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Georges Oates Larsen shows the waterproofing on the wires and control boards on the underwater robot.

UNDERWATER ROBOT

Clatsop Community College student basks in the technical and virtual worlds

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

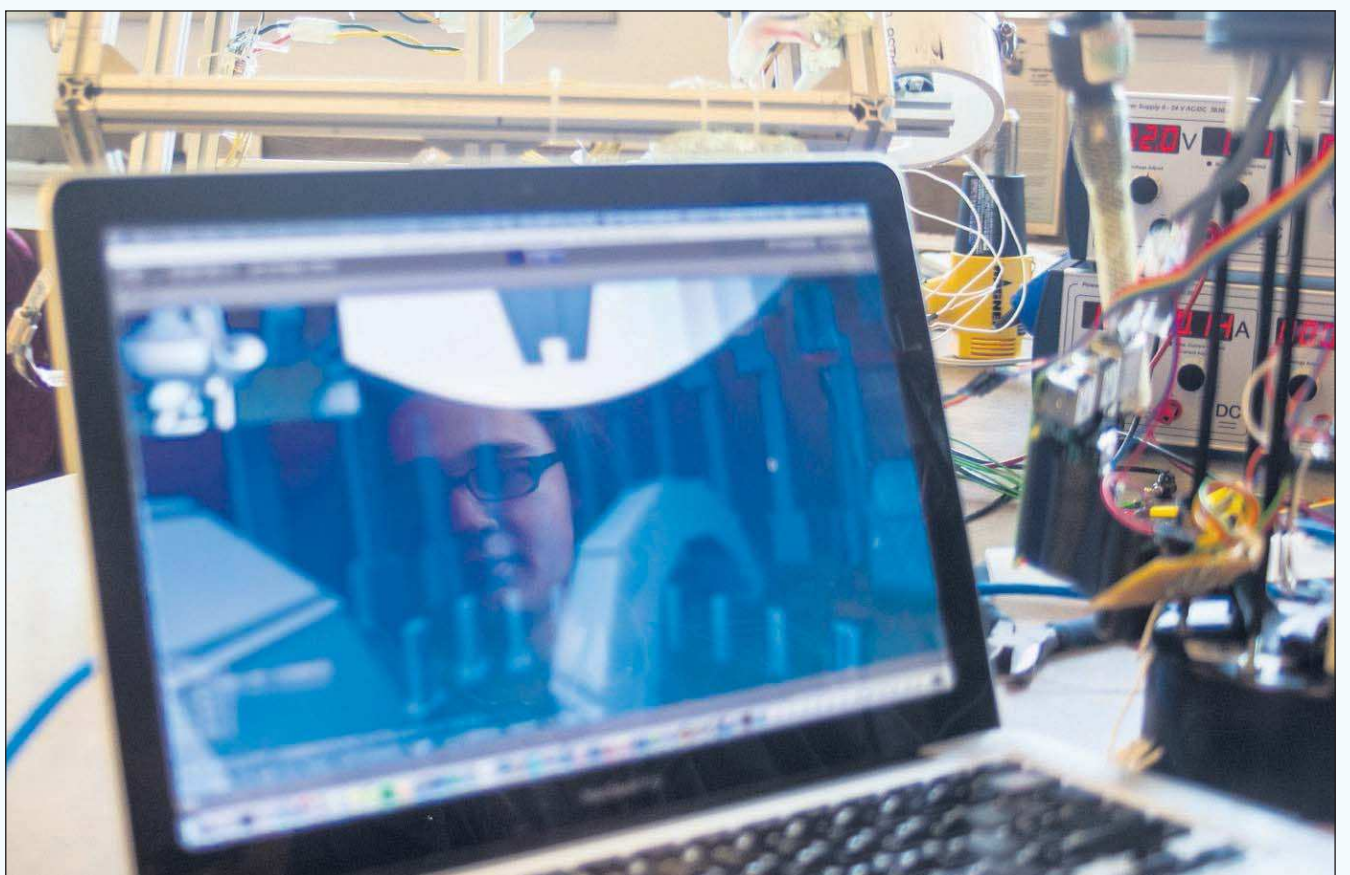
Georges Oates Larsen doesn't need a pool to test Clatsop Community College's underwater robot. He made one on his computer.

Perhaps more than any other student before him, Larsen has heavily invested himself in preparing the college's upstart robotics team for the annual Marine Advanced Technology Education underwater robotics competition, which starts later this month with regionals in North Bend.

"Video programming is how I got started," said Larsen, 19.

The aspiring mathematics professor becomes visibly giddy when talking — usually above many people's heads — of linear algebra and other advanced mathematical concepts that go into designing the robot and the virtual world of testing. "Ninety percent of what I know about electronics is from this project," he said.

Larsen, a former homeschooler who took his GED exam at the college before enrolling, is captain of the robotics team in his third and final year. Helping him are a small cadre of students drawn together



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See ROBOT, Page 3C Georges Oates Larsen demonstrates a computer simulator that he designed for the underwater robot.