

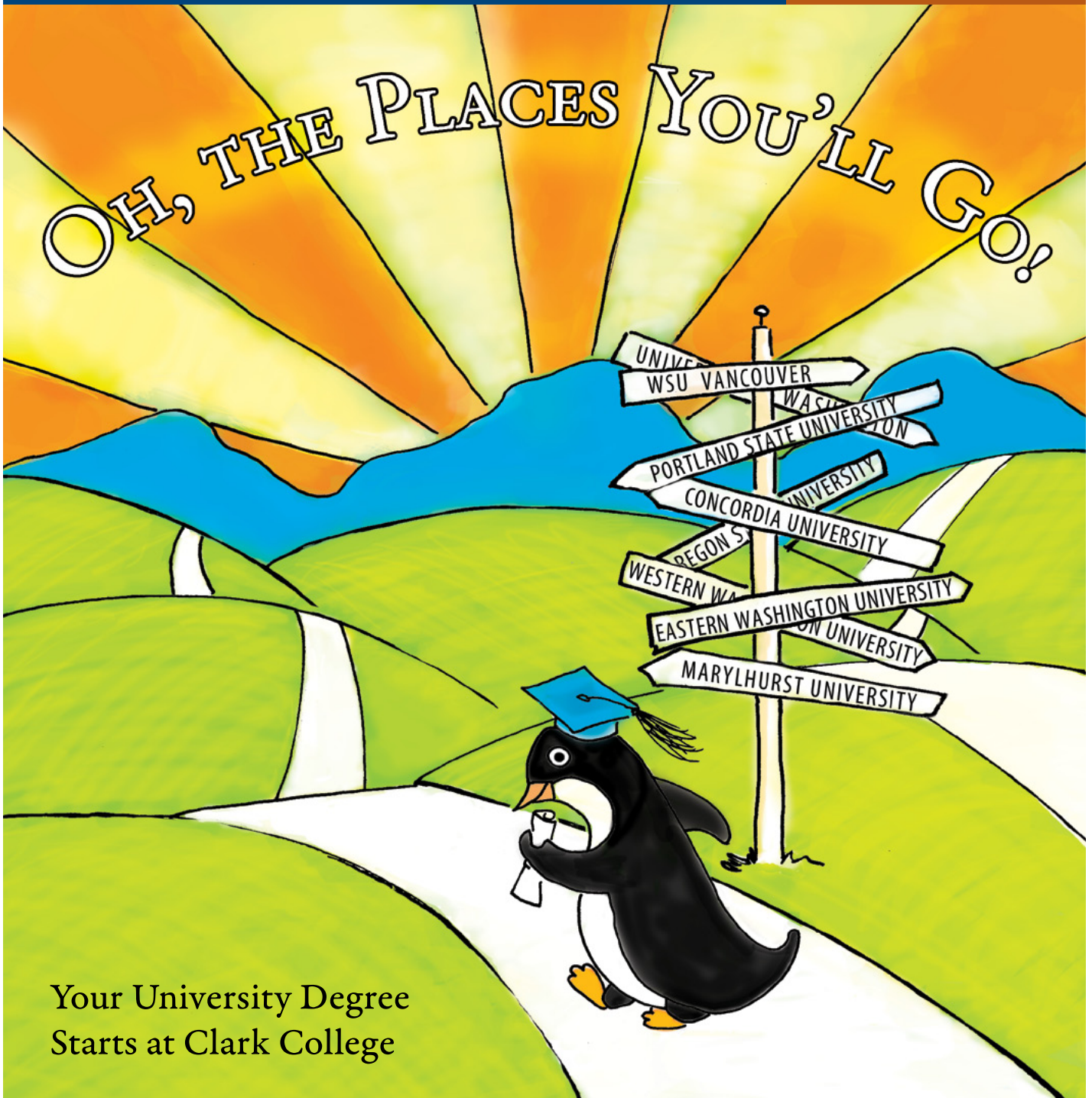
CLARK COLLEGE

Vol. 25, No. 1 ■ FALL 2011

Connections

Schedule of classes ■ Fall quarter classes begin September 26, 2011

ClarkCollege *The Next Step*



Your University Degree
Starts at Clark College



In his book *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* Dr. Seuss reminds us that we each decide where our path will take us.

We believe that too. We're here to support you as you take The Next Step in your education, career and life.

In this issue of Clark College Connections, you'll meet Clark alumni who have continued their education across the country—even around the world.

We were proud to support them on their journeys, and we are committed to providing pathways for you.

You might take a class or receive a certificate. You might earn an associate degree then go on to earn your bachelor's degree.

It's up to you.

After all, you are the one who'll decide where to go.

Robert K. Knight
President

President

Robert K. Knight

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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 2011-2013 Clark College academic catalog will be available online in July 2011 at www.clark.edu/catalog.

OH, THE PLACES YOU'LL GO!

LOOKING TO EARN A BACHELOR'S DEGREE? A MASTER'S? A DOCTORATE?
START YOUR ACADEMIC JOURNEY AT CLARK.



You have brains in your head.

You have feet in your shoes.

You can steer yourself

Any direction you choose.

Oh, the Places You'll Go!
by Dr. Seuss

DR. SEUSS'S ADVICE MAY HAVE BEEN MEANT FOR CHILDREN, BUT IT COULD EASILY APPLY TO ANY STUDENT ENTERING CLARK COLLEGE. For some students, the course is short and direct: They need a few classes to brush up on their job skills, or to earn a certificate of proficiency. Others choose to traverse their way to an associate degree.

But many Clark students steer themselves toward distant stars, plotting a course toward a four-year degree, or a master's. Some even decide that their journey won't end until the letters Ph.D. can be listed after their names. These students know that Clark can give them a great head start on their educational voyages—wherever their direction takes them.

Many colleges and universities will accept Clark College's Associate in Arts degree as fulfilling the first two years of a four-year bachelor's degree. In fact, in 2009, more than half of all Clark students who graduated with transfer-ready associate degrees continued their education at four-year institutions. So whether you're planning to end with a bachelor's, master's or doctorate degree, Clark makes it easy to take the Next Step in your academic journey.

True, it can take some advanced research and planning. "I see a lot of people who come in saying, 'What exactly do I have to take to be able to transfer?' But in my experience, there is no exact list," says Clark Transfer Advising Program Specialist Emily Earhart. "Every degree path is going to be different. I always encourage students to look at their end goal and then plan backward from there."

As Dr. Seuss puts it, "Your mountain is waiting, so ... *get on your way!*"



Visit a Neighbor

Clark offers a Direct Transfer Agreement (DTA) associate degree that is designed to transfer smoothly to most bachelor's degree programs at Washington state four-year institutions. The DTA is accepted at several Oregon colleges and universities as well. Depending on your intended major, you could choose a DTA degree covering a broad spectrum of general studies, or you could pursue a focused major-ready pathway program in one of several subjects, such as Pre-Nursing or Business Administration.

There are plenty of benefits to starting at a community college and then transferring to a four-year institution. For one thing, you have the advantage of taking your introductory courses in a setting where the average class size is about 25 students. But probably the biggest consideration for many students is the cost savings. Clark College charges significantly less tuition than most four-year institutions.

As befits an aspiring corporate CEO, Clark sophomore Samson Ramirez ran the numbers and realized that Clark offered real savings. Ramirez, who served as president of the Associated Students of Clark College (ASCC), plans to enter Oregon State University as a junior, on track to earn a bachelor's degree (and, eventually, a doctorate) in Business Administration. Attending Clark helped make those dreams possible. "I looked online at OSU's estimated cost of attending each year, and it was about \$35,000," says the 21-year-old Vancouver resident. "I pay \$4,000 to \$5,000 a year to attend Clark. So I saved about \$30,000 a year. That's a pretty good deal."

Pick a Partner

While transferring to most local colleges and universities is easy through the DTA, there is an even more streamlined process available. Clark has established co-admission partnerships with four local universities: Washington State University Vancouver, Portland State University, Concordia University, and Marylhurst University. Students fill out just one admission application to get into both Clark and their partner university, making the transfer process seamless—no sitting around, wondering if they've been accepted.

Additionally, these partnership agreements provide for joint advising to ensure a seamless transfer process. Coursework at Clark is designed to match that at the partner university, leaving no gaps in the student's education.

The partnership appealed to April Payne, who graduated from Clark's nursing program in 2008 and is on track to graduate from WSU Vancouver with a bachelor's of science in nursing (BSN) in August 2011. "I felt very prepared for classes at WSU Vancouver after my time at Clark," says Payne, 41. "The papers go along the same lines of the papers I wrote at Clark—they're just maybe a little longer."

In fact, she says, when she first began attending classes at WSU Vancouver, "the Clark students were all running circles around everyone else," because Clark's nursing program puts students in a clinical setting very early on.

"We do hear it from the nurses on the floor when we're doing internships: 'Oh, you're a Clark student? Here, no problem—you can do this,'" says Payne, who decided to become a nurse after her first child was born with cancer. "It felt pretty good when I heard that—to get to the end of this and be able to think, 'Oh, I picked the right program.'"



Continued on next page

Pack Your Passport

Not everyone chooses to stay local after graduating from Clark. For 19-year-old Zachary Ferguson, Clark helped take him all the way across the country to the Williams College in Massachusetts—and, soon, across the Atlantic to the University of Oxford in England, where he will be spending a year studying abroad.

Ferguson graduated from Clark in 2009 as a Running Start student, meaning that he completed his last two years of high school at Clark, earning an associate degree along with his high school equivalency. He could have entered many public universities as a junior, thereby saving two years of tuition, but Ferguson had his heart set on attending the sort of prestigious, private liberal arts college that rarely accepts transfer students, much less their credits.

But even though Williams did not accept his transfer credits, Ferguson considers his time at Clark College well spent. “It got me here,” he says from his dorm room at Williams. “The majority of kids here come from prep schools and highly selective public high schools. Having college credit on my transcript helped me stand out during the application process. I think it attracted attention.”

Ferguson also appreciated the chance that Clark gave him to explore academic disciplines and extracurricular activities that he wouldn't have had access to at his high school in Battle Ground. “I was pretty active on the Clark College Speech and Debate Team,” he says. “It helped on my application [to Williams] a lot, and I'm currently captain of

the Williams College Debate Union. I might even debate for Oxford next year, if they let me.”

Ferguson is by no means the only Clark graduate to go on to an elite private institution. “I've had students aim for Columbia University,” says advisor Emily Earhart. “I have a student who's applying to Georgetown University. I encourage it. If you want to do it, go for it!”



Tips for a Successful Transfer

1. Meet with an advisor at Clark College (see p. 15 of this schedule) to begin discussing your transfer options.
2. Research schools and programs to decide where you want to go. Clark hosts many college fairs and information tables that serve as great ways to get more information about transfer options.
3. Contact admissions and advising at your target school to discuss its transfer requirements.
4. Visit the school's campus. As Earhart points out, “You're not going to know what it's like to attend a school until you actually go there.” Meet with admissions and advising personnel while you're there. See if you can tour the campus or even sit in on a class.
5. Work with your Clark advisor to create a degree program that meets your target school's transfer requirements and Clark's requirements for an associate degree.
6. Research scholarship options at both Clark and your target school. For instance, each year Clark College's Presidential Scholarship offers one Clark graduate two years of full tuition at WSU Vancouver. Many universities also offer scholarships specifically for transfer students.
7. Earn good grades! Most colleges and universities want transfer students to have at least a 2.5 grade point average (GPA). Aim for 3.0 or better—it will help with those scholarship applications, too.
8. Keep checking in regularly with advising both at Clark and at your target school to make sure your class schedule still fits with their requirements.
9. Don't forget to pack your Clark College T-shirt when getting ready to transfer to your new school so you can show off your Penguin Pride. Remember: Once a member of the Penguin Nation, always a member of the Penguin Nation!

NEW TENURED FACULTY

Eight new professors bring their dedication and expertise to Clark College

ON MONDAY, APRIL 25, CLARK COLLEGE WELCOMED EIGHT NEW TENURED FACULTY MEMBERS at a reception sponsored by the Clark College Board of Trustees and the college's Office of Instruction.

Tenure is awarded to faculty members who have exhibited professional excellence and outstanding abilities in their disciplines. The granting of tenure is based on the recommendations of tenure review committees to the vice president of instruction, which are then forwarded to the president, who presents a final recommendation to the Board of Trustees. Recommendations are based on self-evaluations, tenure review committee evaluations, student evaluations, supervisory evaluations, and peer evaluations. The final decision to award or withhold tenure rests with the Board of Trustees.

"These newly tenured faculty members will continue to increase the talent and reputation of our faculty who are deeply and passionately committed to excellence and student success," said Clark College President Robert K. Knight.

About Clark College's newly tenured faculty members

RADMILA BALLADA, LIBRARY SERVICES

Education: B.A. (History), University of Vermont; M.A. (History) and M.L.S., Southern Connecticut State University.

Work experience: Essex High School Library, Chassman & Bem Booksellers, Brownell Library, Southern Connecticut State University, Bailey Howe Library, Champlain College Library, Marlboro College.

Ballada's leadership activities at Clark College include serving as supervisor of the Library Technical Services department as well as a member of Library & eLearning Management team and member of the Technology Fee Committee. From 2008-2010, she served on Clark's Teaching and Learning Center Steering Committee.

DEENA BISIG, COMMUNICATIONS STUDIES

Education: B.A. (Organization Communication), Dana College; M.S. (Communications Studies and Journalism), South Dakota State University.

Work experience: Cosmos Technology, South Dakota State University, Clark College.

Since 2005, Bisig has been advisor to the Alpha Sigma Phi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), which has been honored regionally and nationally. She is currently serving as regional coordinator for PTK's Greater Northwest Region. She has served as lead contact for Communication Studies Outcomes Assessment and a committee representative for Clark's Center for Leadership Excellence. She was a 2008-2009 Service Learning Fellow and a graduate of the 2009-2010 Clark College Leadership Academy cohort. She is also a member of Clark's Honors Program committee. Bisig was the recipient of the 2007 General George C. Marshall Public Leadership Award.

DEBORAH HENDRICKSON, NURSING

Education: B.A. (Biology) and B.S. (Nursing), Winona State University; M.P.H. (International Public Health), Loma Linda University; Certificate in Missiology, Trinity Lutheran College.

Work Experience: World Mission Prayer League, Mercy Medical Center, Clark College.

Hendrickson has worked as a nurse in a long-term care facility. She has also worked in acute care and as a staff nurse on a medical unit, specializing in oncology and hospice care. After graduating from Trinity Lutheran College, she spent the next 13 years living and working in Kenya, East Africa. Her focus was primary healthcare in rural settings and involved training community healthcare workers, traditional birth attendants, and school children in preventative health care. She was also co-administrator for a rural dispensary in the north central region of Kenya among the Samburu/Rendille desert tribes. At Clark, she is involved in the ongoing evaluation of the nursing program and its accreditation process. She also serves on the Hilma Speights Endowment Advisory Committee.

MICHELLE MALLORY, FAMILY LIFE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Education: B.S. (Psychology), Western Oregon State College; M.S. (Curriculum and Instruction), Portland State University.

Work Experience: Morrison Center, Special School District of St. Louis County, Clark College.

Her leadership activities at Clark College include service as a Family Life/Parent Child (FLPC) Coordinator, a member of the Child and Family Studies administration team, and a founding member of the Association Students of Clark College (ASCC) Early Childhood Education Club. She is a board member of the Washington State Organization of Parenting Education Providers. She is also the designated advisor for students in the ECE Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (I-BEST) Program.

ERIKA NAVA, SPANISH

Education: B.A. (Liberal Studies), Oregon State University; M.A. (Spanish), University of Oregon.

Work Experience: Oregon State University, Linn-Benton Community College, University of Oregon, Universidad Blas Pascal, Middlebury Language Schools.

Nava shares the position of World Language Coordinator with her colleague Elizabeth Ubiergo and currently is the Spanish Club advisor.

NICOLETA SHARP, PHYSICS

Education: B.S. and M.S. (Physics), Universitatea Alexandru Ion Cuza; additional work at Portland State University.

Work Experience: Portland Community College, Portland Public Schools, A. Saligny High School, SAPA Anodizing.

Sharp has been a member of the Advising Steering Committee since 2010. As part of the Math and Science Teaching (MAST) project, Sharp has been collaborating since 2009 with other Clark instructors and colleagues from Educational School District 112, Vancouver School District and Ridgefield School District to improve science teaching and science curriculum articulation. Sharp was one of the event supervisors for MESA (Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement) Day 2010 and the 2011 Washington State Science Olympiad, hosted by Clark College.

ELIZABETH UBIERGO, SPANISH

Education: B.A. and M.A., (Spanish Language and Literature), University of Oregon; additional work at Universidad de Valladolid in Spain and the Universidad Católica in Quito, Ecuador.

Work Experience: University of Portland, Portland Community College, Chapman & Silva Translation Services, Universidad Católica-Ecuador, University of Oregon, Clark College.



Clark's newly tenured faculty, left to right: Elizabeth Ubiergo, Deb Hendrickson, Nicoleta Sharp, Radmila Ballada, Katy Washburne, Deena Bisig, and Michelle Mallory. (Not pictured: Erika Nava.)

At Clark College, Ubiergo serves as co-advisor of the Spanish Club. She is the founder of Clark's study abroad program in Valladolid, Spain. She is the founder of the Mesa Redonda, a series of Spanish-language roundtable discussion groups which have been held at Clark for 13 years. She also serves on Clark's Financial Aid Committee and Latino Celebration Month Planning Committee.

KATY WASHBURNE, ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

Education: B.A. (Behavioral Science), California Polytechnic State University; M.A. (Education), United States International University.

Work Experience: Portland Community College, Coosa Valley Technical College, Palomar Community College, Carlsbad Flower Field, Clark College.

Washburne is a member of Clark's Information Technology Council, Retention Committee, and Student Conduct Committee. She is currently participating in multiple projects helping students transition into college level classes. In the community, she volunteers as a writer for the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary and maintains a website to give hope to individuals with brain cancer.



From left:
Mike Gibson,
Jeremy Beard
and Nick Smith

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED

When military veterans decide to re-enter civilian life, Clark is there to support them

WHEN NICK SMITH GRADUATED FROM HERITAGE HIGH SCHOOL IN JUNE 2002, he was sure of one thing: He wasn't ready to go to college. Thirsting for adventure and concerned for the country's safety after the September 11 attacks, he decided to join the military. That July, he began training at the Marine Corps Recruitment Depot.

At age 19, Smith took part in the 2003 invasion of Iraq; in 2006, he came back for a second tour as a platoon leader. Both times, he served in the infantry, regularly dodging bullets as he secured Iraqi towns. And in many ways, he loved it. "Joining the military was probably the best decision I ever made," Smith says. "You're forced to grow up quickly."

But after four years, Smith was ready to move on with his life. The only problem was, he wasn't sure how. He tried going back to school, taking classes at Clark College, but it didn't go well. "I struggled," he admits. "I would go for half the quarter and then stop going. I'd take the F on my transcript. I wasn't ready for college.

"It took me a long time to readjust, not just to school but to civilian life in general," Smith continues. "In the military, you know you have to get up at 5:30, you know you're going to run three to four miles in the morning. Everything was just planned for you. It was hard not to have that."

Clark College Veterans Programs Manager Mike Gibson has seen it before. “People do kind of get into the habit of being told what to do [in the military],” says Gibson, who served in the Navy before studying at Clark and then joining the college’s staff in 1990. “We assist them in assimilating back into a civilian way of thinking.”

It worked for Smith—eventually. “Mike’s probably the reason why I kept coming back to Clark,” says the energetic 20-something with short blond hair. “The turning point was when I started planning for myself, creating a schedule just like I had in the military. When I did that, my grades went from F’s to A’s.” Now Smith is planning to transfer to the University of Oregon in fall 2011 to pursue a degree in journalism and sports business.

“As a veteran myself, I am proud to say that we welcome all veterans to Clark College to further their education,” says President Robert K. Knight, who served in the Army for more than two decades. Currently, more than 500 military veterans are enrolled in classes at Clark College. They have served in every conflict from Vietnam to Afghanistan, and yet many are intimidated by the idea of returning to school after a long hiatus, or by the daunting amount of paperwork required by Veterans Affairs (VA).

Fortunately, Clark offers these students a helping hand, provided by Gibson and his team of assistants. Their hard worked helped Clark College rank among the top 15 percent of colleges, univer-



“People do kind of get into the habit of being told what to do [in the military]. We assist them in assimilating back into a civilian way of thinking.”

**Mike Gibson,
VETERANS PROGRAMS
MANAGER**



sities and trade schools nationwide for active duty military personnel, veterans, and military families, according to the 2011 Military Friendly Schools list released by *G.I. Jobs* magazine.

“Mike is like an advisor and your financial assistant rolled into one,” says Smith. “He knows every program as far as VA services go. I’ll go to him with a question, and he’ll know the answer before I even ask it.”

Sophomore Jeremy Beard appreciates that Gibson is a former chief petty officer in the Navy, the same as him. Beard retired from the Navy after 20 years of service and plans to get a bachelor’s degree in psychology so that he can pursue a career as a guidance counselor, either at a college or with the VA. “I already told Mike [Gibson] that I’m waiting on him to retire,” he says with a chuckle.

Beard, 40, admits it was difficult at first to get back into the swing of studying, and to be “the old guy in the room.” But he says he has advantages that other students don’t have: discipline, life experience, and financial support thanks to the G.I. Bill.

“I tell other vets I meet, “Do it! Do it! Don’t wait! Classes are flexible, they’ll make it work with your schedule,” he says. “A lot of them are scared of going back to school, or of the paperwork. But I tell them, ‘It’s not that hard—you can do it.’”



SATURDAY SCHOLARS

Weekend Degree makes it possible to have a job, a family, and a brighter future

“I WORK 40-PLUS HOURS A WEEK AND HAVE KIDS AND CUB SCOUTS AND BASEBALL AND BALLET,” says Robbie Rushton, sounding a little tired just talking about it. “There’s not a lot of time for getting a college degree.”

Thankfully for Rushton and students like him, Clark College has developed a new program called Weekend Degree. Through it, students take their classes mostly online, coming to a physical classroom one Friday and Saturday per month for hands-on learning.

“There was this group of people out there for whom evening classes didn’t work because of their family situations,” explains Clark College Associate Director of E-Learning Cynthia Foreman. “And they didn’t seem drawn to or comfortable with an entirely online learning environment. Weekend Degree is an alternative delivery format that seems to work well for working adults.”

It’s definitely working well for Stephanie Weldy, a single mother of three who works full time as the office manager for the Columbia River Economic Development Council. “I always wanted to get my degree, but I felt like I never could,” says Weldy, who plans to graduate from Clark in 2012. “This really feels doable. It’s like the best of both worlds—I have the flexibility of online classes, but I still get that interaction in the classroom with my instructors and fellow students.”

Students also find ways to interact outside the classroom. For instance, Weldy hosted a study session for her astronomy class at her downtown Vancouver home, and online study groups are common. Since most (though certainly not all) Weekend Degree students are juggling jobs and families as well as coursework, they can offer empathy and advice for managing time through the two years required to achieve an associate degree.

For Marci Wedemeyer, Weekend Degree has allowed her the flexibility to achieve her lifelong dream of earning a



“I was looking for a way to go to school while working full time,” says Clark student Jordan Robertson, center. Weekend Degree offered the perfect solution.

college degree—she will be among the first group of students to graduate from the two-year-old program. Wedemeyer had intended to get her degree right after high school, but, as she says, “life happened.” She needed to earn money to support herself, and then she got married, and then she had children to take care of. “I never thought getting a degree was a possibility, because I didn’t have the time or the money, and then I was too old,” she says. “There were all these *I-can’t’s* that I put up in front of myself.”



It was only after Wedemeyer began working at Clark as a dental hygiene classroom support technician that she began to seriously consider going back to school. But even with the encouragement of her family and coworkers, as well as subsidized tuition from the college, Wedemeyer found it difficult to attend evening classes. “There were times when I was away from home three or four nights a week,” says the mother of two.

That all changed two years ago when Weekend Degree began. She quickly became part of the first class in the program. “Suddenly I was not away from home at night,” she says. “I’m still doing the work, I’m still doing the reading, I’m still doing the homework—but I’m doing it at home. I’m still available to my family.”

Now Wedemeyer is looking forward to being among the first Weekend Degree students to receive her associate degree

diploma at Commencement in June, and to continuing her education to receive a bachelor’s degree from Warner Pacific College. She’s even talked her sister into entering Weekend Degree to complete a degree in accounting, offering her the same advice she offers anyone considering the program: “You have to be self-motivated, you have to be organized, and you have to be driven. Because classes are mostly online, you don’t have someone telling you face-to-face what you need to do and what’s due when. But it can be done, even if you work full time. It’s not out of your reach.”



Interested in Weekend Degree?
Visit www.clark.edu/weekenddegree
for more information.

Top left: Stephanie Weldy attends her sociology class. Top right: “Sometimes doing things just online is difficult,” says Robbie Rushton, left, who appreciates Weekend Degree’s combination of online and in-class teaching. Bottom right: Weekend Degree students midway through an experiment in their Saturday biology class.



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Become an Active Member of the Penguin Nation

Clark College is organizing two events this season to help raise funds for student scholarships and provide the chance to enjoy some fresh air and exercise. Help students and improve your health, all at the same time!



Monday, August 29, 2011

**Penguin Athletic Club
Golf Tournament**

Royal Oaks Country Club

*A fun day of golf for you ...
a lifetime of opportunity for students!*

Visit www.clark.edu/cc/golf
for more information.

Sunday, September 25, 2011

**Kalani Rodrigues Memorial Scholarship
10K Run and 5K Run/Walk**

Clark College Christensen Soccer Field

*Raise awareness of brain cancer and funds for
Clark scholarships, one footstep at a time!*

Visit www.clark.edu/cc/krod
for more information.