

Helping Our Community



Sarah Weinberger and Edie Blakley of Clark College Career Services accept an award from the Clark College Food Bank on behalf of the college.

Clark College was recognized for volunteering more than 400 hours at the Clark County Food Bank on Monday, June 9, during the food bank's Volunteer Appreciation Night.

Clark has a long relationship with the food bank, which provides bulk food to 29 different food pantries and meal sites throughout the county. Students and employees have donated time to the food bank through the college's Volunteer & Service-Learning program and its Service & Leadership in the Community program, as well as through Communication Studies and Human Development classes.

Present to accept the award on behalf of the college were Edie Blakley, Director of Career Services, and Sarah Weinberger, also of Career Services. The food bank presented them with an engraved cutting board, which will be displayed at the food bank's facility in northeast Vancouver, and with a paper certificate, which will be displayed in the Career Services

office at Clark.

Photo Album: Fun for the Whole Familia

Not even an accidental fire alarm could stop the festivities at this year's Día del Niño/Día del Libro celebration, held in Gaiser Student Center on May 9. Approximately 225 guests enjoyed the evening-long celebration of Latino culture and literature, which included a bilingual puppet show performed by Clark Spanish language students, dance performances by Olincalli Ballet Folklorico, free food from Panadería Cinco de Mayo, and hands-on activities for children. Oswald the Penguin was on hand to greet children and pose for pictures—even when the party moved outdoors temporarily after an inquisitive toddler managed to pull a fire alarm. The celebration quickly moved back inside to continue the festivities, which are held each year around April 30, the date of Mexico's Día del Niño ("Day of the Child") and the American Library Association's Día del Libro ("Day of the Book").

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Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley

Finding Careers, Finding Hope



Almost 800 people attended the 2014 Career Days job fair, which hosted representatives from 50 different employers.

The numbers are in from this year's Career Days, and they show what many at the college and in the community already knew: Clark College's week-long program for job-hunters is growing stronger every year. This year, more than 1000 job-seekers attended one or more Career Days events, which included workshops, clinics, job and transfer fairs, panel discussions, and expert presentations.

As always, events began before the official April 21 – 24 run of Career Days with the opening of the Career Clothing Closet the Thursday and Friday of the week before. This year, more than 200 students received free interview outfits of gently

worn professional clothing donated by members of the community.

Officially, however, Career Days kicked off on Monday, April 21, with an employer panel featuring representative from Adidas, The Boeing Company, and Madden Industrial. The Ellis Dunn Community Room in Gaiser Hall was filled with students and guests ready for tips on what these employers were looking for. One key need: skilled technicians in fields like machining, welding, and carpentry. "There's a shortage here in the Portland area," said Randy Shelton of Madden Industrial.



Visitors at the 2014 Career Days job fair had a chance to speak directly with representatives from employers in the region.

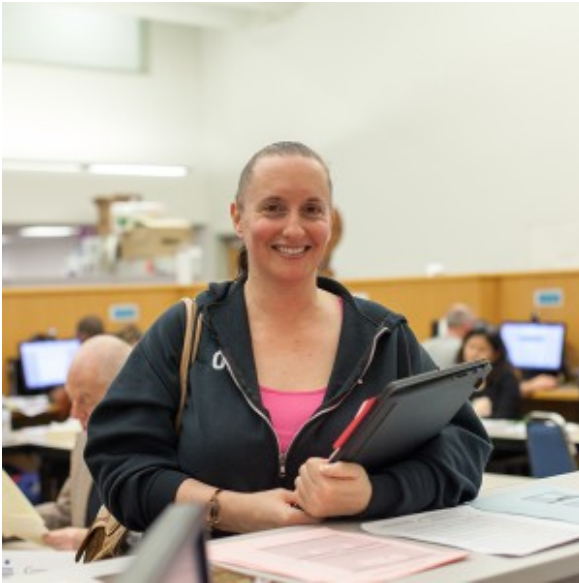
Michael Lushenko of Boeing agreed. "There's a shortage of people who know how to make parts," he said. "Our engineers tend to have at least a bachelor's degree, but machining is an area where we are happy to look at people with two-year degrees."

Lushenko cautioned that the job market has become more competitive recently, in part because of the increasing popularity of the Pacific Northwest as a place where people from other parts of the country would like to move. "I've been hiring for 15 years," he said. "It used to be a I got a lot of

local residents applying. Now I'm getting a lot of applicants from the East Coast and the South."

Fortunately, Career Days offered local job-hunters many opportunities to gain an edge over other competitors. One popular presenter was Bobby Castaneda, director of business development at the Vancouver-based ACS Professional Staffing. "He was a participant on our employer panel last year," said Career Services Program Specialist Sarah Weinberger, who chaired the Career Days committee. "Attendees enjoyed his role on the panel, so we brought him back this year to present his own workshop."

Attendees also flocked to hear Joshua Waldman, author of *Job Searching with Social Media for Dummies*. The biggest draw of the program, however, remained the job fair, held April 23. Nearly 800 job-seekers attended the event, which for the second year in a row was at full capacity with 50 employers represented; employers included Boeing, Columbia Machine, C-Tran, EarthLink, and Evergreen School District 112. The fair also included a photo booth where job-hunters could get a professional photo taken to use on their LinkedIn profiles. This feature was back for the second year in a row, as was the Penguin Passport, an incentive for visitors to attend multiple events. Passport prizes this year included an iPad Mini, a Fit Bit Flex, free pizza for a year from Papa Murphy's, and gift baskets from local companies.



Vancouver resident Patti James stands in the Career Center after receiving advice on her resume during Career Days 2014.

The program also included a drop-in resume clinic, during which job-seekers could have their resumes reviewed by trained human-resources professionals. Anne-Marie Rupert, a human resources professional who is currently a stay-at-home mother, was one volunteer reviewing resumes at the clinic. She said one of the key mistakes many job-seekers made was not understanding how much experience they actually have.

“What I’ve realized is that their resumes are brief, but what they’ve actually accomplished is impressive,” she said. “So helping them to get their accomplishments on paper has been the key thing I’ve been doing.”

Patti James, a Certified Nursing Assistant who was looking to change careers, said she came to Career Days specifically for help with her resume. “I haven’t done a resume for so long,” said the mother of five. “I was in my last job for 19 years.”

James said she had a completely new resume after speaking with Rupert. “She actually helped me to create a resume with the right keywords,” she said. “I didn’t realize you could create

a resume that talked exactly about the skills an employer was looking for. And she made me realize I had more experience than I thought.”

While the majority of Career Days attendees are Clark College students, the college hosts the program as a service for anyone in the community who could use help in finding a job. James, who lives in Vancouver, is not a student; she saw an ad for the event on Craigslist and decided to visit.

“I think it’s wonderful that they have this event for all of us who are looking for work,” she said. “I was scared they’d throw me out when I said I wasn’t a student. I said, ‘I’m nobody, can I still be here?’

“Instead they just laughed and said, ‘You’re somebody! Come on in!’”

Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley

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.

A Spanish Lesson with Strings Attached



Professor Betsy Ubierno 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 Ubierno 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.

Ubierno 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,'" Ubierno 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."

Ubierno 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 Ubierno. “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.

Ubierno 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. Ubierno 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 Niño/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 Ubierno.

“It will be nice because everyone can get something different from this,” said Ubierno. “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.”

Ubierno 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

**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.

Slideshow: Helping Crestline Turn the Page

Monday, March 3, four Clark College Bookstore employees visited Crestline Elementary School's temporary location, which was created after the school was destroyed in a fire last year. Their mission: To distribute to the school's kindergarten and first-grade students the 190 copies of the Dr. Seuss classic *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish* that the Bookstore had gathered through its annual Seuss-a-Palooza book drive. They also read the book aloud to classrooms as part of Read Across America Day.

"The best part of the event is always seeing the look on the children's faces when you hand them a book and tell them that it is their very own to keep and take home to share with their family and friends," said Bookstore buyer Kaina Barba, who visited Crestline with his colleagues Michael Owenby, Ashley Anderson, and Michal Neubauer. Indeed, many children gasped when they received their books, peppering the Bookstore staff with questions like "how did you get all these books here?" and "I really get to take this book home?"

"The children were absolutely thrilled to receive books of their own," said Crestline Budget Secretary Lori Boyd. "Many of our students come from homes where there is not extra money to purchase books, and having their very own, brand-new book to keep is a special treat."

In addition to the Bookstore's Crestline visit, 56 Clark students participated in Read Across America Day by reading to

children at Harney and Fruit Valley elementary schools through Clark's Volunteer & Service Learning program.

Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley

Goal Met



WSUV's Butch T. Cougar and Clark's own Oswald the Penguin, as well as volunteers and Student Ambassadors from Clark College, were on hand to greet guests at College Goal Washington. *Photo: Matthew Hunt/Doghouse Graphics.*

On January 26, Clark College hosted a College Goal Washington

event in Gaiser Student Center, attracting approximately 250 guests—more than any other such event in Southwest Washington.

College Goal Washington (also called “College Goal Sunday”) is a state-based volunteer program that provides free information and assistance to students and families who are applying for financial aid for post-secondary education. Financial aid specialists from both Clark College and Washington State University Vancouver were on hand to help families fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Volunteers were able to provide assistance in both Spanish and Russian, as well as in English.

The afternoon-long event included three break-out sessions: “Getting to College & Succeeding,” “Financial Aid 101,” and “Scholarships.” Translation into Spanish and Russian was also provided for these sessions.

Financial Aid Program Coordinator Kendra Graham contributed this article.

Summer Jobs, Lifelong Success



Clark College hosts numerous job fairs at its main campus each year, all of them open to the public.

Clark College hosts its second annual Summer Job and Internship Fair from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4, in the Gaiser Student Center. The event is designed to help job-seekers find summer internship and employment opportunities with Portland- and Vancouver-area employers.

New this year, the college is partnering with the Vancouver Housing Authority (VHA) to co-sponsor the fair. According to VHA Community Involvement and Employment Manager Bridgette Farnbulleh, the VHA has organized its own summer job fair for the past two years, but was eager to join forces with the Clark College.



Clark College's job fairs draw dozens of employers and hundreds of job-seekers.

"We wanted to connect with Clark College because of the educational aspect," Farnbulleh said. "We wanted our youth to be on a college campus, and to understand that the kind of job you get is closely connected to the education you get. We're trying to break the cycle, to make sure that just because they may have grown up in poverty doesn't mean they have to live in second-generation poverty themselves."

"I'm looking forward to this year's job fair," said Sarah Weinberger, Employer Relations and Job Developer at Clark College. "We have already doubled the number of registered employers from last year, and the collaboration with the VHA will make our event even stronger. Previously, the Summer Job and Internship Fair was held in May, but many employers had already hired for a June start date by that point. We are now holding the event in March because it's when students need to start planning for summer employment."

Positions offered at the fair may be full-time, part-time and in the case of internships, they may be paid or unpaid. There will also be a mock interview room set up to help job seekers prepare for real-life interviews.

The Summer Job & Internship Fair is sponsored by Clark College Career Services and the Vancouver Housing Authority. The event's Gold Level sponsor is LaborWorks. Some of the

employers who will be at the event are Boys & Girls Club of Southwest Washington, Entercom Portland, Firestone Pacific Foods, LOWE'S, Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, Trackers Earth, and YWCA Clark County. There are over 30 registered employers currently, with room for more. The event is open to any company or organization offering internships or summer employment, but space is limited so interested employers should act quickly to register.

A list of participating employers is available on the Career Center's Pinterest page.

The event is free and open to the public. Clark College is located at 1933 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver, Wash. Driving directions and parking maps are available at www.clark.edu/maps.

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

Elizabeth Christopher contributed to this article.

Photos: Clark College archives/Jenny Shadley

Choppers, Gunk, Bugs and Barges

On Saturday, November 2, Clark College's main campus was fizzing like a lab beaker as hundreds of students participated in the Southwest Washington Elementary Science Olympiad.

Almost 300 third-through-fifth grade students from 19 local elementary schools participated in the half-day event, which included five competitions: Green Eggs Go Bam!, Chopper Challenge, Tug-o-War Gunk, Benthic Bugs, and Buoyant Barges. (See complete results from the contest.) In addition to hosting the event, Clark provided more than 60 volunteers, most of them students. This was Clark's sixth year of hosting the event, which helps promote STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) among young learners.

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Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley

View photos from this event on Flickr.