

Universities offer tours for transfers

Michael Cooper
The Clackamas Print

In an attempt to get Clackamas students onto campuses they plan to attend after transferring, the Counseling and Advising department has set up a new program called Transfer Tours.

This term's "tour" is to the Portland State University campus on Feb. 24, the day that Clackamas is closed due to the Skills Contest.

"Next term there's talk of going to either OSU or U of O," said Jennifer Lininger, academic advisor. She hopes to keep the tours going, and to visit different universities each term.

"It's a neat opportunity for those students who say that 'oh, well, I'm going to go to Portland State' but have never been there, to go and actually experience what a day at Portland State would be like," said Lininger.

Lininger cited the chance for students to "make connections with the people that they've selected." Her plan for this to become a reality is to have Clackamas students meet with PSU students with similar majors, as well as pertinent department chairs and assistants. The tour will include the full campus, including housing. She hopes that this connection will not only let transfer students meet each other as a base for potential friends and roommates, but also let Clackamas students befriend current PSU enrollees for a comfort base when the student does transfer.

The idea for the Transfer Tours was brought by Lininger from a community college in California where they practiced this to a much greater extent. Their tours would extend for many days and reach many different universities, Lininger said. The counseling and advising department opted for a smaller version of the event after hearing Lininger's suggestion.

In order to sign up for the Feb. 24 tour to PSU, simply drop by the counseling and advising offices located in the Community Center. The receptionist at the front will give out a questionnaire to help students communicate beforehand what departments at PSU they will be interested in. The cost for the tour, including lunch, is \$2. Signing up is on a first-come, first-serve basis, and there are only 28 spots available. Students are also asked to bring an unofficial transcript, available from the registrar's office in Rook Hall.

"[Students are] going to be sitting down with academic advisors [at PSU]," said Lininger. "You're going to have evaluations done of your transcripts to tell you exactly what you have left [to do]."

Lininger feels that the tours will enable students to not only get their academic matters squared away, but also to give them an opportunity to adapt to the physical environment of the school to which they wish to transfer.

"I feel that it's very important for students to visit the campus they want to attend and get a sense of what it's really like on [that] campus, because it may not be what they're looking for," said Lininger. "They may think it's a small, private college, and it ends up being this huge campus full of life that they're not used to. So, I feel it's really important for students to visit many different kinds of schools and figure out exactly where they feel like their campus home is."



Guest speakers at the English department's "Meet n' Greet" last week are introduced to a standing-room-only crowd in Rook Hall's Literary Arts Center. The guests (from left) were Perrin Kerns from Marylhurst University, Michelle Kendrick from Washington State University's Vancouver Campus, and Kate Sage, Sydney Thompson and Cyndee Mady of Portland State University.

Jeff Sorenson Clackamas Print

Students get glimpse into future

Jeff Sorenson
The Clackamas Print

Students' opportunities and expectations were the topic last Wednesday at Rook Hall's Literary Arts Center, where guest speakers presented options for both students looking to fulfill an English requirement and those

looking to get their degree.

The "Meet n' Greet" in the LAC last week featured presentations from Perrin Kerns of Marylhurst University, Michelle Kendrick of Washington State in Vancouver, and Kate Sage, Sydney Thompson, and Cyndee Mady of PSU's Writing Center.

After introductions were made, Perrin Kerns from Marylhurst spoke

first, promoting the English department as well as the relatively small student body and exclusive attention from advisors and administrators that Marylhurst has to offer.

"Clackamas is actually fairly intimate," said Kerns of the small class sizes available on both campuses. "A lot of the same things that people like at Clackamas they find at Marylhurst."

Kerns' presentation was followed by Kendrick, who presented on behalf of the Digital Technology and Culture degree program, which focuses on writing, technology and creativity in the media.

"I would argue that technology has always been a part of writing," said Kendrick

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Target: Meth

The fourth in a series focusing on local meth use

Law enforcement meets epidemic head-on

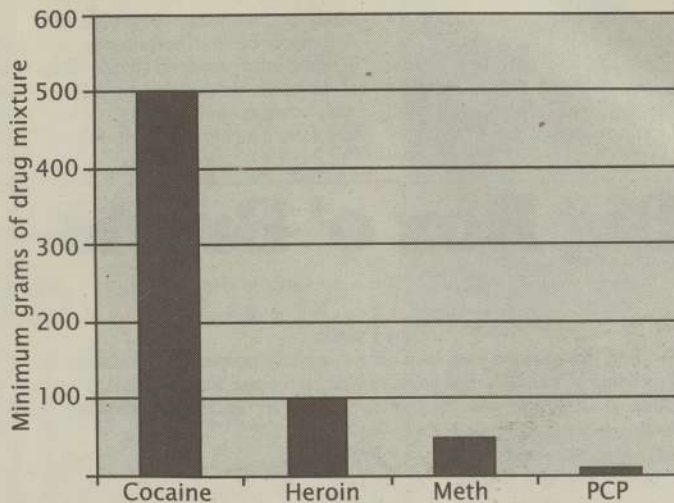
Ben Maras
News Editor

The meth epidemic in Clackamas County has caused a particularly difficult problem for law enforcement, one which the Clackamas County Sheriff's Department has been forced to deal with on a daily basis.

"It's responsible for the majority of all crimes we deal with," Clackamas County Sheriff's Deputy Joel Manly says. "Meth is an extremely addictive drug; it drives people to do things they normally would not do. They'll steal, shoplift, or rob people in order to get it."

Just weeks ago, a 10-year-old girl in Indiana named Katlyn "Katie" Collman was murdered so that she would not reveal information on a meth lab in her neighborhood that she had accidentally discovered.

Because of the dangers and difficulties, penalties for meth are very harsh, even on the national level. Meth trafficking, for example, carries a penalty of five



The graph (left) shows the minimum amounts of possession needed to charge someone with drug trafficking. A first-offense penalty would consist of no less than five years and no more than 40 years in prison. If death or serious injury occurred, an individual would be charged with no less than 20 years and no more than life in prison.

Illustration by Michael Cooper Clackamas Print

"[Meth is] responsible for the majority of all crimes we deal with ... It drives people to do things they normally would not do."

Joel Manly
Clackamas County Sheriff Deputy

to 40 years incarceration for the first offense, even with as little as five grams of pure meth, or 50 grams of a mixed, and less pure, substance. If death or serious injury occurs, the penalty ranges from 20 years to life in imprisonment. An individual can also be fined up to \$2 million if convicted of meth trafficking.

This stands as a contrast to other drug penalties. Heroin, for example, requires 100 grams of mixture -- twice as much -- for the same penalty. Cocaine requires 500 grams. During a second offense, the minimum penalty is 20 years, and life imprisonment being a possibility, even if no serious injury or death is involved.

In addition, meth labs pose a particular threat to the community due to the toxicity of the chemicals used. This threat is even worse for law enforcement officials who are involved in meth lab busts, because they are more directly exposed to the chemicals and the environment.

"If you run into a meth lab, it's extremely toxic and volatile, so it could explode," Manley said. "It also exposes the deputies to the chemicals, so once we see a meth lab, we get out the [Hazardous Materials] team." Manly has experienced meth busts firsthand in his work as a sheriff's

deputy.

Despite new laws in Oregon governing sales of meth ingredients and minimum sentences, officials admit there is a long way to go to solving the problem. One hope is the "Combat Meth Act," a piece of legislation supported bipartisanship by Oregon Senators Ron Wyden (D) and Gordon Smith (R). The bill would increase funding for the fighting of meth and research into its treatment, as well as more direct action to limit its production.

"Meth is a horrifying and corrosive presence in Oregon communities," Senator Gordon Smith said at the legislation's unveiling. "This bill sends desperately needed resources for law enforcement and treatment -- the most critical fronts in the war against meth."