

# Learn as you lunch



Biology professor Steven Clark

Clark College is inviting the public to come back to school for a series of free seminars that explore the lighter side of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). New this academic year, the Clark College STEM Seminar Series launches on Friday, October 16, at noon in Anna Pechanec Hall room 201 with “Rockin’ Out with Rock Rabbits.”

This seminar covers research done by biology professor Steven Clark on pika, tiny rabbit-like creatures who normally live in high elevations. Prof. Clark will discuss what he’s discovered about an unusual population of these creatures living in the Columbia River Gorge whose survival may hold keys to understanding how our environment can adapt to global climate change. Expect Prof. Clark, who recently received an Exceptional Faculty Award, to share photos and insights in an exciting, high-energy presentation geared toward anyone with an interest in science—no Ph.D. required!

Other fall quarter events in this series include:

- **The Science Behind Sci-Fi** with Prof. Joe Pitkin, Oct. 30
- **Handicapping Horse Races** with instructor Robert Weston, Nov. 13
- **Breaking the Cycle of Abuse** with Prof. Mika Maruyama,

Dec. 4

All events are held on Fridays from noon to 1 p.m. in APH room 201. All are free and open to the public. Light snacks will be available and guests are welcome to bring their own lunches with them.

“Clark College has long been a center for STEM learning in this region,” said Clark College STEM Coordinator Erin Harwood, who helped organize the seminar series. “We already do lots of outreach to encourage interest in STEM among our community’s young people through our annual Science Olympiad and other events. This is a way to show adults as well that learning about STEM can be lots of fun. We’re hoping people start looking forward to these seminars as a great way to spend their Friday lunch break learning something new.”

Clark College is located at 1933 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver. Driving directions and parking maps are available at [www.clark.edu/maps](http://www.clark.edu/maps). Anyone needing accommodation due to a disability in order to fully participate in this event should contact Clark College’s Disability Support Services Office at (360) 992-2314 or (360) 991-0901 (VP), or visit Penguin Union Building room 013, as soon as possible.

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**England                      appointed                      to  
commission**



Dolly England

Clark College is pleased to announce that Dolly England, Diversity Outreach Manager, was recently appointed to the Washington State Commission on African American Affairs by Gov. Jay Inslee. As a commissioner for Southwest Washington, England will help shape policy and understanding regarding African-Americans in Washington State.

“Dolly England’s appointment to this important commission is a wonderful example of the important roles Clark College employees play in serving our community,” said Clark College President Robert K. Knight. “I am sure she will bring a wealth of insight and energy to the commission, just as she has done here at Clark.”

England, who has more than 15 years of experience working in community health and is the former vice president of the Vancouver NAACP, joined Clark College in January to help guide the college’s efforts to attract and retain diverse employees. Creating the Diversity Outreach Manager position is just one step in Clark’s effort to ensure the college continues to attract the best and brightest employee candidates. As part of this role, England is leading several efforts to expand and modernize the college’s outreach to potential new candidates. Some highlights of these new outreach efforts include:

- Members of the Clark’s Human Resources staff have begun attending regional community events and career

fairs—totaling more than 15 by the end of 2015.

- Human Resources staff will attend national career fairs during the key faculty recruitment period of November – January.
- The college has recently contracted with social recruitment vendor CareerArc to strategically expand its job postings into the realm of social media.
- The college has set an ambitious new goal of ensuring the candidate pool for each new job opening is at least 25 percent diverse, a description which includes race, color, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, creed, and veteran status.
- Clark College is a participant in the newly formed Southwest Washington Community Human Resources Group, which was developed by local employers to share and develop strategies to diversify recruitment both within their respective organizations and in the region as a whole.

“This is an exciting time for Clark College,” says England. “By expanding our reach and using some of the same tools Fortune 500 companies use to recruit the best and brightest candidates from across the country, we can ensure that Clark is building a workforce that will maintain its high reputation for decades to come.”

Clark College employs 1,600 employees. As a nonprofit Washington State institution, Clark College offers faculty and staff the opportunity to serve the community by guiding individuals to achieve their educational and professional goals. The college also offers many attractive benefits for potential employees, including its location in the heart of the Pacific Northwest; its beautiful, 101-acre campus; access to discounted classes; fitness center membership; on-site child care; ample opportunities for professional development; high-quality teaching facilities; and teaching-focused

faculty.

*Photo: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*

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## Fun for the Whole Familia



Members of the Olincalli Ballet Folklórico perform at the 2014 Latino Festival.

On Friday, May 1, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Clark College invites the community to participate in an evening of free, family-friendly activities that celebrate both Latino culture and the value of literacy.

“Celebración de Mi Gente: El Día del Niño/El Día del Libro”  
 (“Celebration of My People: Day of the Child/Day of the Book”)

is an annual event hosted by the college. It is free and open to the public. It is always held on or near the Mexican holiday of Día del Niño (April 30), which is also celebrated as Día del Libro by the American Library Association. The festival will feature a bilingual puppet show, bilingual storytelling and book-reading, dancing, crafts, face-painting, bilingual games, crafts, and delicious snacks. Clark College's mascot, Oswald the Penguin, will be on hand for photos with visiting children.

The event will be held in the Gaiser Student Center on Clark College's main campus. Clark College is located at 1933 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver. Driving directions and parking maps are available at [www.clark.edu/maps](http://www.clark.edu/maps). Anyone needing accommodation due to a disability in order to fully participate in this event should contact Clark College's Disability Support Services Office at (360) 992-2314 or (360) 991-0901 (VP), prior to the event.

See video about the puppet show and last year's festival:

*Photo: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*

*Video: Clark College/Nick Bremer-Korb*

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## Career Days is Big





Attendees meet potential employers at the 2014 Career Days job fair.

Clark College's Career Days is entering its fifth year with its largest-ever number of employers participating in two separate job fairs, as well as many new events designed to help today's job-seekers. The three-day event will be held April 27-29 at the college's main campus.

The annual event includes seminars, skills sessions, clinics, speaker panels, and other events designed to assist students and community members in their job search efforts and to prepare students in transferring to a bachelor's degree. All events are free and open to the public.

Schedule highlights (full schedule available [here](#)):

Monday, April 27

- Presentation: "LinkedIn & the Online Job Search"
- Speakers panel: "Careers in Science, Technology,

Engineering, and Math”

- Career assessment workshop

Tuesday, April 28

- Drop-in resume and LinkedIn Clinic
- Employer panel: “Succeeding at Your Job”

Wednesday, April 29

- Job Fair with representative from 61 employers
- Separate Health Careers Job Fair with representatives from 20 employers
- Photo booth for a free professional headshot for attendees’ LinkedIn profiles
- “Borrow an Expert” event in which successful Clark College alumni can be reserved for 15-minute conversations about jobs in their respective fields.

“Clark College takes great pride in its role as a promoter of economic vitality in our region,” said Clark College Career Services Director Edie Blakley. “Eleven of the 12 Career Days 2015 events bring employers and professionals from outside the college to connect with our students and community members. This provides immediate opportunities for jobs, skill development, networking, and getting information that can help our graduates put their degrees to work.”

All events are free to students and members of the community. No registration is required. Clark College is located at 1933 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver. Driving directions and parking maps are available at [www.clark.edu/maps](http://www.clark.edu/maps).

Complete information about the event – including times and locations of the various events – is available at [www.clark.edu/cc/careerdays](http://www.clark.edu/cc/careerdays) or by calling 360-992-2902.

Information about Clark College Career Services is available at [www.clark.edu/cc/careerservices](http://www.clark.edu/cc/careerservices).



*Photo: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*

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# Sakura is Coming



One of 100 shirofugen cherry trees on Clark's main campus blossoming near the Royce E. Pollard Japanese Friendship Garden, where (weather permitting) the opening remarks for this year's Sakura Festival will be held.

On Thursday, April 16, Clark College's 2015 Sakura Festival will honor the historic ties of friendship between the cities of Vancouver, Washington, and Joyo, Japan. This year's celebration holds particular significance, as it recognizes several important milestones: the 25th anniversary of the donation by Mr. John Kageyama of the 100 shirofugen cherry

trees whose blossoming on the Clark College campus this festival celebrates, the 10th anniversary of Clark's Sakura celebration, and the 20th anniversary of the Vancouver-Joyo Sister City relationship.

The festival will begin with opening remarks at 1 p.m. at the Royce E. Pollard Japanese Friendship Garden, which is located next to the Beacock Music Hall on Clark's main campus. (In the event of inclement weather the ceremony will be held in Gaiser Student Center.) Dignitaries who are scheduled to speak include Vancouver Mayor Tim Leavitt; John Kageyama, President of America Kotobuki; Hiroshi Furusawa, Portland Consul General; Tatsuo Ito, Executive Vice President of SEH America Inc.; and Clark College international student Erina Yamazaki. Located within Kyoto Prefecture, Joyo is Vancouver's official sister city in Japan.

The opening ceremony will include a koto performance by Yukiko Vossen and a performance by the Clark College Women's Ensemble. The koto, a stringed musical instrument, is the national instrument of Japan.

From 2 to 3:30 p.m., the Sakura celebration will continue in the Gaiser Student Center, where guests will enjoy family-friendly cultural activities including a dance performance by the Clark College Japanese Club, a greeting from the children in the college's Child & Family Studies program, and a performance by members of the Portland Taiko Drum Group. Refreshments will be served. Information about the Sakura Ceremony is available at [www.clark.edu/cc/sakura](http://www.clark.edu/cc/sakura).

All events are free and open to the public. The Sakura Festival is sponsored by Clark College, the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver Rotary. For video of last year's Sakura celebration, please visit Clark's YouTube channel.

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*Photo: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*

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## Seussing Things Up



King Elementary students enjoy their new books, donated through the Clark College Bookstore's 2015 book drive.

Smiles dominated the scene at King Elementary School on March

2 as volunteers from the Clark College Bookstore read Dr. Seuss's classic *The Cat in The Hat* to four kindergarten classes as part of Read Across America Day. Following the book readings by volunteers Kaina Barba and Megaera Jarvis, each student received a new copy of the book to keep for their own, courtesy of the Bookstore's annual book drive. A total of 100 copies were donated by community members, students, staff, and faculty.



Clark College Bookstore volunteers Megaera Jarvis and Kaina Barba read to King Elementary students during Read Across America Day 2015.

"What better way is there to get a child excited to read than with a Dr. Seuss book?" asked Bookstore buyer Marti Earhart, who helps organize the Book Drive. "When the books were handed out, the kids were so excited to open their books to see what words they recognized."

"The Clark College Book Drive is a wonderful opportunity for King students to hear another adult read a book to them," King kindergarten teacher Shari Perea said afterward. "The students treasure the book that they receive from the Clark (volunteer) and it, in some cases, is the only book that they own."

Over the last seven years, the book drive has provided over 1,100 books to local kindergarteners.

*Story submitted by Marti Earhart*

*Photos: Marti Earhart/Clark College Bookstore*

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## Keeping Kids Healthy



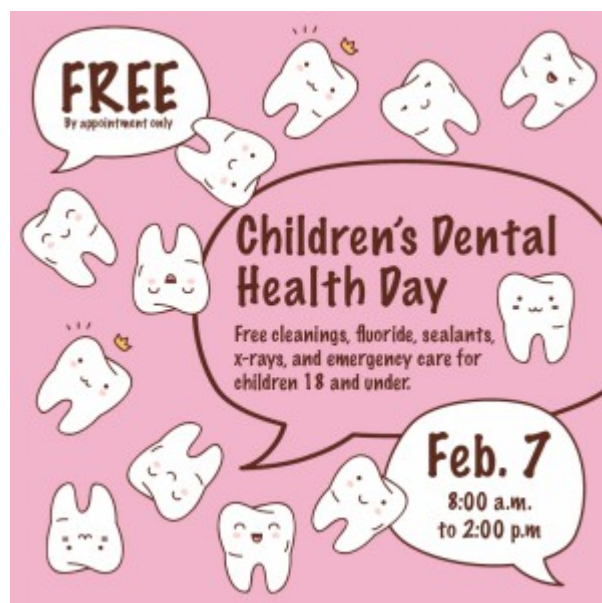
Dental Hygiene students work in the new Firstenberg Family Dental Hygiene Education and Care Center.

The Clark College Dental Hygiene Program will hold a free children's dental clinic on Saturday, February 7 from 8 a.m.



to 2 p.m. on the main campus of Clark College. The event will take place in the newly remodeled Firstenburg Dental Hygiene Education and Care Center in the Health Sciences Building.

Dental hygiene students from Clark College will provide care under the direct supervision of licensed dental hygienist and dentists. Services will include cleanings, sealants, x-rays, and fluoride for children ages 18 and under. Appointments can be scheduled by calling the Dental Hygiene Business Office at 360-992-2158.



This has been an exciting time for the Dental Hygiene program. Its recently approved Bachelor of Applied Science degree—the college's first-ever baccalaureate degree—will begin taking students in fall 2015. The program also recently opened the Firstenburg Family Dental Hygiene Education and Care Center. The \$3.3 million facility renovation was funded by donations from a variety of entities including the Firstenburg Foundation, Roy and Virginia Andersen Endowment, M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, John A. and Helen M. Cartales Foundation. Renovations of the space allow the program to serve more students and more patients—particularly children and underserved populations.

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# Help Clark students dress for success



Clark staff members help sort ties during the 2013 Career Clothing Closet, an annual event that provides Clark students with free professional attire.

Clark College Career Services is seeking clothing and cash donations for its 11th Annual Career Clothing Closet, which provides professional and/or interview clothing to Clark College students at no cost.

The Closet will be held April 23 and 24 in advance of Clark College Career Days, the college's annual career fair that precedes spring graduation.

While students have access to lots of career-preparation support while at Clark—from resume clinics to industry-specific certification programs—many lack the resources to purchase new outfits appropriate to their chosen careers as they prepare to enter the job market after graduation. As Career Services Director Edie Blakley explains, “The Career Clothing Closet helps our students put their best selves forward in an interview or as they begin their careers. Beginning a new career can be scary, and the right clothing can help students feel confident.”

The Closet is accepting new or gently used professional, workplace-appropriate clothing for both men and women. New this year, the Closet is also accepting industry-specific clothing (including scrubs, steel-toed work boots, baking uniforms, welding and construction-specific clothing) as well as cash donations. All clothing donations should be in excellent condition, laundered or dry-cleaned prior to donation. Undergarments and torn or stained clothing will not be accepted. Cash donations will be used to purchase clothing in underrepresented sizes.

Donations may be dropped off by April 10 at Clark College Career Services, located in room PUB 002 on ground level of the Penguin Union Building, 1933 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver WA 98663. Hours of operation: Monday-Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. All donations are tax deductible; receipts will be provided. Driving directions and parking maps are available at [www.clark.edu/maps](http://www.clark.edu/maps). Questions may be directed to Sharon Orr at or [sorr@clark.edu](mailto:sorr@clark.edu).

While donations will be accepted through April 10, organizers are hoping to motivate donors to give now. “We know that this is a time of year when many people are getting new clothes for the holidays and purging their closets, and also when people are looking for end-of-the-year tax deductions,” explains Blakley. “Also, the more donations we gather, the more students we can help, so collecting for the Career Clothing

Closet really is a year-round process for us.”

Last year, the Closet provided professional clothing to more than 200 Clark students.

*Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*

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## **Iris Award Nominations Now Open**



Nominations are now open for the 2015 Iris Awards. The winners will be announced in January, and the recipients will be honored at a reception and ceremony on Thursday, March 5, 2015, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Clark College’s Gaiser Student Center. Tickets will go on sale in late January.

Following in the tradition of the Southwest Washington Women of Achievement Awards, this year’s ceremony marks the 30th anniversary of the college’s annual recognition of women’s contributions to the community. The event began in 1985 at Clark College as a photography exhibit during Women’s History Week. Over the years, the event developed into a larger awards program and ceremony. In 2012, the Iris Awards were introduced with the same focus as previous events: celebrating the lasting and far-reaching contributions of women in Southwest Washington and beyond.

As in the past, the awards will be presented in observation of International Women’s Day (March 8). Three Iris Awards may be presented annually. One recipient may be selected in each of

three areas: service in the public sector, service in the private sector, and philanthropic leadership. Anyone may submit a nomination. Additionally, more than one person can fill out a nomination form for the same nominee or provide letters of recommendation.

The awards are sponsored by Clark College, the *Vancouver Business Journal*, the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce, and the Clark College Foundation.

Nominations must be received by Friday, December 19, 2014.

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## Rockets, Eggs, and Safety Goggles



Students compete in the Rocket Boat Rally during the 2014 Elementary Science Olympiad.

Normally, you wouldn't encourage kids to drop eggs on your floor. But this Saturday, all the rules got bent (or possibly refracted) at Clark College's seventh annual Elementary Science Olympiad, where third-through-fifth graders tested the limits of physics with egg drops and challenged their engineering skills with rockets powered by vinegar and baking soda.



Students from Eisenhower Elementary celebrate an unbroken egg after dropping it from the balcony of PUB 161.

Twenty-four teams from 22 different schools in 10 different districts (including one team each from Cowlitz and Pacific counties) participated in this year's olympiad, making for a total of 328 elementary students participating—Clark's largest-ever attendance for the event.

"Interest level this year was amazing and meant we had to work just to squeeze all the teams in," says Clark STEM Coordinator and biology instructor Erin Harwood, who coordinates the event. "We couldn't say no when there was so much enthusiasm!"

The event's size meant the need for even more support from the



college community—which, as in years past, stepped in to volunteer. In all, 67 members of the Clark community—including students, faculty, staff, and even a dean—spent their Saturday morning helping young scientists compete in five different event categories. “Four out of five events were new this year, making for an exciting and challenging year,” says Harwood.



Engineering instructor Carol Hsu gets participants excited at the 2014 Elementary Science Olympiad.

This year, Chief Umtuch Middle School (Battle Ground) and CAM Academy (Battle Ground) vied for top honors in each competition (see PDF for full list). But as pictures from the fun-filled event show, when young people gather to celebrate science, everyone's a winner.

*Pictures: Clark College/Jenny Shadley. See more pictures in Clark's Flickr album.*