

Clark College celebrates remodeled Gaiser Hall

Ken Vance
staff reporter

Clark College's \$10 million renovation of Gaiser Hall is now complete.

The college unveiled the expanded and newly-renovated building at a grand reopening celebration June 13, attended by several current and past officials of the school.

The new section of Gaiser Hall, which originally opened in 1958, is the hub for student services at Clark College, housing programs for student eligibility, registration, advising, financial aid, counseling and career services.

Construction began in December 2006 and was completed in March 2008. The project consists of about 24,000 square feet of new construction and some 38,000 square feet of remodeled space, including structural and non-structural improvements.

"What we hope this is going to do is allow our continuing students to walk into a space where they can have all of their needs addressed, such as register for classes, see an advisor, see a counselor, receive information about financial aid, career planning, and everything is right there," said Dr. Rachel Ruiz, vice president of student affairs for Clark College.

Ruiz said that it follows a

new concept in education services at the collegiate or university level.

"The concept is to have an environment that is easily accessible for students as they look for the services they need," Ruiz said. "When you can have a place where students can have their needs met almost instantly, it helps them get a sense of organization and structure. It does really help them feel the institution is looking out for them and committed to their needs."

Not only will the concept benefit the students, but the staff at Clark as well.

"It really does help the staff to learn about the other services and it's easy to refer students to the other services," Ruiz said.

The renovation of Gaiser Hall comes on the heels of a \$10 million construction of the Penguin Union Building, completed in April 2005. While the renovated Gaiser Hall is designed to meet the needs of continuing students, the Penguin Union Building is for new students.

"We have a welcome center on the other side of the building in the PUB," said Ruiz, using the acronym for the building. "That area is for new and prospective students. This is where students come when they have not registered yet.

"They are coming to get information on how to apply, about orientation, about the different programs we have, both academic and occupational," Ruiz said. "That is the front door of our campus for new students who come in, to have their needs be addressed. We have that space for new students and now a space for our continuing students."

Ruiz indicated Clark College is also in the process of renovating the student center, a project that includes the construction of an auditorium.

"This is a place where we will hold large events on campus," she said. "It's going to be a wonderful place to hold large events. Once that is complete, we're shooting for the end of August, we should have a pretty good place for students, staff and faculty. It's a pretty exciting time."

LSW Architects designed the Gaiser Hall project, which was built under the guidance of General Contractor Emerick Construction.

The new facility uses passive and active heating and cooling technologies, including the use of chilled beam technology and radiant cooling and heating with some slab areas.

LSW Architects plans to verify that the project meets the Leadership in Energy and Envi-



CLARK COLLEGE CELEBRATED THE re-opening of remodeled Gaiser Hall on June 13.

ronment Design silver certification. LEED certification verifies that a building project meets the highest green building and performance measures and that the building is environmentally responsible and a healthy place to live and work.

Gaiser Hall is named for Dr. Paul F. Gaiser who was presi-

dent of Clark College from 1941 until 1958.

Guests at the reopening ceremony included Amanda Dotson, representing Rep. Brian Baird, faculty emeritus Antonio Scarpelli and his wife Arlene, and former Clark College administrator Bob Moser.

Clark College President Bob

Knight and Associated Students of Clark College President Patrick Mehigan each spoke at the event.

Clark College is located at 1933 Fort Vancouver Way, between E. McLoughlin Blvd. and Fourth Plain Blvd. in Vancouver.