

RETIREMENT: Clackamas teacher moving on



Joshua Dillen The Clackamas Print

Different areas of the greenhouse are home to young plants at various stages of growth. Horticulture students in Howley's Propagation of Edible Plants class learn how to grow and care for these plants in the greenhouse next to Clairmont.

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Times have changed with teaching and academics since Howley first started at CCC in 1983. Not all of it has been positive, though and you can tell once again that modernity is one of the things that has gotten in the way of Howley's pure unfiltered love for teaching.

"When I began here we had typewriters, we had secretaries that answered every call. I can find myself now easily in performing the functions of my job spending six hours a day sitting down in front of my PC, so that part of the job, the office time

of the job has really changed. I came to this job wanting to work with the dissemination of knowledge, working with students. Man, the office work kills me. I hate it. I really do, I resent it," said Howley.

The time spent in the classroom for most teachers is the most that they will ever see their students. It can be bittersweet as a teacher, knowing that they are essentially training these students for their future. Yet a vast majority of the time they are clueless as to what happens to them once they leave the classroom. That is why every year the Horticulture

Department has held an event called Pizza and Plants. For the past 30 years, alumni and current students check out what is going on in the department.

"I've watched my students get hired on the grounds department at Lewis & Clark, get their dream job and retire. Every year I get to see and listen to students. It's been wonderful seeing their bellies swell, or guys get a wedding ring and the next thing you know they're bringing someone with them and then they bring kids," said Howley.

It's not only been students that have benefited from

Howley's teaching, but staff as well. Loretta Mills has been the Horticulture Department secretary for 10 years. She has worked with Howley for the entirety of her career at CCC.

"It's been a hoot. She's a fun, energetic, fantastic person to work with. One thing that struck me about Elizabeth and I've learned and appreciated over the years is that she is totally passionate about what she does and about who she's helping. It's always been very impressive to me about how passionate she is and caring she

is towards the students and the department and the college as a whole and we'll miss her. She's been a pleasure to work with," said Mills.

In her retirement she plans on gardening, working with the Family Food Educators and tutoring and volunteering for the Founders Clinic, a local medical clinic.

"But I know I'm probably going to wait a couple of months before I commit to what I commit to because I know once I commit, I'm in," said Howley.



Photo from "Transforming Lives"

During Howley's career, the Oregon Association of Nurserymen recognized Elizabeth with its highest award, Distinguished Educator.

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Asteroid passes close to Earth

According to a NASA press release, on Friday February 15, 2013 scientists are getting a unique opportunity to study the small near-Earth Asteroid 2012-DA14. The small asteroid, approximately 150 feet across, will be passing so close to Earth it will be closer than the moon a mere 283,900 miles away.

In fact, at its closest, 2012 DA14 will be closer than geosynchronous satellites. It will whiz past the Earth at 7.8 km/s (17,400 mph). DA14 will be its closest at 19:24 GMT (11:24 am PST). Despite how nearby this asteroid will be to Earth, it poses no threat to us or the moon. The object won't be close enough to see with the naked eye. If you happen to be standing in Australia, Eastern Europe, or Asia at the time, you should be able to

get a look with a good pair of binoculars.

On the North American continent we won't be so lucky. By the time we are in a position to see DA14, it will have gone farther from Earth and will be much harder to see.

Astronomers will be taking advantage of their chance to take up-close images of the asteroid using the Goldstone Antenna, an array of highly sensitive radio telescopes, to take detailed radar images of the surface of the asteroid.

DA14 won't be coming this close to earth for at least another three decades.

— James Duncan

Photo from NASA.gov