

# Clark College notes 75 years

Clark County will launch a year-long celebration of its 75th anniversary with a series of events set for Oct. 1-4.

Events will get underway Wed., Oct. 1, 9 a.m., when faculty, staff, students and community members will sing Happy Birthday in unison from wherever they are in offices, classrooms, and elsewhere. Throughout the day, the Clark College Chime Tower will play the Happy Birthday theme.

Then during a 2 p.m. ceremony, a community room at Gaiser Hall will be dedicated to Ellis F. Dunn who served Clark College for 30 years, including a period as interim president.

Birthday cake and campus tours will be offered 2-4 p.m., followed by a 7 p.m. ceremony in the newly-enhanced Gaiser Student Center with messages from college dignitaries, Gov. Gregoire, U.S. Rep. Brian Baird and Vancouver mayor Royce Pollard.

Events on Thurs., Oct. 2, will include an 11 a.m.-2 p.m. program to encourage involvement in this year's election process, and a 2-3:30 p.m. accreditation appreciation program, marking the completion of a two-year self-evaluation process.

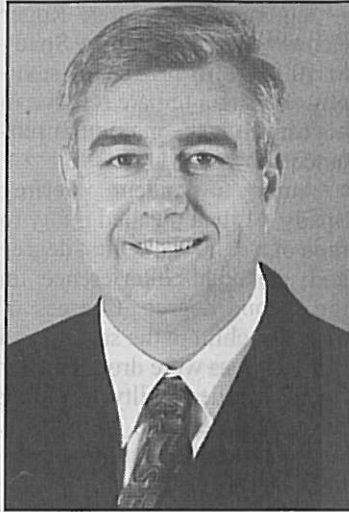
The "Rock the Vote" rally, slated to take place at Andersen Fountain Plaza near Gaiser Hall and the Clark College Chime Tower, has been officially sanctioned by the national "Rock the Vote" organization.

As part of the event, the Clark County Auditor's office will have laptops ready to electronically register students and community members to vote.

The Oct. 2 schedule begins at 11 a.m. with a complimentary lunch from Burgerville, and music by "The Bantuz" from Zimbabwe. A table fair with information about local and national candidates will be offered.

Clark County auditor Greg Kimsey and Vancouver city council member Tim Leavitt will speak, along with Clark College president Robert K. Knight. Washington's Secretary of State Sam Reed will discuss the importance of voter participation and "why democracy is the greatest system in the world."

The chairs of the Republican and Democrat parties in Clark County will also speak. Clark College political science professor Nick Forrest will discuss the role of students in the political



**BOB KNIGHT**

process and why an informed citizenry is a key American value.

Clark College, in conjunction with the Metropolitan Recreation Commission of Portland, vied to host one of the 2008 presidential debates. The bid was unsuccessful. Knight noted that the debate would have been the first in the Pacific Northwest.

Tours and open house at the college's Town Plaza facility will take place Fri., Oct. 3, 10 a.m.-noon, at 5411 E Mill Plain Blvd., Vancouver.

The Andersen Educational

Complex will be dedicated at 1 p.m., honoring Roy and Virginia Andersen whose contribution to the college a decade ago changed the culture of philanthropy in support of community and technical colleges across the United States.

An Oktoberfest event is set for 4-8 p.m. on Oct. 3, a family-friendly festival that is free to the public and will include a play area, coloring station, artisan booths, food and fun. An alumni hospitality suite is set for 4-8 p.m. in the Penguin Student Lounge.

Then on Sat., Oct. 4, 9 a.m.-noon, the Kalani Rodrigues Memorial Scholarship 5K Run and Walk will take place, with registration at the Christensen Soccer Field. The event will conclude with a Hawaiian luau lunch at Gaiser Student Center.

The Clark College Archer Gallery will feature the Ruth Pattern Hart exhibit with a reception set for Sun., Oct. 5, 1-3 p.m. The exhibit is free and open to the public, and will remain at the Gallery through Oct. 25.

## College dates to 1933

Clark College was founded by a group of educators and business people during the Great Depression, opening its doors in 1933. Declining enrollments occurred during World War II, leading to a post-war boom that continues.

"Seventy-five years after the college was founded," said current president Bob Knight, "our mission remains the same. We provide great educational opportunities to support the dreams of each person who joins our Penguin Nation. We foster lifelong learners who contribute to our region and the global community."

"If you've ever worked at Clark or taken a class here, you are a Clark alum and we hope you'll join our celebration," said Knight, who has served as president for more than one year.

Clark enrollment this fall is up about 9 percent from fall 2007. Nearly 12,000 students are currently taking classes. More than 1,300 have signed up

## Clark College Enrollment

2008	12,667
2007	12,675
2006	12,785
2005	12,607
2004	13,411
2003	13,681
2002	13,454
2001	12,993
2000	12,157
1999	12,599
1998	11,886
1997	10,753
1996	10,721
1995	10,629
1994	10,727
1993	10,159
1992	10,234
1991	9,903
1990	9,651

for the Running Start Program. And the college is welcoming 78 students through its international program.

Theme of the 75-year anniversary celebration is "Preserve the past. Honor the present. Embrace the future."

More information about the Clark College anniversary celebration is available by calling Barbara Kerr, 992-2921, and at [www.clark.edu](http://www.clark.edu)