

CLARK COLLEGE • Vol. 23, No. 2 • WINTER 2010

Connections

▪ Schedule of Day/Evening Classes ▪ Winter Classes Begin January 4

ClarkCollege *The Next Step*



curious
innovative
creative exciting



Joining President Knight (center) are members of Clark College's NERD (Not Even Remotely Dorky) Girls club and engineering professor and STEM outreach coordinator Tina Barsotti (center right). NERD Girls (and boys) explore opportunities in science, engineering and mathematics, and share the fun of scientific exploration through activities and visits to area elementary, middle and high schools.

What will the future look like?

People have asked that question throughout history.

We know that much of our future will be driven by today's students who are focusing on science, technology, engineering and math. We call those classes "STEM" for short.

In this issue of *Clark College Connections*, you'll see how Clark College is a regional leader – not just in educating students but in getting them excited about STEM classes – from elementary school through college and beyond.

You'll also learn about some exceptional members of our faculty and staff. Literally. They are the men and women who received this year's Exceptional Faculty and Exceptional Classified Staff awards for their service to our students.

For nearly 10 years, we've been building for the future through the creation of Clark College at Columbia Tech Center. That beautiful building opened in September to rave reviews and strong enrollment. It is an outstanding addition to our college and our region.

What's The Next Step? Planning is underway for a new building devoted to STEM learning. Located on our main campus, it will be home to state-of-the art, interactive learning that reflects a sense of excitement and innovation. We want it to be a building that engages our students and our region.

We may not know exactly what the future looks like but we're committed to building a bright one – for our region and, most of all, for each of you.

Robert K. Knight, *President*

President

Robert K. Knight

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Alternate format of this document is available upon request. Please contact Disability Support Services at 360-992-2314 or 360-992-2835 (TTY).

Disclaimer

This class schedule is published for information purposes only. Although every effort is made to insure accuracy at the time of publication, this class schedule shall not be construed to be an irrevocable contract between the student and Clark College. The College reserves the right to make any changes in the content and provisions of this class schedule without notice and reserves the right to cancel classes and to change class

fees, instructors, or meeting dates/times at any time. Many classes require a minimum enrollment of 15. Early enrollment is encouraged to prevent class cancellation. If a class in which you are enrolled is canceled, contact the Advising Center, the Office of Instruction, or a faculty advisor to assist in selecting a suitable alternative.

Limitation of liability

The college's total liability for claims arising from a contractual relationship with the student in any way related to classes or programs shall be limited to the tuition and expenses paid by the student to the college for those classes or programs. In no event shall the college be liable for any special, indirect, incidental, or consequential damages, including but not limited to, loss of earnings or profits.

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Editor Erica Schwenneker

Executive Director Barbara Kerr

Lead Graphic Designer Wei Zhuang

Graphic Designer Jenny Shadley

Contributors Tina Barsotti, Katrina Golder, Bob Hughes, Barbara Kerr, Todd Oldham

Photographers Barbara Kerr, Shelley Marrs, Petersons Photography and Photo Services (Jim Meek photo, p. 95), Jenny Shadley

Data Management Kathy Mitchell

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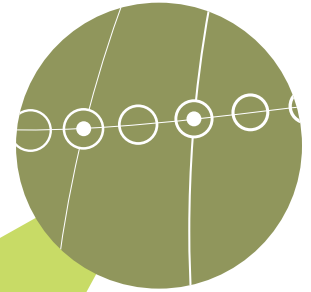
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On the cover: (from left) Sarah Welty, Suzanne Silva and Cassie Eckman are learning that creativity, innovation and curiosity lie at the heart of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers – as students and as members of Clark's NERD Girls club (NERD stands for Not Even Remotely Dorky).

Clark College Mission Statement:

Clark College provides opportunities for diverse learners to achieve their educational and professional goals, thereby enriching the social, cultural and economic environment of our region and the global community.

The 2008-2010 Clark College academic catalog is available for purchase at the Clark College Bookstore in Gaiser Hall and online at www.clarkbookstore.com. The cost is \$3 plus shipping.



Innovation STEMs from discovery

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education brings curiosity to the classroom

Curiosity. Innovation. Creativity. Excitement. They all stem from STEM – the study of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Our daily lives are filled with the results of STEM education and application: the tools, gadgets, conveniences and necessities that make our jobs, our homes and our lives run.

And in today's world, it represents the ability to create, problem solve and innovate.

STEM is ready to take on the unknown challenges of the future. And at Clark College, we're positioned to serve as a leader in STEM education in Southwest Washington.

Educating tomorrow's innovators: Clark College's STEM programs

Clark College's STEM unit contains the academic programs of biology, chemistry, physics, geology, math, surveying, computer aided design & drafting (CADD), engineering and computer science.

For students who already have an interest in STEM-related fields, Clark College is The Next Step. The college's engineering, math and science programs include hands-on learning through laboratory and experiential education. "Anatomy and physiology was my favorite class," said nursing student Andrea Thompson. "It was the class that most prepared me for the nursing program, because much of it [the nursing

program] is learning more about anatomy and physiology: how the body works, how drugs interact, what disease does to the body. Learning about the human body on the cadavers was the best thing for me – I can't imagine learning about the human body any other way.”

The college's programs are designed to make transfer to a four-year institution easy – and ensure that students are well-prepared to continue their education. “Clark College has specifically tailored degree programs for students wishing to transfer either within Washington or out of state,” said Dr. Sylvia Thornburg, interim dean of STEM. “Advising is available to students to help them achieve their goals.”

“Since I received an associate in science transfer – track 2 (AST-2) degree from Clark, I had already been taking some very challenging classes that helped me be prepared for a four-year university,” said 2009 graduate Samantha Kingston, who is studying mechanical engineering with a space physics and math minor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Ariz. “The education I received from Clark left me better prepared than most of the other transfer students here.”

Making science exciting: Clark College's STEM outreach

Clark also plays a role in K-12 education by encouraging and supporting science and technology education in area elementary, junior and high schools. Clark engineering students visited the Washington School for the Deaf during the 2008-2009 school year to lead them in “engineering lip balm” – an activity that brought the scientific concepts of emulsions, ratios and estimations to life as the students made their own tube of lip balm. “The students were eager to participate in the hands-on experience,” said Washington School for the Deaf middle school teacher Michelle Clark. “They enjoyed the activity and discussed what they were doing with each other throughout the activity. They were surprised to learn how to make something they use often – lip balm.”

Another aspect of Clark's STEM outreach to younger students is hosting Science Olympiad events. Regional and statewide Science Olympiad events highlight the learning and application of science through tournaments, and are designed to promote and increase interest in science among elementary through high school students. Among the ways students are able to demonstrate their scientific and engineering know-how and how-to are through such competitions as mousetrap vehicle, science crime busters and straw egg drop.

By promoting interest in STEM education and careers in earlier grades, Clark supports an educational pathway that leads to – and beyond – its doors. “Students need to see and experience that math and science are more than just calculating numbers and listening to lectures about cells,” said Michelle Clark. “A STEM career is probably not something most students would consider without the exposure to hands-on activities of what STEM involves.”

“We reach out to the K-12 community through fun, hands-on, creative activities showcasing the science, math and engineering involved,” said Clark College engineering professor and STEM outreach coordinator Tina Barsotti. “Our STEM students at Clark – primarily through the NERD (Not Even Remotely Dorky) Girls club – work with K-12 to advocate for technological literacy. Our goal is to share with younger students what STEM is and how it relates to their everyday world. We want to inspire students to envision their future as including STEM, and to excite their natural curiosity and creativity for a better world.”

Creativity for a bright future through STEM

Inspiring the next generation of scientists, engineers, programmers and mathematicians is important to both our region and the nation. “Science is more essential for our prosperity, our security, our health, our environment and our quality of life than it has ever been before,” said President Obama in his address to the National Academy of Sciences in April 2009. Clark alumnus Mike Hornberger, a 2007 grad who studied mechanical engineering, sees this need as well: “There are fewer and fewer students getting degrees in engineering and sciences, and that needs to change in order to make America great again.”

When is it OK to drop eggs and see if they break? When you're testing whether the masking-tape-and-straws device you've made will protect it. This was one of several scientific exploration competitions held during the Elementary Science Olympiad at Clark College on Nov. 8, 2008.



“STEM occupations are important because they drive innovation, and innovation is the only way we’re going to get out of our current economic [situation], solve some of our most challenging social and economic issues, and increase our standard of living,” said Washington Employment Security Department Regional Economist Scott Bailey. “For example, STEM occupations will play key roles in heading off global warming and developing sustainable sources of energy.”

Southwest Washington has experienced increases in STEM occupation employment over the last few years, from approximately 8,300 workers in 2006 to 8,500 workers in 2008, according to the Washington Employment Security Department. That number is estimated to reach close to 9,200 STEM jobs by 2017. In addition, as current employees in STEM-related fields retire, employers will be looking to replace them. “For each new job opening due to industry growth, there will be an additional two jobs needed to fill in for current STEM workers who retire,” said Bailey. “When the economy recovers, we’ll probably see an average of 300 total openings a year.”

Perhaps most important, by educating students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, Clark College is preparing them to change the world by innovating the new technologies and discoveries of the future. “Technology has grown exponentially over the last 100 years,” said Clark College chemistry major Luda Leksunkin. “We know the jobs of the future will be in the areas of science and engineering. There are lots of discoveries being made, and Clark is preparing people for this future.”

May it be a bright future for us all.

Engineering students designed, built and tested gravity-powered vehicles in the spring 2009 Engineering Club competition entitled “transport vehicle.”

Here, competitors prepare their vehicle for its turn in the competition; teams were given 10 minutes to complete two runs of the course.



STEMming forth at Clark College

With a vision for the future, Clark College is poised to become the leader for STEM education and training in Southwest Washington, the Pacific Northwest and the nation.

A major component of this vision is the construction of the Clark College STEM Center, to be located on the college’s main campus in Vancouver’s Central Park. The building will feature state-of-the-art classrooms, laboratories and interactive displays designed to stimulate inquiry, discovery and creativity.

Clark College also envisions a larger role for the STEM Center, and is investigating the possibility of applying for a National Science Foundation (NSF) planning grant that would position Clark College to pursue and secure the designation of an Advanced Technology Education (ATE) Center. If successful, it would bring new NSF dollars to Southwest Washington – and support efforts to increase the breadth and quality of STEM education for students in K-12 and community colleges.

“The Clark College STEM Center will serve as the leader for STEM education and training in Southwest Washington, the Pacific Northwest and the nation,” said Vice President of Instruction Dr. Rassoul Dastmozd. “In partnership with industry, educational institutions and regional stakeholders, the center will foster lifelong learning and interest in STEM through a spirit of transformation, exploration, state-of-the-art interactive learning, and innovative and engaging teaching strategies.”

Funding for the construction of the STEM Center will come from the State of Washington; private support will furnish and equip the building to its full potential as an educational model for the region and the nation. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2011; the building will open in 2013.

Opportunities for scientific study and learning abound at Clark College – including those provided by the college’s sundial, which was rededicated as part of the 75th anniversary celebration. Here, physics professor Dick Shamrell explains to members of the college community how the earth’s tilt and orbit around the sun caused changes in the sundial’s accuracy.



Partnership offers Clark students experience in the three Rs of the 21st century

These days, the three Rs that may first come to mind are reduce, reuse and recycle. And like the more traditional three Rs – reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic – today's students are learning and applying these skills to their education.

One way Clark College students are supporting the three Rs of the 21st century is through the college's partnership with Vancouver's Computer Reuse, Education and Marketing – also known as CREAM. This local non-profit organization diverts used electronics from the waste stream by recycling them or refurbishing and distributing them for free to families in need, or at low cost to members of the general public.

Clark College's partnership with CREAM dates back to the early 2000s, when the City of Vancouver and Clark County Solid Waste department began collecting e-waste. Clark students were involved in the testing of computers to determine whether they could be refurbished or should be recycled. "CREAM has kept more than two million pounds of material out of our landfill," said Jim Mansfield, waste reduction specialist with the Clark County Department of Public Works, who has been involved in the collection and recycling of e-waste in Clark County from the beginning.

Clark's role in the partnership has remained strong and, in 2009, CREAM formally established itself as a non-profit organization. Computers donated to CREAM are tested; those that meet certain quality standards are sent to students in Clark's A+ certification program for rebuilding and refurbishment. "Students in our computer support program work on refurbishing machines that go back into the community," said Bob Hughes, computer technology professor and division chair at Clark, who serves on the CREAM board of directors. "On average, our students return 100 machines per year for distribution to families in need through the Salvation Army – and we are looking at ways to increase that number."

Clark students gain experience beyond refurbishing computers. "Now [as a non-profit organization] we have opportunities for



"I have a great job, and get to continue my schooling – and in this new industry of computer recycling," said Clark College student and CREAM employee Jerry Hatcher (right). "I'm helping people and the environment." Hatcher is pictured with CREAM executive director Oso Martin (left).

Clark College students to work as interns," said CREAM executive director Oso Martin. "In this role, they can take part in the intake and testing of machines, computer recycling, and help with sales in our thrift store." One Clark student – Jerry Hatcher – went from intern to employee. "It's been a great partnership – and a great connection – applying the skills I learned in the A+ program while working on machines," said Hatcher, who works as recycling manager at CREAM while continuing his studies at Clark.

"Clark College's partnership with CREAM gives students not only the practical experience of refurbishing computers – it is also a way for them to give back to the community and learn sustainable practices along the way," said Hughes.

Those lessons – serving community and sustainability – are timeless.

Need computer help?

Clark College's student-run help desk is open to Clark students and members of the community alike. It offers assistance with personal computers, networking issues and hardware-related questions.

The help desk "gives us a real-world application of what we're learning," said computer technology program student Cameron Shoenberger (left), with fellow student Jeff Woodward (right). "We gain experience not only in customer service – but also in dealing with actual computers with actual problems."

Hours vary by quarter. For more information, contact the student-run help desk at 360-992-2562 or via e-mail at helpdesk@clark.edu



The Next Step, now open: Classes begin at Clark College at Columbia Tech Center

As Clark College's 75th anniversary came to a close, the doors opened on The Next Step in the college's next 75 years: Clark College at Columbia Tech Center (CTC). As the time until its opening narrowed from months to days, there was a flurry of activity at CTC.



1 The official ribbon-cutting of Clark College at Columbia Tech Center was held Monday, Sept. 28. (from left) CTC Project Manager Jim Watkins, Board of Trustees Chair Addison Jacobs, Clark College President Robert K. Knight, Vancouver Mayor Royce Pollard, Clark College Foundation President/CEO Lisa Gibert, Associated Students of Clark College (ASCC) President Ashley Schahfer, and Todd Construction President Brent Schafer. **2** Representing Clark's Adult Basic Education (ABE) and English as a Second Language (ESL) programs during the Aug. 29 open house at CTC were (from left) program coordinator Rosalba Pitkin, associate director of WorkFirst & Career Pathways Kris Barnum, and ESL professor Sara Gallow. **3** Rick Browne (right), host of PBS television's "Barbecue America," was guest chef at the open house; he is pictured with Mature Learning & Travel Studies program manager Tracy Reilly Kelly. The gourmet kitchen classroom will be home to many classes in the new Cooking & Wine School, offered by Clark College's Corporate & Continuing Education department. **4** First-day classes – including health and physical education instructor Dave Caldwell's fitness-wellness class – found students ready to take The Next Step at Clark College at Columbia Tech Center. **5** Open house attendees watch as artist and Mature Learning program instructor Bev Jozwiak demonstrates watercolor painting.

In May, the college community had its first official preview of the \$29 million facility when the Clark College Board of Trustees held their meeting at the site. In the days that followed, Vancouver-area educational and business leaders also visited. Project Manager Jim Watkins led the tours, in which he outlined features of the building including natural light, solar panels and wind turbines that will allow the college to apply for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for the building.

A community open house, held Aug. 29, found more than 1,100 people at Clark College at Columbia Tech Center. Visitors were able to meet faculty, learn about programs and classes offered at CTC, see celebrity chefs at work in the kitchen classroom and register for classes. “The open house was a wonderful opportunity for people to see this beautiful new building and learn about the programs and classes that will be offered there,” said Clark College Trustee Rhona Sen Hoss. “It was true in our earliest days at the Hidden House and it’s true at our new facility at CTC. Clark is truly the community’s college.”

Classes at the new facility began Sept. 21 and shattered expectations for enrollment. Originally projected to open with 750 students, first-day enrollment at CTC was more than 1,200 students. An additional 500 students had enrolled in continuing education classes. Students and faculty alike find the new facility geared toward student success. “It is an absolute pleasure to walk into this building,” said English professor Rita Carey, who is teaching at CTC this fall. “Everything is designed for the comfort and education of students.”

Clark College at Columbia Tech Center is the culmination of nearly 10 years of work to bring educational options to

eastern Clark County. In June 2001, an east county facility was identified in the college’s facilities master plan; by then, talk of the need for an east county facility had been underway for some time. During the dedication ceremony held Sept. 28, Clark College Board of Trustees Chair Addison Jacobs recalled that, since her appointment to the board [in 2000], there had been a concern about the lack of college services in eastern Clark County and eastern portions of Clark’s service district. Even against that backdrop, said Jacobs, CTC’s fall enrollment figures have been surprising. “In our wildest dreams, I don’t think any of us would have thought the need would be this big – or this soon,” said Jacobs.

“This building is all about students and student learning,” said Clark College President Robert K. Knight. “It will help address student needs in east Vancouver, east Clark County, and Skamania and Klickitat counties.” That student need extends beyond college-credit classes to include corporate and professional development, as well as community education and classes for mature learners. “The state-of-the-art facilities at CTC give Corporate & Continuing Education the opportunity to serve the community with new educational offerings and learning technology,” said Todd Oldham, executive director of Corporate & Continuing Education at Clark. “Enrollment and interest in the Corporate Learning Center has exceeded our expectations.” The new Corporate Learning Center, housed at CTC, offers meeting accommodations for business, corporations and organizations in the area to host their own events or attend one of the college’s many customized trainings.

“There’s a level of excitement among the students [at CTC],” said Carey. “They really respect the environment – and the learning.”

Do you live or work near Columbia Tech Center?

Want to pick up a class to sharpen your skills – or even finish a degree?

Take an evening class at Clark College at Columbia Tech Center this winter! Not only will you receive the quality education of Clark College – you’ll also save time with the convenience of our newest location.

So make use of these long winter nights by learning something new at Clark College – now at Columbia Tech Center!

(see pages 83-85 of this schedule for winter classes at Columbia Tech Center)



Employees par *excellence*

To the cheers and applause of their colleagues, five Clark College employees were recently recognized for exceptional service to the college and its students through the annual Exceptional Faculty Awards and the Exceptional Classified Staff Awards. We are proud to share their accomplishments with you.



After 30 years at Clark College, **Priscila Martins-Read's** passion for teaching shines every day through her work as a professor of English as a Non-Native Language (ENL). Priscila works with international students and some refugees learning to read, write and speak English in order to mainstream into college classes. "Especially when she is teaching or helping English as a Non-Native/Second Language students, she is patient and always gives positive influences to her students," wrote one nominator. "All her students appreciate her help and positive attitude." She sees her role as not only a teacher, but also as a cross-cultural coach – helping students understand the transition between their native culture and the new American culture in which they find themselves. "I love to be with our students," said Priscila. "It is great to watch them take their wings and fly."

Dr. Katherine Sadler has a passion and enthusiasm for history, which she has taught at Clark College for the past four years. She views teaching not just as the passing on of information, but of helping students know what to do with information. "I hardly ever answer a question – just ask my students," said



Katherine. "But I always ask them a question back – to get at the core of learning, not just memorizing information." It is an approach her students appreciate. "Instead of reading from a book and lecturing, she can use our point of views on a subject to create an amazing point," wrote one nominator. "Dr. Sadler opens our minds to come up with many different possibilities," wrote another. Katherine also sees herself as a support person for her students. "As history instructors, we are in a position to examine cause and effect, to connect learning to living, which is critical to an understanding of the world," she said.



Art instructor **Lisa Staley** has been a part-time member of the Clark College faculty since 2001. Her teaching has been strongly influenced by her travels in Europe – including three residences in Austria – and her students recognize and benefit from the influence of her travels. "Every class she teaches comes

comes straight from years of experience and a deep-seated passion for her subject,” wrote her nominator. “Her work in Europe and her constant studies for her doctorate keep her sharp for classes.” While Lisa herself is passionate about art, she recognizes that not everyone is – but believes that it can be used to create greater understandings of self and the world around us. “I use the teaching of art to help students realize that we have things in common with people we hear about on the news – that we have things in common with the people of other countries, times and cultures.”



May Jolly is described as someone who epitomizes the idea of customer service – an important trait when working in the Clark College Bookstore. May’s knack for designing creative and attractive merchandise displays, her sharp eye for cost-effective buying and her skill at identifying trends make her a proficient buyer. What makes her an accomplished professional is her total commitment to “it’s about the student.” May is responsible for the Cram It Jam It event and manages the bookstore booth at graduation each year. She also helps with the K-Rod Run, and served on the 75th anniversary committee. “Clark is not just an institution of learning – but an institution of caring individuals who work hard every day to help with student success,” said May. “I truly believe that we all try to ‘go the extra mile’...and try to do so ‘with a smile.’ I am very fortunate to have a job that has been so rewarding, challenging and meaningful. I have the best co-workers anywhere, and I am grateful for their support and confidence.”

Described as positive, very professional, knowledgeable and a total team player, Information Technology Services’ **Jim Meek** has been with Clark for three years. He supports a variety of departments at the college, including Business & Technology, Disability Support Services, eLearning and Facilities Services. He is described as handling his job with “tact, efficiency,



humor, diligence and always [doing] more than is expected of him.” His goal each day is to ensure that all software or hardware problems have been resolved and equipment is 100% operational on more than 250 computers. Students share that they are a fan of his gentle manner, fantastic listening skills and technical expertise which helps them through a myriad of problems with computers. “Clark College is a place where you can go that will change your life and help you obtain the career you have always wanted – as it has for me,” said Jim. “It has been my dream for many years to work in the computer field, and I am very pleased and honored to have received this award.”

“This year’s excellence award winners represent what we see throughout the college on a daily basis: a commitment to student success, whether in the classroom, through our student services, or in the maintenance of our beautiful main campus and all of our facilities,” said Clark College President Robert K. Knight.

Both the Exceptional Faculty Awards and the Exceptional Classified Staff Awards are supported in part by the Clark College Foundation. In both cases, nominations are made by members of the college community; selection committees then choose each year’s honorees. “Reading the nomination forms gives you an idea of what the person does to serve the college and community,” said classified award selection committee member Lisa Borho. “Selecting winners is difficult. There are so many people who go above and beyond the call of duty.” The committee includes past award recipients as well, including 2008 honoree Cindy Heck: “It’s classified staff choosing one of their colleagues to receive the award. I’m happy to be able to serve on this committee.”



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YHM from CC!

(You have mail from Clark College!)



Beginning winter quarter 2010, Clark College will be sending important information – including registration dates and financial aid deadlines – to your student e-mail account.

If you're a Clark student, but haven't activated your free Google mail (gmail) account, visit the college Web site at www.clark.edu. You'll find "e-mail for students" under Quick Links. Follow the instructions under "Get started now!" to set up your account.

Communicating by e-mail is fast and easy. It also reduces the use of paper and cost of mailing – helping to save time, money and trees and supporting a "green" Penguin Nation.



DNBL8 – Sign up today for your Clark EMA!

(Don't be late – sign up today for your Clark e-mail address!)

<<EOM (End of message)>>