

# CLARK COLLEGE •

# Connections

▪ Vol. 24, No. 2 ▪ WINTER 2011

▪ Schedule of classes ▪ Winter quarter classes begin January 3, 2011

*ClarkCollege* *The Next Step*



# I'm On My Way

Your guide  
to financial  
aid, step by  
Next Step



**They make it happen:** Clark College President Robert K. Knight with some of the dedicated members of the college's Office of Financial Aid.

Whether you've just graduated from high school or you're seeking new job skills, college is more important than ever.

Today, financial aid plays a critical role in giving students the opportunity to follow their dreams.

In this issue of *Clark College Connections*, you'll learn how that process works.

Remember:

- Start early.
- Learn more at Clark's Financial Aid Information Night on December 1.
- Be ready to submit your FAFSA form in January.

You have to take the first step ... in order to take The Next Step.

Robert K. Knight  
*President*

**President**

Robert K. Knight

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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.

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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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### 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.

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*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](http://www.clarkbookstore.com). The cost is \$3 plus shipping.*

# Making College Affordable

Start planning your financial aid strategy today to achieve your dreams for tomorrow.

## SO YOU WANT TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP IN YOUR LIFE BY ATTENDING COLLEGE.

*Congratulations!* But that decision may have brought up an array of questions: When will I find time to study? Which major should I pursue? And often the biggest question for many students: How will I pay for this?

Fortunately, financial assistance is available to most students. But it's important that you get started on the process to access that assistance as soon as possible. Ideally, you want to begin the process starting January 1, when the financial aid application becomes available for the upcoming academic year. This gives you the best chance at available funds and will ensure prompt processing.

Starting this process early is more important than ever right now. As enrollment at Clark College has gone up, so have the number of financial aid applications the college receives. Let's put it this way: Clark received 5,674 applications for financial aid during the 2007-2008 academic year, which starts in September. Meanwhile, by October 2010, the college had already received more than 9,000 applications—and that's with nine months of the 2010-2011 academic year

left to go. The Financial Aid Office has done everything it can to respond to this increased demand for its services, but there's no way around the fact that it requires more time to process thousands more applications.

So now more than ever, applying for financial aid requires advanced planning and follow through on your part. But don't worry, we're here to help. By following these five easy steps, you could discover that a college education isn't just possible—it's affordable.

### STEP 1: PINs and Paperwork

Before you begin filling out your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), make sure you have all the information and tools you'll need—you don't want to have to go hunting for documents midway through the process. You'll need your most recent tax records; a recent bank statement for every account you have; your driver's license; and your social security number. Additionally, if you're under the age of 24, you'll need all of this information from your parents—or, if your parents are divorced, just one parent (and step-parent, if he or she has remarried). This is true

even if you don't live with your parents or receive financial support from them. If you do need to include a parent's income on your form, that parent needs to apply for a financial aid Personal Identification Number (PIN). They can do that by visiting [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov). You will also need to visit this website to apply for your own PIN to sign your application.

Also, be sure to have Clark College's FAFSA school code on hand, because you'll need to tell FAFSA which school you're applying to. Clark's code is 003773.

## STEP 2: Fill Out Your FAFSA

Do this online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). (Type this specific address into your browser bar. DON'T just type "FAFSA" into your browser or search engine, because you could wind up at a "look-alike" website, not the official one.) Make sure you fill out the form accurately, because incorrect or missing information will slow down the application process. One thing you want to double-check is that you've put down a valid e-mail address—one that you check regularly, because this is how schools will communicate with you. When you are certain all your information is correct, sign the application with your PIN—and your parent's PIN, if applicable—and press the "SUBMIT" button on the online form.

When you've submitted your FAFSA, you'll see a page listing your confirmation number, the date and time you submitted your form, and your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Print out this page and keep it for your records. Please note: Your EFC is not your award; it's a number to help determine your eligibility for Federal student aid.

## TRUE OR FALSE? Know the facts about financial aid.

**You can get expedited treatment by paying a service to handle your paperwork.**

**FALSE.** Often, when people search the Internet for terms like "financial aid" or "FAFSA," they wind up at websites for companies that offer to process financial aid forms for a fee. Remember, you should NEVER have to pay to apply for financial aid or scholarships, and paying fees will not expedite the process.

**I'm 21 and I haven't lived with my folks for three years, so I don't have to include their income on my FAFSA form.**

**FALSE.** In almost all cases, the government requires an individual under the age of 24 to include at least one parent's income on their FAFSA form. This is true even if your parents no longer financially support you—even if they live overseas. (One common exception is if you are under 24 and have children of your own; another is if you are married.) The FAFSA will help you determine if you need to provide your parents' information.

**I'm not planning on starting school until next fall, so I should hold off on applying for financial aid until the summer.**

**FALSE.** Think of financial aid as a big pool of water that gets filled only at the beginning of every year. If you wait until halfway through the year to apply for assistance, that pool is going to be getting close to empty—in fact, some of the grants and loans that would have been available earlier in the year might be used up completely, leaving you "high and dry," so to speak. So don't delay—fill out your FAFSA and begin the process of applying for financial aid as soon as possible.

**There's no way I could qualify for scholarship funds—I'm not a straight-A student or anything.**

**FALSE.** Not every scholarship opportunity requires a 4.0 GPA. Many are more interested in your volunteer work, or participation in athletics, or your major or chosen career path. Each year, the Clark College Foundation distributes hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarship aid to deserving students. Applying is free, so why not see if you qualify? Visit [www.clark.edu/scholarships](http://www.clark.edu/scholarships) to find out more.

**Loans aren't part of financial aid, since that's just money I'm borrowing instead of money the government's giving me.**

**FALSE.** Educational loans are a special kind of loan. They have low interest rates and do not require collateral or credit checks; also, you don't have to start repaying them until after you leave school. Because of this, these loans are considered part of your financial aid package. Loans require a separate application that can only be submitted after you receive your award letter. Remember, loans are funds that you have to pay back, so borrow wisely.

**I should apply for financial aid.**

**TRUE!** Applying for financial aid is free, and you might be surprised to learn what you qualify for, whether it's grants, loans, or work study. So start the process early to find out how financial aid can help you take The Next Step in your educational career.

*“As a mother of five, without financial aid, going back to college wouldn’t even be a possibility. I have always found the staff in the Office of Financial Aid to be helpful and insightful. Now I work there myself as a work study employee. In one shift I will probably help 30 to 40 students. I treat each incoming call with care, because I know from personal experience that this could be pivotal to that caller being able to rest easy in this tough economy.”*

—Lori Collins, Clark College student



### STEP 3: Additional Documentation

Filling out your FAFSA is just the beginning; afterward, you will receive an e-mail from Clark requesting additional documentation used to determine your financial aid award. Be sure to fill out these forms completely—remember, many of them are double-sided—and to sign them. If at all possible, return them to Clark by the priority processing date listed on the Financial Aid Data Sheet. That deadline has already passed for winter quarter (it was October 22), but if you’re planning to begin classes in the spring, the priority date is February 11, 2011. You can still get financial aid if you miss the priority processing date, but you must be prepared to pay for your tuition, books and supplies out of pocket until your application can be processed.

### STEP 4: Your Award Letter

Clark will e-mail you a letter with a breakdown of how much you qualify for each quarter in grants, work study, loans, etc. How much money will that be? It depends. A lot. It depends on how much money you make; how much your parents

and step-parents make; how many brothers and sisters you have; how many children you have; how much you have in the bank; how many classes you intend to take each quarter; whether or not you were awarded any scholarship funding; and so many other factors that it would be impossible to list them all here. Some people are awarded only enough to pay a portion of their tuition, and are responsible for paying the rest of it themselves; others are awarded more than their tuition and receive the extra funding in the form of a check. *This check is not a paycheck.* It is to help pay for books, supplies, and other expenses of attending college.

### STEP 5: Go To Class (and Get Good Grades)

That’s right, your grades are part of the financial aid process! That’s because financial aid requires you to maintain a “C” average (2.0 GPA) or better in order to receive funds. If you find yourself failing in a class, or if you need to withdraw from a class, visit the Financial Aid Office right away. You could be required to pay back some or all of your award and be subject to probation or suspension.

If you are receiving a financial aid check, you’ll also need to prove that you’re attending class. So you’ll need to have an instructor sign a Proof of Attendance form to prove that you’re holding up your part of the bargain.

### WANT TO KNOW MORE? Try these resources.

Visit the Clark College Financial Aid Office (first floor of Gaiser Hall or online at [www.clark.edu/finaid](http://www.clark.edu/finaid)) or e-mail them at [finaid@clark.edu](mailto:finaid@clark.edu)

Attend the Clark College Financial Aid Information Night on December 1, 7-9 p.m. in Gaiser Student Center.

Fill out the application for Clark College Foundation Scholarships, [www.clark.edu/scholarships](http://www.clark.edu/scholarships).

# New at Clark

## *Our Pharmacy Technician program offers exciting new career options.*



### TO LEARN MORE:

Contact the Advising Department at 360-992-2345, or e-mail a Health Occupation Specialist at [healthocadv@clark.edu](mailto:healthocadv@clark.edu).



**JUST LIKE ITS STUDENTS, CLARK COLLEGE IS ALWAYS LEARNING**, reaching out into the South-west Washington community to find out what kinds of graduates the region requires. When there is a need in the regional labor market, Clark College works with industry leaders and state accreditation boards to craft a program that will provide the community with the best-trained, best-prepared graduates to fill that need—and that will provide Clark students with new career choices and opportunities.

The latest result of that partnership begins this spring, when Clark College will introduce a new two-year Pharmacy Technician Leadership program.

While Clark has offered a one-year Certificate of Proficiency in pharmacy technology for several years, spring quarter of 2011 will mark the first time the college will enroll students for an Associate of Applied Technology (AAT) degree in pharmacy tech. The new program provides the knowledge that students need to become pharmacy technicians—just as the Certificate of Proficiency does—but adds a component that provides students with important management skills that can allow them to advance in their profession and become lead pharmacy technician, technician manager, or technician supervisor.

“We don’t expect people to become lead pharmacy technicians right out of school,” explained Health Occupations Advisor Shelley Ostermiller. “They can start as pharmacy technicians, and then when those leadership positions become available, they’ll be more highly trained for those jobs.”

Graduates can continue their education by joining a partnership program at Central Washington University (CWU) to earn a bachelor’s degree in Administrative Management. This partnership program at CWU is offered entirely online, so students don’t have to relocate to complete their four-year degrees.



Top: In Pharmacy Practice and Technology Lab, students enter prescriptions into the computer.  
Bottom: Students gather materials for a lab class, Pharmacy Compounding.

According to the Washington State Employment Security Department, pharmacy technician jobs are expected to increase within the state by 28 percent between 2009 and 2019. The most recent data show that the median hourly wage for pharmacy technicians in Washington state is \$17.20, almost four dollars more than the national average.

Pharmacy technicians play an important role in health care. Under the supervision of a pharmacist, they measure out, mix, label and record dosages of medications that can save lives and ease pain. They work at retail pharmacies and behind the scenes at hospitals. For example, they make sure that people fighting cancer get the correct mixture of chemotherapy drugs. They also work with home healthcare services, mixing intravenous medications for homebound patients.

Pharmacy technicians can also be found at medical software companies and at insurance firms, making sure dosages are noted correctly. “There’s such a variety of pharmacies and workplaces,” said Pharmacy Technician Instructor Dawn Shults. “We have one program, but the jobs themselves are so different that everyone can find their niche.”

# Clark College—Achieving Excellence in Every Way

## Recent awards, honors, and new members of the Penguin Nation

### 2009-10 EXCEPTIONAL FACULTY

Exceptional Faculty Awards recognize exemplary work performance, positive impact on students, professional commitment, and other contributions to the college. The awards are given to two full-time faculty and one part-time faculty each year.

#### NADINE FATTALEH, PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY

Exceptional Faculty Awards recognize exemplary work performance, positive impact on students, professional commitment, and other contributions to the college. The awards are given to two full-time faculty and one part-time faculty each year.

Fattaleh earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry at Scripps College and a master's degree at Carnegie Mellon University. She joined Clark College in 2002. In her nomination, several of her students noted that Fattaleh really wants students to succeed and do well in her class. One nominator said, "When a student is having a problem—personal or academic—Nadine is always quick to lend a hand in finding a solution."

#### DR. ANITA FISHER, PROFESSOR OF HISTORY

Dr. Anita Fisher teaches world civilizations and women in world history at Clark College. Fisher earned her bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Portland and earned her doctorate at the University of Oregon. She has coordinated Clark's Model United Nations program and has served as advisor to the History Club. She also coordinates a Women's History Month celebration at the college.

Fisher, who joined Clark College in 1990, was described as having a "great fervor for history" which "makes it contagious for her students." She was cited as "a superb mentor in every way."

#### KAREN SWALLOW, ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) INSTRUCTOR

English as a Second Language (ESL) instructor Karen Swallow joined Clark College in 1992. Additionally, she has served as an adjunct ESL instructor at Portland Community College. In simple but heartfelt phrases, her adult basic education students praised her work in the classroom. One thanked her for her patience. Another simply said: "She taught me how to read and write better."

### 2010-11 EXCEPTIONAL CLASSIFIED STAFF

Instituted by the Clark College Foundation in 1997, the Exceptional Classified Staff awards recognize staff members who have demonstrated exemplary work performance; outstanding service to the college; a positive and cooperative spirit; and/or special achievements or contributions to the college community.

#### SUSAN MAXWELL, PLANNING AND EFFECTIVENESS

On a daily basis, research analyst Susan Maxwell responds to requests for data and information from across the college. As a staff member put it, "If Susan doesn't know the answer, she will research until she finds a solution—she is an excellent problem-solver."

Maxwell is co-coordinator of the annual Backpack Project, providing backpacks and school supplies for parents in Clark's Displaced Homemakers program, Child and Family Studies, and Work Study. She has also earned praise for her leadership skills, serving on Clark's Cultural Pluralism Committee, Retention Committee, and College Council, where she served as chair during the 2009-2010 academic year.





**PEGGY MCCLELLAN, INSTRUCTION**

As a Program Support Supervisor in Instruction, Peggy McClellan ensures that classes are set up accurately and on time—a remarkable achievement in a time of unprecedented growth at the college. Colleagues also praise McClellan’s excellent customer service skills and her teamwork. “Peggy embodies the Spirit of Clark, giving 110 percent to make Clark College a great place to learn and work!” wrote one nominator.

McClellan serves on the college’s calendar committee and has been accepted into the 2010-2011 Clark College Leadership Academy. She has also served on the Association of College Employees (ACE) and worked with ACE’s “Teddy Bear” subcommittee, sending cards to faculty and staff members who have been ill or lost family members.

**CLARK COLLEGE FOUNDATION WINS NATIONAL AWARD**

Clark College Foundation has been named a winner of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) 2010 WealthEngine Awards for Educational Fundraising. The award is a component of CASE’s Circle of Excellence program, which honors exemplary advancement initiatives and activities by member educational entities throughout the world.

“We didn’t apply for this recognition,” said Clark College Foundation President/CEO Lisa Gibert. “It was given based on benchmarking information collected from us by CASE for the past three years. I’m very proud of the work that got us to this point.”

Of the 34 institutions that won awards (winnowed down from 1,005 candidates) only one other two-year public college received an award. Institutions honored in other categories included Brown University, the United States Military Academy, Vassar College, and Washington & Lee University.

“The Clark College Foundation is a superb partner,” said Robert K. Knight, Clark College president. “It’s exciting to know that their peers across the country recognize the foundation’s commitment to excellence.”

**MEET CLARK’S NEW VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS**

William Belden joined Clark College as Vice President of Student Affairs in August 2010 after serving 15 years at Green River Community College in Auburn, Washington, where he was most recently Dean of Student Services and Enrollment Management. He has spent 20 years working in community colleges, 12 years in college administration.

Belden began his higher education career while attending Eastern Washington University, where he was president of the student government association. He served as a counselor and instructor at Northern Marianas College, in Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, from 1990–1993. Much of his time was devoted to providing academic assistance to low-income, first-generation college students. His statewide credits include service as the past president of the Washington Council for High School-College Relations and 10 years on their board of directors. He serves on the Washington State Student Services Commission and as their liaison to the Transfer Policy Group, Technology Committee, and Financial Aid Council.

Belden received a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Eastern Washington University, a master’s degree in student personnel administration from Western Washington University, and a certificate in career development from University of Washington.

“I am very excited to join the leadership team at Clark College,” Belden said. “This college has a long history of providing exceptional educational programs, student services, and lifelong learning opportunities to the community.”



Left (top to bottom):  
Nadine Fattelah,  
Dr. Anita Fisher,  
Karen Swallow.  
Right: Susan Maxwell,  
Peggy McClellan,  
William Belden.

# Now You're Cooking!

*Clark College's Cooking and Wine School offers the perfect recipe for lifelong learning.*



AS THE TEMPERATURE DROPS AND THE DAYS SHORTEN, it's a wonderful time to head into the kitchen and stir up a soul-warming batch of soup, or a tantalizing array of holiday cookies, or some homemade chocolate truffles.

But what if you don't know how to do any of that?

Giving people the confidence to try new things is what the Cooking and Wine School is all about. The school, which is located in Clark College at Columbia Tech Center and is run through the college's Corporate and Continuing Education program, has been offering a growing assortment of classes on wine and food since September 2009.

Most classes are offered in the school's state-of-the-art, custom-designed kitchen facility that's stocked with a professional-grade stove, a Sub Zero refrigerator, and a pantry full of top-of-the-line

kitchen equipment. Sitting at a curved granite countertop, students can watch experienced chefs detail how to whip up the perfect meringue or how to de-bone a chicken. Classes range from the basics (Knife Skills 101, Comfort Foods) to advanced (Ayurvedic Indian Cooking, Vintner's Chemistry).

"People are interested both in beginning cooking skills and in highly complex cooking skills," says Program Manager Tracy Reilly Kelly. "We're finding that there is also a strong interest in ethnic cooking and in learning to use healthy alternatives like whole grains and more vegetables."

Many classes are designed to provide timely help for home cooks. During the holiday season, the school is offering classes on European holiday breads, fancy Christmas cookies, and

holiday wine pairings. In February, students can learn how to make Valentine's Day chocolates or appetizers for Asian New Year. Some classes focus on healthy eating, while others cover popular subjects like making fresh pasta or artisanal bread from scratch. Other classes concentrate on regional cooking, like Middle Eastern mezzes, Spanish paella, or Texas chili.

In all cases, students get to sample the treats as they're made. They also leave with a sheaf of new recipes—and a newfound confidence.

Cooking teacher Lucy Vaserfirer (*pictured right*), a Le Cordon Bleu-certified chef who just released her first cookbook, has taught everything from searing to soup-making, scattering each lesson with helpful tips she's picked up from her years as a professional chef. "I try to give students the recipe and then show them how they can move beyond it," she explains. "Everyone's going to learn something new, whether they've been cooking for years or have just started."

The chocolate-making classes are taught by Clark College Culinary Arts professor Ian Titterton, formerly the executive chocolatier at Moonstruck Chocolates. Classes are intimate, and students are encouraged to ask questions along the way.



As the name suggests, the Cooking and Wine School covers more than just food. David Gray (*pictured below, left*), who owned the Vancouver wine shop Salut, offers reassurance to students who are afraid of choosing the wrong wine at a restaurant or wine store. "Wine is supposed to be enjoyable," he tells the students of his Wine 101 class. "It's not supposed to be overly academic."

Gray walks his students through six basic wine varietals, from Pinot Gris to Syrah. He explains how to properly examine a wine—look, swirl, sniff, taste—and instructs his students to cleanse their palates between wine tastings with bread and water. Two hours later, confident students describe "a smoky quality" in a Chardonnay.

Most classes run two to three hours. Some are demonstration classes, while others have a more hands-on feel. Most are offered on weekends or in the evening, though recently the school began increasing its range of classes during weekdays that are geared toward stay-at-home parents on subjects like cupcakes and homemade baby food. The school is also expanding into the increasingly popular area of sustainable living, with classes on making your own paper and eco-friendly cleaning products.

As Reilly Kelly puts it, "The Slow Food movement uses the term 'conviviality' to describe the wonderful feeling people have when friends gather around the stove or table, cook and enjoy conversation around a beautifully prepared meal. That's what we have to offer in this fantastic space."





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Get the latest Clark College news, plus connect with your fellow students and receive reminders of important deadlines.

Your Clark College community is just a click away!

