

State Supreme Court to Visit Clark



The Washington State Supreme Court is coming to Clark College for a two-day visit in May to hear oral arguments and make itself available to the public. Chief Justice Barbara Madsen and Justices Charles W. Johnson, Susan Owens, Mary Fairhurst, Debra Stephens, Charles Wiggins, Steven González, and Sheryl Gordon McCloud will also tour Clark's main campus, visit Clark classrooms, and meet informally with students, faculty, and other members of the Clark College community. Either pro tem justice Joel Penoyar or newly appointed Justice Mary Yu will also be in attendance, depending on whether or not Yu's swearing-in occurs before the visit.

The visit is scheduled for May 12 and 13. Oral arguments on May 13, as well as two other events held May 12 (see below) are free and open to the public.

"The Supreme Court's arrival is a wonderful occasion for students in our Paralegal program to gain insight from the top legal authority in our state," says Layne Russell, director of Clark's paralegal program. "We're honored to host such an educational and inspiring visit."

Since 1985, the state's highest court, which is located in Olympia, has heard cases "on the road" in an outreach effort allowing citizens to see the court in action in their local communities. The Court also travelled to Everett Community College in February.

"The Court enjoys visiting our state's colleges in local communities," says Chief Justice Barbara Madsen. "In addition

to the students, we encourage anyone interested in learning more about the judicial branch of government to see the workings of the highest court up close and personal.”

The full roster of public events are:

Monday, May 12

Open Forum

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Gaiser Student Center

Community Reception

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Penguin Union Lounge, PUB 161

Tuesday, May 13

Hearings

Case 1: 9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Case 2, followed by Q&A: 9:55 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.

Case 3, followed by Q&A: 1:30 p.m. – 2:35 p.m.

Gaiser Student Center

All Washington Supreme Court oral arguments are open to the public, and are broadcasted at a later date via Washington’s Public Affairs network, TVW. Written opinions are rendered approximately three to six months after oral arguments.

Making Change: Of Mulletts and Data Sets



Hello, fellow Clark colleagues. We have been involved in an exciting move of some data from all community and technical colleges in Washington. In support of the FirstLink colleges (Spokane and Tacoma) going live as beta testers for ctcLink, the SBCTC technical team needed to migrate some critical data into the new system (ctcLink) from the legacy system we are still currently using. This was done in early April, even though FirstLinks are not going

live until August.

There are types of data that are “global” in nature, meaning it may be useful to all 34 colleges in the ctcLink system. For example, the biographical and demographic data for students and employees are global. You might be a student at one college and an employee at another college—but, since both colleges are part of ctcLink, you only need one shared record with one ID for both institutions. The vendor list for colleges is another example of global data.

So in preparation for the August 2014 go-live for Firstlink colleges, the SBCTC and Ciber teams migrated the data from our legacy systems into the new ctcLink system. This was the first global movement of data into ctcLink; it was done so that as colleges move onto the new ctcLink system, the global data will be there for them.

The data that was moved is data the Clark College has been focused on in a cleanup effort so that it would migrate (move over) to the new system without a hitch. This move doesn't affect those of us still using the legacy system, because all that student, employee and vendor data still reside in our current databases as well. The real importance is that the project of getting ready for ctcLink has met a big milestone with migration of global data into the new system. Much is to

be learned as this process continues. More updates will be available on the project next month.

While we work quietly behind the scenes on other efforts in preparation for the August 2014 – May 2015 transition of Wave One colleges, I wanted to share a video that was produced by one of our fellow Wave One colleges, Grays Harbor College. It is a great short video regarding what ctcLink is, why we are doing it, and whom it will affect. Plus, it's got a few jokes sure to appeal to those of us who remember the '80s. You'll just have to watch it to see what I mean.

In this video you will hear reference to our subject matter expert (SMEs). So I'm providing a link to the ctcLink internal webpage for Clark College that has additional information regarding ctcLink and who all of our SME's are: <http://team.clark.edu/sites/ClarkNet/departments/changemanagement/SitePages/ctcLink.aspx>.

As always, if you have any questions regarding ctcLink, please don't hesitate to ask!

A Spanish Lesson with Strings Attached



Professor Betsy Ubiergo takes a moment from putting the finishing touches on some of the puppets she helped create at the Olde World Puppet Theatre studios during her sabbatical.

In a strange way, Spanish professor Betsy Ubiergo has the cruelty of children to thank for inspiring her sabbatical project, which will be unveiled at Clark College's Día del Niño/Día del Libro festival, held May 9 in Gaiser Student Center.

Ubiergo and her Spanish-born husband are raising their daughter, Mar, to be bilingual in both English and Spanish. But Mar began refusing to speak Spanish at home after classmates at her elementary school told her she was "too blonde to speak Spanish."

"She'd come home from school and say, 'Mom, I can't speak Spanish,'" Ubiergo recalled. "But then she'd grab a doll and make the doll speak in Spanish. She'd relax once it wasn't her on the spot. The doll would speak *great* Spanish."

Ubiergo began wondering if this same technique could be used to help her students at Clark, who often seemed to forget their language skills as soon as they had to use them in front of other people. "There's a lot of research going on right now regarding performance-based language learning," said Ubiergo. "I thought, maybe if my students had something to hide behind, they could relax and get more from the experience."



Steven Overton and Martin Richmond of the Olde World Puppet Theatre Studios said they designed the puppets to be both easy for students to use and respectful of the source material's cultural aesthetics.

Ubiergo applied for and received a two-quarter sabbatical to spend creating a series of large puppets based on works of Spanish literature, as well as the training to be able to help her students use them. To help craft the puppets, she turned to Steve Overton and Marty Richmond of Portland's Olde World Puppet Theatre Studios, who spent hundreds of hours working to design, craft, and coordinate the 33 puppets.

"We just really loved what Betsy was doing," said Overton. "It's promoting literacy, and language, and the classics. We were really happy to be part of it."

The puppets are based on three different children's stories, each by a major figure in Spanish-language literature: *El Elefante y Su Secreto* (*The Elephant and his Secret*) by Chilean poet Gabriela Mistral; *Platero y Yo*, by Spanish poet and writer Juan Ramón Jiménez; and *Jaco* by André Dahan, a French writer and illustrator whose children's books have been translated into numerous languages. Ubiergo has created scripts from each story; students in her spring quarter Spanish 123 class are currently learning the plays and will be performing them at Clark's annual Día del Nino/Día del Libro festival, an evening celebration of Latino culture that always includes food, music, dance and a host of other family-friendly activities.



Jaco the Bird is the star of one of the bilingual puppet skits created by Spanish professor Betsy Ubiergo.

"It will be nice because everyone can get something different from this," said Ubiergo. "For my students, they'll have a chance to learn Spanish in a new and non-threatening way, and

to interact with native Spanish speakers. For the children there who speak Spanish, this may introduce them to some important examples of Spanish-language literature that they may not have been familiar with—and because they'll be able to help my students out if they forget a word, it validates their experiences as Spanish speakers. And for English-speaking children, the plays are bilingual, and the puppets make it engaging even when they don't recognize the language."

Ubiergo added that since the puppets were part of her sabbatical project, they are now Clark College property and will be available for future productions and lessons. In fact, she made sure to request that Overton and Richmond make the puppets easy to disassemble and pack for traveling, because she already has plans to use them in a service learning project during the college's next study abroad trip to Mexico during Spring Break 2015.

Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley

**Clark College Theatre
Presents: "Dog Sees God"**



Clark College Theatre concludes its 2013-14 season with *Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead* by Bert V. Royal. A breakout hit when it debuted at the New York International Fringe Festival, this challenging work operates both as a comedic deconstruction of an American icon and as a poignant examination of the hurdles facing modern youth. The production is directed by Theatre Department Chair H. Gene Biby and runs May 2-17.

An “unauthorized parody,” *Dog Sees God* imagines characters from the popular comic strip *Peanuts* as teenagers. Drug use, suicide, eating disorders, teen violence, rebellion, sex and sexual identity are among the issues covered in this drama. Royal builds on the foundation of Charles Schulz’s iconic comic strip, creating a parody that’s also a stand-alone play apt to resonate even with those who belong to that small population segment unfamiliar with *Peanuts*.

“Using iconic cartoon characters as his basis, Royal examines the big questions about life, love and the pursuit of happiness,” says Biby. “Additionally, he takes a hard look at current societal issues including bullying, drug use, and sexuality. Royal provides a humorous yet often poignant look

at our lives through the lens of these much-loved characters.”

The cast includes seasoned actors who are current or former Clark College students: James Martine, Elena Mack, Garrett Dabbs, JD Carpenter, Sam Ruble, Keren Garcia, Danielle Weddle, and Emily Wells. Production includes strong language and adult themes.

Show Dates: May 2, 3, 9, 10, 15, 16, and 17. All show times are at 7:30 p.m. May 10, there will be a 2:00 p.m. matinee.

Ticket Information: Students (with ID) \$9; Alumni (with membership) \$9; Senior Citizens \$11; General Admission \$13. Tickets may be purchased in person at the Clark College Bookstore in Gaiser Hall, online at http://www.clarkbookstore.com/site_theatre.asp, or call 360-992-2815.

If you need accommodation due to a disability in order to fully participate in this event, contact Clark College’s Disability Support Services Office at 360-992-2314 or 360-991-0901 (VP), or visit Gaiser Hall room 137, two weeks before the event.

Celebrating Spring and Friendship

As he introduced the opening ceremonies of this year's Sakura Festival, Clark College President Bob Knight called the 100 shirofugen trees whose blossoming the festival celebrates "a gift rich with symbolism." As dignitaries from both Japan and Vancouver rose to speak, it became clear how rich that symbolism is.

Vancouver Mayor and Clark College alumnus Tim Leavitt said that here, as in Japan, the annual blossoming of the cherry trees has come to mark the beginning of spring, as well as of the historic bonds between Vancouver and Japan. "The City of Vancouver has long had an affinity with Japan," he said. "We've hosted cultural exchanges, art exhibits, and have business relationships with firms headquartered here, including Kyocera and SEH America. We've also enjoyed our formal sister city relationship with Jojo for 18 years. For me, the annual Sakura Festival serves as a poignant reminder of our longstanding friendship and the meaningful opportunities that it provides."

Guests from Japan—including America Kotobuki President John

Kageyama, Joyo Mayor Toshiharu Okuda, Portland Consul General for Japan Hiroshi Furusawa, and SEH America Inc. Executive Vice President Tatsuo Ito—spoke movingly about the role that *sakura* (cherry blossoms) play in Japanese culture. The blossoms' ephemeral beauty, often lasting just a week or two, symbolizes rebirth, transformation, and the importance of appreciating each moment of life. Additionally, as Consul General Furusawa pointed out, cherry trees have been planted in many prominent locations in the U.S. to symbolize friendship between this country and Japan.

"These magnificent cherry blossoms symbolize the close friendship between the cities of Joyo and Vancouver, as well as between the U.S. and Japan," he said. "May they continue to grow and thrive."

Also present at the event were members of the Rotary Clubs of both Vancouver and Joyo; Clark College trustees Sherry Parker and Jack Burkman; former Vancouver mayor Bruce Hagensen; Vancouver City Councilmembers Bart Hansen, Larry Smith, and Alishia Topper; and Vancouver City Manager Eric Holmes.

The opening ceremony included performances by Yukiko Vossen on the *koto*, a traditional Japanese stringed instrument, as well as by the Clark College Women's Ensemble. Afterward, entertainment included a traditional dance performance by the Clark College Japanese Club, a drum performance by Portland Taiko, and a kimono fashion show with beautiful kimono modeled by Clark students and staff, as well as by children from Clark's Child & Family Studies program.

Begun in 2006, Clark College's Sakura Festival celebrates John Kageyama's donation of 100 shirofugen cherry trees to the City of Vancouver. The trees were planted on Clark's main campus in 1990; each year, their beautiful pink blossoms transform the campus and prompt a flurry of picnics and picture-taking. Due to rain, this year's festival was held indoors in Gaiser Student Center.

Association Scholarship Opportunities



The Association of Community and Technical Colleges offers two scholarships every year, one for employees of Washington community and technical colleges (CTCs) who are pursuing a college degree, and one for students graduating from a CTC.

The application deadline for both scholarships has been extended to **May 12, 2014**.

Here is a link to the scholarship application:
<https://sbctc.instructure.com/courses/962721>.

For more information, visit The Association website.

Democracy or Dictatorship?



What makes one country develop into a democracy, and another into a dictatorship? That is the question at the heart of Clark College sociology professor Carlos Castro's upcoming Faculty Speaker Series lecture, "Borderlines: Political and Economic Differences between Nicaragua and Costa Rica."

Costa Rica is one of the richest countries in Central America while its neighbor, Nicaragua, is one of the poorest. Costa Rica has a liberal democratic system, while Nicaragua is more authoritarian. What led these neighboring countries to develop so differently? Castro will offer his interpretation of why two neighboring countries with strong cultural similarities can differ so dramatically.

"Nicaragua and Costa Rica pose an interesting case study," says Castro. "They are so close and yet so different. The lessons to be drawn from them could apply to many nations and regions of the world wrestling with issues related to social, political, and economic development."

A native of Nicaragua, Carlos Castro graduated cum laude from the University of Oregon with Bachelor of Arts degrees in sociology and economics. Continuing his studies at the University of Oregon, Castro earned a master's degree in public affairs (MPA), master's degree in community and regional planning (MCRP) and a PhD in sociology. He began teaching at Clark College in 2006 and received tenure in 2009. An essayist and poet as well as an academic, Castro's work has appeared in such publications as *Organization and Environment*, *El Nuevo Diario*, *The American Poetry Review*, *La Prensa Literaria*, *Confidencial*, and *Nuevo Amanecer Cultural*. He is

currently working on a book comparing and contrasting the development of Nicaragua and Costa Rica, research for which will be the foundation of his Faculty Speaker Series presentation.

This event, which is free and open to the public, is scheduled to take place Thursday, May 8, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., in the Ellis Dunn Community Room (GHL 213). It is being held in conjunction with Clark College's Celebración de mi Gente.

Individuals who need accommodation due to a disability in order to fully participate in this event should contact Clark College's Disability Support Services (DSS) Office at 360-992-2314 or 360-991-0901 (VP). The DSS office is located in room 013 in Clark's Penguin Union Building.

About the Clark College Faculty Speaker Series

Established by Clark College with support from the Clark College Foundation, the Clark College Faculty Speaker Series honors individual faculty members and celebrates academic excellence. The series showcases recent experiences that have enriched both the life and teaching of a Clark faculty member. Faculty members share their developmental experiences with the college community—and with members of the community at large—while addressing some of today's most intriguing issues.

Trees and Technology



President Bob Knight receives Clark's Tree Campus USA award from Ben Thompson of the Washington Department of Natural Resources.

On April 9, Clark College celebrated both the natural and digital worlds at its annual Arbor Day event, as it added two new trees to the campus's beautiful arboretum and unveiled a new, student-designed website that uses digital technology to catalog that arboretum. The new online map allows visitors to instantly access descriptions of most trees on campus through their mobile devices.

"This website is a great testament to the value of service learning here at Clark," said Computer Technology Department Chair Robert Hughes at the ceremony, which took place under sunny skies just south of the Chimes Tower. "It showcases the talent of our students, the value of our instruction, and a great part of Clark's visual landscape."

The mobile-friendly online map is the product of work done by students in instructor Gus Torres's spring 2013 Web Design II class. The students worked with the college's Campus Tree Advisory Committee to identify trees in the campus's extensive arboretum, which includes such notable trees as a six-decade-old Scarlet Oak and 100 Shirofugen blossoming cherry trees donated to the campus by Japanese businessman John Kageyama in 1990. Students then GPS-tagged each listed tree and added it to the map with information about its genus and species.

Additional students contributed to the project in subsequent quarters. Hughes was one of the faculty members who helped support the project, along with Torres, Computer Graphics Technology professor Kristl Plinz, and Computer Technology instructor Bruce Elgort.



The online map documents Clark's extensive arboretum.

The event also featured the official bestowing on Clark of Tree Campus USA designation by the Arbor Day Foundation for the fourth year in a row. Tree Campus USA colleges must meet rigorous standards in five separate areas to earn this designation. The award was presented by a Washington State Department of Natural Resources Urban Forestry Specialist Ben Thompson and received by Clark College President Robert K. Knight.

"It's very exciting that Clark College has such enthusiasm for urban forestry," said Thompson, who noted that Clark was helping Vancouver earn a "trifecta" by being a Tree City USA with both a Tree Line USA and a Tree Campus USA. He also noted that Clark's arboretum might benefit students in unsuspected ways.

"I don't think it's a coincidence that so many colleges are located on beautiful campuses filled with trees," he said. "It puts us at ease, at rest. It makes us ready for learning."

Clark College Bob Knight agreed. "If our students feel

comfortable and our faculty feel comfortable, then it opens up their minds and creativity more,” he said, adding that the new arboretum map was a perfect example of that. “It’s exactly what we want to encourage here at Clark College.”



Children from Clark’s Child & Family Studies program get help on their tree-themed scavenger hunt from, *left to right*, Dean of STEM Dr. Peter Williams, President Bob Knight, and Campus Tree Committee members Tim Carper and Melissa Favara.

Other speakers at the event included Dean of STEM Dr. Peter Williams and Zahid Chaudry, GIS Program Manager of the U.S. Forest Service Region 6. Additionally, two trees were added to the campus arboretum: an Eastern Hemlock and an Eastern White Pine. These are the official state trees of Pennsylvania and Maine, respectively, and are part of an effort by the college to include all 50 state trees in the campus arboretum; with these two additions, the arboretum contains 39 state trees.

Also present were two classrooms of children from Clark’s Child & Family Studies program, who participated in a tree-themed scavenger hunt and received “seed bombs” filled with seeds of indigenous plants.

Trees and Technology



The new mobile-friendly arboretum map pinpoints and identifies trees all over Clark's main campus.

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map with information about its genus and species. Additional students contributed to the project in subsequent quarters, with faculty from both the Computer Graphics Technology and the Computer Technology departments providing guidance and support.

“I look forward to the sight of Clark College denizens and those in the community at large walking across campus consulting their phones and tablets to find the answer to ‘What kind of tree is this?’” said Computer Technology Department Head Robert Hughes, who also teaches in the Computer Graphics Technology program. “Project-based client work has been a component of our graphics and web-related curriculum for a long time. These types of experiences are helpful as our students move into the workforce.”

Hughes was one of the faculty members who helped support the project, along with Torres, Computer Graphics Technology professor Kristl Plinz, and Computer Technology instructor Bruce Elgort.



Members of Facilities Services proudly display Clark College’s Tree Campus USA award during the college’s 2013 Arbor Day event.

In keeping with this year’s Arbor Day theme, “Trees and

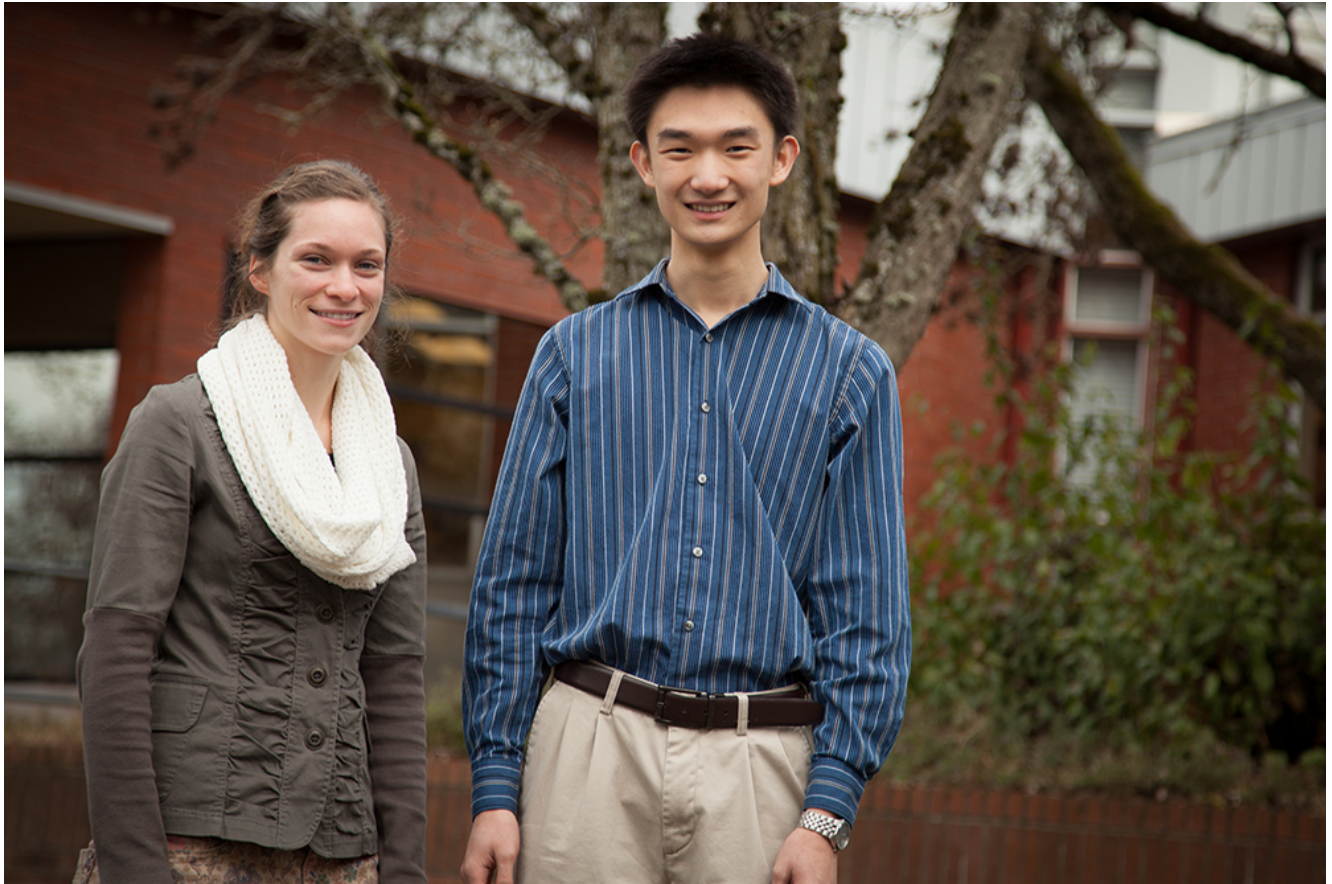
Technology,” the event’s keynote speech will be presented by Zahid Chaudry, GIS Program Manager of the U.S. Forest Service Region 6. Additionally, two trees are being added to the campus arboretum: an Eastern Hemlock and an Eastern White Pine. These are the official state trees of Pennsylvania and Maine, respectively, and are part of an effort by the college to include all 50 state trees in the campus arboretum; with these two additions, the arboretum will contain 39 state trees.

The event, which will take place at 11:00 a.m. just south of Cannell Library, will also feature the official bestowing on Clark of Tree Campus USA designation by the Arbor Day Foundation for the fourth year in a row. Tree Campus USA colleges must meet rigorous standards in five separate areas to earn this designation. The award will be presented by a staff member from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and received by Clark College President Robert K. Knight.

The event is free and open to the public.

Photo: Clark College/Jenny Shadley

Student Spotlight: Amelia Longbons and Christopher Beh



Amelia Longbons and Christopher Beh are Clark College's 2014 All-Washington Academic Team members.

Two Clark College students who serve their college and their community were named to the 2014 All-Washington Academic Team.

Amelia Longbons of Kelso and Christopher Beh of Vancouver were among 68 students from Washington's 34 community and technical colleges who were recognized on March 27 in a ceremony at South Puget Sound Community College in Olympia. Washington Lieutenant Governor Brad Owen was the keynote speaker.

According to organizers, each member of the All-Washington Academic team received a scholarship from KeyBank of Washington. In addition, many of Washington's public and private four-year colleges are offering scholarship opportunities to members of the team.



About Amelia Longbons

Amelia Longbons can vouch for the value of community colleges: She earned her Associate of Arts at Lower Columbia College while still in high school through the Running Start Program and then enrolled at Clark College to enter its highly regarded Dental Hygiene program. Now she is busy on a project to provide dental hygiene care and education to homeless people in Southwest Washington, all while maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

This is not Longbons's first academic honor. She is also a recipient of the American Dental Association Foundation Allied Dental Student Scholarship, awarded to just 15 students nationwide each year and the 2012 Scholastic Achievement Award, granted by Lower Columbia College to the student with the highest grade point average in the graduating class. Additionally, she was valedictorian of her graduating class at Kelso High School.

Longbons's academic achievements are all the more impressive considering how many hours she devotes to volunteer activities. She has a long history of volunteering, but currently concentrates most of her efforts toward her chosen career. She assisted at the Free Clinic of Southwest

Washington's Children's Dental Day and is in the process of organizing a free dental day for local homeless and veterans in the community. She is a member of the Student American Dental Hygienists Association and regularly participates in outreach efforts to promote dental hygiene among underserved communities.

Longbons, 20, plans to graduate with her Associate of Applied Science in Dental Hygiene in June, after which she will enroll in the Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene program at Eastern Washington University. She says she hopes to one day use her education to travel to other countries and provide dental hygiene care to the poor and underserved.

"For me, winning this scholarship has been a great honor and made me understand that community colleges are an amazing opportunity to allow me to grow and reach my academic potential," says Longbons. "It's been an inspiration and a motivation to keep going and to work my hardest and to continue my education and give everything I have to becoming a successful student and becoming a successful dental hygienist."



About Christopher Beh

At age 17, Christopher Beh has already experienced a lot of changes and challenges. Beh was 8 years old when his father left the family, and Beh's mother had to work two jobs to keep them afloat.

"At the time, I didn't realize the amount of work that she was putting in so that I could have a future," says Beh. "I thought that she didn't care; of myself as inept. I truly believed that I wasn't capable of becoming anything worthwhile."

But eventually Beh realized that he had both the drive and the ability to succeed academically. He enrolled at Clark College while still in high school through the Running Start Program, and anticipates earning his transfer associate degree in June. At Clark he has joined Alpha Sigma Phi, the college's chapter of the national two-year college honor society Phi Theta Kappa, and has sought out opportunities to challenge himself academically through Clark's rigorous Honors Program. He says these experiences have given him a newfound respect for community colleges.

"What community colleges do for students from all walks of life is absolutely incredible," says Beh. "It's an amazing stepping stone for people who maybe aren't ready for a four-year university, or are looking for a closer-knit environment where students can work together, stay closer to home, and maybe juggle other things that they have going on."

Beh's own juggling act has become even more demanding: He has been helping his mother recover since she underwent neck surgery last year. Additionally, he helps support their household by working part-time at the college's computer help desk. Fortunately, he has been able to take advantage of some of Clark's online course offerings, allowing him more flexibility to assist his mother at home.

"Looking back, I know that I made the right choice," Beh says

of his decision to attend Clark. "I've been able to help my mom through her recovery, and I'm not bogged down by student loans. I've also been able to be part of an amazing community. I feel that my professors truly care about my success, and I've found a home with Alpha Sigma Phi. At first I chose a community college for the cost and convenience, but I have found so much more at Clark College."

Beh, who is studying computer science and business at Clark, has accepted admission to the University of Washington, where he plans to major in computer science. His work at Clark has made him interested in a job in Information Technology and he hopes to one day work in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's cybercrime division.

Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley

Video: Clark College/Nick Bremer Korb