

CLARK

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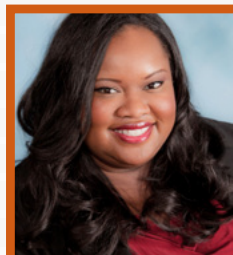
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Cover: Nursing students celebrate the end of their Clark training with a pinning ceremony on December 14 at Skyview High School.

Welcome, Sirius!

Clark College welcomes a new Special Advisor to the President for Equity and Diversity

Sirius Bonner, a higher-education professional with experience in diversity recruitment and multicultural affairs, has been named Special Advisor to the President for Equity and Diversity at Clark College. Bonner assumed her new position on December 5.

A native of California, Bonner earned a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Master of Arts degree from Reed College in Portland, Oregon. She served as the Director of Multicultural Recruitment and the Multicultural Affairs Student Program Coordinator at Reed College and, most recently, as the Assistant Director of New Student Programs for Diversity Recruitment at Portland State University.

As Special Advisor to the President for Equity and Diversity, Bonner will advise and support Clark College's Executive Cabinet, College Council, Cultural Pluralism Committee and the entire college community.

"I joined Clark College because of the opportunity to follow my passions for social justice and education in a thriving college environment," said Bonner. "I am excited to continue the work of making Clark a more diverse and inclusive



place for the whole community, and I look forward to guiding Clark in taking the next steps and moving in new directions."

In fall 2011, Clark welcomed 3,796 students of color, a 9 percent increase from fall 2010.

Bonner has participated in conferences and classes at the Social Justice Training Institute, the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education, the Council for Advancement and Support of Education's Diversity Fellows Conference, and the Summer Institute for Intercultural Communication. Bonner also participated in the Mayor's Minority Evaluator Program for the City of Portland. She has served as a volunteer at Portland's Mt. Scott Community Center and with the Black United Fund of Oregon.

"Sirius expressed her passion for—and commitment to—diversity in the workplace and the community during the many interviews and

forums that she participated in at Clark College," said Clark College President Robert K. Knight. "She will support our efforts to ensure that Clark College provides a welcoming environment for everyone—today and for the future."

Going for the Gold

The pinning ceremony for Clark College Nursing's 109th graduating class begins festivities for a major anniversary



Clark's newest nurses recite the Nursing Pledge after receiving their pins.

The auditorium at Skyview High School was the site of much jubilation on the evening of December 14, as the 36 newest graduates of Clark College's Nursing program gathered to receive the pins that symbolized their completion of the rigorous and highly competitive program. Additionally, this induction of

Clark's 109th class of nurses marked the kickoff for a series of events leading up to major milestone coming in May 2012: the 50th anniversary of Clark's first graduating class of nurses.

In that spirit of celebration, faculty speaker Professor Gayle Fujimoto wrote and sang a special song for the graduates to the tune of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah." The performance sparked peals of delighted laughter from the new nurses, especially when Fujimoto was accompanied by backup singers Professor Judy Alleman, Professor Deborah Hendrickson, and Instructor Katie Laack. Retired faculty member Carol Latta provided piano accompaniment and Professor Randy Givens performed a special pre-choreographed "hallelujah" from the audience.

Benjamin Katz received the class's Florence Nightingale Award. This award is given to one student in each graduating class who exhibits "best practice" patient care. Based on nominations from faculty, clinical instructors and preceptors, the award is often based on observations starting with the student's first quarter. The winner is kept secret until the pinning ceremony, and Katz was obviously surprised and touched to receive the award. Award winners receive an individual plaque and a stethoscope, and their names are added to a plaque kept in the Nursing Lab, but perhaps more important is the certificate that can be added to their portfolio—a definite added attraction to potential employers.

After each student stood while family members walked on stage to attach his or her new pin, all the students recited the Nursing Pledge. And then, with much cheering and even a little dancing, they walked off the stage as Clark's newest nurses.



Above: Left to right, Gayle Fujimoto, Carol Latta, Katie Laack, Judy Alleman, and Deborah Hendrickson provided laughs and entertainment while singing a song that praised the graduates for their hard work and perseverance. Right: Student Benjamin Katz receives the Florence Nightingale Award from Professor Rosemary Sievila. Katz will start working toward a bachelor's degree in nursing at WSU Vancouver this winter quarter.





Clockwise from top left: Cheers erupted when Rose Hendrix's entire family came onstage to give her the pin that marked her graduation from Clark's Nursing program; they were the largest group by far during the ceremony. Julie Brooks received a big hug after her pinning. Chastity Utter's young daughter ran across the stage to meet her for the pinning. *Left to right*, Rebecca Dubois and Beth Conrad were the student speakers for the event.

A Different Kind of First Aid

Clark College trains employees to offer psychological help during crises



Bernadette Dominguez, an experienced nurse and mental-health counselor who has worked in crisis situations, led a four-hour presentation on Mental Health First Aid.

Throughout Clark College, many employees are trained to administer first aid if someone receives a physical injury during a disaster, accident, or other emergency. But what if someone is traumatized psychologically instead of physically? That's the idea behind a new group created as part of the Emergency Management grant received by the college. The Crisis Intervention Management Team (CIMT) was created to support mental health needs following a crisis.

Over the summer of 2011, a representative group of 25 college faculty and staff members were invited to join the team. As preparedness activities continue, members will participate in guiding development of information and education related to crisis intervention. The first training for the team was conducted on December 1 in Gaiser Hall room 205.

Mental health counselor Bernadette Dominguez, RN, MSN, delivered the four-hour disaster response and crisis intervention training, which included both instructional presentations and role-playing exercises. Team members learned how to handle common scenarios, like de-escalating a confrontation with an angry student or helping a coworker deal with stress, as well as more unusual situations, such as preventing a panicked coworker from leaving a safe facility during a lockdown.

Dominguez finished her presentation by urging team members to continue practicing the skills they had learned during the session. "It's like any skill, you can lose it if you don't practice it," she said.

Upcoming Events

For additional information, see the activities calendar on the Clark College website: 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 an event, contact the Disability Support Services Office at 360-992-2314 or 360-991-0901 (video phone), or visit Gaiser Hall Room 137.)

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Monday, December 26, 2011

College will be closed.

NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY

Monday, January 2, 2012

College will be closed.

FIRST DAY OF WINTER QUARTER

Monday, January 9, 2012

PRESIDENT'S OPEN FORUM ON THE BUDGET

Monday, January 9, 2012

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

PUB 161



Visit www.clark.edu/video/holiday/2011 to view this year's holiday card.

PLUS—SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE IMPORTANT EVENTS:

PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE COLLEGE ADDRESS

Thursday, January 19, 2012

Against the backdrop of continuing high enrollment and state budget cuts, Clark College President Robert K. Knight will share highlights from the past year and a vision for the year(s) ahead.

50TH ANNUAL CLARK COLLEGE JAZZ FESTIVAL

Thursday, January 26, 2012 – Saturday, January 28, 2012

The festival celebrates its golden anniversary with jazz performances by more than 60 middle school and high school vocal and instrumental jazz ensembles from around the region. Visit www.clark.edu/cc/jazzfestival for more information.

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