

Students "begin their education in a smaller setting,  
and a safe, diverse community at a school with really good programs."

Susan Taylor, coordinator of Clark's international program

# Global festivities featured at Clark

## Events highlight the region's growing international flavor

By HOWARD BUCK  
*Columbian staff writer*

Clark County's growing international flavor has rubbed off on Clark College.

Now, it's time to celebrate.

Starting today, the school will mark its nationally recognized International Education Week with music and dance, a film, two guest speakers and food.

Presentations on suffering in Sudan's Darfur region to Latin American-themed music and its homage to the dead are some of the scheduled talks.

The public is welcome to all events, free of charge save for the climactic dinner on Monday, where dinner guests will sample locally prepared Asian and Latino food.

Local oral historian and instructor

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Will Hornyak will be the dinner's keynote speaker.

The celebration's ambitious schedule reflects new efforts to lure international students to Clark, which is home to about 13,000 students.

Foreign-student enrollment is up this autumn to 54 from four continents.

Two-thirds hail from Asia or the Pacific Islands. Among other countries represented are Romania, Norway, Jordan, Ghana, Peru and the Dominican Republic.

Susan Taylor, coordinator of Clark's international program, has recruited heavily at English-language schools in Portland and Seattle and scoured the greater Vancouver area for interest.

Aiding the cause is a slick new international brochure used in overseas recruiting. The retooled brochure earned Wei Zhuang, Clark's lead graphic designer, an award of excellence last summer from a national designers' group.

Taylor, the international program coordinator, came to Vancouver last year after eight years of similar work for the University of Michigan branch campus in Flint. There, her primary targets were Canadian students across the border in Ontario.

Delighted to find Clark County nearly as diverse as neighboring Portland, she said Clark is an easy sell to local families who have overseas relatives wishing to study in the U.S.

"It's a really good way to start, especially if they're learning English," Taylor said. Students "begin their education in a smaller setting, and a safe, diverse community at a school with really good

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# International:

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programs," she said.

Most international students go on to earn a four-year degree in the U.S., she added.

While granting of student visas by U.S. embassies remains erratic following the Sept. 11 attacks, an upgraded U.S. system for tracking foreign students has helped to smooth processing, Taylor said.

She expects more success, with so many short-course English language schools on the West Coast providing fertile recruiting grounds.

"I am confident the numbers will grow," Taylor said. "I would like to help (students) stay in the U.S. and get their associate degree."

The week's events are sponsored by Clark's International Club's 200 members, its Latino Club and the school's equity and diversity office.

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## INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK SCHEDULE

■ **Today:** Darfur Region presentation by Elmardi Ishag, Amnesty International, 6 to 9 p.m., Penguin Student Union lounge.

■ **Wednesday:** Dia de los Muertos (day of the dead) altars and demonstration, and dancing by Ballet Folklorico group of Fort Vancouver High School, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Gaiser Hall center stage.

■ **Wednesday:** World music from Latin-beat harpist Kit Stowell, and dramatic film "Mexican Bus Ride," 6 to 9 p.m., Penguin Student Union lounge.

■ **Monday:** "Clark College, Our World Today" dinner, keynote speech by storyteller Will Hornyak, 6 to 9 p.m., Gaiser Hall. Cost \$6 per person, reservations required, pay at door; call 360-992-2495 to RSVP and for information.

Gaiser Hall and the adjacent Penguin Student Union are on Fort Vancouver Way, south of East Fourth Plain Boulevard.