

DEATH VALLEY: Hottest lab off campus

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Looking out the window of a fast-moving car, most will see a vast scenery of goliath-like snowcapped mountains surrounding endless seas of what looks to be the same type of plant (believe me, it's not). But in order to truly see Death Valley, you must step outside the box (or in this case, the car) to see what this relatively young geological feature really has to offer.

Now you can try to remember to check it out the next time you head out that way, or you can experience this unbelievable, breathtaking land through a very unique course provided at Clackamas Community College.

Geology professor Sarah Hoover and Department Chair of Science Jennifer Bown make a phenomenal team when they take the students enrolled in BI-165 to Death Valley for nine days during spring break.

Hoover and Bown leave no rock unturned, no plant or animal unnamed and work hard all year to make every spring trip to Death Valley one to remember. Every day is filled with endless streams of interesting information from the scientific names and biology of lizards, scorpions, plants and birds to the rocks and the valley itself formed over millions of years.

Students enrolled in the Natural History of Death Valley also learn about the different people that call the desert home, like the Shoshone tribe who are considered to be the basket weavers in the world. Students also learn all about the gold rush that stormed the land and sparked "boom towns" that sprout up everywhere. They get to tour through ghost towns like Rhyolite which was built in 1905 as a mining town for the Frog Mountain where \$3.1 million was pulled from the earth.

In the class you are required to have a field journal where you log all the information as it comes, information such as elevation, temperature, species lists and location notes. At the end of every day students must write a reflection

that summarizes the daily events and reactions of the student. The journal hardly seems like work though; aside from helping you out greatly with your final exam, the journal stands as an excellent reminder of the breathtaking experiences.

"It's what we call a living laboratory," said Bown, who is known for her bird classes and Natural History of the Oregon Coast class.

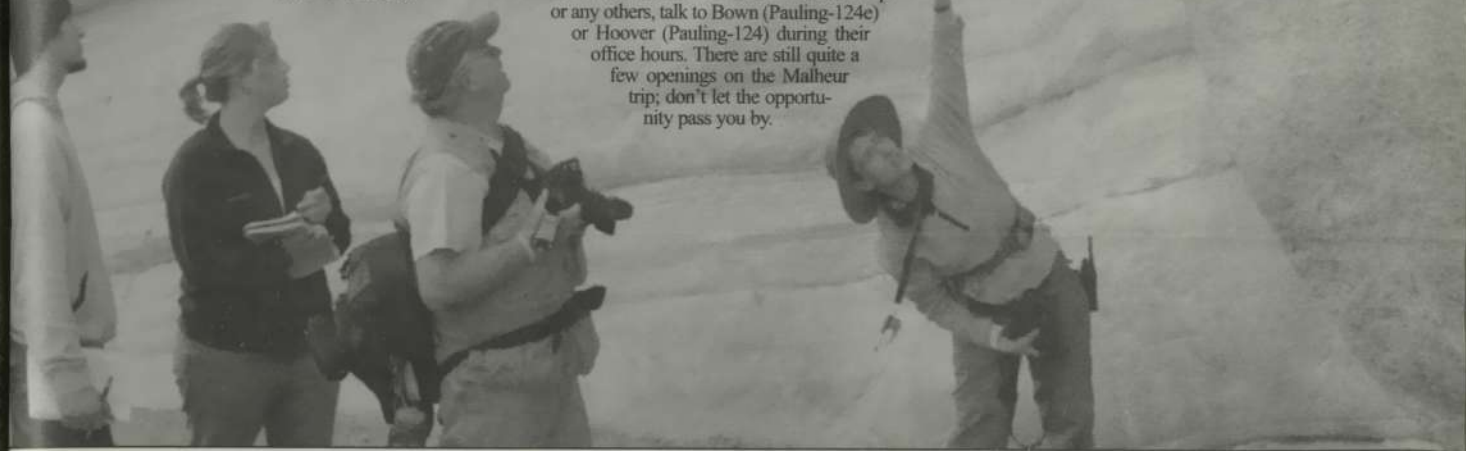
Six nights on the valley floor without any TV or radio may sound like a daunting task for some technology-addicted college students, but once you're there it's actually not half bad. The view will have you staring out into the openness for what would be hours if Hoover or Bown allowed it to happen. The night sky brings something more unbelievable than anything TV could provide: a window that reveals the far reaches of the universe through countless flickering stars and distant moving objects.

So if you're in need of an adventure, one that will stay with you for the rest of your life, Death Valley is where it's at. There are no words to appropriately describe anything that happens in the Natural History of Death Valley course. The words awesome, informative, creative and adventurous all seem to fall short in defining what the experience is like.

Although the Death Valley lab only takes place during spring break, you can still walk around the giant Petri dish on Bown's Malheur field trip from May 12-15. Students travel to the Malheur Wildlife Refuge and stay in the on-site domes and visit the John Day Fossil Beds to learn about the geology of Eastern Oregon. Bown said that because she brings her bird class there will also be quite a bit of bird watching.

The class is only one credit and is used as a science elective by most students, but again the experience is why people go. It's one thing to learn about the geology and biology of a specific location from a book or class but a complete other to actually see, feel, taste, hear and smell it right where it's happening.

For more information on the Malheur trip or any others, talk to Bown (Pauling-124e) or Hoover (Pauling-124) during their office hours. There are still quite a few openings on the Malheur trip; don't let the opportunity pass you by.



John Shufelt Clackamas Print

Hoover instructs her Natural History of Death Valley class that takes place over spring break. From left to right: Devon Kennedy, Mary Hosanna Hunt, R. Porter and instructor Hoover observe fault lines.

+ : Home brewers can now find freedom in new bill

By Joshua Baird
Arts & Culture Editor



about time. I hate to mix politics with pleasure, but in this case it is on March 28 John Kitzhaber made the first good choice of his current administration. For nearly one year, the Oregon legislature has fixed one of the most antagonistic rulings by the Liquor Control Commission. For a long time with Senate Bill 500 the bill allows home brewers to again compete at amateur and winemaking contests.

contests being held statewide with a reinterpretation of a Prohibition-era law, many home brewers and brew supply shops began to express their discontent with the way that OLCC was handling the regulation.

Many, myself included, felt that the only reason that the OLCC was so gung-ho about enforcing this law after so many years is that they were unable to (over) tax homemade alcohol as they do with beer, wine and liquor at the store.

Much like a lame DVD, this new ruling comes with one extra feature: no, it isn't a preview for the movie you bought, but instead donating your beer to non-profits is allegedly now going to be considered tax deductible.

I'm not really sure if it is worth it to even try and donate my sweet homebrewed ambrosia-esque beer. The sheer volume of beer that you would have to give away would cause you to lose money on the ingredients alone, unless the government is willing to give a tax deduction to give your beer away of 10-20 times the cost of ingredients.

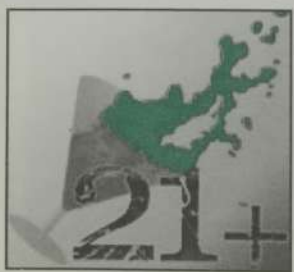
In my opinion, there is nothing more sacred than a man's (or woman's) right to share the fruits of his labors with his friends, family and co-workers if he so chooses. And thankfully, most home-brewers love

to share the beer that they make with others.

In the end, there is very little left to say about this decision beyond that it was the right choice for the artistic types in Oregon, those of us whose medium is not paints on canvas or pencil on paper, those of us who instead chose to carve out our place in the world with flavorful and intense (and in some cases highly potent) beer or wine. Or more simply put, it's about time.

Don't forget to check out www.twenty-1plus.com for more exclusive content.

Disclaimer: We at *The Clackamas Print* do not encourage drinking to excess or underage drinking of any kind. Remember to drink responsibly.



Brad Heinke Clackamas Print

Home brewers can now enjoy the sharing of their homemade beer thanks to a new bill passed on March 28.