

CLARK

June 21, 2010
Volume 6, Issue 12

twenty-four/seven



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Stories, Not Statistics

Each Clark College graduate ends one chapter—and begins another—at Commencement



Sheila Henrikson, winner of the Presidential Scholarship award.

“You’re graduating too?” squealed one blue-robed young woman to another, throwing her arms wide as she ran to hug her friend. “Sweeeeeeeet!”

All around the exterior of the Sleep Country Amphitheater, that scene replayed over and over as hundreds of Clark College graduates congratulated each other on making it to the finishing line of what had for so many of them been a long and arduous voyage. There was laughter, and squeals of delight—disbelieving grins, and even a few tears, as these fully fledged Penguins gathered under cloudy afternoon skies and waited for their Commencement ceremony to begin.

“It’s the end of a loooooong journey,” said Peter Corbin, clad in a traditional Scottish kilt and a whimsical skeleton tie. He smiled softly as he remembered the path that brought him to this night, when he would be receiving his associate of arts degree. Corbin left high school after his freshman year. It was only years later, in 2003, that he decided to enroll at Clark College to earn his high school diploma. By then, he had a family to help support, so he attended classes at night after working all day. Three years later, he achieved his goal—only to set himself a new one. He decided to become a paramedic, and earned his EMT certificate at Clark in preparation for that. But then, in the beginning of 2009, a hit-and-run car accident left him confined to a hospital bed with a neck injury. Corbin learned that even if he did recover mobility, he wouldn’t be able to meet the tough physical demands of a paramedic’s career. Undaunted, he returned to Clark that fall quarter and switched his focus to welding. He did his homework at the kitchen table with his kids, all of them striving together to earn good grades in their respective classes. Now he was going to be walking across the stage, with both his parents and his children on hand to cheer him on as he became the first member of his family

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Peter Corbin gets ready to graduate.

to earn a college degree. “It feels great, really great,” he said, the “with honors” red tassel on his mortarboard bobbing as he lifted his chin.

And still the stories kept piling up. There was the young woman who didn’t know what a spark plug was when she first entered the Diesel Technology program (bottom photo, center), but could now

deconstruct the tractor on her parents’ farm. There was the laid-off paper-mill worker who was learning a new trade after 25 years of work. There was the Running Start student who drove an hour each way from his home in Stevenson to attend Clark. Literally hundreds of stories—out of a graduating class of 1,300, approximately 460 had come to Commencement, a record for the college.

Inside the amphitheater, the stories kept coming. There was Erik Burch, who received both an associate of science and an associate of arts transfer degree from the college, but each time was deployed to Iraq before he could attend the commencement ceremony; this year, he not only attended, but sang the national anthem at the beginning of the evening.



Men's basketball coach Mike Arnold congratulates guard Garrick Ashenfelter, who will be attending George Fox University in the fall.



Proud graduates of the Diesel Tech program.

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Oswald gives Carolyn Cox some public-speaking tips backstage.



Keynote speaker Heidi W. Durrow poses with a graduate.

There was 2010 All-USA Academic Team member Carolyn Cox (above with Oswald), a single mother who spoke eloquently about the virtues of tenacity before her fellow graduates. There was Sheila Henrikson, who overcame childhood adversity to become a talented artist, compassionate volunteer, and committed student—qualities that earned her the coveted 2010-11 Presidential Scholarship, which provides her with two years of tuition at WSU Vancouver.

And there was keynote speaker Heidi Durrow, who overcame a childhood spent in a rough section

of North Portland to become the first member of her family to graduate from a four-year college—and go on to get advanced degrees from both the Columbia School of Journalism and Yale Law School, as well as write a best-selling novel based in part on her own experiences as a mixed-race child. “If you believe statistics indicate success, then I was destined to be a failure,” she said. “Instead, I decided to be a story.”

Durrow (above right photo, far left) invited the graduates to consider their own life stories, and to

ask themselves, “What would you do if you knew you could not fail?”

“Already you’ve defied the statistics, overcome the difficulties of juggling school work, a job and a family,” she said. “But still you’ve found a way to get done what you needed to do.”

Afterward, Vice President of Instruction Dr. Rassoul Dastmozd officially presented the class of 2010 to President Robert K. Knight, and Vice President of Administrative Services Bob Williamson and Dean of Student Success and

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Retention Ted Broussard took turns reading the more than 460 names of the graduates as they walked across the stage to receive their diplomas. Each name prompted new cheers from family and friends in the stands, even as the process ran past the 40-minute mark. At the end, the new graduates remained exuberant. When President Knight ended the night by reminding them that “once a member of the Penguin Nation...” a collective roar finished his sentence for him: “...ALWAYS A MEMBER OF THE PENGUIN NATION!”

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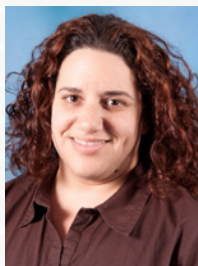
Honors Galore



Students weren't the only ones celebrating accomplishments at Commencement. This was also a time to honor some of the people who make Clark College the great institution that it is.

Addison Jacobs was acknowledged for her 10 years of service on the Clark College Board of Trustees. Jacobs, who is stepping down from the board this year, spoke about the importance of the college's mission.

May Jolly, *Sakeal Kravanh*, *Gail Liberman* and *Bill Wheeler* were honored for their almost 90 years combined of service to the college. All four are retiring this year (see article p. 10).



Chemistry professor *Nadine Fattaleh* was recognized as a 2009-10 Exceptional Faculty. Students who nominated Fattaleh spoke about her willingness to help students with their problems and help them to do well in her class.

History professor *Dr. Anita Fisher* also earned an Exceptional Faculty Award. Dr. Fisher was commended for her infectious enthusiasm about history. She is known on campus for her efforts to promote women's history, including a two-day-long presentation of famous women from throughout history performed by staff and students.



Karen Swallow, who teaches Adult Basic Education at Clark College at Town Plaza, earned the 2009-10 Exceptional Adjunct Faculty Award. Swallow is a fourth-generation teacher; in fact, she is named after her great-grandmother, who taught basic education to immigrants more than 100 years ago. Her students commended her for her patience and ability to adapt to different learning styles.

In addition to being honored as a retiring employee, *May Jolly* was recognized as a 2009-10 Exceptional Classified Staff Member. Jolly became well-known for her cheerful attitude and can-do spirit during her 16 years at the Campus Bookstore.

Information Technology Specialist *Jim Meek* also earned an Exceptional Classified Staff Award. Meek was commended for his tact and humor, and for "always [doing] more than is expected of him."

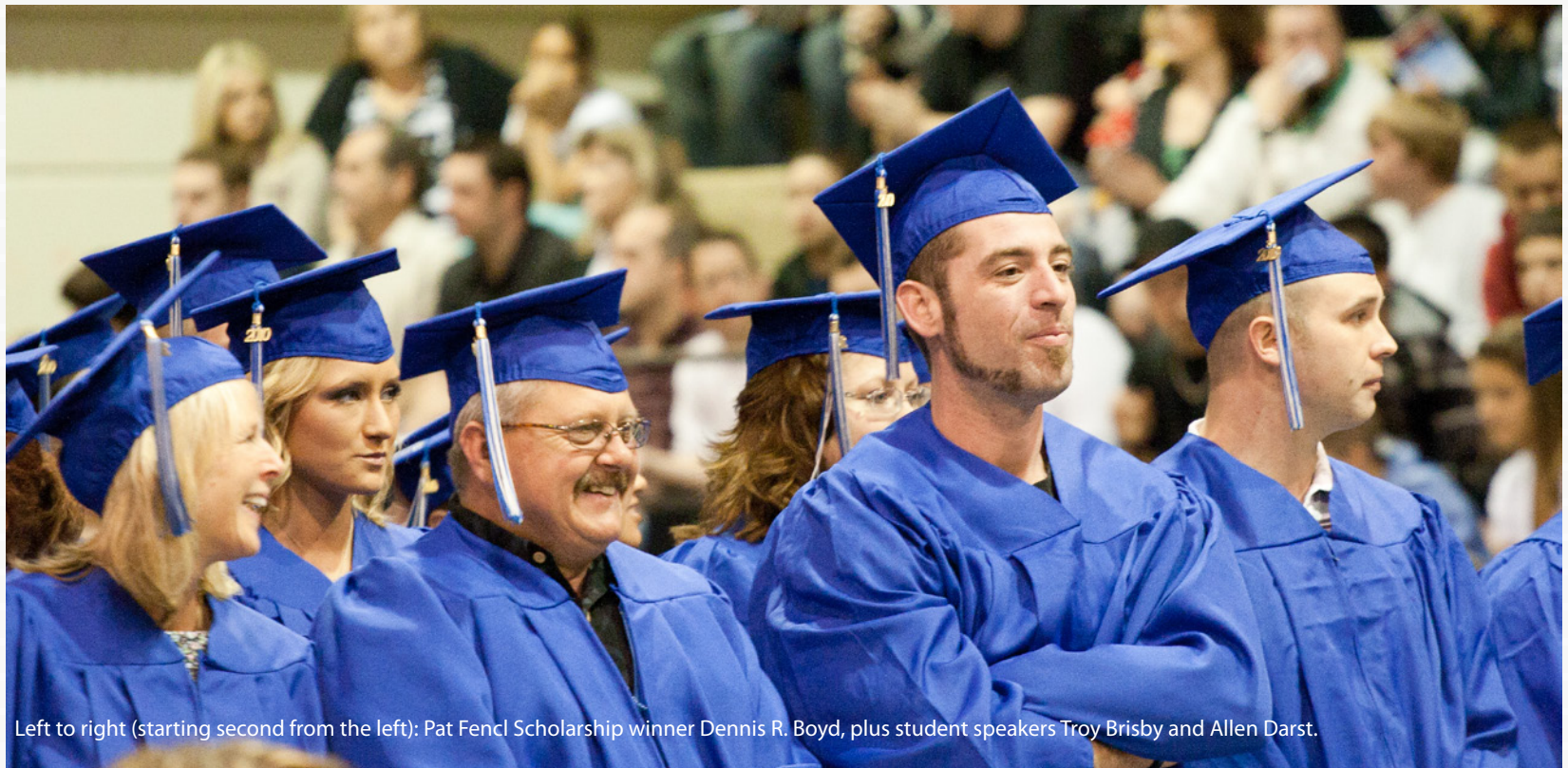
Quite a Climb

Saturday ceremony was a day for heroes and dreams

“Today you are all heroes, all with the ability to obtain your dreams.” With those words, Dr. Hannah Abraham-Shea, Associate Director of Adult Basic Education, shared her personal journey with the nearly 70 students who took part in Clark’s GED/High School Completion Recognition Ceremony on June 19. The ceremony was held in Clark’s O’Connell Sports Center gymnasium as family members and friends cheered from the bleachers.

A German immigrant who dropped out before reaching high school, Abraham-Shea described her own challenges in seeking an education. “I am often asked how I did it,” she said. “It seems that the one thing that I did that made the difference was that I persevered. I showed up. No matter what, I showed up.” After earning her GED, Abraham-Shea continued her education. Seventeen years later, she had earned a Ph.D.





Left to right (starting second from the left): Pat Fencl Scholarship winner Dennis R. Boyd, plus student speakers Troy Brisby and Allen Darst.

Clark graduates Allen Darst and Troy Brisby also shared their journeys and their dreams for the future. When Darst came to Clark College, he “had not been to a classroom in 10 years,” he said. Darst, who earned his GED, is now taking classes with the goal of earning an associate degree in science then transferring to a four-year university to earn a bachelor’s degree in environmental science.

Troy Brisby had dropped out of high school during his senior year to get a job. He eventually found himself homeless and living on the streets. “The

staircase is long when you’re standing at the bottom looking up,” he said of that experience. But with support from family, he started attending classes toward his high school diploma—credits that could be applied toward an associate degree in science. Brisby plans to transfer to WSU Vancouver to earn a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering.

“Being a student here has been an amazing experience for me,” Brisby said. “I never dreamed that it would be this fun and fulfilling.” He added, “Now that I’m focused on what’s really important,

working my way up, I can say that the top of the stairs is getting closer and the future is getting brighter.”

Associate Dean of Workforce Education, Basic Education, and Economic Development Dani Randolph presented the Pat Fencl Scholarship to graduate Dennis R. Boyd. The scholarship is awarded annually to a Clark student who has successfully passed their GED tests and plans to continue their education. It was established by Pat Fencl, a graduate of Clark who taught in Clark’s

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Graduate Stephany Bender gets a hug from her sister Tiffany, as graduates and families meet outside of O'Connell after the ceremony.

adult basic education program. In May 2010, Pat Fencel and her husband Jim received the Presidential Award of Excellence for their ongoing support of Clark College.

Dennis Boyd left school at age 16, married and raised a family. He worked for the same company for 20 years until he was injured on the job. Randolph described Boyd as “seen by his fellow students as a leader and a mentor.” She noted that he “often took it upon himself to set aside his work in order to help a struggling classmate both with course materials and issues of college life.” Boyd is now pursuing an associate degree in business at Clark College.



Graduate R. Wayne Jones takes a minute before the ceremony to pose with his grandson, Dillon, and Oswald.

Fond Farewells

Clark College honors this year's retirees

As Shakespeare once noted, "Parting is such sweet sorrow." And indeed there was a little sadness mixed in the celebration on June 11 in the Gaiser Student Center for the four Clark College employees retiring this spring, as coworkers gathered to say goodbye to their good friends. At the same time, however, there was much to celebrate—almost 90 years of combined service to the college, as President Robert K. Knight pointed out during his opening remarks. "Think about how all of these employees have contributed to student success," he added.

Here's a sampling of those contributions:

Bill Wheeler has taught engineering at Clark College for the past nine years, and is so beloved by his students that they proudly wear "Clark College Engineering" T-shirts sporting his bearded profile. He actually began his time at Clark as a student, taking a Computer Aided Design and Drafting class with Keith Stansbury; the experience inspired him to consider teaching at the college himself. Now he is leaving to take care of family. "Clark has been a lot of fun," he said. "I've enjoyed it, and I'm sorry to be leaving. But I'll probably be around here now and then."

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Bill Wheeler thanks his coworkers. Dr. Darcy Rourk, Associate Vice President of Human Resources, pictured in back.

Gail Liberman will also continue to be spotted around campus, as she plans to teach here part-time after retirement. Clark College must feel like a second home to Liberman at this point—after all, she’s spent 34 years on the campus, most of it spent teaching in the Dental Hygiene Department. Many in the college got to know her through her work promoting faculty development. She helped start and then directed the Teaching and Learning Center at Clark College, which provides faculty with opportunities to explore teaching techniques and professional enrichment. She also helped establish the Faculty Lecture Series. “I’ve watched the college grow from when I started here in 1976,” she said. “Clark was here for me in my difficult times too, and I really appreciate that.”



Gail Liberman (right) shares a moment with Teaching and Learning Center Program Assistant Melissa Payne.



Many colleagues from Clark College at Town Plaza Center came out to celebrate their colleague Sakeal Kravanh (third from left) on his retirement after 30 years of service.

Sakeal Kravanh started as a teaching aide in Clark’s ESL Department in the fall of 1979, back when it was still located on the main campus in Hanna Hall. He quickly proved to be a valuable resource for both students and faculty. His own experiences as a refugee from Cambodia gave him insight into his students’ struggles, as well as motivation to continue to excel in his job, even as it changed from teaching to advising in 1994. That motivation was still on display as he accepted his emeritus certificate after 30 years of service as he told the audience, “I ask you to continue to help immigrants.”

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May Jolly began her Clark College career as an hourly employee in the Campus Bookstore in December 1993 as a retail clerk. Within the next five years, she ascended to the position of the bookstore's buyer, the position she held when she retired this April with 16 years of service. Jolly received a 2009-2010 Exceptional Classified Staff Award, in part for her work on the college's 75th anniversary committee, the annual K-ROD run, and fall quarter's Cram It Jam It shopping spree in the bookstore. Jolly, who moved to Texas after her retirement, sent a statement to be read at the retirement reception by Associate Vice President of Human Resources Dr. Darcy Rourk. It read in part: "I miss everyone and wish I could be there in person. I also want to thank everyone at Clark for making my years there such memorable ones."



President Robert K. Knight thanks retiring employees for almost 90 years of combined service.

Each retiring employee was presented with a certificate of their emeritus status and a silver clock by President Knight, who concluded the ceremony by noting, "It just shows that when people come here to Clark, they want to stay here."

Above: May Jolly (second from right) was unable to attend the retirement reception, but many colleagues stopped by the Campus Bookstore on her last day to wish her well. Seen here are (left to right) Brenda Phelps, IT Specialist Darin Rathbone, and Vice President of Administrative Services Bob Williamson.

Can't Rain on Their Parade

Clark College students don't let a few clouds get in the way of their Spring Thing fun



Ah, the Pacific Northwest, where mid-June can still be sweater season! It's true, this year's Spring Thing, held on June 11, was a little on the gray and chilly side. But after weeks of nonstop rain, the mere fact that the skies stopped pouring down water was cause enough to celebrate—and that's just what students did on this last day of spring quarter classes. They lined up for free pizza and face painting, leaped with abandon onto Velcro walls and suited up for imitation sumo wrestling, among other fun activities organized by the ASCC.

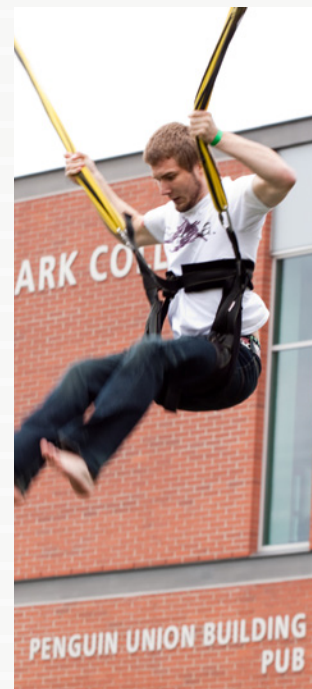
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Students could get their pictures taken with cardboard cutouts of famous personalities, from Michael Jackson to Marilyn Monroe, and turn those photos into buttons. (According to a student volunteer, the three most popular options were romance-novel coverboy Fabio Lanzoni, Twilight heartthrob Edward Cullen, and a giant hotdog.) Others danced to live music at Andersen Fountain or partook of complimentary ice-cream novelties. The Clark College Anime and Manga Club hosted a table where students could write wishes on slips of colored paper and tie them to a “wishing tree.” Wishes ran the gamut from the whimsical (“a new pirate ship!”) to the practical (“a good job when I get out of school”), though the most common wish by far was for good grades.

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The Anime and Manga Club also organized a “pirates vs. ninjas” game of Capture the Flag, which led to a generous number of pirate costumes in the Spring Thing crowd. (The ninjas, as befitted their profession, seemed to blend into the crowd unnoticeably.) Meanwhile, at least one student appeared in her reproduction of a 16th-century noblewoman’s clothing, part of her final presentation in the women’s history class she had taken with 2010 Exceptional Faculty awardee Dr. Anita Fisher (see p.13). Between the pirates, the historic women, and the elaborately painted faces of many students, the Spring Thing achieved a festive surrealism that brightened this cloudy day almost as effectively as sunshine would have.

Take Us to Our Leaders

Congratulations to Clark College's newest Leadership Academy graduates



Front row, left to right: Jenny Schrock, Karen Crosland, Lora Jenkins, Ann Snyder, Jeri Kemmer, Sheryl Anderson, Mashelle Ostermiller. Back row, left to right: Chris Concannon, Kael Godwin, Jean Roniger, Jim Green, Deena Bisig, Ray Korpi. Not pictured: Rebecca Benson.

What could entice dozens of people to an upper room of Gaiser Hall on the Friday afternoon before the Memorial Day weekend? The celebration of a year's worth of work: workshops, seminars, group presentations and yes, even homework, all to complete the rigorous coursework of Clark College's Leadership Academy. Now finishing its fifth year, the Leadership Academy helps provide advanced leadership development for faculty, classified, exempt

and administrative staff. The May 28 event marked the graduation of the 2009-10 cohort of the class (see photo caption). It also served as an announcement ceremony for the 2010-11 cohort: Vicki Cheng, Rhianna Derscheid, Ann Fillmore, Billie Garner, Theresa Heaton, Laura Likes, Shih-Han Lu, Valerie Malinosky, Kimberly Marshel, Peggy McClellan, John Mitchell, Paul Raines, Kay Schlemmer, Gayla Shanahan, and James Watkins.

A Perfect Fit

Clark College and Concordia University strengthen bonds between their fitness trainer programs



Left to right: Clark College students Nova Sehorn and Adrienne Sousa, Health and Physical Education Professor Lisa Borho, student Tiffany Bunn, and Dean of Health Sciences Blake Bowers welcome Concordia University Professor of Exercise & Sport Science Dr. Joel Schuldheisz and (signing the agreement) Concordia Provost Dr. Mark Wahlers.

Clark College and Concordia University have taken The Next Step so that students in Clark's fitness trainer program can do the same. On June 14, Clark and Concordia signed an agreement allowing students in Clark's fitness trainer program to transfer seamlessly to Concordia's Exercise and Sports program.

"Fitness trainers make a positive difference in people's health and quality of life," said Clark College President Robert K. Knight. "Our students now have a wonderful opportunity to continue their education and earn a bachelor's degree at Concordia."

"This Clark-Concordia agreement smoothes the transition for students to continue their education in a meaningful career field that promotes physical

health and improves quality of life for individuals and communities," said Dr. Joel Schuldheisz, chair of Concordia's Exercise and Sports Science department. "We look forward to welcoming Clark students to our campus and to establishing many more such collaborative partnerships."

Here is how it works: Students who earn their AAS degree at Clark can seamlessly transfer all of those credits toward a bachelor's degree in Exercise and Sports Science at Concordia. As part of the agreement, department chairs from both schools have already reviewed course syllabi, objectives and outcomes and determined that the courses completed at Clark meet the requirements of select courses at Concordia.

Penguin Patter

News about people from throughout the Penguin Nation!

MAY STUDENT ATHLETES OF THE MONTH

Student athletes competing in softball and track and field have been honored as the May 2010 Athletes of the Month at Clark College. Lacey Franklin and Justin Hansen earned praise from coaches for their leadership on and off the field.



A graduate of Ponderosa High School in Shingle Springs, Calif., sophomore Lacey Franklin is described as a stalwart for the Penguin softball team. Playing mostly as a catcher, she has maintain a .968 fielding percentage which led the team this season. During the past month, she had an eight-game hitting streak, raising her batting average from .302 to .337. Head softball coach Kasey Powers said, "Lacey's field presence will be greatly missed, as she has caught during more than 75 percent of the games the last two years." Powers noted that Franklin has also been "a standout in the classroom," maintaining a 3.56 grade point average and being selected to the All-Academic Team of the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC).



Freshman Justin Hansen came to Clark College from Columbia River High School in Vancouver, Wash. Head track and field coach Amber Moore describes Hansen as "a hardworking, dedicated student athlete on and off the field." Hansen completed his season with a win at the NWAACC meet in Spokane, Wash., where he completed in the triple jump with a jump of 46' 10¼", besting his high school record by three feet. Moore said, "Justin is a great addition to our track and field program and we look forward to seeing him further his academic and athletic goals next year."

The Student Athlete of the Month program recognizes both the academic and athletic achievements of Clark's student athletes. Two recipients are selected each month by a committee that includes Clark College coaches, athletic department personnel, and fellow students. Each honoree receives a jacket with his or her name engraved on it. The jackets are provided by Les Schwab through its support of the Student of the Month program, in partnership with Clark's Penguin Athletic Club and the Clark College Foundation.

MAKES US SMILE

Big congratulations to the Dental Hygiene Program, which successfully completed its accreditation site visit after almost two years of preparation. According to the program's director, Donna Wittmayer, the site visitor called the program "outstanding." Great job!



Upcoming Events

For additional information, see the activities calendar on the Clark College Web site: www.clark.edu/news_events/college_calendar/

(Unless otherwise noted, all events take place on the Clark College main campus. If you need accommodation due to a disability in order to fully participate in these events, you should contact Clark College's Disability Support Services Office at (360) 992-2314 or 192.102.5.20 VP, or visit Gaiser Hall room 137, usually two weeks prior to the event.)

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Thursday, June 24, 2010

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Free ice cream and the announcement of the winners of the Classified Quarterly Recognition Awards for winter and spring 2010.

PUB 161
and adjoining patio

COMMUNITY FRIENDS POTLUCK DINNER

Friday, June 25, 2010

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Bring a potluck dish and meet our new international students. Find out more about mentoring opportunities and ways meet students whose cultures and academic goals are of interest to you.

PUB 012

SAVE THE DATE FOR THIS UPCOMING EVENT

INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS SERIES

Thursday,
July 15, 2010

“At Home in Two Worlds” is a quarterly presentation sponsored by the Office of International Programs. Bring your brown bag lunch for this informal talk by one of the international students at Clark College.



More graduation photos? *Sure!* Graduates celebrate at the GED High School Completion Ceremony

From Human Resources

EMPLOYMENT OF TEMPORARY HOURLY EMPLOYEES

Supervisors intending to continue the employment of temporary part-time hourly staff employees during the 2010-2011 fiscal year, should submit completed "Temporary Classified Personnel Request Forms" (PERS: 137:1200:200) by June 30.

Temporary employees in this category may not work more than 69 hours during any 4 months between July 1 and June 30, OR more than 1050 hours in any 12 consecutive months from the date of hire. Please call Pagean Pallamouter, x2119, if you have questions regarding temporary employment.

SAVE ON GAS—TAKE ADVANTAGE OF COMMUTE TRIP REDUCTION PROGRAM

Automobiles are one of the most significant sources of air pollution in the Vancouver-Portland metropolitan area. Reducing the number of people who drive to work alone may be the most important and most effective measure we can take to help preserve our environment.

There are a number of ways that Clark College employees can participate in the commute trip reduction program. Most options include the additional feature of a guaranteed ride home:

- Bike riders will find bicycle racks and bike shelters on the main campus. Bike riders may also receive a helmet.
- Walkers are eligible for an umbrella.

- Bus riders are eligible for subsidized transit passes (free for one-zone travel).
- Riders and van poolers are also eligible for the guaranteed ride home.

Other services in support of the commute trip reduction program include personal laundry pick-up and delivery on the main campus and use of lockers on the main campus.

For information about the C-Tran/Clark College bus pass program click on: http://intranet.clark.edu/department_information/human_resources/c-tran_bus_program.doc

To sign up for the Commute Trip Reduction program feature that meets your commuting needs, call Laura Elwood-Klein in Human Resources, x2381.

OPEN POSITIONS

DIRECTOR OF NURSING:

Full-time administrative position. Open until filled.

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY INSTRUCTOR:

One year full-time temporary position. Open until filled.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATHEMATICS COORDINATOR: Non-tenure track one-year temporary position. Closing date: June 30, 2010.

ESL INSTRUCTORS: One year full-time temporary positions. Closing date: July 6, 2010. (Internal Recruitment)

ABE/DVED INSTRUCTORS: One year full-time temporary positions. Closing date: July 6, 2010. (Internal Recruitment)

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR: One year full-time temporary position. Closing date: July 6, 2010. (Internal Recruitment)

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