

Campus offers safe haven for minority students

Maudeline Agenor
The Clackamas Print

There is an ebb and flow to everything, including the function of running a college, which entails many details and participation that keeps it going.

For students from an ethnic background, the process of adjusting to a different culture and environment may be a bit of a challenge in a place of majorities. Students who may be adjusting to such an environment can seek advice and support from a group created and supported by professors such as Guadalupe Martinez, Becky Torres, Klaudia Esquivel, Chippi Bello and Tory Blackwell, who are members of The People of Color Group. They are available to help students.

Blackwell, an African-American biology instructor at Clackamas Community College,

shared some information about the group and his experience as a member within the group with The Clackamas Print.

What exactly is Collaborative Learning Center?

Blackwell: Its main focus is giving faculty the opportunity to get professional development either on campus or through the college. They organize a lot of training and in-service related things – being more aware of what students have going on... and relate to the students better.

What is The People of Color Group within CLC?

Blackwell: We've made an effort this year to get it re-established and invite both the faculty and other employees of color on campus to attend those meetings basically to get to know each other and discuss things that are going on that might be specific to minority groups. We have monthly meetings. There are about 15 people in the group.

The meetings are kind of open door...whenever you have the time to visit and chat.

How can this group help students?

Blackwell: How we present ourselves to the students on campus – there's kind of two ways we can approach it. I'm going to make myself visible but not push myself on students. I'm going to go out there and talk to students, and if a student says "Do you mind talking about some issues, relating to them being a minority?" I make myself available for students to come talk to me. But I'm not going to push myself out there ... I wander around campus. I go to the gym. I'm making myself visible. I never shut my blinds. I have a corner office facing Roger Rook so if anyone walks past I'm here.

Are there any concerns in particular that minority students have?

Blackwell: I'm new and peo-

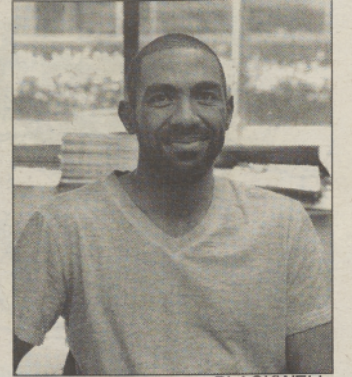
ple are still finding me. I've had conversations with a few minority students to let them know that I'm out there. The most fun for me was going to graduation last year and I actually had families in the crowd who were minorities waving, saying hi. I could see that there were families there that could identify with me—let them to know that yes there are African-Americans that have these advance degrees and [their] kid can go on and get these advance degrees.

How can students reach out to you and other faculties of CLC?

Blackwell: We will not eat you! Everyone on campus, especially the faculty and staff that are minorities are in there for you, no matter what their position is. They are there to talk to you...about whatever. So if it's a class, life, career goals, we will gladly talk to you. First and foremost our job is to make sure that

the students are doing well...our door is always open. No student should ever feel like they can't come talk to one of us. We'll find time...never be afraid to talk to one of us.

For more information and contact other CLC faculty, students can contact Tory Blackwell via email: toryb@clackamas.edu



BLACKWELL

Campus Police Log

Monday, Feb. 17 - Sunday, Feb. 23

Date	Time	Incident
2/17	7:00 a.m.	Smell of Gas in Barlow-Fire Department/Gas company responded—Boiler issue/resolved
	8:10 a.m.	Found ring on floor of bookstore—turned into ASG
2/18	11:00 a.m.	Lost and Found Camera
	1:50 p.m.	Stalled vehicle-213 entrance-tow called
	5:23 p.m.	Vehicle Assist-dead battery-Orchard Lot
2/19	9:12 a.m.	Parking complaint-Randall-gone upon arrival
	11:40 a.m.	Staff called in smoking complaint-Gregory Forum-students went to proper shelter-warnings
	1:10 p.m.	Vehicle Assist-Visitor Lot-dead battery
	2:25 p.m.	Vehicle Assist—McLoughling lot-dead battery
	5:03 p.m.	False Alarm-Staff tripped-PGE Offices-Wilsonville
	9:00 p.m.	Extra Patrol-Basketball game-Randall Hall
2/20	7:50 a.m.	Smoker by Barlow Quad—student went to proper shelter-warning
	3:26 p.m.	Smoke from lathes—Machine shop—aired out area
2/21	10:43 a.m.	911 Hang-up-misdial
	12:52 p.m.	Found property—Rook—turned into ASG
	2:52 p.m.	Property owner identified and property returned
	3:42 p.m.	Parking violation-handicap parking-Barlow lot
2/22	7:30 a.m.	Escorted student to classroom
2/23	12:20 p.m.	Barlow doors unsecure-building checked—all secure
	12:29 p.m.	Suspicious Vehicle-unable to locate

SOURCE: Suzy Isham, Campus Safety

MARYLHURST STUDENT BODY: 90% TRANSFER STUDENTS.

With determination and disregard for obstacles, each of them is finishing a four-year degree while transforming their lives in the process. If this sounds appealing, we have one thing to say: Welcome.

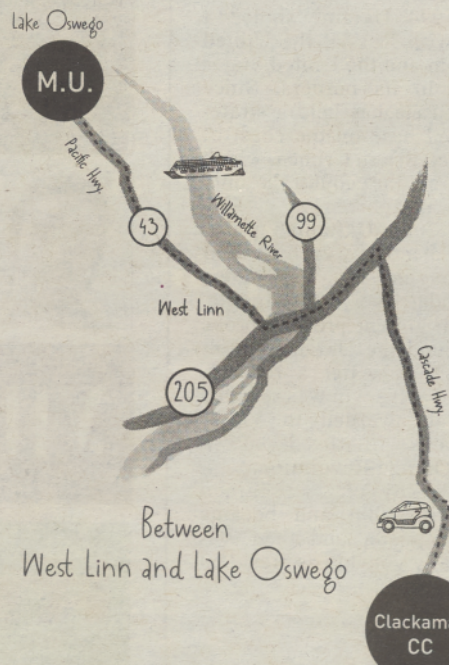
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