

CLARK

twenty-four/seven

January 9, 2012

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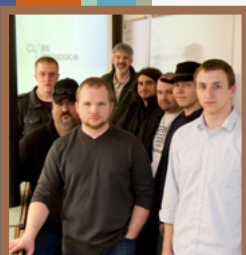
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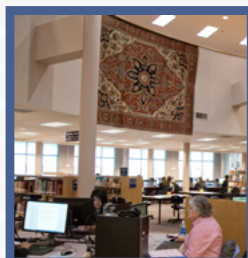
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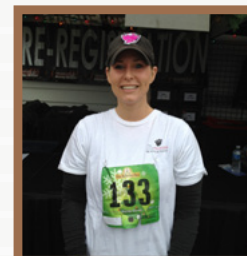
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Cover: Members of
Clark's first team to
compete in NASA's
University Student
Launch Initiative
competition.

New Year, New Quarter

A warm welcome to winter quarter

Today, January 9, 2012, Clark College welcomed students to the beginning of winter quarter 2012. According to the Summary Enrollment Management Report, 14,885 students were enrolled at the beginning of this quarter, up from 14,520 students in winter quarter 2011. This translated into a 2 percent increase in full-time equivalent students from winter 2011 to winter 2012.

Nevertheless, as of this morning, the lines in Gaiser Hall seemed manageable, and students had plenty of smiles as they headed toward their classes. A second Higher One ATM helped ease the wait for students accessing their financial aid disbursements—\$8.7 million in all for the current quarter.



Clouds were low but spirits were high this morning. Inset: Students already started hitting the books inside Cannell Library.



Clockwise from top left: Short lines left plenty of space in Gaiser Hall for students to catch up after break; Kim Granger, *left*, enjoyed starting one more quarter with her friend Dina Nemethe, who will be graduating in March with a degree in Medical Office Billing; the first 1,000 students to stop by the ASCC offices received new ASCC coffee mugs (and coffee, too!); Higher One placed a second ATM in Scarpelli Hall, relieving some of the lines in the Penguin Union Building.

Ready for Liftoff

Clark shoots for the moon in national NASA rocketry contest



One afternoon in early December, in a lab room in Anna Pechanec Hall, Keane Diffenbaugh rubbed his face wearily. The Clark sophomore had been up until 7 a.m. working on a draft of the presentation he and his teammates would be giving later that month as part of their entry into the NASA University Student Launch Initiative (USLI), a national competition that challenges university-level students to design, build and launch a reusable rocket capable of delivering a scientific or engineering payload

(which they also design and build) to as close to one mile above ground level as possible.

Diffenbaugh clicked through his PowerPoint slides with their breakdowns of payloads and timelines. Occasionally his teammates peppered him with questions, prompting a tired sigh. “This presentation is supposed to be no more than 20 minutes,” he said. “It’s just an overview.”

But CADD Professor Keith Stansbury, who has served as the team’s academic advisor, continued to push for clarifications. “What you need to do is to bone up on your numbers, so if they ask you questions [during the presentation], you’re not confused,” he told Diffenbaugh, who nodded quietly.

This is the first year that Clark has entered the contest. Only one other community college has entered this year; the other 40 schools include institutions like MIT, Purdue University, and Virginia Tech University.

“We’re basically an underdog on the list,” said Diffenbaugh. “But with the dedication we have and the design we have, we have a chance to really make an impression as a two-year transfer college going up against Class One research schools.”

Diffenbaugh admitted that there were disadvantages to competing as a two-year school—for instance, most university teams would be composed of juniors and seniors. Nor does Clark have the research facilities or budget of, say, Vanderbilt University. On the other hand, these students have something most of their competitors won’t have: life experience. Diffenbaugh, 27, spent more than seven years in the U.S. Marine Corps; his teammate Robert Mitchum has been building rockets as a hobby since he was a kid. Most of the team’s 10 members are in their 20s, if not older.

Stansbury said he learned about USLI from a student last year. That student graduated before the project could begin, but Diffenbaugh, Mitchum, and other engineering students seemed eager to participate. They worked on their entry submission over the summer to meet the September 26 deadline and spent fall quarter refining it. During spring and winter quarters, team members will meet

at least twice a week; Stansbury created a Special Topics class to ensure time for meetings.

The competition has definitely proven to be a valuable educational tool, said Stansbury. “There’s the technical side, but more than that, the huge learning point is that one person is not going to do that alone,” he said. “They need to work collaboratively, just like they would in a real engineering firm.”

Also, just as in a real engineering firm, they need to do more than just design, build, and launch a rocket: They need to figure out how to pay for it, as well as for at least some team members to travel to Huntsville, Alabama, in April to participate in the competition. USLI also requires each team to spend time doing educational outreach to increase interest in the study of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

In early January, a much more rested Diffenbaugh sounded upbeat about the work to come. The presentation to NASA had gone well and he was already looking forward to the Alabama competition. “It’ll be a great experience just to be there and see all this,” he said. “Of course, we’re always hoping for the win. But the sheer fact that we’re going to a NASA facility to launch this—who else can claim that?”



Previous page: Members of Clark College’s NASA University Student Launch Initiative team. Keane Diffenbaugh, *center front*, has been leading the team. Robert Mitchum, *second row back, left*, holds a piece of what will become the rocket the team enters in the national competition. Professor Keith Stansbury, *far back*, is serving as the team’s academic advisor in the contest.

Woven Treasures

Clark receives gift of antique Persian rugs

Next time you're in Cannell Library or the Penguin Student Lounge, be sure to take time to admire the exquisite Persian rugs now on display. The four rugs—donated by Gene and Nancy Seidel of Vancouver—have been added to the college's art collection. Three are on display in the Cannell Library; one is in the Penguin Student Lounge (PUB 161).

Gene Seidel, who worked at Crown Zellerbach in Camas for many years, served on the Clark College Foundation Board of Directors. The rugs were made in Persia and were originally in his childhood home. Three of the rugs are circa 1900; one is circa 1930.

The donation was made to the college through the Clark College Foundation. Clark's Art Selection Committee reviewed potential sites, focusing on locations that would provide good visibility for these cultural masterpieces and also protect the rugs from handling and sunlight.



Above: Two of the three rugs in the Cannell Library. Insets: details of two of the rugs. Left: A fourth rug warms up PUB 161, aka the Fireside Lounge.

A Passion for Compassion

Professor April Mixon put her best paw forward when she took up running

Last winter quarter, Physical Sciences and Engineering department chair April Mixon was working with her chemistry students on unit conversions and posed a question to the class: “My friend signed me up to run a 15K—how many miles is that?”

Mixon genuinely didn’t know—this was to be her first organized run. “Then I provided the conversions and they calculated that I would be running just over nine miles!” she recalled in a recent e-mail. “I had never run that far. Ever.”

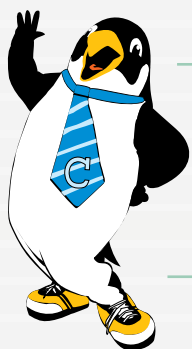
Nevertheless, Mixon began training, and in March completed her first 15K, Portland’s annual Shamrock Run. “Interestingly, I turned to the person behind me to tell them not to run me over, and it was one of my former Clark chemistry students!” she said. “We had a nice chat about how he finished the sequence, finished nursing school and is now a nurse at a psychiatric hospital. Small world.”

After that, Mixon just kept on running. “I had so much fun running that I went home and registered for more races,” she said. “And I said, if I am going to do this, I want to wear something that honors something I believe in.”

As fate would have it, not long afterward Mixon was watching a DVD at home when she saw a public service announcement for the animal-welfare charity Compassion Revolution, which was begun by actress Katherine Heigl and her family. Mixon is a devoted animal lover—all four of her pets (three dogs and one cat) are rescues. She knew she’d found her cause, so she ordered a T-shirt from the organization’s website.



Since then, she has participated in a slew of organized runs—including Bridge to Brews, the Mt. Tabor Doggie Challenge, the Vancouver Half Marathon, the Race for the Homeless, the Girlfriends Half Marathon, and K-Rod—and worn her Compassion Revolution T-shirt each time. Her story was so remarkable that the organization featured it in its [December newsletter](#). Now she’s strategizing how to raise funds for the organization while running her next race: the 2012 Shamrock Run. This time, though, she’ll know exactly how many miles it is.



Penguin Patter

News about people from throughout the Penguin Nation!

NOVEL NEWS

Drama Instructor Ismet “Izzy” Prcic keeps racking up the accolades. His first novel, *Shards*, earned a glowing review in the New York Times back in October and was included in the paper’s list of notable books for 2011. More recently, he won a 2012 Book Award from the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association earlier this month. The committee commended Prcic for his “powerful, gorgeous writing—complicated without a hint of intellectual grandstanding.”

QUITE A GIFT

You may have missed **KATU’s story** on Matthew Bacon, which aired over Winter Break. The news channel’s “Everyday Heroes” segment featured the 13-year-old Bacon, whose father, Robert, is a Clark student. Matthew was diagnosed with advanced-stage Hodgkin’s Lymphoma when he was 10 years old. Thankfully, he is now healthy, but he still remembers how much he appreciated the toys provided by the local charity Candlelighters for Children with Cancer while he was in the hospital undergoing treatment. In fact, he’s created his own nonprofit, **Matthew’s Gift**, to raise money for Candlelighters, and during the holiday season was able to purchase \$9,000 worth of toys and gifts for the organization. Robert has been helping his son by raising funds through running marathons and races. He’s slated to run four marathons this coming year!



Left: Kirsten Kyllingstad helped organize the event. Right: Renee Stoll, Cindi Olson, and Samantha Lelo get ready to deck the halls.

WREATHED IN SMILES

Clark College’s Association of College Employees (ACE) were busy little elves earlier this December. On December 2, Gaiser Student Center became extra-festive with the scent of evergreen as ACE volunteers sold holiday wreaths and swags that they made themselves. The event lasted for three hours and raised \$182 for employee scholarships.

NORTHERN STAR

Congratulations to Art Professor Lisa Conway, whose work is being displayed at Gallery IMA in Seattle’s Pioneer Square neighborhood through January 28. Northward travel not an option for you this month? You can check out her porcelain pieces on the [gallery’s website](#).

From the HR Department

BACKGROUND CHECKS

Human Resources is happy to announce a new process in initiating background checks. Background checks will be done electronically now.

New Process:

1. Please email Heidi Bealer or Laura Likes with the name of the potential employee and their email address and we will initiate the background check from there.
2. The potential employee will receive an email requesting them to fill out the request/release electronically.
3. Once we have results we will let the supervisor know and at that time the employee can come in to Human Resources to complete employee paperwork immediately.

We anticipate this will speed up the process and cut down on the number of times someone needs to visit Human Resources.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Human Resources at x2105.

NEW FORM

Need to update your name or phone number? Save a trip to Human Resources by using the new online form!

https://intranet.clark.edu/department_information/human_resources/forms/NameAddressChange/

It's important to keep your information current to receive information regarding your benefits or to properly route your W-2 form.

OPEN POSITIONS

The following positions are open at Clark College:

Administrative Positions:	Closing Dates:
Associate Dean of Health Sciences	Continuous

Faculty Positions:	Closing Dates:
Tenure Track Dental Hygiene Instructor/Clinical Coordinator	2/6/12
Tenure Track Nursing Instructor	Continuous
priority consideration to applications submitted by 2/3/12	

Classified Positions:	Closing Dates:
Information Technology Specialist 3	1/6/12
Library IT & Serials Technician – IT Technician 1	1/5/12

Temporary Positions:	Closing Dates:
Part-time Custodian 1	Open until filled
Part-time Maintenance Mechanic 1	Open until filled
Part-time English Instructors	Continuous
Part-time Nursing Assistant Program Instructors	Continuous
Part-time Chemistry Instructor	Continuous
Part-time Nursing Instructors	Continuous
Part-time Cisco CCNA Instructor	Continuous
Part-time Computer Technology Instructors	Continuous

Internal Recruitments:
<http://agency.governmentjobs.com/clarkcollege/default.cfm?promotionaljobs=1>

External Recruitments:
<http://agency.governmentjobs.com/clarkcollege/default.cfm>

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.)

FIRST DAY OF WINTER QUARTER

Monday, January 9, 2012

PRESIDENT'S OPEN DIALOG

Monday, January 9, 2012

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

PUB 161

HOOPS NIGHT HAPPY HOUR

Wednesday, January 11, 2012

5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

The Clark College Foundation invites faculty, staff and alumni to enjoy free refreshments on the gym stage before that evening's basketball game. Hosted by the Alumni Association and the Penguin Athletic Club.
OSC Gymnasium

BASKETBALL GAMES

Wednesday, January 11, 2012

6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Home games vs. Green River College. Women's game begins at 6:00 p.m., followed by men's game at 8:00 p.m.
OSC Gymnasium

LUPIFICATION: OR, THE DIVIDE

Tuesday, January 10, 2012 –

Saturday, February 4, 2012

Archer Gallery show featuring Bonnie Fortune, Julia Oldham, and Ryan Pierce. Artists reception held 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 14, 2012.

Archer Gallery

BASKETBALL GAMES

Saturday, January 14, 2011

5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Away games vs. Lower Columbia College. Women's game begins at 5:00 p.m., followed by men's game at 8:00 p.m.

Lower Columbia College,
Longview, WA

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

Monday, January 16, 2012

College is closed in observance of the holiday.

CLARK ART TALKS:

GERIT GRIMM

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

PUB 161

KATHLEEN D. SADAAT

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The interim Diversity Development/Affirmative Action Manager for the Human Resources Bureau of the City of Portland speaks as part Clark's celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Gaiser Student Center

BASKETBALL GAMES

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Away games vs. Pierce College. Women's game begins at 6:00 p.m. followed by men's game at 8:00 p.m.
Pierce College, Lakewood, WA

RUNNING START INFORMATION NIGHT

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

7:00 p.m.

OSC Gymnasium

FOOD DRIVE

Thursday, January 19, 2012 –

Friday, January 20, 2012

Clark College Student Ambassadors will be collecting non-perishable food donations for Share Vancouver's Children's Hunger Initiative. Donations can be brought to the State of the College Address (see below) or to the Welcome Center 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. on January 19 and 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on January 20.

Gaiser Student Center &
Welcome Center

STATE OF THE COLLEGE ADDRESS

Thursday, January 19, 2012

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Gaiser Student Center

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY OF SERVICE

Thursday, January 19, 2012

1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Meet outside PUB 161 for transportation to Clark County Habitat for Humanity ReStore. Volunteers will return to the college by van at 5:00 p.m.

BASKETBALL GAMES

Saturday, January 21, 2012

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Home games vs. Tacoma College. Women's game begins at 3:00 p.m. followed by men's game at 5:00 p.m.
Boys and Girls Club Night.
OSC Gymnasium

PLUS—SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE IMPORTANT EVENTS:

FACULTY SPEAKER SERIES

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Automotive professor Mike Godson presents "Driving the Future: Automobiles in the 21st Century," as part of Clark College's acclaimed Faculty Speaker Series.

CLARK COLLEGE 50TH ANNUAL JAZZ FESTIVAL

Thursday, January 26, 2012 –

Saturday, January 28, 2012

Celebrate the festival's golden anniversary as Clark College hosts more than 60 middle school and high school vocal and instrumental jazz ensembles.

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