

# PARTNERS

— THE CLARK COLLEGE FOUNDATION MAGAZINE —

[ SPRING 2012 ]

PROMISES MADE.  
PROMISES KEPT.

▶ ANNUAL REPORT EDITION



*Promise*

## Our future is at stake

American writer and philosopher Eric Hoffer said: "In a time of drastic change, it is the learners who inherit the future."

We are living in a time of drastic change. Due to unprecedented state budget cuts, Clark College is no longer state supported. Today, Clark is simply state assisted.

"The nation that out-educates us today is going to out-compete us tomorrow," said President Barack Obama as he challenged Americans to build "an education system that is worthy of our children" and will meet the unique challenges of the 21st century. "Make no mistake," he said. "Our future is on the line."

At this critical time, your support through Clark College Foundation is vital to ensuring that the gifted students you meet in this annual report – and thousands like them – are able to fulfill their own promise.

Our students will not only inherit the future; they will shape the future of our region and our world.

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## Promises Made. Promises Kept.

*Clark College is committed to keeping our promises.*



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## Global and Gone Turns Local and Connected

*The Wallaces believe supporting Clark College makes sense.*

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### Cover:

Haylea Close '11 has the world in her hands as she pursues her dream of being an electrical engineer.



# PROMISES MADE. PROMISES KEPT.

## Promise:

A declaration that you will do something. An expectation of success or excellence.

At Clark College, we are committed to keeping our promises. We promise to provide extraordinary educational opportunities in Southwest Washington. With a focus on excellence, we promise an unwavering commitment to student success.

## EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Clark College continues to welcome record enrollment: nearly 16,000 students in the winter, spring and fall quarters of 2011. Embracing the promise of education, they came to earn academic degrees, to learn new skills in our career and technical programs, and to enhance their careers and lives through corporate and continuing education.

They came for cutting edge classes such as mechatronics, a state-of-the-art program blending mechanical, electronic and information technology. They came for a new transfer degree program in health informatics information technology and for new degrees in graphic communications and in Web design and development.

They came for Clark's science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs, which will be housed in a new building on our main campus by the end of the decade. Our nursing students joined us as that renowned department prepared to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

Our dental hygiene students came to learn in a dynamic new simulation learning lab. Our littlest penguins are also learning in exciting new spaces – the Oliva Family Early Learning Center and the Little Penguins' Gardens. Those projects wouldn't have been possible without donor support through the Clark College Foundation.

More than 1,500 graduates earned degrees and certificates during the 2010-2011 academic year – the largest number in Clark College history.

## STUDENT SAFETY AND SUPPORT

As part of our ongoing commitment to safety and security, we installed a new phone and mass notification system that allows us to instantly alert people in every classroom, office, meeting room and gathering space at the college.

Clark is also on the cutting edge in services – from our online catalog of programs and courses to distributing financial aid electronically.

In 2011, our staff processed 10,635 student files and awarded \$61,512,056 in financial aid – a 20 percent increase from the prior year. There was also a 38 percent increase in the number of students who took out loans. Today, many students rely on loans for their everyday expenses as well as their education. That debt will have long-term consequences for our students and for our regional economy.

## OUR PROMISE. YOUR PROMISE.

We promise to do our best – every day – to support our students and our region. But we need our community to honor its promise.

In 1933, our business community and a handful of passionate educators promised to do whatever it took to bring higher education to Southwest Washington.

Today, our community must embrace that promise again to help us ensure that our children and grandchildren know – with certainty – that they can attend college, graduate, and lead rich, meaningful lives.

That's not only a penguin promise.

It's the promise of a bright future for our region for generations to come. 🐧



# Global and Gone Turns Local and Connected

▶ Greg and Kirsten Wallace endorse Clark's essential role in the community



Photo by Kara Wallace

Greg Wallace is a "simple farm boy from Montana" who knew early on he'd need a scholarship to go to college. His family raised beef cattle on the sprawling grasslands of Big Sky Country, where Greg worked the farm before and after school.

An appointment to West Point and subsequent MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, led to a life of cross-continent travel for more than two decades. As a Hewlett-Packard executive, he was "global and gone" as he raced to keep pace with the worldwide trends of HP's \$28 billion printing business.

After getting out of the Army in his late 20s and moving to Portland, Greg met a Manitoba-born woman while attending a gathering of friends. Kirsten and Greg fell in love, married, and together they raised two striking girls, Kara and Alisa.



**Kristel Wolden** is the 2011-2012 recipient of the Gregory D. and Kirsten R. Wallace Scholarship. Her first experience with Clark College came in 2010 as a Running Start student when she took an online English course. She didn't have her driver's license at

the time, so the online class was convenient and helped her fulfill a necessary requirement.

Kristel loves the ocean and wants to explore marine biology. She's disheartened when she sees trash cluttering the shoreline of the Northwest's beaches, and she intends to do something about it. "I want to be someone who can change the opinion of everyone to see how important the ocean is for our way of life."

Kirsten, whose parents immigrated from Germany after the war and eventually settled in Portland when she was 6 years old, is the bedrock of their 27-year union. "She managed our home and raised our daughters while I was away on business trips," reflected Greg.

## Community college value

By 2007, Greg and Kirsten were ready to slow down and re-adjust their priorities. "When you travel internationally and are gone as much as I was, you don't understand or spend the time to think about what makes a local community vibrant. So much value and impact in the community is driven by an institution like Clark College," said Greg.

He retired from HP and soon thereafter chose to offer his talents and commitment to the Clark College Foundation after talking with Clark College President Robert Knight and board members and visiting the campus. Greg joined Clark College Foundation's board in 2008 and is currently serving as vice chair.

"I think people who walked down the road I've walked have no clue about the importance of a community college," said Greg. "Clark is the best kept secret around. I had no idea what it was, what it did for this region, or the size of its footprint."

Continued on page 9

# Bright Futures Reflect History

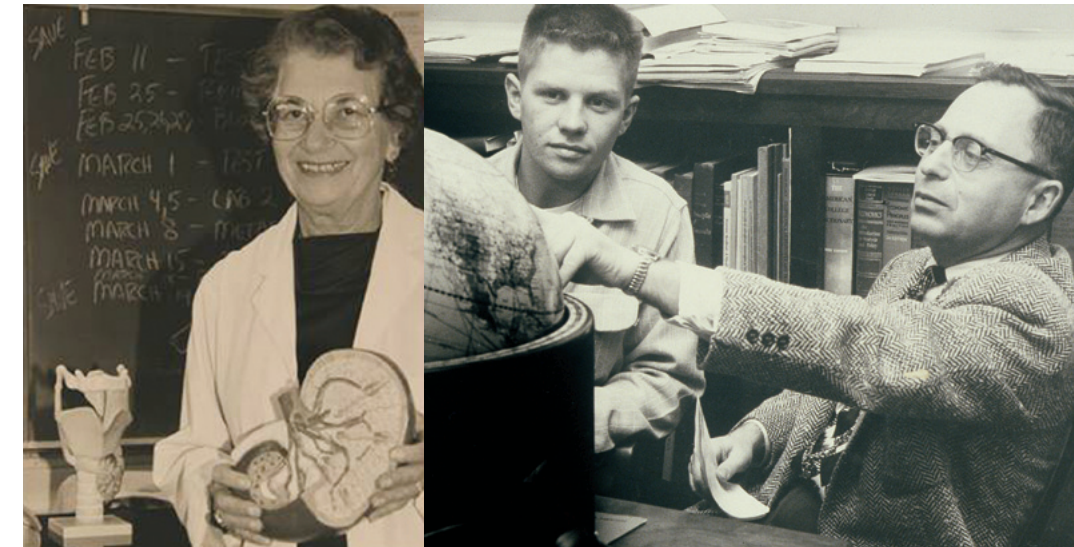
▶ Alfred and Ernestine Apsler's legacy promises learning for life

Alistair Mackie has a special interest in history. Though he prefers reading about modern history, college has provided him an appreciation for ancient civilizations such as Egypt and Rome.

The 19-year-old, who began at Clark three years ago as a Running Start student, also enjoys foreign languages. He currently studies Spanish and is considering becoming a translator with the U.S. State Department.

## Ruby Apsler

Ruby Apsler, daughter of Alfred and Erna, enhances her parents' legacy by annually contributing to the Alfred and Ernestine Apsler Scholarship. Ruby, like her parents, believes community colleges play an important role in society. "They believed strongly that education should be open to all, as do I."



"I like meeting people and learning languages," said Alistair.

Running Start is a program that gives high school juniors and seniors a jump start in their college aspirations while fulfilling high school requirements. Students take college-level classes that earn them college credit. Clark launched the program in 1992 with 212 students. In fall 2011, there were 1,763 students enrolled.

Had Alistair been on campus in the 1960s, he likely would have had Alfred Apsler as a history professor. Instead, Alistair is the 2011-2012 recipient of the Alfred and Ernestine Apsler

Scholarship, a financial award for students studying foreign language or social sciences.

Ernestine (Erna) initiated the scholarship in 1999 to encourage students who have demonstrated solid academic achievement and exhibited high personal standards to continue their education.

## Lifelong learning

The Apslers believed that people must do their part to make the world a better place after having fled Austria in 1938, narrowly avoiding the ravages of the Holocaust. They arrived in America a year later carrying a doctorate in German literature (Alfred) and a medical degree (Erna) from the University of Vienna, according to their daughter, Ruby.

They both eventually joined Clark College as professors. Alfred taught world history, German, philosophy, and comparative religion. Erna taught physiology and microbiology for 19 years. Their students hold fond memories.

"Alfred had a thick Austrian accent, a dry sense of humor, and he loved his students," said Steve Nelson '68 who took Alfred's world civilization class in 1967.

Continued on page 9



**Alistair Mackie**

"It's important to remember history. Who we were is the key to who we are and who we are going to be." – Alistair is considering law school, teaching or working in foreign affairs. He's a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, likes theater, swimming and studying history.

# Penguin Promises a Chance at College

▶ Clark College, Clark College Foundation and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Washington have launched a new scholarship program geared toward helping youth strive for a college education.

Called Penguin Promise, Boys and Girls Clubs members chosen for the initiative first take part in a college preparatory program from eighth to 12th grade. If they complete the requirements and are accepted to Clark College, they will be eligible to receive funding, up to a specified amount each quarter, to assist with the cost of tuition, fees and books.

The teens will receive mentoring, college preparation, and regular exposure to college environments by way of field trips to institutions of higher learning, including Clark College's main campus.

"We want to get these kids on campus and make them feel comfortable so that when the time comes for them to go to college, they're ready," said Clark College President Robert Knight earlier this year during a ceremonial signing event. Penguin Promise will begin in fall 2012.

Elise Menashe, executive director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Washington, said the need for helping young people achieve a college education is great. Despite the fact that 68 out of 100 ninth-graders graduate from high school in Washington state, only 15 finish college.

Penguin Promise will be supported financially from gifts contributed to Clark College Foundation by members of the community. 😊

## Haylea Close '11

Haylea's first exposure to Clark College was in 2009 as a Running Start student in which she fulfilled high school and college class requirements simultaneously. She's now enrolled in the electrical engineering program at Washington State University Vancouver, with aspirations for aeronautical engineering.

The 19-year-old's experience at Clark gave her a glimpse into her future, in which she will work with people with diverse backgrounds whether her career keeps her local or takes her global.

"I was with people with military backgrounds, parents and other Running Start students from different schools who were there to learn and who wanted to get a degree. It was an opportunity for me to get a higher education, while going to high school and to be exposed to people with a variety of backgrounds and experiences.

Motivated by new learning opportunities and the ability to set her own schedule, Haylea thrived at Clark. She is determined to continue her education by pursuing a bachelor's degree and has secured scholarships and financial aid to cover her first year at WSU Vancouver. She has the promise of a bright future.



## Lindsay Lowdermilk

Lindsay (left), who is a first-year student at Fort Vancouver High School, hopes to jump out of helicopters and save people. The 14-year-old figures she'll start that adventure by joining the Navy. But first, she wants to go to college and Penguin Promise may be the path for her to achieve that goal. She already realizes there's a lot of work to do. "For college preparation, I need to try harder in school to be successful," she said, noting that she spends more time now doing homework and rewriting class notes to help her retain information.

## Carolina Sanchez

Carolina (right) loves the television show "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" and aspires to be a forensic scientist or a FBI investigator. The McLoughlin Middle School eighth grader has already started filling out college applications – albeit just for practice – and has taken college admissions-like tests. The first time the 14-year-old stepped onto a campus it was less scary than she expected. "The kids didn't seem very different from me," she said with a smile.

## Wallace, continued from page 6

Greg and Kirsten rolled up their sleeves and got to work. Together they have held social events to bring community members together to help refashion old perceptions and spark new ideas for the foundation and Southwest Washington.

"The best way to connect with someone is to do something with them that you love or are passionate about," said Kirsten.

## Wallace Scholarship

Greg's mom had an ardent desire for education. Instead of giving traditional presents for Christmas and birthdays, she contributed to an educational fund for her grandchildren. That effort has resonated with Greg; he and Kirsten decided to provide college opportunities to others by initiating an endowment fund at Clark College.

The Gregory D. and Kirsten R. Wallace Scholarship is open to women who demonstrate intellect, work ethic, good moral character and integrity, but lack the financial resources to capitalize on those qualities.

"There are many people who could have so much more if they could access an education," said Greg. He hopes their scholarship will help students do just that. 😊

## Apsler, continued from page 7

Lifelong learning was a passion for the Apslers. A year before his retirement in 1973, Alfred gathered community members in Gaiser Hall and delved into topics such as rules of the community, rights of the citizen and sex over 50.

Clark's Mature Learning Program was born and is now celebrating its 40th anniversary.

Erna continued to shape the Mature Learning Program after her husband died in 1982 by serving as an advisory committee member. Following her retirement, she exemplified lifelong learning by attending operas, symphonies and art galleries. In 1985, Erna was honored with the inaugural Women of Achievement award bestowed upon her by Clark College and the YWCA Clark County.

Erna died in 2005 at age 92, but the Apsler's spirit lives on as students, such as Alistair, explore the promises that come with higher education and brush up on the trappings of medieval Europe. 😊

Clark College Foundation inspires philanthropic support from the community in order to ensure that our students have the promise of a bright future.

However, Clark College can no longer rely on state funding to cover the majority of its operational expenses. The state's contribution to Clark's annual operating budget has consistently declined over the past five years and continues to diminish. Clark College is now simply a state-assisted higher education institution.

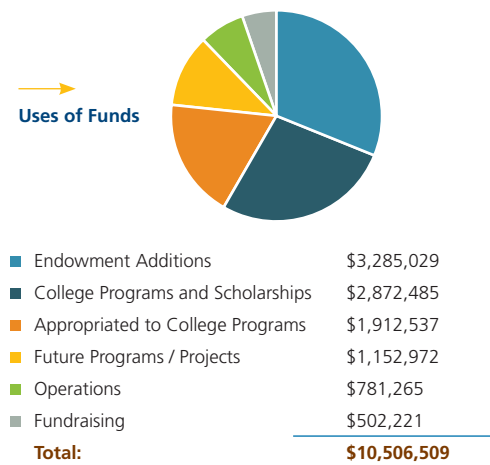
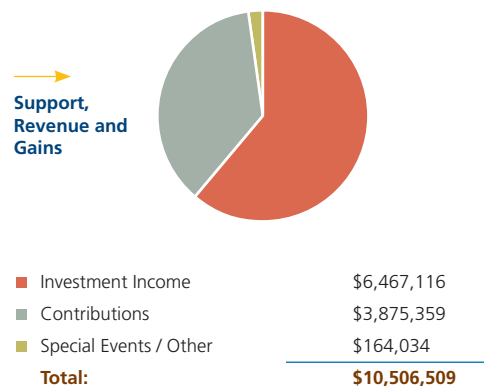
Clark College Foundation, through the support of the

community, is committed to providing opportunities for students of all ages in pursuit of their dreams despite state budget cuts that have elicited repeated tuition increases over recent years.

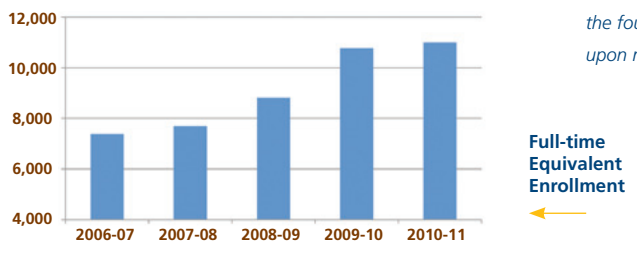
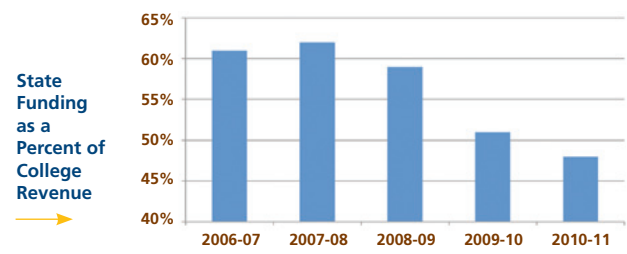
In 2011, the foundation and the college saw success with phase I construction of a new early childhood learning center and a record amount of scholarships awarded to students.

Clark has promised to be the gateway for this region's collegiate dreams. Fulfilling that goal requires financial support from you. Your impact will be powerful. We promise.

### Clark College Foundation Financial Picture (2010-2011)



Clark College Foundation is audited annually by Moss Adams, LLP, a regional independent accounting firm. Copies of the audit for the year ending June 30, 2011, are available from the foundation upon request.



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# CLARK COLLEGE FOUNDATION *Circle of Excellence*

For the period July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

On behalf of our students, faculty and staff, we thank our generous donors whose investment supports student aspirations and fortifies the programs at Clark College. Your belief in Clark creates a more vibrant and engaged community. We are grateful for every gift. Thank you.

Gifts for Penguin Partner Circle, with amounts up to \$1,000, can be found at [clarkcollegefoundation.org/donorroll](http://clarkcollegefoundation.org/donorroll)

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- Other Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Yes, I attended Clark!**

Years attended \_\_\_\_\_ Field of study \_\_\_\_\_

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NL SP12

**2012 Alumni Student DINNER**

*Date: June 5, 2012  
Time: 6 p.m.  
Location: Clark College, Gaiser Student Center*

*The Alumni-Student Dinner provides students the opportunity to connect with Clark College's alumni in a relaxed evening of networking, dinner, musical entertainment and presentation of the Outstanding Alumni Award.*



**Today's promise, tomorrow's future.**



Cost: \$25 per person (student tickets are free)  
For ticket information, contact Vivian Manning at [vmanning@clark.edu](mailto:vmanning@clark.edu) or call 360.992.2104.  
Thank you to our sponsor, Riverview Community Bank



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We make every effort to ensure that this list is complete and accurate. Please contact Karen Hagen at [khagen@clark.edu](mailto:khagen@clark.edu) with updated or corrected information.





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# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## *Jack & Philippa Alvis*

You can't go very high up on the Mourton and Alvis family trees without finding someone who attended Clark College.

Jack '49 studied art and education. His wife, Philippa Mourton Alvis, attended Clark in 1947-1948 for drama and theater. Jack's mother, Gladys Alvis, earned a degree in the 1960s and four of Jack's siblings also attended Clark.

Philippa's stepsister, Meta Mourton, was one of the first women to graduate from Clark's automotive technology program. She went on to work in the field for decades.

After attending Clark, Jack and Philippa continued their higher education and both earned a master's degree that prepared them for careers in teaching. They moved to California in the late 1960s because school teachers earned a higher salary there than in Washington or Oregon. But they have fond memories of their time at Clark.

"We were comfortable at Clark because we were growing up with the school and it was becoming such a fantastic institution. We connected quickly with the instructors because the college was small. It was a place you could feel at home," said Philippa.

Today, Jack and Philippa are retired, although Philippa still regularly substitute teaches. They live in California in a house they built in 1972 and are avid gardeners who grow fruit trees, flowers and commercial grade irises. 😊

