

# CLARK

March 19, 2012  
Volume 8, Issue 6

*twenty-four/seven*



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## A New Tradition Blossoms

*The 2012 Iris Awards honor women for their leadership and service*

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A business leader, a community philanthropist, and an advocate for individuals with developmental disabilities were honored on International Women's Day as the winners of the 2012 Iris Awards, celebrating women of achievement in Southwest Washington.

Mary Strehlow, Lisa Nisenfeld and Sally Schaefer are this year's Iris Award honorees.

The awards were presented to Lisa Nisenfeld, president of the Columbia River Economic Development Council; Sally Schaefer, a community leader and volunteer for more than 50 years; and Mary Strehlow, developmental disabilities manager for the Clark County Department of Community Services.

The award ceremony was held March 8 in the Gaiser Student Center. News anchor Brenda Braxton of KGW Newschannel 8 was the emcee. The Iris Awards were presented by Clark College, the Clark College Foundation and the Vancouver Business Journal, which featured the winners in its 2012 Women in Business Directory. Riverview Community Bank was the 2012 event sponsor. Organizers say the Iris Awards embrace the tradition of the regional “Women of Achievement” celebration but forge a new direction for the future.

In a video message, Gov. Chris Gregoire thanked Nisenfeld, Schaefer and Strehlow for their “leadership and vision ... passion and service.” She added, “Your contributions to our business community and our civic and nonprofit organizations have enhanced our region, our state and our nation for generations to come.”



Clockwise from top left: Emcee Brenda Braxton of KGW Newschannel 8 praised the honorees for their contributions to Southwest Washington; Iris Award winner Sally Schaefer and Clark College Foundation President/ CEO Lisa Gibert; *left to right*, Riverview Community Bank Vice President Ginger Schmidt, Iris Award winner Mary Strehlow and Clark College President Bob Knight.



Sally Schaefer was honored as a “leader, role model, and inspiration.” Schaefer, who served on the Clark College Board of Trustees for 13 years, noted that her husband, Bob, had a leading role in the creation of WSU Vancouver when he was a state legislator. She described her pride in the partnership between the college and the university in serving the educational needs of Southwest Washington.

Described by her nominators as “an advocate and trailblazer” who has been “instrumental in [establishing] innovative programs and models for inclusion” throughout Clark County and Washington state, Mary Strehlow urged members of the audience and the community at large to continue to support the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Nominators praised Lisa Nisenfeld for her “rare ability to provide both vision and passion to those she leads.” Nisenfeld thanked her family and colleagues for their support. Then, in one of the event’s most touching moments, she noted that the evening would have had special meaning for her husband Jay, who died in September 2011. The iris, she said, “was his favorite flower.”



Top: Iris Award winner Lisa Nisenfeld, second from left, with her proud family.

Left: Clark College Foundation Vice President of Development Ara Serjoie and Clark College Professor Priscila Martins-Read, who was honored as one of the first “Women of Achievement” in 1985.

# Engagement and Excellence

## *Clark College welcomes its new Office of Diversity and Equity*



Clark College recently realigned its services dealing with issues of diversity and equity by creating the Office of Diversity and Equity. Its function is to support the goals set out in the [Diversity Plan](#) adopted by Clark College in 2009. It will assist in the accomplishment of these goals through the establishment of a Diversity Center at Clark, serving as a resource on related issues, providing training and educational programs, inviting speakers and performers, and providing opportunities to connect for those who have felt disconnected in the past.

In the past, the work done by this office came out of Human Resources and Student Affairs, but the college has moved to a more effective model that brings this work together under the Office of Diversity and Equity. The Office of Diversity and Equity is led by Special Advisor on Diversity and Equity Sirius Bonner, who serves on the college's Executive Cabinet. Other staff members include Outreach Coordinator Rosalba Pitkin, Multicultural Retention Manager Felisciana Peralta, and the Clark College Peer Mentors. The Office of Diversity and Equity reports to the President.

The new office is committed to serving historically disadvantaged communities as they navigate Clark, as well as the entire Clark community as it engages in conversations around power, privilege, inequity, and diversity. To this end, the office is launching several new initiatives in the coming months with the goal of making Clark a more inclusive environment for everyone.

### **THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CLARK COLLEGE DIVERSITY CENTER**

The Diversity Center's mission is to support the goals of Clark's Diversity Plan. The function of the Diversity Center is to be a welcoming and safe place for the entire Clark community (students, faculty, staff, and community members) to learn about and engage with issues of diversity, inclusion, power, privilege, inequity, and social justice. The Diversity Center will host regular conversations, screenings, and other events. As well, the Diversity Center will have a lending library and be a comfortable place for people to gather. The Diversity Center is currently located in PUB 014 between the Testing Center and the International Office, but potential new locations are being explored.





*Left to right,  
Multicultural  
Retention Manager  
Felisciana Peralta,  
Special Advisor  
on Diversity and  
Equity Sirius  
Bonner, Outreach  
Coordinator  
Rosalba Pitkin.*

## THURSDAY TALKS

Bring a friend and bring your lunch for an hour of conversation! Thursday Talks address the intersection of identity, inclusion, and current events. These casual conversations are facilitated by Office of Diversity and Equity staff.

### FACULTY AND STAFF AFFINITY GROUP GATHERINGS

The Office of Diversity and Equity is hosting monthly gatherings for faculty and staff from historically disadvantaged groups to create opportunities to network, support each other, and build community. So far, affinity groups include faculty and staff of color, LGBTQI faculty and staff, and female-identified administrators. If members of other historically disadvantaged groups would like to form a group, please contact the Office of Diversity and Equity.

## COMMUNITY READING GROUP

The Community Reading Group is a brown-bag lunch series open to all community members. Beginning spring term, we will gather from noon to 1 p.m. once a month to discuss reading materials of relevance to the work promoted by the Office of Diversity and Equity. The readings (or videos) will be distributed ahead of time to the community through email or the website. The goal of these conversations is to engage all members of the Clark community in a congenial conversation that we hope will spark new ways of thinking about inclusivity and diversity.

### “WHAT IS DIVERSITY?” CONVERSATIONS

The Office of Equity and Diversity will provide formal and informal opportunities to engage in this conversation as the college continues to build a community definition for the dynamic concept of diversity.

# From Tibetan Schoolchildren to Miracle Trees

*Two Clark College employees discuss their efforts to be responsible global citizens*

A little-known fact about Clark College is that within its walls toil some modern-day superheroes. Oh sure, they may look mild-mannered enough, but just as with your traditional comic-book superhero, they spend their off hours traveling to the far corners of the world to help those in need. And on February 7, two of them decided to unmask themselves.

Okay, maybe that's a slight exaggeration. After all, neither Interim International Programs Manager Jody Shulnak nor DEECH Administrative Assistant Jeri Kemmer is exactly secretive about their volunteer work abroad. And they prefer the term "global citizen" to "superhero." Nevertheless, the presentation they gave in PUB 161, "Unpacking Global Citizenship: Two Penguins Making an Impact Around the World," was inspiring and full of adventure.

Kemmer spoke first about the nonprofit she and her husband, Rick, recently started, **Strong Harvest International**. The organization's goal is to provide communities in developing countries with improved food security, health, and economic viability, primarily through a plant called the moringa tree. Also known as the "Miracle Tree,"



Jody Shulnak and Jeri Kemmer spoke about their international volunteerism efforts.

it's got an impressive list of attributes. It thrives in substandard soil and requires the drought/monsoon weather patterns that affect much of the developing world to grow. Its leaves are nutritional powerhouses, providing gram-for-gram twice the protein of yogurt, seven times the vitamin C of oranges, four times the calcium of milk, and three times the potassium of bananas. Its seed pods can be cooked as a nutritious vegetable dish while

green, and once dried the seeds can be ground up and added to unsafe drinking water, where their strong coagulant properties can remove more than 90 percent of its impurities. The ripe seeds also produce oil which can be used for cooking, cosmetics, and machine lubrication.

The Kemmers first learned about the moringa tree during the years they spent as missionaries in Tanzania. Once they returned to the United





States in 2007, they realized they still had a desire to help those in the developing world. At first, they tried to find an existing nonprofit to work with. “We kept talking about jobs with existing organizations and saying, ‘Oh, that looks good, but how could we do moringa with that?’” Kemmer said. “Finally we just said, ‘Maybe we should concentrate on moringa.’”

Kemmer said that Strong Harvest is still getting started, but already it has provided moringa trees and education to volunteers and nonprofits working in Managua, Nicaragua. It’s also partnering with

local organizations that have ongoing projects in Indonesia and India, and hopes to expand into Mexico, Haiti, Kenya and Tanzania as well.

Jody Shulnak, meanwhile, has concentrated her efforts on the rural Tibetan village where her husband, Jamyang, grew up—a village also called Shulnak. (Many Tibetans take their village name as their last name.) When the couple decided to visit the village last year, they also wanted to do something to help Jamyang’s home town.

They settled on contributing to the village’s one small grade school, in part because Jamyang’s late

father had been a teacher there. Students in this subsistence farming community have very few school supplies; on Jody’s last visit to Shulnak in 2006, she watched children write out arithmetic problems in the dirt with their fingers because they lacked both paper and pencils.

Jody Shulnak quickly put together a [Facebook](#) page for the Shulnak Village School Project, and by the time she and her husband left for their trip, they had raised \$1500 in donations. They used the money to buy backpacks and school supplies for each of the 86 students in the school, as well as basic classroom



supplies and recreation equipment. (Jody wound up having to demonstrate how to use the jump ropes they had bought, as the children had never seen one before.) There was enough money left over afterward to purchase and install the village's first playground—the next-nearest playground is two and a half hours away by car.

Shulnak said that she and her husband hope to return to the village in 2013 and to continue the work they've begun in supporting the school and its students. They'd like to expand into providing scholarships for students to attend boarding school after graduating from the Shulnak Village School, which only goes to about the equivalent of sixth grade.

Shulnak concluded by reminding the audience that anyone can help others around the world even if they never travel beyond their own country's borders, through fundraising, education, and increasing their own awareness of issues facing the global community. "Global citizenship does not necessarily mean having a passport," she said.

Or, evidently, a cape.

Previous page: Rick and Jeri Kemmer in Tanzania; their coworker Herman harvesting moringa seed pods in Tanzania.

This page, top: Jeri and Rick Kemmer with a family they befriended during their time as missionaries in Tanzania.

Bottom: Students at the Shulnak Village School show off some of the recreational equipment they received.





# Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss!

## *Another Read Across America Success for the Volunteer & Service-Learning Program*

On March 2, students, faculty and staff from Clark College volunteered to read to students at Fruit Valley and Harney Elementary Schools as part of “Read Across America,” a birthday celebration for Dr. Seuss, the beloved author who epitomized a love of children and learning. At the two schools, 35 Clark volunteers read Dr. Seuss books to 22 classes of elementary school students.

Now in its fourth year, the bilingual program at Harney Elementary School includes kindergarten, first, second and third grades. Almost half of the teachers who requested Dr. Seuss readings for the day were in bilingual classrooms. This created a special opportunity for Clark College Spanish language students to practice their Spanish-speaking skills.

In support of “Read Across America,” the Volunteer & Service-Learning (VSL) Program teamed up with the Clark College Bookstore to organize the fourth annual “Seuss-a-Palooza Book Drive.” The donated books were given to Fruit Valley and Harney Elementary Schools so that every kindergartener would have a book to read.

Clark College students, staff, and community members came together to reach their goal of 145 copies of Green Eggs and Ham. The college community then exceeded the goal - enthusiastically donating 10 additional copies of Green Eggs and Ham as well as 21 other Dr. Seuss titles.

“It felt fantastic to provide books to the kids,” said Marti Earhart, Bookstore Buyer at Clark College. “I was fortunate enough to help hand books to students in Ms. Goforth’s [Harney Elementary] kindergarten class and could see how



Clark student Alexis Allen reads aloud to students during Read Across America.

excited students were to have their own books. It was a special moment to see kids so enthusiastic about reading.”

Read Across America is a campaign of the National Education Association. Reading events are scheduled year-round to encourage reading among school-aged children. Volunteers for various academic support activities are always needed at Fruit Valley and Harney Elementary Schools as well as at other schools in the area. For more information on opportunities to serve, contact Sarah Weinberger in the Clark College VSL Program at 992-2447.

## War Stories

*Award-winning documentarian Bill Carter shares tales of Bosnia and Bono*

As a young man, Bill Carter's life was upended when his pregnant fiancée died in a traffic accident. He reacted by doing something he done before when searching for answers: traveling somewhere far away. But while previous journeys had taken him to study Chinese in Asia or work in the canneries of Alaska, this time he chose as his destination the then-besieged city of Sarajevo.

"Grief is a very weird wave to ride," he said to an audience assembled in Gaiser Student Center to hear him speak on February 27.

That wave put him in very perilous waters indeed. In 1993, he joined with an organization called the Serious Road Trip, a charity group that transported humanitarian supplies to areas considered too dangerous for the U.N. to visit. The group helped provide crucial aid to the civilians of Sarajevo, but Carter said that he "got tired of delivering food to people who were dying." At the time, Sarajevo had spent more than a year under a constant barrage of bombing and sniper fire from Serbian forces. Carter decided to move into the city and begin filming its residents' daily lives. He showed the resulting documentary, *Miss Sarajevo*, as part of his presentation.

Getting the documentary produced involved another act of bravery. Pretending to be the managing editor of Bosnia's TV news station, he finagled an interview with the famous Irish band U2. Once face-to-face with Bono, the band's lead singer, Carter convinced him to air live footage of real Sarajevans during the band's shows. In this way, the plight of Sarajevo was broadcast to 80,000 concertgoers during the band's entire tour. At the end of the project, Bono



Bill Carter with ASCC Activities Director Hannah Nye before his presentation.

was so touched by the Sarajevans' plight that he promised to fund Carter's documentary and provide a song for it, also called "Miss Sarajevo" after a beauty contest that took place within the ravaged city at the height of the siege.

Carter went on to become a documentarian and journalist. His work has appeared in publications such as *Rolling Stone*, *Outside*, *Men's Journal* and *Spin*. He has also written two books, *Fools Rush In* (about his experiences in Bosnia) and *Red Summer* (about his time as a fisherman in Alaska). Recently he said he has stopped chasing such dangerous stories in order to spend time with his two young daughters.

He also gave personal advice to students in the audience interested in a writing career. "It's very rare for a person at age 22 to have anything new to tell people," he said. "Go live your life and get something to write about."



# Machine-Made Jobs

*Local employers discuss careers in mechatronics*



On March 8, representatives from five local employers participated in a panel session about careers in the field of mechatronics. The event was sponsored by Career Services and held at Clark College at Columbia Tech Center (CTC), where the college's mechatronics program is housed. The event was organized and facilitated by Career Services Job Developer Suzanne Thayer.



Left: Some of the Mechatronic lab's state-of-the-art equipment. Top: Professor Chris Lewis shows off the lab's miniature assembly line.

The event drew 30 students, faculty, staff and members of the community. The companies represented on the speakers' panel were Columbia Machine, Wafer Tech, Boeing, Daimler and Madden Industrial. According to the organizers, the speakers provided valuable information and career advice, including tips on resumes and interviewing.

Professor Chris Lewis, who developed the mechatronics program at Clark College, provided tours of the program's lab for the employers. Employers commented on how impressed they were with the lab, which contains a state-of-the-art miniature assembly line with a robotic arm so that students can learn on equipment just like what's being currently used in industry. The representative from Boeing stated that engineers in Seattle suggested he visit Clark's mechatronics program because of what they'd heard about it.

CTC Student Affairs Program Specialist Debra Hentz attended the presentation. "I thought it was a great event," she said. "In fact, I shared it at our building meeting, telling everyone what they missed."

## Bold as Ice

*Clark College students don't freeze up during annual ice-carving workshop*

On February 28 and 29, professional ice sculptor Christopher Huessy put on an ice-carving workshop for Culinary Arts' second-year Restaurant Management students. In what has become an annual tradition at the college, teams of students carved their own 350-pound blocks of ice outside on the west side of Gaiser Hall. Each of the seven blocks slowly was converted into a frozen image of SpongeBob SquarePants, various aquatic animals, and a tribute to one of the students' classes, "Wine Appreciation." This last entry consisted of a 4-foot-tall wine bottle and accompanying glass.



Restaurant Management students Thomas Andrews, Wendy Ford and Don Godin pose in front of their ice sculpture, a seal.





## Net Results

### *Clark College's basketball season comes to an end*

Clark College's remarkable basketball season came to a close during the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) championships, held March 3 – 6 at the Toyota Center in Kennewick, Washington.

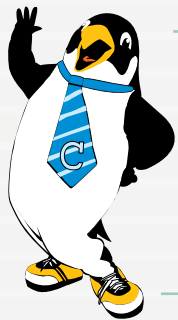
Left: Derek Owens, No. 15, goes for the layup while Austin Bragg, No. 11, gets set for the rebound against Bellevue. Right: Deborah Simmons shoots a jump shot over a Yakima defender. *Photos courtesy of Aleks Lepisto/The Independent.*

Both the men's and women's teams had played strongly during the season, clinching tournament berths as No. 1 and No. 2 seeds, respectively. While neither team placed in the tournaments, both showed true team spirit, and many individual players were chosen to play on their regional all-star teams. Clark men's players Austin Bragg and Derek Owens were named to the Western Region All-Star

First Team, and Blake Bowen was named to the second team. On the women's team, Clark player Chelsea Dyson was named to the Western Region All-Star First Team, and Macy Mukensnabl was named to the second team. Additionally, sophomore Deborah Simmers was chosen as both Defensive Player of the Year and Most Valuable Player in the Western Region.



Photo by Tony Wecker courtesy of the Portland Trailblazers.



## Penguin Patter

*News about people from throughout the Penguin Nation!*

### WHAT SO PROUDLY WE HAIL

The Clark College Women's Choral Ensemble were chosen to sing the National Anthem at the Portland Trailblazers game against New Orleans on March 5. The Women's Ensemble was selected on the basis of their audio audition, which

was submitted in August. The performance was aired during game coverage on radio on 750AM The Game and on cable on CSNNWHD (Comcast Sports Network Northwest HighDef). This was the first time a Clark choir has been selected to sing the National Anthem at a professional sporting event. "It is a great honor, and we are proud to be representing our college," said Vocal Music Program Director April Duvic in an email before the performance.

### AFFINITY GROUP

Congratulations to art professor Lisa Conway, whose work is included in the curated show "Abstract Affinities," running through April 1 at the Francine Seders Gallery in Seattle. The show includes several glazed porcelain pieces from her "Wall Flower" series.



# From the HR Department

## CHANGE IS EASY!

If your name, address or phone number has changed recently, please update it on the form located on ClarkNet: [https://intranet.clark.edu/departments/information/human\\_resources/forms/NameAddressChange/](https://intranet.clark.edu/departments/information/human_resources/forms/NameAddressChange/)

If you don't have access to ClarkNet, call Human Resources at x2105 and we can fill in the form for you.

## PEBB PROGRAM IS EXTENDING THE LIFE INSURANCE SPECIAL REENROLLMENT OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH MARCH 31, 2012

Some employers and employees told the PEBB Program that the February special reenrollment opportunities are confusing. As a result, the PEBB Program is extending the special reenrollment period for an extra month—through March 31, 2012. Remember the three opportunities:

### 1. INCREASING SUPPLEMENTAL LIFE INSURANCE WITHOUT MEDICAL REVIEW (FEBRUARY 1 – MARCH 31, 2012)

If you were enrolled in the PEBB Supplemental Life Insurance before February 1, 2012, you may be able to add as much as \$50,000 more in Employee Supplemental Life Insurance without medical review, and your spouse/state-registered domestic partner may be able to add as much as \$25,000 in coverage. For specific details related to eligibility and exactly how much you can add to your current coverage, see Enroll In or Increase Supplemental Life Insurance on the PEBB website at [www.pebb.hca.wa.gov](http://www.pebb.hca.wa.gov).

### 2. NEW OR ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENTAL LIFE INSURANCE THAT REQUIRES MEDICAL REVIEW (ANYTIME STARTING FEBRUARY 1, 2012)

If you or your spouse/state-registered domestic partner were not eligible for the opportunity above or you want more coverage than is allowed without medical review, you can now apply for higher coverage amounts. This opportunity requires medical review and approval from ReliaStar Life. For more information, including instructions on how to apply, go to the Enroll In or Increase Supplemental Life Insurance on the PEBB website at [www.pebb.hca.wa.gov](http://www.pebb.hca.wa.gov).

## 3. VERIFYING YOUR LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE AMOUNTS BEFORE APRIL 1, 2012

Review the level of life insurance coverage your employer has on record. You should have received a Statement of Insurance from the Health Care Authority or an e-mail from Clark College Human Resources listing your current coverage. If you believe there is an error or discrepancy with your own records, you should contact Human Resources by March 31, 2012. Your coverage entered as of April 1, 2012 will be your coverage of record—you will not have another opportunity to change this amount without medical review and approval by ReliaStar Life.

More information about this Special Reenrollment Period can be found on the PEBB website at [www.pebb.hca.wa.gov/supplemental.html#verify](http://www.pebb.hca.wa.gov/supplemental.html#verify).

## OPEN POSITIONS

The following positions are open at Clark College:

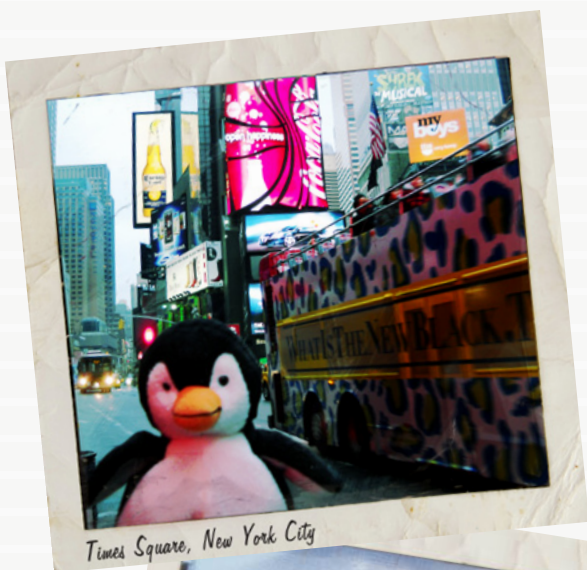
ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS:	CLOSING DATES:
Associate Dean of Health Sciences	Continuous
Director of Charitable Gift Planning - Foundation	Continuous

FACULTY POSITIONS:	CLOSING DATES:
Tenure Track Business Technology Instructor	Continuous
priority consideration to applications submitted by 3/2/12	
Tenure Track Health Occupations Instructor	Continuous
priority consideration to applications submitted by 2/28/12	
Tenure Track Business Tech Medical Office Instructor	Continuous
priority consideration to applications submitted by 3/9/12	

TEMPORARY POSITIONS:	CLOSING DATES:
Part-time Director of Forensics/Instructor	Continuous
Part-time Nursing Instructors	Continuous
Part-time Cisco CCNA Instructor	Continuous
Part-time Computer Science & Engineering Instructor	Continuous

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

EXTERNAL RECRUITMENTS:  
<http://agency.governmentjobs.com/clarkcollege/default.cfm>



*Times Square, New York City*



*Have a great Spring Break!  
See you soon.*

## 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.)

### **OSWALD ON SPRING BREAK PHOTO CONTEST**

Monday, March 5, 2012 - Wednesday,  
April 11, 2012

Going on a vacation or planning a  
fun day trip during Spring Break?  
Take Oswald with you and you could  
win a gift card to the Clark College  
Bookstore! Stop by the Bookstore  
to adopt an official 2012 penguin  
toy (\$2.50 adoption fee), snap some  
pictures with Oswald "on location",  
and submit your best picture.

Clark College Bookstore

### **OPEN FORUM FOR VICE PRESIDENT OF INSTRUCTION**

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Candidate: Dr. Charles

Abasa-Nyarka

PUB 258B

### **OPEN FORUM FOR VICE PRESIDENT OF INSTRUCTION**

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Candidate: Dr. David Wickes

PUB 258B

### **OPEN FORUM FOR VICE PRESIDENT OF INSTRUCTION**

Thursday, March 22, 2012

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Candidate: Dr. Tim Cook

PUB 258B

### **LOCAL GREEN RESOURCE FAIR**

Saturday, March 24, 2012

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Free & open to the public.

CTC

## **PLUS—SAVE THE DATE FOR THIS IMPORTANT EVENT:**

### **FIRST DAY OF SPRING QUARTER**

Monday, April 9, 2012

Greet incoming students as they  
begin a new quarter!

### **SAKURA FESTIVAL**

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Celebrate the blossoming of Clark's  
cherry trees and the coming of spring  
that they symbolize at the college's  
annual festival. This year includes  
the dedication of the Royce Pollard  
Japanese Friendship Garden.

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