

FEATURES

Travels with Gib

Alaska, Grand Canyon and beyond



Instructor Egge explores Portage Pass, Alaska in June with a field and experiential learning class.

By Melissa Pointer Features Editor

Have you ever wished you could traverse the winter wonders of Alaska, or hike the Grand Canyon? Instructor Gib Egge gives you that opportunity through the college's field and experiential learning program.

The world is your classroom as you embark on a journey to exotic regions of the country.

Alaska

One of Egge's favorite experiences is his winter trip to Alaska. Students experiencing this trip visit and snowshoe in Denali National Park, home of Mt. McKinley, the tallest mountain in North America.

After a day of snowshoeing, students relax in the natural outdoor hot springs at Chena Hot Springs. Egge and his students also witness the start of the Iditarod Sled Dog Race in Anchorage. The race celebrates the historic 1925 Serum run, when a relay of dog sled teams brought a lifesaving diphtheria antitoxin almost 700 miles across Alaska, saving the small city of Nome. Students then get to drive

their own teams of sled dogs through the boreal forests of Northern Alaska.

"Students have had the opportunity to meet mushers like Lance Mackey and Jeff King – the Michael Jordans of dog sledding," Egge said.

While in Fairbanks, students have taken advantage of the excellent location to watch the night skies for the Aurora Borealis.

"There is no darkness in the summer, so the winter Alaska trip offers the best place to check out Aurora Borealis," Egge said.

The final experience in Alaska is a visit to the Independence Mine State Historical Park, where Egge and his students explore the abandoned gold mine high above the tree line in the Talkeetna Mountains.

Grand Canyon

"Hike the Canyon" is one of the most popular adventures and has been available to students for over 10 years. Students can opt for day hikes in the Canyon, exploring a number of trails in the park and returning to one of the lodges on the South Rim in the evening. Those that are up for

a bigger adventure can opt for an overnight experience. They will backpack in the Grand Canyon to the Colorado River, camp for a night or two, and then return to the rim with the rest of the group.

"Students learn about a wide array of subjects relevant to the canyon, such as the re-introduction of the nearly extinct California condor, and the first descent of the Colorado River by John Wesley Powell, the man who literally put the Grand Canyon on the map," Egge said.

Since 1994, Egge has conducted more than 100 adventure courses to various locations of North America.

Though he has never encountered a serious injury on his adventures, he takes with him many medical credentials, including wilderness first responder and CPR training. Egge has used his training to rescue injured people that he, and his classes, has stumbled upon during wilderness adventures.

"One of the reasons I like these trips is so that people can get out and experience it all," Egge said.



Photos courtesy of Gib Egge

Students set up tents after a day of hiking in the Grand Canyon.

Field studies earns award

The field and experiential learning program was recognized this year as the organizational member of the year

high standards.

"The program is designed to teach students who prefer to learn hands on," McKellin said.

by the Association for Experiential Education. Coordinator of the program, Maren McKellin, accepted the award at the International AEE Conference in Montréal last week. The award is designed to recognize an organization that maintains outstanding programming at consistently

Each adventure class is designed to meet an elective, and sometimes a core degree requirement. Courses

require one to two classroom sessions prior to the trip, and a reflection class after. Students enrolling in a course with a trip component must be at least 18 for each trip.

"It's hard to teach canoeing in a classroom," McKellin said.

Students interested in experiencing an adventure through the college can call the field and experiential learning office at (630) 942-2356 for more information.

Career services helps job seekers brush up on skills

By Melissa Pointer Features Editor

After searching the classifieds and online job postings, you finally land an interview with a great company. You touch up your resume, put on your Sunday best and show up five minutes early to meet your potential new boss.

After taking a seat in the lobby, you notice the 20 other applicants with sweaty palms and anticipation on their

faces. They are all there for the same job opening. So how do you beat out the other applicants and get the job?

"Be prepared and never turn down an interview. The more interviews you do, the better you become at the process," said Judith McGah, career services specialist.

Student and job seeker, John Pollman, was laid off from his job last year, after working at General Mills for four years. He currently holds an associate degree in science from the

college. Pollman is a returning student that attended Tuesday's interview workshop to brush up on his interviewing skills.

"I want a job working with technology," Pollman said, "Computers come naturally to me, and I love fiddling with A/V equipment."

Pollman found the workshop to be very helpful. He appreciated the chance to learn what interviewers are, and are not, looking for.

"I find the whole job seek-

ing process to be very intimidating," Pollman said.

Career Services offers various workshops throughout the year for students who need a job, or just want a better job. Through these workshops you can learn how to make your resume stand out in the pile.

You can also learn how to maneuver a stressful interview with ease. While they won't direct you to an employer, or get you that interview, career services will help

prepare you to search for possible employment and practice for the interview.

With the Illinois unemployment rate at 10.5 percent, according to the Illinois department of employment security, the competition for job openings is fierce.

Students wishing to brush up on their interviewing skills or create a marketable resume can contact Career services at (630) 942-2230, or visit SRC 1490.



Photo by Melissa Pointer

Students and staff honor veterans during Wednesday's Veteran's Day read-in.

Honoring America's heroes

By Melissa Pointer
Features Editor

In honor of America's military veterans, the college's Veteran Association held a read-in from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday. Students and faculty were invited to read military literature and share memories of their service in the armed forces, or that of their family and friends. Professor of English, Franz Burnier, spent weeks coordinating the event and signing up speakers to honor the more than 700 veterans attending the college. Burnier is a retired Army officer of 22 years.

"The read-in started two years ago as an educational way to honor Veteran's Day," Burnier said. "Previously COD had recognized Veteran's Day as the Federal holiday it is intended to be."

The nearly 100 people in attendance listened intently as 22 speakers gave personal accounts of war, shared stories of veterans they knew, or read poems and stories. With his voice cracking, student and Army veteran, Bobby Kaye told of the heroic efforts of his best friend, Staff Sgt. Rob

Miller, during combat operations near the Pakistan border in Afghanistan. Staff Sgt Miller was killed by insurgents while helping his fellow soldiers to safety. For his selfless efforts he will be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

"Robby was a great friend, and a hero to this country," Kaye said.

Nancy Svoboda, college Trustee, stood before those in attendance as a proud mother to a new Marine. Her son, John Svoboda, graduated from boot camp last month. As his final test of strength, and a boot camp graduation requirement, he completed what is known as the Crucible.

The Crucible is a 54-hour event featuring little sleep, little food, over 40 miles of marches, and 32 stations that test physical toughness and mental agility. To honor her son's accomplishment, Svoboda read a poem titled "Did You Know," by Janet Butterworth-Caldwell.

"My boy is a man, he is a Marine, but he will always be my baby," Svoboda said as she held up a baby photo of her son next to his Marine graduation photo.

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 College of DuPage

"I transferred for the chance to study architecture in Crown Hall. And now that I'm in classes I can see how well-choreographed the program is. The principles I'm learning in one class, I'm already putting to use in another. It's all interconnected and immediately relevant to what I want to do."

— Gary Dobbs (transferred to College of Architecture)

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For Your Information

Smart Online Searcher Workshops

The Library is offering free "Smart Online Searcher" workshops this fall for students, staff and community members. The workshops are designed to give participants an overview of topics to help with research, social network tools and library resources. Registration is required. Sessions and workshops meet in the Library, located on the second floor of the SRC. For more information, call the Library at (630) 942-3364.

Social Software: Blogs, Wikis and More: Monday, Nov. 16, 3:30-5:30 p.m. This workshop is an introduction to various online tools and includes discussion of blogs, wikis, podcasts and

RSS feeds.

Money Management Resources @ Your Library: Wednesday, Nov. 18, 1-2:30 p.m. Participants will learn the best resources for saving, investing and managing money, including free, unbiased financial Web sites.

Student Success Workshop

Test Taking Strategies: Tuesday, Nov. 17, 12:30-1:30 p.m. in SRC 1450A. Are you looking for ways to reduce test-taking anxiety? If so, this workshop is for you. During the workshop you will learn how to prepare for and take tests, while minimizing stress during test taking. Call (630) 942-2259 for more information. Presenter: Dr. Dennis Emano, counselor.

Career Exploration Workshop

The Counseling and Advising Center, Career Services Center and Library will sponsor a free career exploration workshop for recently unemployed adults at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17, in SRC 2650.

The workshop is designed to help job seekers explore career and transition options and includes presentations on finding a job, and resources available at the college library. Registration is required. For more information, call Janeen Paul at (630) 942-2231 or e-mail: paulja@cod.edu.

Study Abroad Fair

Study Abroad at College of DuPage opens doors to diverse cultures and

new ways of seeing the world. Find out about COD's Study Abroad programs on Wednesday, Nov. 18, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the SRC walkway outside of the Library. Study abroad programs offer a variety of course formats and lengths of travel: semester, summer, a few weeks or even a few days. Scholarships are available.

Health Sciences Advising Sessions

The following free sessions at COD provide information on job outlooks, educational requirements and career descriptions for health career programs. All sessions take place at the main campus unless otherwise specified. For more information and to reserve a place at an upcoming session, call (630) 942-2380, or visit: www.cod.edu/hsadmissions.

Medical Assistant – Wednesday, Nov. 18, 10 a.m., HS 1135

Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) – Thursday, Nov. 19, 9 a.m. and Thursday, Nov. 19, 6 p.m., HS 1234

Diagnostic Medical Imaging - Nuclear Medicine (DMIN) – Monday, Nov. 30, 7 p.m., HS 1139

Adult Learner FYI Sessions

FYI Sessions are geared toward adult learners 24 years and older who would like to change or enhance their careers by earning advanced certificates or additional degrees. Each session is created for specific programs of interest and covers the admission process. Space is limited and seats need to be reserved in advance by calling Angela Nackovic at (630) 942-2398. FYI sessions are from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in SRC 2052.

Nov. 18: Computer and Internet-working Technologies

Toys for Tots Collection

For the seventh consecutive year, COD will serve as a drop-off site for the annual Toys for Tots collection organized by the United States Marine Corp. The drive will run from Nov. 23 to Dec. 11, with all donations benefiting needy children in DuPage County.

Gifts are needed for young children as well as teenagers. The Toys for Tots organization has requested that donations include new, unwrapped toys (no stuffed animals or used toys). Over the years, the college has become one of the largest collection sites in DuPage County.

Collection barrels will be placed throughout the college and its regional centers. For more information, contact Pat Hild at hildpat@cod.edu or Lynne Grezek at grezek@cod.edu. In addition, a complete list of Toys for Tots drop-off locations in DuPage County is available at: <http://toysfortotsdupagecounty.org/index.php?id=8>.

Food for Thought Series

COD Counseling Services offers a number of free workshops on time management, goal setting and test-taking strategies. Workshops are held in SRC 1450A and are open to all students and community members. For more information call Counseling Services at (630) 942-2259 or visit: www.cod.edu/advising/counseling.htm.

Tuesday, Dec. 1, 12:30-1:30 p.m. and Wednesday, Dec. 2, 6-7 p.m.: "Using Visualization Imagery for Goal Attainment and Stress Reduction" participants will study visualization and guided imagery and will complete a guided imagery exercise.

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Cold brings repairs and precautions

To prepare drivers for the cold and winter, Automotive Service Technology professor Mike Foss has given some tips to make sure your car lasts the season.

Tire Pressure



Rubber is less elastic in the cold, causing blown tires. Also, tires five years or older start to show air leaks.

If your tire has a flattened look, check the pressure with a tire gauge. Fill it with compressed air at a gas station if it's low.

Oil & Fluids

Without enough fluids, stressed cars can get damaged in colder weather.

Open the hood of your car and locate the oil dipstick. Take the dipstick out and wipe it off. Put it back and take it out again. If the oil stain on the dipstick is less than the line indicating full, add a small amount of oil. If it is at full or in between a range, then the oil is fine.



Lights

The winter also brings a shorter day and less daylight. Making sure all your lights work is a safety measure that benefits everyone on the road.

Ask a friend to stand outside your car and check the lights while you test them. If any light is blown out, repair it at an auto shop.



Fluid Leakages

It's not uncommon for a car to have a small leakage of car fluid. Leakages cost money and decrease the performance of the vehicle.

Check the color of the fluid by dabbing with a wet paper towel if you notice a leak. Colors indicate different fluids. Relaying this information to technicians makes inspection of the car faster and could save you money.



Auto program puts students in driver's seat

By Vikaas Shanker
Correspondent

The college's Automotive Service Technology program is designed to help students obtain an ASA certificate that allows them to become entry-level technicians upon graduation.

In the past, the auto department had to work with restricting space in the basement of the BIC. Now the lab is located in the newly built TEC.

Advisor and Professor Mike Foss explained that over the years, the department has been getting more faculty, staff, and donated cars for students to work on. "We've seen everything from a Chevy to a Mercedes. But we work more on [the common brands] since expensive cars usually have more specialized parts. One student even brought in a two-ton dump truck," Foss said.

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