said Daniel Grubbs, an employee of Ground Kontrol, an arcade on Northwest Couch Street in Portland. "Ultimately the choice is up to the parents."



GRUBBS