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Forum fills with memories



Jaime Dunkle Clackamas Print

Students and family gather in the Gregory Forum Feb. 13 to remember anatomy and physiology instructor, Ritch Espino. Espino passed away on Jan. 28.

By Jaime Dunkle
The Clackamas Print

People from all over the country joined to honor memories of the late Ritch Espino in the Gregory Forum Feb. 13.

General speakers reminisced about their fond times with Espino. All 385 seats in the house were full; people were standing against the back wall and in the halls. A live stream of the memorial was broadcasted to the McLoughlin auditorium.

The tragic loss of Espino happened on Tuesday, Jan. 28. Espino's customized cherry red Kawasaki motorcycle was on the kickstand, outside of the building. The "Stand Deliver" movie poster from his office was presented next to the entrance. His pressed vinyl records framed behind glass were a homage to his musical accomplishments, next to the collage of photographs from throughout the years were displayed.

LaForce, adviser and instructor for Water and Environmental Technology, stood in front of the collage and spoke about his dearly missed colleague and friend. Espino's office was a few doors down from his.

"There was no pretentiousness. That guy was solid. If you needed something, he would always be there," LaForce said. "Students were always seeking guidance from Espino. No other faculty were available, students were especially drawn to him. They even lined up at his door, according to LaForce."

LaForce said that everyone in science knew and liked

Espino. He was always walking around barefoot, and he often wore a t-shirt that read "Carne Asada Diet."

"A bunch of folks were able to see him on Thursday during the day," LaForce said. "Everything was great, well, obviously it wasn't, but you sit there and think it was – that's the shocker of it all."

One of LaForce's fondest memories of Espino was when he came back to the office one day with a giant coffee from home. When LaForce asked him about it, Espino said that he didn't want to waste his money at "Fourbucks" anymore because everything at Starbucks costs four bucks.

Others also recalled Espino's sense of humor. Steven Garcia, the husband of Espino's niece Adrienne Garcia, said that Espino was always telling jokes to make people feel comfortable.

"He always accepted you for who you are. It didn't matter," Garcia said. "He always wanted you to be real, so that was always cool."

The Garcias live in Orange County, Calif. with their daughter. Espino went to visit them about three months ago, according to Garcia.

"I would've never guessed that," Garcia said. "He was separated and everything was going south, you know. Maybe he just couldn't handle that anymore and took himself."

Jim Bass only met Espino one time at the Assembly of God Church in Anaheim, Calif. Even though that was 25 years ago, Bass drove from Vancouver, Wash. to show his support.

"He was very friendly and always had an affinity for coming up to strangers," Bass said.

Former student Charles Abrahm flew in all the way from

Michigan to attend.

Paul Creighton, an adviser and recent student of Espino, and Kit Taylor, opened the memorial performing a song. Creighton sang as Taylor played keyboard.

During the memorial, friends and family spoke about their memorable experiences with Espino and the lifelong impact he made on their lives. Among the speakers were Tom Getten, Ted Haddack, Barry Kop (life science instructor), John Lewis (department chair of engineering sciences), Naomi Sether (secretary of science), Steven Gomez (nephew), Norma Cruz (niece) and Ritchie Espino, Jr. (son).

Sether, one of the speakers, also organized the memorial. She said that Espino was her best friend. She talked to him two hours before his untimely passing.

"He loved every person he met," Sether said. "He always saw the good in people."

On the stage there was a projection of Espino smiling. On one side of the screen there was a podium for the speakers, on the other side stood Espino's acoustic guitar.

At one point there was a slideshow of photographs projected on the screen. The doors were blocked by mourning viewers.

"I think the school should know what a loss is felt here," former student Hans Detter said.

Espino was not just a teacher to Detter; he was a friend and a mentor. Detter said that Espino had helped him become a tutor for his anatomy and physiology students. He said Espino appeared to be doing well the last time he saw him.

"It was a shock," Detter said. "He gave me a stellar recommendation for a job, and I didn't get to tell him I got it."

Bill and Dave Show reimagines conventional art as we know it

By Annemarie Schulte
Arts & Culture Editor

Bill and Dave, a fish tank, a fridge and mounted deer head are not things you would normally find in Clackamas Community College's Alexander Art Gallery. Bill Carman and Dave Andersen, however, have made them

Carman, who teaches illustration and painting at Boise State University, and Andersen, an instructor at Clackamas, stayed in the Alexander Art

Gallery for the past week in an art exhibit aptly named "The Bill and Dave Show."

"It's like a live game show," said Andersen, and from the corner Carman said, "Come on down!"

Carman and Andersen met in grad school at Boise State University and have been friends ever since, going on fishing trips together for years. The Bill and Dave Show is a brain child of one of those fishing trips which became reality after a few months of planning. Andersen and Carman wanted to do something that "wasn't typi-

cal" and could get students involved more.

Carman has his work in galleries in Los Angeles, New York and even England but always prefers to "do things locally." And as Andersen puts it is so talented that that it's wonder they were able to "snag him for a week" to do the show.

When asked about their activities in the gallery, Carman said they did in fact sleep at night and "paint all day, which is really fun for me."

Students came in and talked or worked on work every now and then;

one of those students was Kevin Wright who is in Andersen's gallery management class currently. Music played freely, and the whole atmosphere was both original and stimulating.

Andersen walked in and immediately put on his red robe before settling down in a sofa chair and setting a hat that resembles that of Shriners' members' on his head, kicking his feet up on the coffee table. He seemed, for a lack of words, at home.

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