Students Spend a Day with Side by Side

Four groups of about 25 students from Cottage Grove’s Al Kennedy High School traveled over twenty miles to the University of Oregon campus each Wednesday during October and November to spend the day seeing campus and participating in activities with the PEP’s Side by Side program. Side-by-Side is a program led by PEP alumni that conducts workshops, campus tours, and community building activities with youth deemed “at-risk.” This term, working with Al Kennedy students has been Side by Side’s main focus.

Each Al Kennedy visit started out with a couple ice breakers, including a beach ball game where students get to answer questions like “what is your favorite junk food?” and “what is your favorite way to jump into a pool?” Next, students had the chance to engage with different spaces and resources on campus. On the first visit, students had the chance to tour the Multicultural Center within the Lrb Memorial Union and participate in a question and answer session about campus life. Students on the second and third visit had the chance to see a chemistry demo with EMU Craft Center.

Original artwork donated to Side by Side

Students from Al Kennedy High School ink plates for a printmaking demo with EMU Craft Center.

Upcoming Events

OSCI Book Discussion
The PEP is holding a bilingual book discussion of of The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros at Oregon State Correctional Institution on February 7. Books are available in Spanish and English, and we will be used to launch conversations on language, identity, coming of age and societal interaction.

Coffee Creek Writing Workshops
The PEP is launching its first programing at Oregon’s only women’s facility with a two-part writing workshop. The second workshop will be held February 7.

Coffee Creek Public Speaking Workshop
The PEP will be hosting a public speaking workshop at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville on February 21.

Dollars and Discovery Group
Discovery Group recently played a game of trivia in the Serbu Youth Detention Center surrounding these facts about themselves - money - join in!
- A penny costs more than one cent to manufacture
- Printing new money uses 9.7 ton of ink
- There is more Monopoly money printed every year than actual cash
- It costs 11.18 cents to make a nickel and only 5.65 cents to make a dime
- The first paper money was printed in 1862

T-Shirt Fundraiser to Create Scholarship
As part of an effort to improve access to higher education in the three Oregon prisons where it offers classes and workshops, the Prison Education Program is beginning a scholarship fund to assist inside students with the costs associated with college classes. The scholarship fund will support both continuing and new inside students who face financial barriers to participating in PEP programing. To begin the scholarship fund, PEP interns will be selling t-shirts featuring the Prison Education Program logo. Shirts are available for $15 with an option for an added donation - and can be purchased using either cash or check.

See Side by Side, Page 2

Students Explore Steinbeck’s Cannery Row

On September 21, the Prison Education Program held it’s first book discussion at Oregon State Correctional Institution in Salem. Around 25 inside students read John Steinbeck’s Cannery Row before coming together for a discussion with outside participants.

Participants discussed many things about Cannery Row, including the way Steinbeck seemed to draw on his own life experiences when interweaving the stories of a variety of characters into a world of economic stagnation. This work touched on some of the darker parts of the human experience, including suicides, brothels, racism, and the plight of the uneducated and poor in Monterey, California during the first half of the 20th century. See Cannery Row, 2

Improving Public Speaking with the OSP Latino Club

Lara Boyero, an instructor in the Department of Romance Languages, facilitated an improv- and comedy-centered communication workshop with the Latino Club at Oregon State Penitentiary on Oct. 17. The following is her reflection on the experience in Spanish.

POR LARA BOYERO / INSTRUCTOR

Cuando me propusieron ir a dar un taller a la cárcel de Salem a 90 recusados latinoamericanos mi respuesta fue inmediata y rotunda: SÍ. De la propuesta que me quedé con tres palabras: Salem, tallar, latinoamericanos. El resto era algo superficial, complementos que para mí no adquirían importancia. Y es que, des de que crucé el charco desde mi amada España y aterricé en los Estados Unidos de lo que más he estado rodeada ha sido de ellos, de latinoamericanos. Jamás he preguntado por documentos. Ni por estado legal. Tampoco de expediente vital. Simplemente me he dejado llevar y he disfrutado al estar con personas que son afines a mi cultura y que han conseguido siempre hacerme reír. Cruzar las docenas de puertas de la prisión de Salem fue toda una aventura que, siendo sinceras, me impresionó un poquito; pero cuando llegué a la última, esa que me llevó a una gran sala y en donde pude conocer a Santiago y a Juan, me hizo acogido. Probablemente haya alguien que se lleve las manos a la cabeza y ve

Ver Latino Club, Página 2

See Side by Side, Page 2

Inside and outside participants discuss John Steinbeck’s Cannery Row at OSCI.

Get Involved!
Join Side by Side & Discovery Group!
Meetings held weekly.
Email insideout@uoregon.edu for more information!

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Cannery Row: OSCI Discussion
Continued from Page 1

of the twentieth century. While many of these sto-
ries were sad, it became clear during our discus-
sion that these were “real” people and while some
of them may have been drunks or prostitutes, this
book was filled with people that made up a commu-
nity that cared about and took care of one another.
One quote reveals the choice a charac-
ter, Mac, had to make after his actions harmed
his friend, Doc, and prompted his rejection.
“There are two possible reactions to social
ostracism - either a man emerges determined to
be better, purer, kindlier or he goes bad, challenges the
world and does even worse things. This last is by far
the commonest reaction to stigma” (Steinbeck, 132).
While the second may be “the commonest reaction,”
Mac makes the effort to become better, purer, and
kindlier in his own way, instead of going “bad.” In doing
so, he throws a wild party for the person he has wronged
and the book - like our book discussion ends on a posi-
tive note, but not a final one.

Latino Club: Improv Workshop
Continuado de la Página 1

pregunte: ¿cómo estar dentro de una cárcel rodea-
da de 90 presos es estar en casa? La respuesta es fá-
cil: humanidad, amabilidad, entrega y sonrisas.
Lo que realmente vi fue a personas serviciales que me ofrecieron juego, pastas y que me escuchaban como si fuera la persona más increíble y famosa de la tierra. Per-
sonas llenas de curiosidades sobre mi país, sobre mi de-
cisión de vivir a tantos kilómetros de casa, sobre si le voy al Barcelona o al Madrid, sobre si me he sentido discrim-
inada por hablar español acá, sobre mis investigaciones, sobre si España es tan bonita como Latinoamérica, sobre mi trabajo de profesora de español como segunda lengua.
Yo traté con personas que aceptaron mi pequeña locu-
ra, dejaron atrás la vergüenza y jugaron como niños a ser
actores por unas horas. Nos reímos. Nos reímos mucho.
Reímos hasta saltársenos las lágrimas. Todos juntos.
Tenía que dar un taller de teatro de una hora y me-
da y terminó siendo de dos horas y media porque estu-
ábamos a gusto, estábamos olvidando todo lo que hay dentro y fuera, todos los problemas. Era difícil contaros todo lo que sentí aquella tarde, pero fui muy feliz. En mi mente se suponía que yo tenía que
animarlos, pero fueron ellos los que consiguieron hacermel...

Side by Side: Four Groups of
Students visit UO Campus
Continued from Page 1

demonstration where a balloon burst into flames and
dry ice cracked on the table. The fourth group got to
their excursions at the UO’s Jordan Schnitzer Muse-
num of Art and partake in an interactive art project.
Each group also received a tour of campus by PEP
alumni which touched on a brief history of the univer-
sity as well as an explanation of the many aca-
demic departments, student organizations, and
tramural and competitive sports that are on campus.
Every visit ended with a short debrief and question
and answer session with the Side by Side members about
college life. Side by Side will collaborate again with
AI Kennedy in winter term to facilitate activities and
workshops on the school’s campus in Cottage Grove.