

CLARK COLLEGE • Connections

■ VOL. 19, No. 3 ■ SPRING 2006

■ Schedule of Day/Evening Classes ■ Clark's New Softball Program & More!

ClarkCollege *The Next Step*



Batter Up

■ Penguin Athletics Take The Next Step



As you will see from the articles inside this edition of *Clark College Connections*, things are changing at Clark College. Community colleges have a history of adapting to meet and respond to the needs of the regions they serve, and we are proud of our efforts to rethink, reinvent, and reengineer Clark College in order to better serve our rapidly growing and changing community.

Our vision statement says, “Clark College, a respected leader in Southwest Washington, will be nationally recognized for student success and excellence in teaching, empowering learners to enrich the social, cultural and economic vitality of our region and the global community.” This vision reflects the aspirations of our community and region. Indeed, it is the role of higher education to not just support these aspirations but to also lead.

In our leadership role we have much to celebrate. This winter we are proud to announce the members of the 2006 All-Washington Academic Team. Both recipients will be invited to Olympia this spring to be presented with a medallion honoring their academic achievements. We are also honored to recognize the recipients of Clark College’s Exceptional Classified Staff Awards. These two remarkable employees are dedicated to making a difference in our students’ lives on a daily basis. Our new women’s softball

team began practicing and will be seen this spring playing at a new softball complex at Hudson’s Bay High School, which was developed in partnership with the Vancouver School District. Our academic programs and class schedule have increased both the learning opportunities and options for our students. From increased opportunities to take classes through distance learning to launching new programs in Fitness Training, Medical Radiography, and Power Utilities Technology, our faculty have committed both effort and energy to meeting our community’s needs.

These accomplishments are possible because of the dedication of our faculty and staff, our Board of Trustees, and the Clark College Foundation and their commitment to our community’s success. Identifying and meeting the needs of our students and our community is always “The Next Step” for Clark College.

In my 2006 State of the College Address, I focused on the critical importance of remaining on course as we bring our vision to life. Our journey toward this vision has already been marked by much success, and it is clear that we are on the right path. I invite you to join us by making Clark College “The Next Step” for you.

Dr. R. Wayne Branch

President
Clark College

Non-Discrimination Statement

Clark College affirms a commitment to freedom from discrimination for all members of the College community. Clark College expressly prohibits discrimination against any person on the basis of race, creed, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, or status as a disabled or Vietnam era veteran, in accordance with state and federal laws. The responsibility for and the protection of this commitment extends to students, faculty, administration, staff, contractors, and those who develop or participate in College programs. It encompasses every aspect of employment and every student and community activity.

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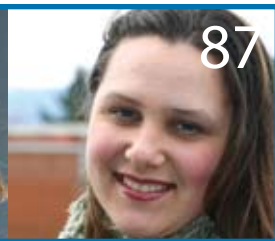
Disclaimer

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.

Message to Our Residents

Clark College mails class schedules to all households and businesses in Clark County four times each year to inform residents about college programs and services. Because it is addressed to “Postal Customer,” we are unable to remove individuals from our distribution route. It can be recycled with your newspapers. Thank you.

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Clark College is continuing its focus on the three REs (rethinking, reinventing and reengineering) to enhance its service to students, business and the community. That was the vision laid out by President R. Wayne Branch during the 2006 State of the College address.

SIMPLY THE BEST6

One evaluates credentials for students in health occupations. The other tutors accounting students. Barbara Davenport and Jeanette Steinmueller are both strong student advocates, and both have been honored with Clark College’s Exceptional Classified Staff awards.

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A TEAM OF THEIR OWN88

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Powerful words, passionate music and the joy of the holidays mark events that bring the community to Clark College.

Cover Photo: Ashley Oltmann and Aly Schafer step up to the plate for Penguin softball.

Clark College Catalog The 2005-2007 Clark College 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.

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REINVENTING CLARK COLLEGE: STAYING THE COURSE



In his 2006 State of the College address, Clark College President Dr. R. Wayne Branch reflected on the accomplishments of the past year and described challenges and opportunities on the horizon.

In his annual State of the College address on January 19, 2006, Dr. R. Wayne Branch, before an audience of more than 200 faculty, staff, local dignitaries, business and community leaders, described the importance of recognizing history when facing the challenges of today. Clark College is responding to these challenges, said Branch, by staying its course of “rethinking, reinventing, and reengineering.”

Drawing on principles advanced by the Truman Commission, which is often credited for creating the foundation for the community college mission, Branch noted that two-year institutions were established primarily in order to provide broader access to higher education and to meet the nation's once-urgent need for workforce retraining—conditions that parallel current circumstances in Southwest Washington.

“In Vancouver our need for highly skilled workers has never been more acute,” said Branch. “The world is thinking about the skills people need to be successful in some very different ways than a decade ago.” Connecting Clark College with the needs of employers has been a priority for Branch, who worked last year with administrators, faculty members, and business leaders to develop programs that respond to community need, including Fitness Training, Power Utility Technologies, Medical Radiography, and expansion of the Nursing program to accommodate more students. He cited several examples of how the College is responding to the needs of local public and private employers and shared that the number of businesses served by the College's customized training department increased from six to 69 in 2005.

Reflecting on the accomplishments of the past year, he explained that quality teaching and learning is at the center of the learning college concept embraced by Clark College. A curriculum-wide initiative to teach students the specific skills they need to function effectively in society has already paid dividends: Ninety-four percent of local employers recently characterized themselves as “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the Clark College students they hired, Branch reported.

Branch described efforts to connect with the needs of the community as critical to the future of Clark College and identified faculty members as a key element. “Our faculty members are central to the connection between our community and the learning experiences needed for our student and community success,” he said. “Cultivating the leadership role that our faculty members play is essential in the achievement of Clark College's vision.”

Another aspect of this vision is the College's intent to become a higher education center for Southwest Washington, one of the most underserved areas in the state for community college enrollment and baccalaureate degree attainment. In 2005, the College established co-admissions agreements with Marylhurst University and Portland State University while strengthening its relationship with Washington State University Vancouver.

Branch announced that Clark College is also submitting a request that would allow Eastern Washington University to offer two bachelor's degrees on the Clark College main campus, programs that, according to Branch, “will compliment the associates degree programs we currently offer and will serve to fill needed professional opportunities available in our community.”

Branch said these types of partnerships are an essential aspect of doing business in Southwest Washington. “Partnership agreements are abound as standard operating procedure at Clark College because we know that our role is to keep this community economically, socially, and educationally vibrant,” he said.

Though enthusiastic about new degree pathways, the President acknowledged that access to education is entwined with “the belief that you can achieve.” He highlighted the year's dramatic increase in funding available through the Clark College Foundation and the increase in funds awarded by the Clark College financial aid office. He also observed that the College has participated in several projects to reach out to underrepresented groups, hoping to develop the understanding and belief among the community's youth that college is possible.

Students' experiences once enrolled at Clark College are as important as providing this access. Nineteen percent of the Clark College student body represents some form of ethnic diversity, and Branch described his belief that the College's workforce and faculty should reflect diversity in ethnicity as well as in other areas such as abilities, gender, and age. “Attracting and employing people who bring different perspectives will only serve to benefit both the College and our community,” he stated.

Excellent facilities are also critical to the success of the learning environment at Clark College. “Possessing the facilities that strengthen the teaching and learning process is essential,” said Branch, who noted that by the year 2009 the College will have either renovated or built close to 400,000 square feet of space. These long-range planning efforts were part of an institutional budget process that sought funding from grants and support from the Clark College Foundation in addition to state appropriations. “Our goal has been to make our budget process transparent and put more funds into the hands of those responsible for making things happen around the institution,” Branch explained.

As access to higher education brings a higher quality of life to Southwest Washington, Branch pledged that the year ahead would find Clark College focused on maintaining and strengthening the College's commitment to exemplary teaching and learning, increasing opportunities for people to improve their lives.

“I continue to believe that the community college mission, that Clark College, was meant to make dreams come true,” said Branch. “Grand dreams or small ones it does not matter – putting people's dreams for a better life within their reach is why Clark College exists.” ■

Simply the Best

Barbara Davenport can't imagine doing anything but working with people, and that's exactly what she does in her role as Credentials Evaluator for Health Occupations Programs. In helping students ascertain what they need in order to be eligible for nursing and dental hygiene degrees, or pharmacy tech, EMT, and phlebotomy certificates, her first thought is to make students feel comfortable. She then guides them through the complicated steps of being successful in the health occupation fields.



Barbara Davenport (top) and Jeanette Steinmueller bring service to students to new heights of excellence.

Davenport was a student at Clark College, became a peer advisor and worked her way up to her present position. "I enjoy the job I do. The opportunity to assist students in making positive steps toward their future is really rewarding," she said. In addition to moving students closer to their goals, one instructor noted that Barbara Davenport's "smile is indicative of her inner spirit. She's unfailingly positive and supportive to students."

Davenport is regularly involved in campus activities and her work ethic and sensitivity serve as a role model for other staff members. "I was truly stunned" at being recognized for excellent service to Clark College, she said. "I was honored that people thought I did such a good job for them. I try to do the best I can."

An Instructional Technician II in the Business Administration Division, Jeanette Steinmueller spends countless hours tutoring accounting students, often juggling up to 25 at once in the Tutoring Center. With a certificate in accounting, credentials as a CPA, and tax accounting experience in a large insurance company, Steinmueller displays a thorough understanding of her subject matter, as well as the patience and willingness to provide exceptional service to the students of Clark College.

Without being asked, she prepares handouts to shed light on what one student termed "the thornier issues." "If it weren't for her, I don't think I would have made it," another student said.

Steinmueller has been at Clark College almost eight years and in that time has developed exceptional technical and computer skills, as well as an organized and systematic approach to tutoring. Her supervisor, Stephen Walsh, said, "Her diligence and people skills have contributed greatly to the completion rate in our accounting and business math classes. The students come to class raving about her."

"I am excited, honored and overwhelmed to have received this award," Jeanette said. "I feel privileged." She added, "I love interacting with students on a daily basis. I go home feeling like I've made a positive difference in people's lives." ■



A Scholarly Duo

A political science major with her sights set on Harvard Law School and a chemistry tutor and future doctor of pharmacy represent Clark College on the 2006 All-Washington Academic Team. Mariah Acton of Vancouver and Sarah Craciun of Brush Prairie will be honored for their academic achievement and community involvement at a ceremony on March 2 in Olympia.

The All-Washington Academic Team is the qualifying step in the competition for nomination to the All-USA Academic Team sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa honor society, USA Today newspaper, and the American Association of Community Colleges. It recognizes 60 outstanding two-year college students annually from around the country. The All-Washington team is made up of 68 students representing all 34 technical and community colleges in the state.

2005 was a memorable year for future attorney Mariah Acton. She celebrated her 18th birthday, which happened to fall on Election Day, by exercising her civic duty. Elections officials weren't sure it was legal. "It turned out, to be eligible you had to be 18 on the day of election to vote, and I was," she says with a smile. She maintains a high level of academic accomplishment while staying connected with the community. As a Clark County Youth Commissioner, she makes policy recommendations to Clark County Commissioners, Vancouver City Council, and Mayor Pollard.

Acton, a Running Start student, made the choice to spend much of her last two years of high school at Clark College. It's a decision she is proud of saying, "The courses and the college environment have molded my world perspective and developed my awareness of the human condition and will

be an everlasting source of strength in the future." She stays active at Prairie High School as a singles tennis player.

Sarah Craciun, also a Running Start student, has found success in science and math while volunteering for veterans. Every Friday afternoon she can be found at the VA Medical Center's In-State Pharmacy, where she packages medications for use by patients. Her desire to become a pharmacist sprouted at an early age. "My goal is to provide excellent health care to future generations," she says. Her next step towards that dream has been to apply to the University of Washington School of Pharmacy.

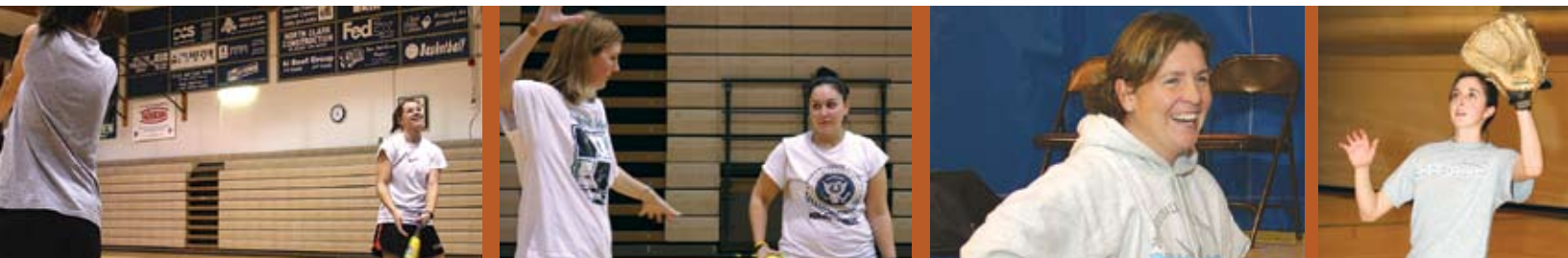
Craciun feels her studies have prepared her for the road ahead. She elaborates saying, "Clark College is the doorway to my future. From the first day of college until now, I can say that I have been challenged in all sorts of areas and enjoyed every moment." Beyond the classroom, she challenges her artistic side by playing the flute in the Philadelphia Church Orchestra.

All-Washington Academic Team members receive a medallion and \$750 in scholarships sponsored by KeyBank of Washington and the Northwest Education Loan Association (NELA). In addition, Clark College's honorees will be awarded a \$500 scholarship from the Clark College Foundation. ■

Above from left to right: Mariah Acton and Sarah Craciun find time to study between classes and volunteer activities.

A Team of Their Own

Prairie, Columbia River, Ridgefield and Skyview. After these high school teams competed for state honors in softball, their championship-caliber players went on to play collegiate ball in Portland, Longview, and beyond. All of that changes this spring when Clark College fields its first-ever softball team, giving local athletes the opportunity to further their sports careers, and educations, on their home turf.



From left to right: Erica Shampine warms up for batting practice, Assistant Coach Sara Bosch (left) instructs pitcher Bailey Mayer, Coach Lisa Quednow-Bickler leads drills, and Kelsey Scanlan reaches for a fly ball.

Right: Aly Schafer strikes a pose.

Twelve players, all local, will make up the historic roster. While the soggy winter weather has not allowed much outdoor practice time, the enthusiasm of these dedicated competitors has not been dampened. Players are preparing with open gym workouts and hope to hit the sod soon.

Athletic Director Lisa Quednow-Bickler made the creation of a softball team a priority when she came to Clark College in 2004. “Momentum was already building when I arrived, I just worked with student government to show them the importance of athletics in student life,” she says. In early 2005, the Associated Students of Clark College moved to fund the team. And in a ground-breaking partnership between the College and the Vancouver School District, work began on a softball complex at Hudson’s Bay High School that will serve as the Penguins’ home field.

Quednow-Bickler also backs the team as its head coach. She spent four years in that role at Riverland Community College in Minnesota, winning two conference titles. Clark will compete in the South Division of the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) with tough rivals like Clackamas Community College and Lower Columbia College. The coach is keeping the expectations high for the inaugural season, “Our goal is to make it to the NWAACC championships, which means we would need to finish in the top four in our division.”

The sport has grown in popularity in recent years, in part due to the USA Softball Women’s National Team’s three consecutive Olympic gold medals. Though the basic rules are the same as baseball, the game is widely considered more exciting. The smaller field allows for a faster game with more home run opportunities.

Support for the team has been monumental. High school coaches are cheering them on and helping recruit future players. The Clark College Penguin Athletic Club (PAC), who pulled for adding softball to the athletics line-up for years, secured sponsorship from Les Schwab Tire Centers to fund \$5400 in scholarships this season. PAC Board President Teresa Phimister says, “The addition of the program sends a strong message regarding Clark’s commitment to meeting the needs of our community. We look forward to the team’s success.”

Excitement is building towards the season opener on March 3 against Columbia Basin Community College. The Penguins will take to their home field for the first time and are hoping for success. Columbia River High School grad and second baseman Erica Shampine says, “I’m hoping we really come together as a unit. Just thinking about playing gets me psyched.”

Quednow-Bickler sees Clark College softball as a powerhouse in the making. “If we can keep the three or four local players per season that have gone to each of our rival colleges, we have the potential to be very good in the next few years,” she predicts. Her goals don’t end there, as she has hopes for a bona fide stadium in the near future.

But winning isn’t everything for this team. What’s even more important is giving young women access to education and the opportunity to play a sport they love, and do it in the community they call home. “I’ve been playing since I was four years old,” says catcher and La Center High School alum Kelsey Scanlan. She came back to town after a stint at Western Washington University to join the team and be close to family and friends saying, “It’s awesome to play at Clark because there’s always someone around to play catch with.” ■



Celebrating the Human Spirit

A woman walks onto a stage – alone – and evokes the life and spirit of Rosa Parks.

A legendary musician thrills his audience with hot jazz on a cool afternoon.

Through these recent events and many others, Clark College lives its vision as leader in our community.

Guest artist Shandra Terry was the featured performer when Clark College hosted “A Tribute to Rosa Parks.” Terry has performed nationally in her one-woman show, “Rosa Parks: A Catalyst in the New World.” Terry carried the audience on a moving and uplifting journey to the early afternoon of December 1, 1955 when Rosa Parks made history by refusing to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama.

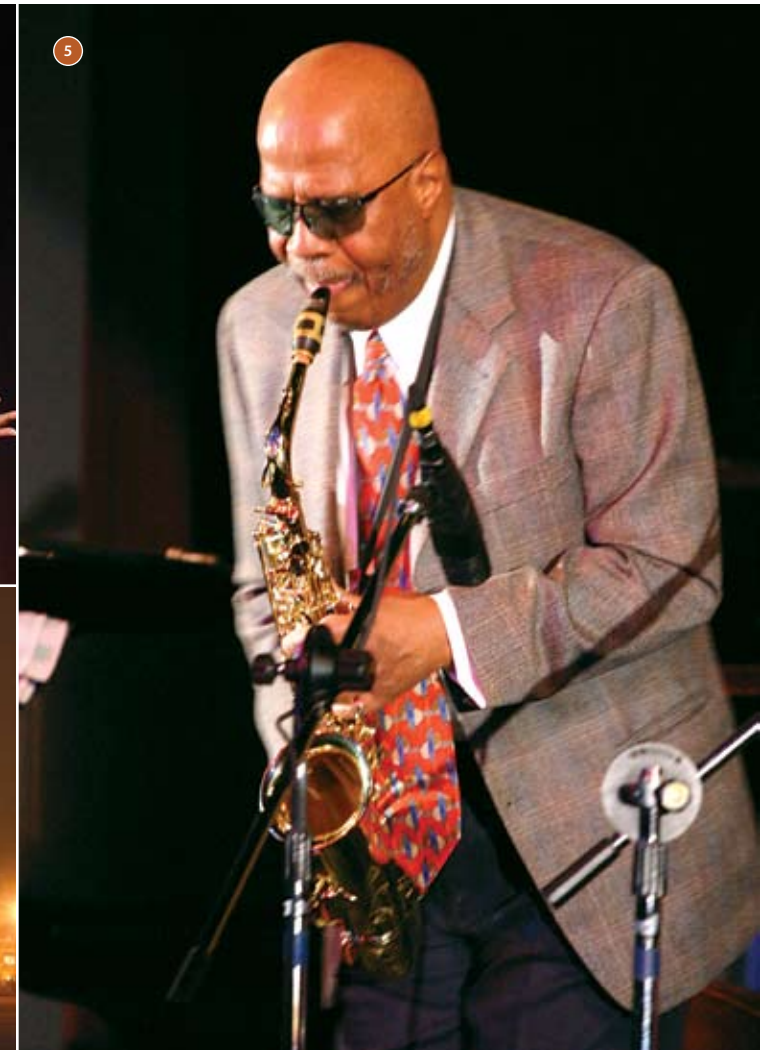
Though a wintry chill was in the air, the warmth of family, friends and colleagues made the 2005 Clark College Holiday Celebration an evening to remember. To add special meaning to the event, the Association of College Employees (ACE) collected toys for the YWCA SafeChoice Domestic Violence Shelter. With beautiful music provided by the Clark College Women’s Choir, and over 8,000 twinkling lights illuminating the smiling faces of children, it was a special time to be “Home for the Holidays.”

Nationally renowned author and educator Freeman A. Hrabowski III was guest speaker for the 2006 celebration honoring the life and dreams of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. Hrabowski, president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, was a child-leader in the civil rights movement and was prominently featured in Spike Lee’s 1997 documentary, “Four Little Girls,” on the racially motivated bombing in 1963 of Birmingham’s Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

The Clark College Theatre Department kicked off its 2005-2006 season with the charming comedy, “The Girls of the Garden Club,” to packed houses, laughter and applause. This year’s season includes the delightful, delicious, and de-lovely Cole Porter musical “Anything Goes” and the hit Neil Simon comedy “Barefoot in the Park.”

Jazz enthusiasts thrilled to the music of legendary alto saxophonist John Handy, the headliner of the 2006 Clark College Jazz Festival. Handy is a consummate world musician and teacher who has devoted his life to using music to elevate the human spirit. His soulful and fiery saxophone style is instantly recognizable to generations of jazz fans worldwide. The jazz festival also featured three days of great performances by future headliners from 59 high school jazz bands and vocal ensembles from throughout Oregon and Washington. ■



1. Dr. Freeman A. Hrabowski speaks at the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration. 2. The cast of Clark College Theatre’s production of “The Girls of the Garden Club” brighten up a winter’s night. 3. Shandra Terry gives a stirring portrayal of American civil rights icon Rosa Parks. 4. A new holiday tradition lights up the night at Clark College. 5. Jazz legend John Handy jams with the Clark College Jazz Ensemble.

From Little Princess to Desperate Housewife

CONFRONTING IMAGES OF WOMEN



10th Anniversary of the Clark College Women's Conference



Organized in the spirit of the 1995 Beijing United Nations Women's Conference, this event features a keynote address by comedian and activist Debbie Wooten and a presentation by body image artist Larry Kirkwood.

Saturday, May 20, 2006

8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Gaiser Hall, Clark College

Choose from a variety of workshops on the social, political, and personal issues faced by women today.

Cost: \$15 for general public, \$10 for students, includes continental breakfast and lunch.

Childcare, limited scholarships, and disability access and / or accommodations are available with prior arrangement.

For general information, please call 360-992-2905.

Clark College *The Next Step*

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