

# CLARK

May 21, 2012  
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*twenty-four/seven*



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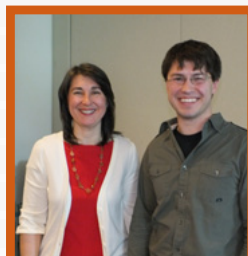
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On the cover: Greg Peiffer with his mixed media collages. "Lilith in the Industrial Swamp," left, won an award. The collage was made in Grant Hottle's Summer 2011 Painting III class.



# Artistry on Display

*Clark College shows off its artistic side with the unveiling of this year's Phoenix and Art Student Annual*

On May 15, contributors and staff of Phoenix gathered to unveil this year's edition of Clark College's annual arts and literature journal. Issues of the 144-page journal were made available to guests, including both contributors whose work was included in the journal as well as many of their proud parents.

Phoenix literary co-editor Rachel Shefchek served as head of ceremonies, introducing the events speakers, which included Clark College President Bob Knight; Kelly Keigwin, a three-year contributor and a staff member for the past two years; Luke Culbertson, part of the two-person team who produced the cover of this year's Phoenix; and contributor Kesha Fisher, whose story "Marketplace" drew on her experiences as a child growing up in Nigeria.

This year's Phoenix will be entered in the American Scholastic Press Association's annual competition. Many times, Phoenix has won First Place with Special Merit and twice, Phoenix was awarded "Most Outstanding" literary and arts magazines nationally for two-year colleges of 2,500 or more students.



*Back row, left to right: Igor Shevchenko, Levi Larson, Luke Culbertson, Dani Laughlin, Leif Clausen, Joe Knepper, Rachel Shefchek, Savannah Singh, middle row: Tara Omnes, Ashleigh Cummings, Bradley York, Marinella Jiganie, Megan Lorenz, Margherita Nicotra, Jeri Lee, Nikki Kangas-Winston, and front row: art advisor Kathrena Halsinger, literary advisor Dr. Rita Carey, Greg Peiffer. . Not pictured: Nicole Antonacci, Ariona Ellis, Jacqueline Johnson, Levi Savage, Angela Stapleton, Brittany Willard, and Ryan Williams.*

After the unveiling ceremony, guests moved downstairs to the Archer Gallery to view the opening of the Art Student Annual Show. The juried show, which was judged by former Archer Gallery

Director Marjorie Hirsch, included works in various media including painting, photography, ceramics, welded metal, and digital print.

For more photos of the event visit our [Flickr page](#).



## Award Winners for 2012 Art Student Annual:

Best in Show	Greg Peiffer, "Lilith in the Industrial Swamp"
Best Painting	Luke Acevedo, "Snorkeling and a Plane"
Best Ceramics	Desiree Trumbo, "Begging Tree Hand"
Best Drawing/ other 2D work	Nicole Birdsall, "Origami Butterflies"
Best Digital/ Graphics	Yuriy Kuprikov, "I Am An Immigrant"
Best Alternative Photography	Alexander Ferguson, "Soft Light"
Best Photo-Based Work	Zoey DeJong, "A Gift"
Best Darkroom Photo	Erin Merill, "Post-Apocalyptic Tragedy I"
Best Sculpture/ 3D Work	Larry Stark, "Flight"



Kesha Fisher, *left*, had two literary works—"Human Ways" and "Marketplace"—published in *Phoenix*. She and Kelly Keigwin, *right*, whose ceramic works "Memories" and "Self-Portrait" were also published in the 2012 *Phoenix*, both spoke at the unveiling and said they were proud to be published in such talented company.



## Russian Lessons

### *Clark's Faculty Speaker Series concludes the year with a presentation on the Russian education system*

Clark College mathematics professor Dr. Marina Frost has lived in the United States for more than two decades, but it was clear during her presentation on May 18 that she still retains a great deal of pride and interest in the Russian city where she grew up. “Akademgorodok, Siberia: A Hotbed of Education in a Very Cold Place,” the final presentation in Clark’s 2011-2012 Faculty Speaker Series, highlighted some of the aspects of the Russian education system that helped make her hometown a center of scientific achievement.

Akademgorodok was created during Russia’s Soviet Era specifically to be a center of scientific and mathematical education and research. The name Akademgorodok literally means “City of Science.” The Soviet government sent some of the brightest and most successful scientists and mathematicians from Moscow and what was then Leningrad to live in Akademgorodok and work in the massive university and institutes it had built in this remote location in the Siberian state of Novosibirsk.

The child of two mathematics professors, Dr. Frost was born in Akademgorodok and grew up in an environment of high intellectual expectations—not just from her parents, but from her city and a national government that highly prized achievement in science and mathematics. “The Russian child may begin learning math in preschool or kindergarten,” she said. “A Russian student plans to do three to four hours of homework a day, starting in third grade. And they go to school on Saturdays.”

Russian students were expected to “go to the board”—the term for solving math problems in front of their class on the blackboard—on a daily basis. This in turn prepared them for the regional and nationwide math and science Olympiads



Former student Vadim Nersesyan introduced Dr. Frost at the lecture. He credited her with fostering his love of mathematics. “It makes sense when she explains it, and that’s the most important thing when you’re teaching mathematics,” he said. After earning degrees in mathematics from Portland State University and Oregon State University, Nersesyan has returned to Clark College to teach mathematics himself as an adjunct.

in which they competed. Winners of these competitions could earn free tuition and board at prestigious high schools. (Dr. Frost herself attended such a school.) “To be a winner in a math or science Olympiad was to be like a star athlete here,” Dr. Frost said.

Upon graduating from high school, Russian students undertook an exhausting, four-part exam including both written and oral components, the results of which determined where they would be able to go for post-secondary education. Often, the highest achievers on these exams wound up in Akademgorodok, helping continue and enhance that city’s reputation as a center for achievement in the hard sciences. Dr. Frost earned her undergraduate, master’s and doctoral degrees in mathematics from Novosibirsk State University, specializing in differential equations.

Given this environment in which mathematical achievement was promoted from an early age, Dr. Frost said during her lecture, one of the strongest cultural shocks she experienced when she began teaching math in the United States was the fear many American students had regarding the subject—particularly female students. Dr. Frost recalled that when she first came to this country, a talking Barbie doll had recently been released whose pre-recorded statements included saying, “Math class is tough!”

“This was confusing to me, coming from a family of five math professionals, four of whom are women,” she said. Dr. Frost, who taught at Skagit Valley College and the University of Washington before joining Clark’s adjunct faculty in 1992, added that she was surprised to learn that American students frequently had not studied algebra before high school. “Russians expose their children to algebra at a very, very early age, beginning in the second grade with simple equations.”

In May 2011, Dr. Frost returned to Akademgorodok for sabbatical research, and during her lecture she reported on some of the changes she noticed in both the city and the Russian education system since her childhood. Since the fall of Communism, Akademgorodok has flourished as a hotbed of scientific entrepreneurialism and industry, as companies take advantage of the pool of highly trained technical experts the city has produced. The city itself has become more open and lively, filled with street musicians and the chatter of students discussing topics that go beyond math and science. Meanwhile, education

#### About Dr. Marina Frost

Dr. Marina Frost joined Clark College in 1992 and became a tenured professor in 1996. Frost is currently teaching and developing online classes and has been selected as a Moodle mentor for Clark faculty. She is the advisor to the Clark College Math Club and has been involved in Vancouver’s Chkalov Russian-American Cultural Exchange Committee.

is becoming more of a commodity that can be purchased by those with the resources to do so—Olympiad winners can still earn free tuition at prestigious boarding schools, for example, but their parents have to pay for their boarding. Dr. Frost was also surprised to see the range of goods and groceries available to citizens—when she lived there, residents relied on food grown in their gardens or foraged from the surrounding woods to survive.

Even with these changes, Akademgorodok remains a hub of technical innovation. “It always had, and still has, a sense of its purpose and its future,” Dr. Frost said. She concluded by saying, “I hope we can convince the students of Clark College to respect and value education as much as the citizens of Akademgorodok did during those years of deprivation.”



Dr. Marina Frost stands with Dean of Library Services, E-Learning, Tutoring & Faculty Development Michelle Bagley, who offered opening remarks at the lecture.

The Clark College Faculty Speaker Series showcases recent experiences that have enriched both the life and teaching of a Clark faculty member. Faculty members share their developmental experiences with the college community—and members of the community at large—while addressing

some of today’s most intriguing issues. Established by Clark College with support from the Clark College Foundation, the series honors individual faculty members and celebrates academic excellence. The Faculty Speaker Series will open its 2012-2013 year on October 17 with Data Networks & Telecommunication professor Dwight Hughes discussing cybersecurity risks.

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## Read All About It!

*By any “independent” standard, Clark’s student journalists excelled this year*

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Photo courtesy *The Independent*. All rights reserved.

*Independent* staffers who attended the event at Bellevue College are, *left to right*, Bradley York, Nick Parton, Kyle Yasumiishi, writing coach Jim Camin, Evan Jones, Anna Shakina, Daniel Hampton, advisor Dee Anne Finken, Jackson Zeiner, Kevin Dowdell, Ryan Whetstine, Jim Evans, Michael Sigler and Aleks Lepisto.

Clark College’s student newspaper, *The Independent*, captured 12 awards in the annual statewide competition of the Washington Community College Journalism Association (WCCJA). Additionally, several Clark student journalists were honored for their individual efforts in news reporting, photography, comprehensive or extended coverage, sports reporting, illustration, multimedia, column or commentary and reviews. They received three first place awards, two second place awards, two third place awards and five honorable mentions.

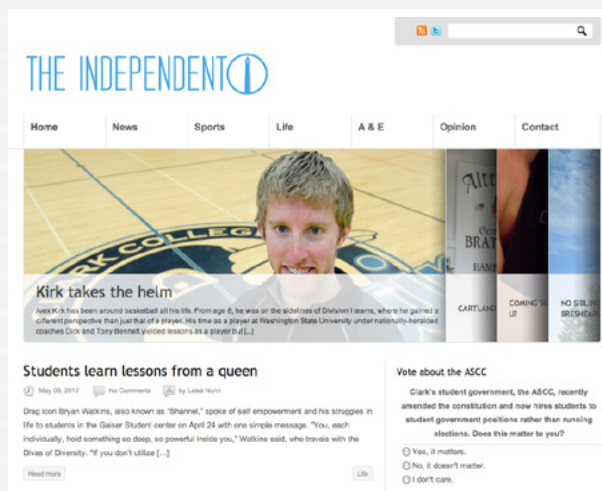


According to WCCJA President Michael Parks, judges reviewed 359 entries in 21 categories. The awards ceremony was held May 19 at Bellevue College in Bellevue, Washington.

This is the third consecutive year that *The Independent* has been honored by WCCJA. During that time, the paper has received 44 awards for excellence.

James Evans, Independent editor-in-chief, said, “Our student journalists have worked hard all year to put together a great newspaper, and it was really wonderful to see some of their individual efforts recognized in the awards we received. We’ve got a really great program with quality instructors and advisors and I think the number of first place awards we came away with reflects that.”

Dee Anne Finken, journalism instructor and advisor to *The Independent* staff, said, “Our *Independent* staff delivered again this year at the WCCJA competition, capturing an impressive number of awards and demonstrating real skill, insight and commitment. The recognition from the judges signals once again that our students care deeply about practicing principled journalism. I am proud to work with each and every one of them.”



*The Independent* is published every other Wednesday during fall, winter, and spring quarters. It is available at Clark's main campus as well as at Clark College at Columbia Tech Center,

Town Plaza and WSU Vancouver. *The Independent* is also available online at <http://clarkcollegeindependent.com/>

## ABOUT THE HONOREES

### First-place awards

Comprehensive or extended coverage: “The Things They Carry Home.” James Evans was honored for his reporting on Clark College veterans who are dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Sports news: “No field of dreams for Clark County.” Kevin Dowdell and Nick Parton were honored for their coverage of the unsuccessful attempt to build a stadium for minor league baseball and other sports and events at Clark College.

News photo: Bradley York was honored for a photograph taken at Clark’s Martin Luther King Jr. observance.

### Second-place awards

Sports feature: “A Pitcher by Day, a Mom by Night.” - Amy J. Smith

Best use of multimedia storytelling: “Wake ’n’ Shake.” - Aleksis Lepisto

### Third-place awards

News photo: “Baseball” - Nick Parton

Illustration: “Illustration Occupy” - Bradley York

### Honorable Mentions

General news reporting: Kevin Dowdell

Comprehensive or extended coverage: “Remembering a Friend and a Colleague” - Kevin Dowdell and Amy J. Smith

Individual column or commentary: “Public Universities Need Public Financing” - Kevin Vandenberg

Review: “Wake ’n’ Shake” - Thomas Steffl

Sports photography: “Penguins End Season” - Aleksis Lepisto



## Tutors Are Tops

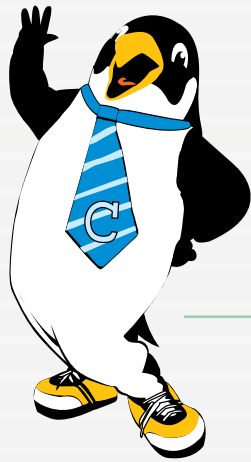
*Clark College's Student Learning Center recognizes its volunteer tutors*

On April 27, the Student Learning Center hosted its annual Tutor Recognition event to honor more than 122 tutors for their generous donation of more than 6,700 service-hours to students in the Basic Education program at Clark. This year's event had island appeal, with Hawaiian food and dancing. Almost 80 tutors, students and honored guests were in attendance at the event. Tutors were awarded a variety of prizes donated by local businesses for such accomplishments as longevity in the program (12 years was the record), number of hours served on a weekly basis, and number of varied assignments. Whether tutors serve as classroom aids, ESL conversation group facilitators, individual tutors or even as homework help, all are vital in serving the 750-plus Basic Education students who benefit from free tutoring each year.

Top: Student Learning Center staff thanks tutors and donors for their generosity.

Bottom: Dancers from the Ke Kukui Foundation school in Vancouver helped make the night extra special with their grace and beauty.





## Penguin Patter

*News about people from  
throughout the Penguin Nation!*

### HURRAY FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Clark College's Student Learning Center (SLC) was recognized by the Vancouver City Council on April 16 for the service of volunteer tutors in Clark's Adult Basic Education program. SLC Program Manager Suzanne Smith attended the announcement of the proclamation by Vancouver Mayor Tim Leavitt during National Volunteer Week. Full video of the event is available through [CVTV](#).

### JOURNAL ENTRY

Congrats to Adult Basic Education instructor Diane Tehrani, whose book review of *Poets and Pahlavans* by Marcello Di Cintio was published in the Spring 2012 edition of the *Oregon English Journal*. The review examined the book from the focus of encouraging reading among male community college and high school readers.



## 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.)

### EMERGENCY DRILL - FULL EVACUATION

Wednesday, May 23, 2012  
10:40 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.  
This drill will be a full evacuation exercise.  
Collegewide

### ASCC PRESENTS: STRESS LESS!

Wednesday, May 23, 2012  
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Free henna tattoos, specialty coffees, and bakery treats, plus live music.  
Gaiser Student Center

### 30 CLICKS: PHOTO-EDITING WITH GOOGLE PICASA

Wednesday, May 23, 2012  
12:15 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.  
LIB 103

### ASCC PRESENTS: GET YOUR HULA ON! FEATURING

**BROTHER NOLAND**  
Thursday, May 24, 2012  
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Gaiser Student Center

### ASCC PRESENTS: PIZZA AND A MOVIE

Tuesday, May 29, 2012  
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Free screening of The Social Network.  
Gaiser Student Center

### AT HOME IN TWO WORLDS: INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS BUREAU

Tuesday, May 29, 2012  
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Presenter: international student Li Qin (Rebecca) Fu from China.  
GHL 213

### 30 CLICKS: iPad FOR BEGINNERS

Wednesday, May 30, 2012  
12:15 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.  
LIB 103

### MINDFULNESS & MEDITATION SEMINAR

Monday, June 4, 2012  
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Present by Buddhist monk the Venerable Bhikkhu Piya Uttamapunyo.  
GHL 213

## PLUS—SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE IMPORTANT EVENTS:

### DEPARTMENT OF NURSING PINNING & 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Wednesday, June 20, 2012  
The Department of Nursing's class No. 111, with 47 graduates, will be receiving their Nursing pins in the Skyview High School Concert Hall. This event also marks the 50th anniversary of the first graduating class from Clark's Nursing Program.

### CLARK COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT

Thursday, June 21, 2012  
Come cheer on the class of 2012 as they walk across the stage at the Sleep Country Amphitheater.

### GED/HS COMPLETION GRADUATION

Saturday, June 23, 2012  
More than 100 students are expected to participate in this ceremony, held in the gymnasium of O'Connell Sports Complex.



# From the HR Department

## ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR CLASSIFIED EXCELLENCE AWARD SPRING QUARTER 2012

The Classified Staff Quarterly Excellence Award was established to recognize classified employees who have demonstrated exemplary work and dedication to serving students, the public and the campus community.

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2012 Spring Quarter Classified award. Information and the nomination form are on the Human Resources website at [https://intranet.clark.edu/departments/information/human\\_resources/quarterly\\_classified\\_award\\_nomination\\_form.pdf](https://intranet.clark.edu/departments/information/human_resources/quarterly_classified_award_nomination_form.pdf)

Please recognize the value of the contributions made by classified staff by completing a nominations form.

Please email your nomination forms to:

[drourek@clark.edu](mailto:drourek@clark.edu) OR [kamurphy@clark.edu](mailto:kamurphy@clark.edu)

**Due date: Friday June 1, 2012**

Nomination forms can be sent via intercampus mail to Human Resources, BRD 133; however, they must be received by the due date.

## 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
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CLASSIFIED POSITIONS:	CLOSING DATES:
Credentials Program Specialist 2	May 14, 2012

TEMPORARY POSITIONS:	CLOSING DATES:
Instructors for Professional Trainings	May 18, 2012

Part-time Math Instructors (pool)	Continuous
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Part-time Director of Forensics (Speech & Debate)/Instructor	Continuous
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Part-time Nursing Instructors	Continuous
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Part-time Cisco CCNA Instructor	Continuous
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INTERNAL RECRUITMENTS:  
<http://agency.governmentjobs.com/clarkcollege/default.cfm?promotionaljobs=1>

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

## Staff

*Editor/Contributor*  
Hannah Erickson

*Contributors*  
Rita Carey  
Barbara Kerr  
Kathy Murphy  
Suzanne Smith

*Graphic Design*  
Jenny Shadley

*Photographers*  
Hannah Erickson  
Jenny Shadley  
Suzanne Smith

