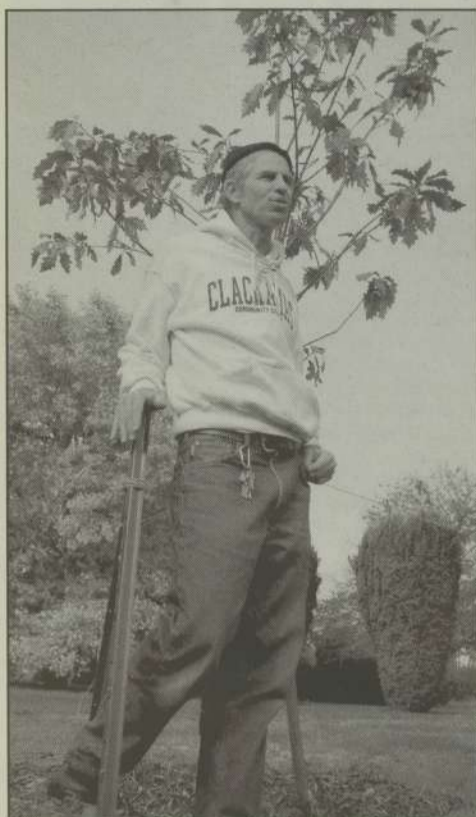


Horticulture instructor honored



Christina Pearl Clackamas Print

Bruce Nelson stands in front of a campus tree. He recently received the Bill Naito award.

By David Spears
The Clackamas Print

"Go west, young man, go west!"

In 1974, Bruce Nelson took the advice Horace Greeley popularized and moved west as the famous saying enjoined. Now Nelson is Clackamas Community College's very own bug expert and horticulture instructor has recently been awarded Portland's Bill Naito Community Tree Award for 2010 by the Urban Forestry Commission. The award goes to people that have continued Bill Naito's passion for planting trees in the Portland area.

Nelson came to the forested state of Oregon from Maryland's eastern shore. The move was a drastic change

of topography. He described his childhood home on the Delmarva Peninsula as "a flat sandy land about 60 miles east of D.C. (where) the major sledding hill has a five foot raise."

"I had never really seen trees ... or forests of the size and magnitude we have in the Pacific Northwest. It was quite an eye-opening experience for me," said Nelson.

After his arrival in the Northwest, Nelson lived with a family who grew their own vegetables; this was his first experience with horticulture. The need to find a job quickly led to Nelson's second experience.

"Right out of college I did not have any work. I took a job with a friend of mine. His dad had a landscaping company. I started working part-time with him and I actually enjoyed it a great deal," said Nelson.

Fast forward to 2010 and Nelson is still doing what he enjoys as a horticulture instructor and entomologist for CCC.

The enjoyment Nelson finds in his work translates well to his students.

Christopher Salmon, a first-term student, explained that Nelson teaches helpful, practical classes and has a "very amusing, dry sense of humor." Salmon was also impressed by Nelson's contacts in the professional world.

"(He's) fun!" said Horticulture Club president Karli Thompson. "He knows how to make things interesting for the students, and he definitely pushes us to actually learn the material. The homework is hard, (but Nelson) is a favorite teacher for all of us."

Nelson's work does not stop at the classroom door, according to Thompson.

"The real story is right here, the student career day, because he puts a lot of time into doing it for us," said Thompson.

The career day is an event at the end of a three-day horticulture fair with potential employers visiting from all over the world. Nelson helps find the funding for it.

"Last year, he was up every morning with the supplies for us; he cheers us on," said Thompson.

Nelson's career as a teacher and his commitment to community service is not surprising, considering his heritage. His grandfather was a teacher, his grandmother was a teacher, his mother was a teacher, and his aunt was a teacher. What is surprising is his passion for it.

"I really appreciate the opportunity to have a work sometime in my life that is very meaningful to me because I know many, many people never have that experience ... I feel really lucky," said Nelson.

Students of Nelson are beneficiaries of this passion and, thanks to his humorous teaching style, will always remember what a spider-mite looks like.



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Class helps deployed veterans keep businesses afloat

Clackamas offers class to help struggling small businesses owned by deployed veterans stay on top

By Harley Jackson
The Clackamas Print

In the past few years, many of this nation's young men and women have volunteered for the U.S. military. Many have gone back to the states to continue in their business affairs, and of those troops, many own small businesses. A number of these small businesses struggle to stay afloat while the owner or key members of the working team are stationed overseas. Fortunately for these troops, there is a course at Clackamas Community College that offers them the opportunity to get the help they need to keep their organizations alive.

The program is called Veterans Small Business Management. The course helps train veterans in money management, book-keeping, advertising and much more. It is a four-month program and class is usually held once every three weeks at Harmony campus or in the Gregory Forum at the Oregon City campus.

"The intent is to serve business owners whose business was impacted by deployment," said Tim Shea, the course director.

The school has received a large grant specifically meant for funding this program. This grant ensures that all small business owning veterans will be able to take the class free of charge. Right now there are over 50 small businesses in the program, ranging from graphic design to construction.

"It's statistically shown over and over again that businesses who seek outside assistance perform better than those that don't," said Shea.

VSBM caters to all vets, not just the recent Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. Each business is allowed two rep-

resentatives to attend the class. This is so the class will not be too large, but even with the rule in place there are still more than 70 people in the class.

Many veterans believe this is an excellent resource for our troops in need of help.

"I think it would be great, (having) another resource to help veterans out," said Justin Lay, a sophomore former Marine.

The more resources the better, especially for the troops recently discharged and still having trouble adjusting to civilian life.

"(The program) looks pretty solid and could get ball rolling," said sophomore Cody Gabriel.

This program could be just the element veterans need to get their small businesses out of the red and back to the black. Veterans are encouraged to take full advantage of this opportunity and sign up for this enlightening course and better both themselves and their business. For those interested, information about the class can be found at <http://veteransmeanbusiness.org/>.

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