

RALLY: Mascots bring some fun



Patty Salazar/The Clackamas Print

Clackamas student Dean Wright in the Cougie mascot costume and Diana Muresan, the ASG President, connect with a WOU student on the stairs of the Capitol building after the rally.

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According to the Oregon Student Association, students are asking for \$510 million for community colleges, \$850 for universities and \$15 million for the Oregon Opportunity Grant. The OOG is the state's only source of need-based financial aid. Many students also have loan debt adding up, such as Travis Van Horn, a political student at Western Oregon University.

"The main purpose for today was to get more funding for the Oregon Opportunity Grant for students. Also spread awareness that the fact that every single person that is here has over \$10,000 in debt," said Van Horn.

He predicts he will be \$25,000 in debt by the time he is done. Another WOU student, sophomore Diego Navarro, suspects he will be in debt \$40 thousand by the time he is done with college.

"We are just letting our representatives know that we see our tuitions going up and that is some-

thing that we are against. It is showing them that we are pushing them to make changes and they see us advocating for what we need, so that's good," Navarro said.

"Not that long ago, the state paid for two thirds of our tuition now that's flipped and we pay the two thirds, that's on our backs. I think the main accomplishment was to show students that information and also show legislators that was their doing and it is their responsibility to reverse that once again," said Van Horn.

After the main rally, Muresan lobbied for a public service reform; Schools Not Prisons, a reform that is trying to change how non-violent crimes are sentenced to lower the cost of The Oregon Department of Corrections and be invested into higher education.

"We were talking about how it's a self fulfilling prophecy: about how you put more money into the jails they will fill the beds. So they should be giving us more money," Muresan said.

Writers of the Future: Clackamas author wins award

Brittany Horne
News Editor

Student and newly appointed author Marilyn Guttridge recently won the Writers of the Future annual contest. Her short story, "The Ghost Wife of Arlington," was illustrated by an artist from the illustrators half of the contest and then published with other works. Three writers and three illustrators are chosen each quarter of the year, with cash prizes from \$500 to \$1,000. The annual grand prize award is \$5,000 per group. Guttridge currently lives in Estacada and attends Clackamas for her associate's degree. She agreed to answer some questions about her writing contest winning experience:

The Clackamas Print: Marilyn, can you explain how the contest works?

Marilyn Guttridge: So, in the writing portion of the contest, we submit a short story. There's four quarters and they pick three stories each quarter so there's twelve overall. And there's an illustrative portion of the contest as well and they submit some of their artwork I think, I don't know exactly how it works because I haven't done it but the winning illustrators get paired with one of the writers and they'll do illustrations for the winning story that the writer submitted.

TCP: Did you hear about the contest on campus?

MG: I had heard about it at my high school that I went to. There was a flyer for it in this drawer of scholarship applications that

we had. And I didn't really know what I was getting into when I sent my short story to them.

TCP: How was the awards presentation?

MG: Generally there's some music, that's how they'll open, with like a song. And then they'll have some guest speakers who are like, they had a guy from NASA this year. It was a science fiction and a fantasy contest but they kinda leaned toward the sci-fi. And then after that they start going in to the awards for the writers and the illustrators. And I was up first, which was a little terrifying. And we go up and we get our trophy, give a little speech, you know, try to keep it short and sweet. And then you leave the stage, so it wasn't too bad. Other than the fact that, you know, public speaking is terrifying.

TCP: Is it something that you want to keep doing? Pursue writing in this genre or another genre?

MG: I would, yeah. I've always kind of known that I wanted to do writing but this kind of gave me that push that I can actually do it.

TCP: Do you get a publisher now or have people been calling you because they want you to write for them?

MG: Not really, I mean because this is my first publication, but this will be kind of like a good thing to mention in like a pitch letter if I go to sell future short stories. But it's kind of a starting point, I don't really have a publisher because I don't have a reputation yet because I'm a new name as a writer.

TCP: How do you write? Do you have a specific routine that you do? Turn on music, on the weekends, do you set time every day?

MG: I kind of write whenever I have free time. I don't really have a schedule. Yeah, generally I'm listening to music as background noise. I don't really do a lot of plotting beforehand. Like I'll have a starting point and end point but I won't plan a whole lot in between that. So my first draft is usually page-vomit and then my second draft is much better.

TCP: Did you get some experience with an editor and someone wanting changes? Did they go through that process or do they publish as is?



Photo provided by Marilyn Guttridge

GUTTRIDGE

MG: They did a little bit. When my story took second place they sent me back a PDF with some suggested things to change and they were all improvements.

TCP: Were you happy with the feedback?

MG: Mhmm. Yeah, it was definitely good feedback.

TCP: Do you feel like maybe your writing skills and your skills in publishing have been built on since all this?

MG: Yeah definitely, especially with the workshop that we went through in talking about technique and various things in establishing setting. I remember that because setting's kind of my weak point sometimes.

TCP: What is your story about?

MG: Okay well my story is set in a city that is ruled by death, essentially. My protagonist is a woman who serves as sort of an ambassador between the world of the living and the world of the dead. And she has an intense relationship with death himself, but it sort of this - neither of them can forget that someday she'll die too, because she's mortal.

TCP: Do you do other genres of writing or do you kind of stick to sci-fi writing?

MG: Well it's sci-fi fantasy. I tend to be more in the fantasy realm and various sub genres of that. But I have done a few other things. But mostly fantasy.

TCP: What are you majoring in here at CCC?

MG: I'm kind of just moving towards a transfer degree, an Associate of Arts transfer degree, but I'm thinking of

moving on to OSU and studying forestry after that.

TCP: So have you taken classes that have contributed towards your writing interest?

MG: A little bit, not as much because I'm in Writing 121 right now.

TCP: You've had a piece of your writing published already, and you're in Writing 121 right now, so that's kind of impressive.

MG: Yeah, placement testing had me in Writing 95 and that was not a good match up at all because three weeks in I realized I really didn't want to be there.

TCP: Do you have anything else you'd like to say about this?

MG: It was a really great experience. I got to meet lots of great authors who were all very encouraging and gave great insights.

TCP: Do you have friends and family who have been excited through this with you, who are supportive?

MG: Oh yeah, my family is rather large and they've been all very excited for me.

Marilyn Guttridge's accomplishment is a reminder that CCC students can make a difference and find success. There are opportunities like this out there for anyone. All you have to do is put in a little effort and take a chance. For more information about Writers of the Future, please visit writersofthefuture.com. You are also welcome to visit theclackamasprint.com's forum page to tell us what you think about this.

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So my first draft is usually page vomit and then my second draft is much better."

Marilyn Guttridge
Author, award winner