



Isaac Soper The Clackamas Print

Sunny Olsen, lead advising specialist, sits down with Ruslan Potapchuk, Clackamas Community College student, in the counseling department to discuss his career goals. Olsen remains in the department after many advisers left CCC during summer term.

Voids appear in counseling department

By Isaac Soper

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Over the past few years, Clackamas Community College has lost some of its fondest advisers and counselors. Those who have left include Paul Creighton, Jessica Walter, Miguel Cardenas, Ellen Wolfson and Jean DeVenney. Still, with so many members of the staff leaving, the college is left with a deep void in both the advising and counseling departments.

"Several people retired, others went to better jobs and some went on to pursue education. They are pursuing something different; they were not fired," said Sunny Olsen, the lead advising specialist at CCC.

Department Chair of Advising and Counseling, Guadalupe Martinez said, "The reason they left the college is for professional advancement. Walter moved onto OHSU. Cardenas is now at PCC Rock Creek and he is in the advising office there. Creighton entered the nursing program at University of Portland and he has been a part of his band for quite a while. We [also] had a couple of retirements from the faculty ranks."

Creighton, lead vocalist for the Portland-based band "Intervision," who also studied music at the campus, worked as an advising specialist at the campus for many years and now is studying nursing at the University of Portland, all the while continuing the pursuit of his musical career. Creighton is currently performing across the country with his band.

"[I am] in New Orleans all this week and Colorado all next week on tour. I won't be back [in Oregon] until after Halloween," said Creighton. Walter, who was employed as the lead academic advisor and a part-time psychology teacher, worked at CCC for a little over five years.

According to Walter, her fondest memory of working at CCC was co-developing the Peer Assistant program.

"I think that this program was a creative

response to a campus need. It provides leadership experience for students and in turn these students provide an amazing amount of service and information to their peers. I was surprised at how natural the program became woven into the fabric of student life," said Walter.

When asked about her current job at Oregon Health & Sciences University, she said that "I'm located in the School of Medicine, within their Division of Management. My title is Associate Director of Student & Faculty Support."

As for Wolfson and DeVenney, Martinez said that "We had two retirements, both academic advisers, and those two individuals had been at Clackamas for 12 plus years: Ellen Wolfson and Jean DeVenney. Jean is currently continuing to do some part-time instruction for us ... Ellen Wolfson is retired."

According to counselor Casey Sims, "There's been a new model that's been rolled out where there's three different major divisions at the college now [and] there's a counselor assigned to each division. So my new office is in Barlow and it used to be in the Community Center with the other counselors. So, certainly there's a change [and] in some ways it's a big change. I've been working in the same building for eight years until now but I wouldn't be a very good counselor if I couldn't take my own advice. I'm reminding myself to stay grateful and embrace the change."

When asked if there was a plan to hire new members for either the counseling of advising department, Administrative Coordinator Dena Gillenwater stated that, "We do have new part-time counselors that have come on board."

Although CCC has lost a handful of its finest advisers and counselors, members of the department are making strides to, as said by Sims, "Make sure nobody falls through the cracks and that students are well served. I feel comfortable saying that student service levels are high. I feel really positive about the work we get to do here."

Corrections

Mark Medgin was incorrectly tagged as Jorge Gil-Juarez on a photo on page 5 of Issue 2. Medgin finished second on the team and third overall. Teresa Lawson's name was also misspelled in a photo caption on the same page.

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