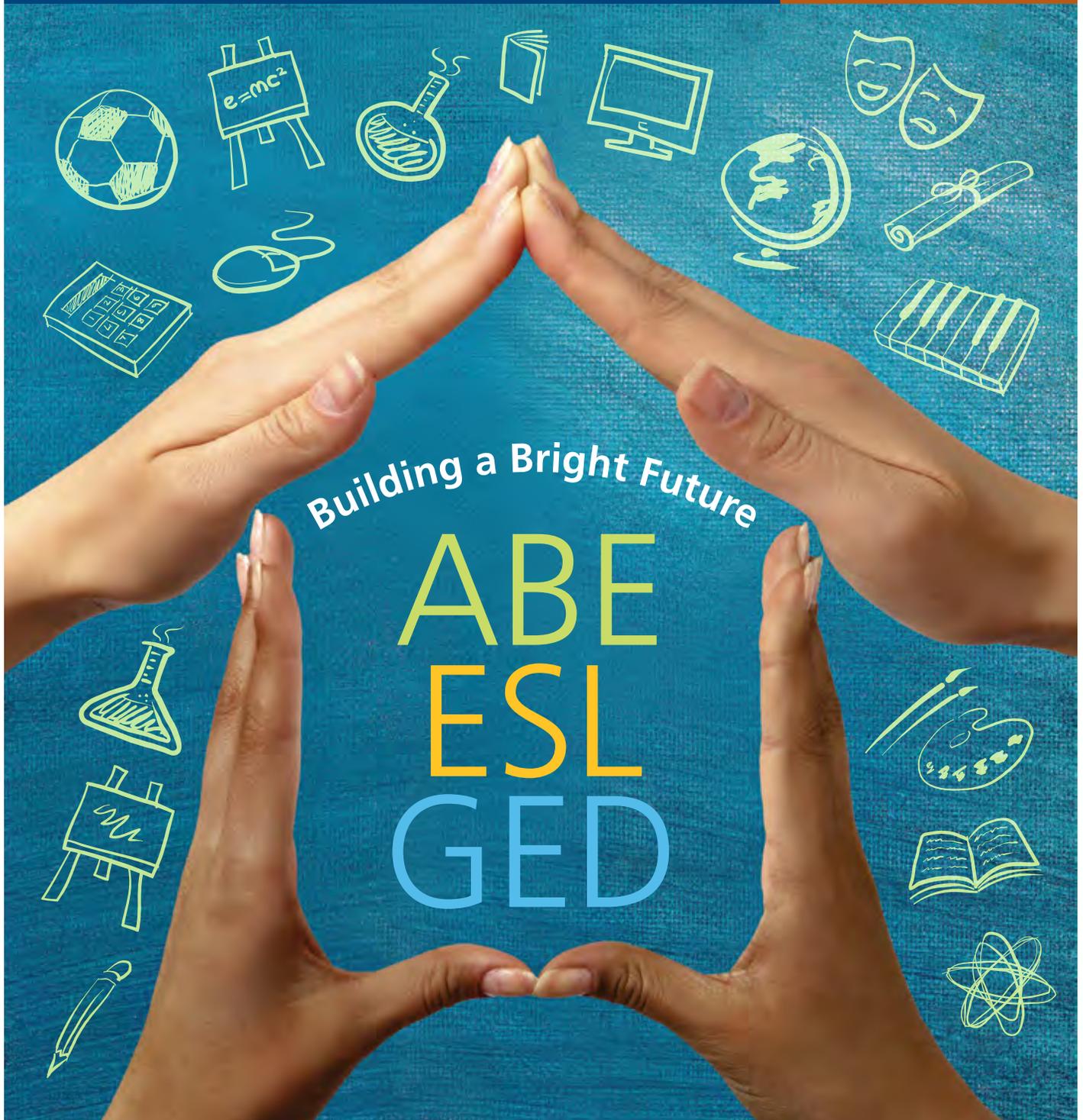


# CLARK COLLEGE • Vol. 23, No. 3 • SPRING 2010

# Connections

▪ Schedule of Day/Evening Classes ▪ Spring Classes Begin April 5

ClarkCollege *The Next Step*





The annual GED and high school completion ceremony is one of the highlights of the academic year at Clark.

Each June, members of the college community gather in the gymnasium of the O'Connell Sports Center for a special celebration.

It is the ceremony honoring the men and women who have earned General Educational Development (GED) certificates and marked their high school completion. The students march into the gym while family members and friends cheer from the bleachers. Faculty and staff members stand and applaud.

The stories told by those graduates are deeply moving. Some have reflected on the challenges of being adult learners in need of basic skills in today's economy. Others have talked about surmounting personal and family struggles.

Clark College is a regional leader in providing Adult Basic Education (ABE) classes. Through classes and tutoring, we help adults learn basic skills such as reading, writing and computer literacy. We also help those who are learning English as a Second Language (ESL). We take pride when those students continue their education by seeking certificates and degrees at Clark.

In every way, these programs are truly The Next Step to better skills, better jobs and better lives.

Robert K. Knight, *President*

**President**

Robert K. Knight

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**Volume 23, NO. 3 Spring 2010**

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**Message to Our Residents**

Clark College mails class schedules to all households and businesses in its service district four times each year to inform residents about college programs and services. Because it is addressed to "Postal Customer," we are unable to remove individuals from our distribution route. It can be recycled with your newspapers. Thank you.

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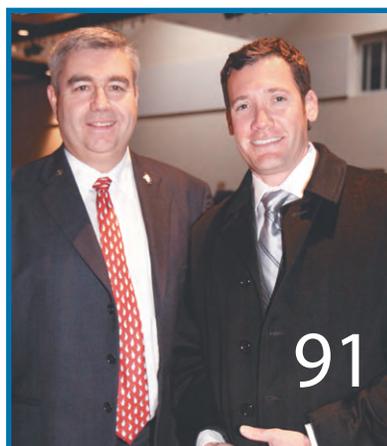
This class schedule is published for information purposes only. Although every effort is made to insure accuracy at the time of publication, this class schedule shall not be construed to be an irrevocable contract between the student and Clark College. The College reserves the right to make any changes in the content and provisions of this class schedule without notice and reserves the right to cancel classes and to change class

fees, instructors, or meeting dates/times at any time. Many classes require a minimum enrollment of 15. Early enrollment is encouraged to prevent class cancellation. If a class in which you are enrolled is canceled, contact the Advising Center, the Office of Instruction, or a faculty advisor to assist in selecting a suitable alternative.

**Limitation of liability**

The college's total liability for claims arising from a contractual relationship with the student in any way related to classes or programs shall be limited to the tuition and expenses paid by the student to the college for those classes or programs. In no event shall the college be liable for any special, indirect, incidental, or consequential damages, including but not limited to, loss of earnings or profits.

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### Clark College Mission Statement:

Clark College provides opportunities for individuals from diverse backgrounds to pursue their educational goals. The college offers accessible, comprehensive education; provides services to support student success; and fosters community partnerships that enhance student learning. The college focuses on professional/technical training, academic transfer, pre-college and basic skills, personal development, and cultural enrichment.

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*The 2008-2010 Clark College academic catalog is available for purchase at the Clark College Bookstore in Gaiser Hall and online at [www.clarkbookstore.com](http://www.clarkbookstore.com). The cost is \$3 plus shipping.*



# Building a Bright Future

Povsokpisak "Pisak" Khoun is an accounting major at Clark College. With the assistance of the instructors and staff at Town Plaza, Khoun gained the language skills he needed to have a successful education at Clark and a fulfilling life, too.

When Justin Byrd was 15, he didn't see the point of school. He wasn't enjoying it, and trouble learning to read and write left him "feeling stupid," as he puts it. So he stopped going. And for the next 10 years, Byrd was fine with that decision; he didn't need school to earn a living as a housepainter. But then the recession hit, and Byrd got laid off. He realized it was time to take the next step – it was time to go back to school.

Every year, thousands of local students find themselves ready to take that next step, and Clark College at Town Plaza is ready to help them on their way. For some students, that step is getting a GED (General Education Development) certificate, the equivalent of a high school diploma. Other students need to gain more basic skills before they can begin preparing to take the GED. Still others come to the United States from other countries and need to learn English before they can even start to think about academics. No matter what their first step is, though, these students all share one thing in common: They take it at Clark.

"We serve more than 4,800 students a year," says Danette Randolph, Associate Dean of Workforce Education, Basic Education and Economic Development. "That was in 2009, when current enrollment was up more than 30 percent from 2008." Randolph explains that the flagging economy has left many people out of work and looking to improve their chances of a new job through education.

For many of these students, returning to school can feel like an intimidating or embarrassing choice. "There's a stigma, an idea that if you don't have your GED, you're not intelligent," says Hannah Abraham-Shea, Associate Director of Basic Education. "But what I say is, 'What these students come with is something you don't have, and it's valuable.' They come with a set of life experiences, a knowledge that comes from different cultures. They come with survival skills. They have courage. Do you know how hard it would be to walk into a building and tell a stranger that you don't know how to do fractions?"

Abraham-Shea knows exactly how hard that would be, because she had to do it herself: The energetic educator, for whom

*“They come with a set of life experiences, a knowledge that comes from different cultures. They come with survival skills. They have courage.”*

HANNAH ABRAHAM-SHEA, *Associate Director of Basic Education.*

English is actually a fourth language, never went to high school and had to earn her GED in her thirties while raising her two children solo. It took her 18 years to earn her Ph.D. in post-secondary and adult education, but now she serves as both staunch advocate and inspiring role model for the students under her care. As she points out, the courage that allows those students to reenter school also gives them perseverance in the face of academic challenges.

That was certainly the case for Byrd, who was nervous at first about going back to school when he started in January 2009. Fortunately, his instructors and tutors at Town Plaza helped make the educational experience more comfortable for him this time around. With their help and his own determination, Byrd has been a model of success, earning his GED within a year of starting Basic Education classes. “When I first went into [my writing] class, I started at the very bottom,” he recalls. “When I left, I tested into college-level writing at Clark.”

Byrd credits the support he received at Town Plaza in helping him succeed. His math tutor, for instance, came in on her own time to help him master the subject. And a Town Plaza advisor helped him find and apply for a Fire Protection Technology course, allowing Byrd to take the next step toward his ultimate goal of being a firefighter.

These are just some of the support services available at Town Plaza. As early as orientation, staff helps students access financial aid (though, at \$25 a class, ABE courses are very affordable). Later, advisors (most of whom are bilingual) help students define long-term goals, while an in-house counselor is available to guide students through the psychological stresses of their education. Students have free access to the Pathways Learning Center, where they can research job and education opportunities, as well as develop their computer skills. The center also offers workshops on such essential skills as managing household finances and preparing for job interviews. And “Transitions” classes give students the skills to handle college-level coursework.

## Alphabet Soup: What It All Means

**ABE** (Adult Basic Education) These classes prepare students for the courses they’ll take to pass the GED. Students learn basic reading, writing and math skills. They can also learn how to operate computers and access the Internet.

**GED** (General Education Development) These classes prepare students to take the five tests required to earn a GED certificate, which is the educational equivalent of a high school diploma. Students must pass all five tests to get their GED. If they score high enough on those tests, they can then enroll directly into college. If they pass but have a lower combined score, they may need to take preparatory classes in the Developmental Education department before being ready to enter college.

**ESL** (English as a Second Language) These classes are geared toward students who grew up speaking a language other than English. They range from very basic classes teaching simple vocabulary to more advanced classes that tackle grammar and spelling. ESL classes do not earn college credit and are offered for less tuition than college courses.

A transitions class taught Povsokpisak “Pisak” Khoun how to take notes and give public presentations, but he learned much more than that during his time at Town Plaza. Almost as soon as he arrived in the U.S. from Cambodia in the fall of 2008, Khoun enrolled in ESL classes. “When I first got to America, I had a hard time with even simple things, like going to a restaurant,” the 24-year-old recalls. “I would go to a fast-food restaurant and wouldn’t know how to order. I would just point



**Left: Instructor Alma Pendergrass (far left) works with students as they practice speaking English to one another in ESL Level 4 Reading/Writing. Right: John Benson (far left) gives one-on-one help in his Jumpstart Math classroom.**

at what I wanted. They'd ask me, 'For here or to go?' And I didn't know what to say. After taking ESL, I feel very, very comfortable going outside, going to a restaurant and ordering something."

Khoun also appreciates how his instructors understood the realities of his life. For instance, when he was able to find a job – only to discover it clashed with his class schedule – his instructor helped rearrange his classes to accommodate that. Thanks to the help of Town Plaza staff and faculty, Khoun is now a full-time student at Clark College's main campus, majoring in accounting. He plans to transfer to WSU Vancouver in 2011.

Ludmila "Luda" Olennikov's progress has been slower, but just as sure. She has taken ESL, ABE, GED and ENL classes at Clark, all in preparation for her current role as a full-time student at Clark's main campus, where she's training to be a medical office specialist – and, one day, possibly a social worker. She already works as an ESL mentor at Town Plaza, helping other struggling immigrants navigate the same difficulties she encountered herself when she first moved to the U.S. from Russia 20 years ago.

Olennikov says that when she first decided to enter school some five years ago, her family was skeptical. "My children said, 'Mom, why do you need to do this? We'll help out with

money,'" she says with a laugh. "But I said, 'I like people. I don't want to sit alone at home. I want a job.'"

Olennikov may have been the first member of her family to join Clark, but she hasn't been the last: Three of her seven children are currently enrolled at Clark, while her oldest son is a Clark alumnus who is pursuing his electrical engineering degree at Portland State University.

"Now they want to help me study," she says. "They're very good. If I say, 'Oh no, I got a B!' they say, 'That's okay, a B is good.' But I want to show them that the best is not a B – you have to push yourself. It's not easy for me to get an A, but I try."



Luda Olennikov

Being a good role model to his 9-year-old son is part of what drove Justin Byrd back to school as well. "I'm always telling him, 'Don't give up,' and I really wanted to set a good example," he says. That persistence has paid off: The man who once didn't see the point of school is building a bright future for himself, studying for an associate degree in Applied Science. A year ago, taking a college class might have been too intimidating for Byrd. But thanks to the preparation he got at Town Plaza, Byrd walked into his college classroom with confidence. Intimidating? Hardly! "It was just another class," he says.



### **Want to Learn More?**

Call Clark College at Town Plaza Entry Services at 360-992-2741 or stop by any time Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. or Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

# Rising to the Moment: The 2010 State of the College Address

Looking to the past and to the future, President Bob Knight sounded notes of both celebration and caution in his annual State of the College address, held Jan. 14 in the Gaiser Student Center. “It’s ironic,” he said to an audience of more than 300 students, faculty, and staff members as well as state and regional leaders. “During tough economic times, companies cut back because their demand is down. The opposite is true for us. During tough economic times, our enrollment numbers have grown dramatically – at the same time that state funding has been cut.”

Knight noted that the first decade of the new millennium brought dramatic change to the college, as it has to the rest of the world. That decade brought the construction of Clark College at WSU Vancouver and the college’s newest facility at Columbia Tech Center (CTC) as well as the Penguin Union Building and the remodeling of Gaiser Hall. During that time, the college also established an e-learning program, the Teaching and Learning Center, “smart” classrooms featuring the latest in technology, and the college’s weekend degree and two-day-a-week degree programs.

Knight went on to list some of the changes the coming decade will bring to Clark. This year will mark the groundbreaking for a new Japanese garden on the main campus. By the end of the decade, a new \$36 million, state-of-the-art facility for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) should open on Fort Vancouver Way across from the Penguin Union Building. A new building for early childhood education is also on the horizon, as is a new facility in northern Clark County. Knight pointed out that there’s a need for continued growth; CTC was near capacity when it opened last fall.

But Knight also acknowledged the challenges Clark has faced and will continue to face. Knight noted that state investments in community colleges declined 11 percent in 2009 – the same year Clark saw a record-high enrollment of 16,000 “for credit” students. Knight said the Penguin Nation “rose to the moment,” a theme he returned to over the course of his speech. Faculty managed increased class sizes; staff members dealt with budget cuts; students paid increased tuition.



Clark College President Robert K. Knight (left) welcomed regional dignitaries during the 2010 State of the College Address. Vancouver Mayor Tim Leavitt (right), a Clark alumnus, has been an active member of the Clark College Alumni Association.

Knight also cited the college’s partnership with the Clark College Foundation. “At a time when state funding is declining, donor support through the Clark College Foundation has never been more important,” said Knight. He noted that the Foundation provided the funds to purchase the land for Clark College at Columbia Tech Center and the planned STEM building as well as providing ongoing support for scholarships and other college needs.

“When it comes to history, you could say that Clark College has a date with destiny,” Knight said. He noted that the college, which was founded during the Great Depression, celebrated its 25th anniversary by dedicating its main campus. The college’s 50th and 75th anniversaries both came during economic downturns.

“During the best of times and the worst of times, we rise to the moment to support our students and our community,” said Knight. “That is Clark College’s proud history. We believe it is also our destiny.”





Automotive professor Mike Godson was honored as 2009 Educator of the Year by the North American Council of Automotive Teachers; he also received the L1 Master Technician of the Year award. Both honors resulted from Godson's achievement of being the highest scorer among all automotive teachers in North America on the Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) and national L1 (advanced engine performance) exams.



Communication Studies professor and director of Clark's speech and debate team David Kosloski was awarded the 2009 Community College outstanding Educator Award by the National Communication Association (NCA) in November. The award is given to an NCA member who has made outstanding contributions to education at a community college and who exemplifies excellence in teaching, scholarship and service to the speech communication profession.

## Penguin pride goes nationwide for two Clark faculty members

Clark College professors Mike Godson and David Kosloski have received national awards in recognition of their industry and teaching excellence.

Automotive professor Mike Godson received dual honors in 2009 for being the highest scorer among all automotive teachers in North America on the Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) automotive tests (A1-A8, which includes engine repair, automatic transmission/transaxle, manual drive train and axles, suspension and steering, brakes, electrical/electronic systems, heating and air conditioning, and engine performance) and the national L1 (advanced engine performance) exam.

In July, Godson was named Educator of the Year during the 2009 North American Council of Automotive Teachers (NACAT) conference. He was awarded the L1 Master Technician of the Year award by Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) and Motor Age Training during the ASE board meeting in November.

"I have always believed that strong industry experience is a requirement for any automotive instructor," said Godson, who has taught full-time at Clark since 1995. "Staying fully ASE-certified and working in the industry during the summer months helps me stay current so that I can provide the best education possible for our students."

Communication Studies professor David Kosloski was awarded the 2009 Community College Outstanding Educator award by the National Communication Association (NCA) in November.

The award, which was presented during the association's annual convention, is given to an NCA member who has made outstanding contributions to education at a community college and who exemplifies excellence in teaching, scholarship and service to the speech communication profession. The recipient must also have a minimum of five years experience of teaching, scholarship and service within the communication discipline.

"I was both thrilled and honored when I was told I had received this award," said Kosloski, who joined Clark College in 1998. "Though teaching has its own rewards, it is icing on the cake when your colleagues recognize your efforts as well."

Kosloski's previous honors include the Judge Educator Award, which he received in 2006 during the Northwest Forensics Conference in recognition of his outstanding performance as a coach and judge at speech and debate tournaments. He also received the Clark College Exceptional Faculty Award for the 2006-2007 academic year.



# Two inspiring women represent Clark for statewide honor



Carolyn Cox

Students Carolyn Cox and Katsiaryna (Katya) Kavaleuskaya are two inspiring women that represent Clark College on the 2010 All-Washington Academic Team. Carolyn Cox has attended college before – not just once, but three times. This time, it is different – and she is different, too – but her spirit of service to others remains.

Carolyn first registered for classes at Clark College in fall of 1977, right out of high school. A job at Kaiser Aluminum drew her away, but the aluminum industry soon began failing. She attempted to return to school on several other occasions, but health problems with her parents kept her working and caring for them. In later years, it was a change in marital status and her own illness that put her educational dreams on hold.

Today, she is single, with improved health and grown children, and is studying to become a hospital administrator. “I can often be found having lunch or dinner and studying with my son, [who is] also a student at Clark College,” said Carolyn. “Family is important to me, and they support my educational goals. I am proud to say they follow my lead.” Carolyn also works part-time as an office administrator for SCORE Counselors to America’s Small Business; she has twice been honored by the local SCORE chapter for her dedication and service to the organization.

A member of the Alpha Sigma Phi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the national honor society for two-year colleges, and the Clark Association of Medical Office Students (CAMOS), Carolyn has completed training to serve as a court appointed special advocate (CASA) through the YWCA. “Carolyn has shown her ability to build positive and solution-focused relationships with professionals, family members and the children,” said CASA program director Jo Waddell.

Katya Kavaleuskaya has found a source of strength and change through Clark College – and is using it to help others as well.



Katya Kavaleuskaya

Katya began attending Clark in fall 2007 as a Running Start student. She and her mother came to Vancouver to escape an abusive situation. Fearful for their safety, without any money, and not proficient in speaking English, Katya recognized that her desire for knowledge and education was the only way to change their situation. After finishing high school, Katya continued at Clark. She earned her emergency medical technician (EMT) basic certification and is completing her prerequisites to enter the nursing program.

To support her mother and younger brother, Katya works full-time at the Central City Concern Hooper Center as a sobering technician and as an outreach worker on the emergency response services van. “After becoming a nurse, I want to work with the same vulnerable population, with people who don’t know how to take care of themselves and who have unintentionally and/or intentionally abused their bodies,” said Katya. “It is a world full of people who really need our help.”

Katya’s desire to help is also evident in her volunteer activities. She is actively involved in the Alpha Sigma Phi chapter of PTK as vice president of scholarship, coordinating scholarly activities hosted by the chapter and promoting PTK to the Clark College community. She is also involved with Better World Books, Relay for Life, cleanup of the Burnt Bridge Creek, and participated in the 2009 Bike Commute Challenge.

The members of the All-Washington Academic Team will be recognized at a ceremony at South Puget Sound Community College on March 25. Carolyn and Katya will each receive scholarships from the Clark College Foundation, the Northwest Education Loan Association and KeyBank of Washington, as well as scholarship offers from several public and independent four-year colleges in Washington.



# Each Year, Clark Hosts a World of Events

A month of cultural and educational activities – including a performance by The Apache Crown Dancers of Chemawa School – were held in honor of National Native American Heritage Month. The events were coordinated by the college’s Native American Month planning committee and sponsored by the Office of Student Life and Multicultural Student Affairs and the American Indian Student Council of Clark College.



Students and visitors now have a choice between plastic utensils and “eco-ware” in the college’s food court, thanks to the activism of Clark’s Club for Social Action. Offered as a more environmentally friendly alternative to plastic, the new utensils are made from such materials as sweet potato, corn, sugar cane, sugar beets, rice or wheat – and they are biodegradable. Photographed at the ribbon cutting are (from left) Club for Social Action President Mina Han, culinary arts professor George Akau, and Clark College President Robert K. Knight.

Clark College welcomes the world every day. This year, 57 international students are attending the college, representing 18 countries. In November, the college hosted “Oswald Crosses the Continents,” a celebration of International Education Week. Activities included presentations by Clark faculty and students, guest speakers and performers, Language Appreciation Day and an origami workshop (pictured), and an international film forum.

>>At Clark College, there's something new and exciting happening every day! From cultural and learning events – such as International Education Week and the Faculty Speaker Series – to educational outreach programs like the Elementary Science Olympiad, it is easy to see the vibrant and vital role the college plays in the lives of its students and the region.

Clark College launched its 2009-2010 Faculty Speaker Series with a vibrant look at psychedelic rock posters from the 1960s and 1970s, presented by art professor Dr. Sally Tomlinson. Each fall, winter and spring quarter, the Faculty Speaker Series, established by Clark College with support from the Clark College Foundation, showcases experiences that have enriched both the life and teaching of a Clark College faculty member.



A 10K was The Next Step for the fifth annual Kalani Rodrigues Memorial Scholarship Run/Walk (K-Rod Run), held Sept. 27. The competitive 10-kilometer run included a pass through the Fort Vancouver National Historic Reserve, where Oswald waited to cheer runners on. Approximately 120 runners and walkers competed in the event, raising funds to support scholarships for Clark student athletes.

Gummi bears took flight as young faces watched in wonder during the 2009 Elementary Science Olympiad, held Nov. 14 at Clark College. Nearly 300 elementary students representing 17 different schools attended the event, in which they competed in five events based on principles of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.



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To learn more: [visit www.clark.edu](http://www.clark.edu).