

# CLARK

*twenty-four/seven*

January 23, 2012

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# CLARK

*twenty-four/seven*

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President Knight  
while delivering  
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announced the  
first inductees to  
the Athletics Hall  
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## Promises Kept, Promises Made

*President Knight renews Clark College's commitment to its community and students at State of the College Address*



At a time of high enrollment and state budget cuts, what are the promises of higher education? And what would it mean if our region could promise a college education for its children? Those were two of the themes of Clark College's 2012 State of the College address on January 19.

Clark College President Bob Knight noted that the college continues to welcome record numbers of students, with full-time enrollment for fall quarter up 2 percent and winter quarter up 1 percent from last year. At the same time, Knight said, state funding has declined dramatically. "Just a few years ago – as our college celebrated our 75th anniversary – the state of Washington provided 61.6 percent of our total operating budget," he said. "One year later, state funding had declined to 52.5 percent. It's now 41.5 percent and will likely drop below 40 percent by the end of this academic year. Instead of being state-supported, Clark is now state-assisted."

Knight noted that additional cuts are pending. "Governor Chris Gregoire recommended an additional 13 percent budget cut for higher education," he said. "At Clark, that would translate into a loss of an additional \$3 million. Because our students will be paying more in tuition, the cut may be closer to \$2 million."

Knight argued that the cuts "don't make economic sense," stating that for every dollar that the state receive \$1.70 in tax revenue. He also urged audience members to support a proposed temporary one-half cent sales tax to offset budget cuts to higher education, K-12 and public safety.

Knight focused heavily on the impact on students. "In the past three years, students have experienced tuition increases of 7 percent, 7 percent and 12 percent. Another 12 percent increase will take effect next year."

At the same time, he said, financial aid and student loans have increased dramatically. The amount of financial aid increased from \$48.5 million to nearly \$59 million in one year. Student loans increased from \$16.5 million to \$22.8 million.



Knight said that grants and donor dollars through the Clark College Foundation are a critical and integral part of funding at Clark College today and for the future. “For years, when we talked about the Foundation, we spoke about the margin of excellence that they provide for our students and the college,” Knight said. “Today, the Foundation helps us meet our basic needs.”

He pointed out some of the recent projects made possible by the Foundation, including the new Oliva Family Early Learning Center and the updates to the Dental Hygiene lab, as well as the new Penguin Promise scholarship program (see story page 6). He also congratulated the college on recently receiving some major grants for both advising and basic education. “We know we’re getting these budget cuts, but folks at Clark College aren’t sitting around whining about it,” Knight said. “They’re going out and getting these grants, and that’s why Clark College is the best college in the state.”

Knight also took the opportunity to recognize some members of the Clark College community with Presidential Coins (see story, page 5.) He also shared the names of the winners of the first Iris Awards (see story page 7) and the first inductees into Clark’s new Athletic Hall of Fame (see story page 9).



Clockwise from top left: Associated Students of Clark College President Ruth Ferguson, who introduced President Knight at the address, stands with Knight and Clark Foundation President and CEO Lisa Gibert; *left to right*, Trustee Jack Burkman, Athletic Director Charles Guthrie, and Trustee Jada Rupley; President Knight stands with international student Nick Ashitey, the first student to receive a Presidential Coin.



## And the Winners Are ...

### 2012 Presidential Coin recipients

In 2007, Clark College President Robert K. Knight introduced a new honor at Clark College—the presidential coin. The coin is given to faculty and staff members who provide exemplary service to Clark students, the college and the community. The honorees are decided by the president and are kept secret until the names are announced—generally on opening day in the fall or during the annual State of the College address.

Information Technology Specialist **Jennifer Wheeler** has worked at Clark for more than 30 years providing media services. Knight said “her supervisor remarked that he can’t count the number



of times she has come to the rescue of faculty members, presenters and her fellow techs at the 11th hour before a class or event.”

Academic Early Warning Faculty Liaison **Melissa Favara** was commended for her “persistence, good communication style, and willingness to work with faculty.”

Registration Program Assistant **Jordan DeVan** processes thousands of transcripts every quarter in a timely and efficient manner. “She has seen her workload expand alongside our increased student population, yet she tirelessly addresses each request as though it is the only one that matters,” said Knight.

Former Interim Athletic Director **Denny Huston** was commended for his role in creating the new Clark College Hall of Fame, as well as for his patience: Knight explained that when he first approached Huston about coming out of retirement to temporarily serve as interim director, he said it would be for “just a couple of months.” Huston served in that position for more than three years.



Student **Nick Ashitey** is the first student to receive a President Coin. Originally from Ghana, West Africa, Ashitey has been a fulltime student at Clark since fall 2005. After earning both an Associate in Arts Direct Transfer and an Associate in Applied Science Agriculture-Horticulture (both with honors), he is now working on prerequisites to enter Clark’s Nursing program. He is an active volunteer in both the Southwest Washington community and the international student community of Clark College. Knight said “he always has a smile on his face and is one guy who is always willing to help a fellow student, faculty or staff member.”

Left: Clark Trustee Rhona Sen Hoss takes a moment to greet retired Interim Athletic Director Denny Huston. Top: President Knight thanks Jordan DeVan for her service to the college.

## Toward a Promising Future

*Clark College partners with local nonprofits to help disadvantaged youth to go to college*

Shortly before the State of the College address on January 19, community members gathered in a small room in the upstairs of the Penguin Union Building to witness the signing of a new scholarship program called “Penguin Promise.”

A partnership of Clark College, the Clark College Foundation and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southwest Washington, Penguin Promise provides a path for some members of the Boys and Girls Clubs to enter and complete their education at Clark College. Under the program, which will rely on community support, students would enter the program in eighth grade. They would continue the program through the 12th grade. If they complete the program successfully, once they are accepted to Clark College, they would receive scholarships for their tuition, fees, and books.

Youth enrolled in the program receive mentoring, college preparation, and regular exposure to the college environment through field trips to institutions of higher learning, including Clark College’s main campus. “We want to get these kids on campus, make them feel comfortable, so that when the time comes for them to go to college,



Clark Trustee Rhona Sen Hoss, President Bob Knight, Boys and Girls Clubs of Southwest Washington Executive Director Elise Menashe, and Boys and Girls Clubs of Southwest Washington Board Chair Carol Opatrny.

they’re ready,” said Knight during the signing. Knight also commended the I Have a Dream Foundation for providing guidance during the development of the program.

Elise Menashe, executive director of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southwest Washington, called Penguin Promise “an important part of our college prep program.” She noted the importance of such

efforts, pointing to a recent study that found that out of every 100 ninth-graders in Washington state, only 68 graduate from high school and 15 from college.

Up to 25 students will be accepted the first year of the Program. If the program is successful, up to 25 students could be added to the program each year.

## Honoring Achievement and Service

*Three local women receive Iris Awards for their contributions to Southwest Washington*

Lisa Nisenfeld, Sally Schaefer and Mary Strehlow are the winners of the 2012 Iris Awards, honoring women of achievement in Southwest Washington. Their names were announced by President Bob Knight at the State of the College address on January 19.

The Iris Awards celebrate the lasting and far-reaching contributions of women in Southwest Washington and beyond. The awards, which will be presented on March 8, 2012—International Women’s Day—will honor the tradition of the regional “Women of Achievement” celebration but embrace a new direction for the future. The Iris Awards are supported by Clark College, the Clark College Foundation and the *Vancouver Business Journal*.



# IRIS AWARDS



Lisa Nisenfeld



Sally Schaefer



Mary Strehlow

## THE 2012 IRIS AWARD RECIPIENTS

### *Lisa Nisenfeld*

Lisa Nisenfeld is president of the Columbia River Economic Development Council, a position she has held since last October. Prior to that, she was executive director of the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council. In that role, she led workforce development efforts for a three-county area, promoting “a highly skilled and adaptive workforce for a healthy, sustainable economy in Southwest Washington.”

Nisenfeld has served as a board member for state and regional organizations including the Washington Workforce Association, which she has chaired for the past four years, the Cowlitz Economic Development Council, nConnect NW, the Northeast Workforce Center, and Oregon Outreach. She was a co-founder and vice president of the Women’s Center for Leadership and a founder of the Bridgeport United Church of Christ.

One of her nominators called Nisenfeld “an inspirational leader who possesses that rare ability to provide both vision and passion to those she leads.”

### *Sally Schaefer*

For more than 50 years, Sally Schaefer has enriched the community through her service across the spectrum of health, social services, public schools, higher education, international relations, the arts, ecology and local philanthropies.

After beginning her career as a public school teacher, Schaefer made education a focus of her volunteer service. She served on the board of Young Audiences of Southwest Washington, a community organization that focuses on bringing the arts to school children. In 1971, she received the “Outstanding Service Award” from the Vancouver School District.

In addition to serving as a member of the Southwest Washington Higher Education Task Force, which supported the original planning for WSU Vancouver, Schaefer served on the Clark College Board of Trustees for 14 years. She served as treasurer of the Washington State Community College Trustees Association for two years and received the 2000 Outstanding Trustee Award. She served on the boards of the Southwest Washington Medical Center Foundation, Clark College Foundation Board and the Council of Elders at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church and St. Luke’s Episcopal Church.

The 1984 recipient of the First Citizen Award, Schaefer was described by nominators as a “humble, generous woman who is a leader, role model, and inspiration.”

### *Mary Strehlow*

Mary Strehlow is developmental disabilities manager for the Clark County Department of Community Services. In that role, she is responsible

for the planning, funding, and management of local services for children and adults with developmental disabilities in Clark County.

Strehlow previously served as a case manager for Washington State Division of Developmental Disabilities, an institutional counselor at Washington’s Western State Hospital, a research analyst for the Washington Dept. of Research for projects on the elderly and children’s foster care, and as social service director for the Hazel Dell Care Center.

She received the 2009 Community Leadership Award from the Washington Association of School Administrators. She was named Professional of the Year by the Arc of Washington and received the President’s Award from the Arc of Clark County. She received the Caring Heart Award from Innovative Services NW and a leadership award from the National Association of Social Workers (Washington state chapter).

One of her nominators wrote, “The past 30 years have seen a revolution in our attitudes and acceptance of disabilities and Mary has been at the forefront in this revolution. She is a community hero.”



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## Good Sports

### *Clark College announces the first inductees into its new Athletic Hall of Fame*

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Seven individuals and a perfect team will be honored as the first inductees into the Clark College Athletic Hall of Fame. The announcement of the honorees was made by Clark College President Bob Knight during the 2012 State of the College Address. Knight credited former interim athletic director Dennis Huston and members of the Penguin Athletic Club for their “leadership and vision” in making the Hall of Fame a reality.

The inductees will be honored on Saturday, February 25, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the Penguin Student Lounge.

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***Karen (Remy)***

***Morgan Hill***

attended Clark from 1969-71. She played volleyball and basketball, where she averaged 33 points a game and set a single game

scoring record of 52 points which stood for 20 years. She was also known for her jump shot, which was virtually unheard-of in women’s basketball at that time. She went on to compete in basketball at Portland State. Hill was a 1989 Women of Achievement honoree. In 1993, she was inducted into the NWAACC Hall of Fame.



***Jacob “Vern”***

***Kindsfather*** was a

20-game winner for the Seattle Rainiers in the Pacific Coast League. He pitched the first perfect game in Northwest League history. For 25 years, Kindsfather coached

the Clark College baseball team and taught physical education. He died in 2008 at the age of 84. In 2011, the Clark College baseball field was dedicated to him.



A star pitcher for the Penguin baseball team during his years at Clark, ***Randy Myers*** went on to have a stand-out career in major league baseball. In 1989, as a member

of the Cincinnati Reds, he was National League Co-MVP. In 1991, he received Clark’s Outstanding Alumni Award. Randy Myers continued his support for Clark athletics by serving as an assistant coach for our women’s basketball teams.



**Claude "Skeet" O'Connell** is a legend at Clark College as a coach and a person. A mentor to numerous alumni who still speak gratefully of his influence, O'Connell arrived

at the college in 1946 and was its athletic director until his retirement in 1977. He coached baseball and basketball during many of those years. He also coached golf from 1975 through his "second" retirement in 1987. Clark's Athletics Building is named in his honor.



**Jim Raines** is being honored for meritorious service. A passionate supporter of Penguin student athletes, he is past president of both the Clark College Alumni Association

Board and the Penguin Athletic Club Board. In 2007, he received Clark's Presidential Award for Excellence.



**Gaydena Thompson** made history in 1977 by being named the first female athletic director in the Washington state community college system, a position she held

until opting to focus her attention on teaching in 1982. Through her classes, college activities and public service, she was a leader in promoting fitness for students and community members alike. Clark's fitness center is named in her honor.

A long-time advocate for women's sports, **Dr. Mary Lou White** served at Clark College for 13 years. In the 1950s, she was a physical education instructor and a coach for sports

including an award-winning, coed fencing team and Clark's softball team. She died in 2007.



In a perfect season, the **1992-1993 Clark College women's basketball team** won the NWAACC championship with 33 wins and no losses.

# Random Rewards

## *Students win help with school expenses thanks to the Alumni Association*

J ose Valtierra considers himself fortunate: Thanks to an athletic scholarship, he's got help covering his tuition at Clark. But that doesn't mean that college still doesn't cost him money—the second-quarter student estimates that his textbooks have averaged \$250 per quarter.

So it was a welcome treat when Valtierra became one of 15 students to win a \$25 Bookstore gift card through the Clark College Alumni Association's free Random Assistance raffle in the Penguin Student Lounge on January 10. "I'm guessing I'm going to use this for my English textbooks," he said.



Since 2003, the Alumni Association has given away \$19,129 in gift cards to students through Random Assistance, which is held at the beginning of fall, winter and spring quarters each year. For the past few years the association has held the contest at



more than one Clark College location; this year, an additional 15 gift cards were raffled off at Clark College at Town Plaza on January 11.

Alumni Association President George Welsh said that encouraging alumni to donate to Random Assistance and other



programs has been challenging in the current economic climate. "It's never easy," he said. "But it becomes easy when we invite people to come see this happening—then they get really enthusiastic about it."

For Early Childhood Education student Heather Regian, winning a gift card wasn't just an economic boon—it was an emotional lift. "It's awesome," she said. "It makes you feel good that people who went to school here are helping others succeed."

Left to right: Clark College Foundation President and CEO Lisa Gibert congratulates Heather Regian; Jose Valtierra walks forward to present his winning ticket; Alumni Association President George Welsh, left, confirms a student's winning ticket.



## Feeding Friendship

*Community welcomes new international students to Clark College*

More than 50 people turned out to welcome the international students new to Clark College this winter with a potluck dinner in the Penguin Student Lounge on January 12. Members of the Clark College International Club, staff, faculty, students, alumni, host families and community volunteers gathered to break bread with the college's 10 newest international students from Kuwait, Thailand, Canada, China, South Korea, Brazil, Qatar, Turkey and Senegal. This quarter marks a record number of international students at Clark College, with 80 students and 23 different countries represented.

The dinner gathering is a quarterly event that serves to introduce new students to the Clark College community through the Office of International Programs' Community Friends program. Community Friends volunteers help international students in many ways: tutoring English, mentoring, and including students in family dinners, holiday celebrations or outings.

"Community Friends can be the key to helping make a student's experience in the U.S. a positive one," said Susan Taylor, International Student Advisor. To volunteer or find out more about the Community Friends program, email [international@clark.edu](mailto:international@clark.edu) or call 360-992-2390.

Clockwise from top: Left to right, Hilary Novakowski (Canada), peer mentors Sam Rezene and Jennifer Chiu, and Julia Schmidt (Brazil) get acquainted; Hue "Tonia" Lu, continuing student from Vietnam, takes a moment from the buffet line to smile for the camera; Meredith Flaming, community volunteer, serves the cake she baked for the Community Friends potluck dinner.



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## In Memoriam: Ann Snyder

*Retired Women's Studies professor, teaching role model*

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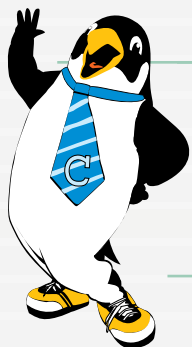
Former faculty member Ann Snyder, who retired from Clark's women's studies department after being diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor, died on January 15.

Ann received a 2011 Exceptional Faculty Award. In that nomination, Ann was described as "a bundle of knowledge, humor, warmth, encouragement and appreciation for all persons and all nature."

Through good times and challenges, Ann generously shared her experiences through personal and academic blogs.

On one, she wrote: "My journey so far has been a winding one and teaching is my third career in the last three decades. It is the most stimulating, satisfying, and joyful work I have ever done."

Ann's family has indicated it would like to hold a memorial service for Ann at Clark College. Professor Debi Jenkins has offered to collect college community members' recollections of Ann to be presented in a memory book at that ceremony. Please email Prof. Jenkins at [djenkins@clark.edu](mailto:djenkins@clark.edu) with your memories of Ann if you would like them included in the book. Put "Ann Snyder" in the subject line of your email.



## Penguin Patter

*News about people from throughout the Penguin Nation!*



### APRIL IN JANUARY

Clark Vocal Music Director April Duvic recently took a break from the conductor's baton to do some signing herself at a concert held by the relatively new musical ensemble Northwest New Music, which specializes in contemporary pieces. The concert, titled "Works on the Writings of the Ancient Poet Sappho," was held on January 17 at Portland State University. Duvic performed "Sappho Songs," a 2004 piece for two female voices and cello by New York composer Daron Hagen. This was Duvic's first time performing with Northwest New Music, but she said she enjoyed the experience and looks forward to performing with them again.

## From the HR Department

### NEW NEST NOTEBOOK

The Employee Development Department is pleased to announce a new process for welcoming employees to Clark College!

The New Employee Success Training binder is an interactive notebook filled with resources and information that will help acclimate new employees to the internal functions of the college. The goal is to set our new employees up for a successful transition!

New employees, or their supervisors, can pick up a binder in the Human Resources Department (BRD 133). The intention is for employees to work through this binder their first week, with the assistance of their supervisor and/or trainer.

A PDF version of the NEST binder can be accessed on the Employee Development webpage or by following this link:

[https://intranet.clark.edu/departments/information/human\\_resources/development/NESTAdminExemptClassifiedTempHourly.pdf](https://intranet.clark.edu/departments/information/human_resources/development/NESTAdminExemptClassifiedTempHourly.pdf)

Questions? Contact the Employee Development Program Coordinator at [kferguson@clark.edu](mailto:kferguson@clark.edu)



# Upcoming Events

For additional information, see the activities calendar on the Clark College website: [www.clark.edu/news\\_events/college\\_calendar/](http://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.)

## BASKETBALL GAMES

Monday, January 23, 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

## DRIVING THE FUTURE: AUTOMOBILES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

1:00 p.m. -2:30 p.m.

Faculty Speaker Series with  
Automotive Professor Mike Godson.  
PUB 161

## 30 CLICKS: PREZI

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

12:15 p.m. -12:45 p.m.

LIB 103

## CLARK COLLEGE 50TH ANNUAL JAZZ FESTIVAL

Thursday, January 26, 2012 -  
Saturday, January 28, 2012

Gaiser Student Center

## RUNNING START INFORMATION NIGHT

Thursday, January 26, 2012

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

O'Connell Sports Center Gym

## BASKETBALL GAMES

Saturday, January 28, 2012

5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Away games vs. Grays Harbor  
College. Women's game  
begins at 5:00 p.m. followed  
by men's game at 7:00 p.m.  
Grays Harbor College,  
Aberdeen, WA

## 30 CLICKS: FREE & CHEAP MOBILE APPS FOR FOOD AND FITNESS

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

12:15 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.

LIB 103

## BASKETBALL GAMES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Home games vs. South Puget Sound  
College. Women's game  
begins at 6:00 p.m. followed  
by men's game at 8:00 p.m.  
O'Connell Sports Center Gym

## BASKETBALL GAMES

Saturday, February 4, 2012

1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Away games vs. Highline  
Community College. Women's game  
begins at 1:00 p.m. followed by men's  
game at 5:00 p.m.  
Highline Community College,  
Des Moines, WA

## PLUS—SAVE THE DATES FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:

### PRESIDENT'S OPEN DIALOG

Monday, February 20, 2012

Held at 3:30 p.m. in PUB 161.

Everyone in the college community is  
invited to attend.

### THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

February 24-25 and March 2-3  
and 8-10

The Theatre Department's winter  
musical is a comedic portrayal of  
six young spelling-bee contestants  
vying for the championship.

The Tony Award-winning book  
includes multiple opportunities for  
actor improvisation and audience  
participation. Tickets are available  
through the Bookstore or by calling  
x2815.

### HALL OF FAME

#### INDUCTION CEREMONY

Saturday, February 25, 2012

Honoring the first group of inductees  
into Clark's new Athletic Hall of  
Fame. Tickets are available by  
calling x2691.

## WPEA/ UFCW Meeting Schedule



WPEA Membership  
meeting will be held  
on February 15  
at 12:00 p.m.  
in GHL 213.

## Staff

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