

# The Race is On!



Members of Team Penguin 2013 show off their tees. (Organizer Joe Jenkins is standing in the center of the front row.) *Photo: Clark College/Alison Pezanoski-Browne*

Once again, academic advisor Joe Jenkins is organizing a Clark College team to run in the next Shamrock Run, held March 15 in Portland. Last year, 96 members of Team Penguin completed one of the courses—which range from a 3.1-mile walk to a 13.1-mile half-marathon run—raising \$480 for the Alex Montoya Scholarship Fund at Clark College Foundation. Interested in learning more? Jenkins has created a Facebook page for team members to share information, schedule training runs, and cheer each other on.

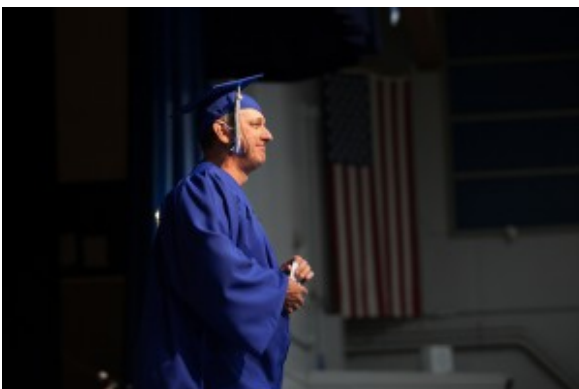
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# Changing Their Futures



Tyrene Weitz receives the Pat Fencil Scholarship during the 2014 GED/High School completion ceremony

Clark College celebrated its GED and High School Completion Ceremony on Saturday, June 21, capping off graduation week 2014 with a heartfelt ceremony featuring two student speakers and the conferring of certificates for GED or high school completion on more than 60 graduates.



## Peter Smith

After a welcome from President Bob Knight and a greeting from Board of Trustees Chair Royce Pollard, the microphone was handed over to two student speakers, Peter Smith and Tyrene Weitz. High school equivalency recipient Peter Smith started his comments by noting that the day had special meaning for him, as he was celebrating not only his degree, but also one year of sobriety.

Smith explained that a year ago, after finding himself in jail for a DUI, he decided the time had come to change his life. Earning his high school degree was the first step toward that; he plans to begin earning a certificate from Clark's welding program this summer as he continues his path toward a better life. "Hopefully, someday soon, someone like me will be standing here and my tax dollars will have helped him or her accomplish their goals," Smith said.

Smith thanked his girlfriend for her role in getting him to come to Clark, and noted that one of the things that many attending the ceremony had in common was support of family and loved ones. The O'Connell Sports Complex gymnasium was filled with balloons, flowers and the occasional noise-maker—proof of that support.

GED recipient Tyrene Weitz spoke next, saying that she had "given up" on school by the sixth grade and dropped out by the ninth grade. She added that while she had always wanted to get more education, she kept putting it off after beginning a family at a young age. A year ago, she too took the first step. "I know college is not easy, but nothing worth doing is, and to succeed you need to do the best you can, right where you are, with what you have," she said.

Weitz has not only completed her GED, but she has also completed English 101 and is on her way to achieving her goal of becoming a registered nurse.

Weitz got a surprise boost toward that goal after she left the stage, when Dean of Basic Education, English, Communications & Humanities Deena Godwin announced that Weitz was the recipient of this year's Pat Fencil scholarship.



Named after a longtime Adult Basic Education instructor, the scholarship provides \$1,500 toward tuition to an ABE student transitioning to college-level classes at Clark.

The day was capped by Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs Tim Cook presenting the class to President Knight, who conferred the degrees on the graduates. After each student crossed the stage to receive their degrees, President Knight sent them out in the sunny day with words of encouragement: "Your time at Clark has provided you with new skills, new perspectives, and new confidence. These are powerful tools. As you take your next step, use those tools to build a bright future for yourselves and for our community."

See more photos from the ceremony on our [Flickr page](#).

*Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*

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## Association Opportunities

## Scholarship



**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.

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## **Tell a Student: Scholarship Deadline is Approaching**



Know a great student who could use a little help paying for their classes? Now's a good time to give them one last piece of "homework" to do over Spring Break: Filling out a Clark College Foundation Scholarship application.

Each year, Clark College Foundation gives our students hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarship aid. Students



don't necessarily need to be straight-A students to qualify for scholarships: Many are designed for students who are specializing in a particular field, or who come from a particular background. The deadline for Foundation scholarship applications for the 2014-15 academic year is April 16. Students can access the application form online, but it's important to let them know that it will take time to complete—they'll need time to polish their application and gather the requisite letters of recommendation.

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## All “Fore” the Students



Student-athlete volunteers at the 2013 Penguin Nation Charity Golf Tournament with Athletics Secretary Senior Marla Derrick, *second from left*.

More than 120 golfers converged on Royal Oaks Country Club for an afternoon of fun on the links in support of Clark athletics in late August during the Penguin Nation Charity Golf Tournament. The winning team—finishing 12 under par with a score of 60—was led by Quail Construction owner Jon Girod and his son, Jai, who plays for Clark's baseball team.



More than 120 golfers participated in the 2013 Penguin Nation Charity Golf Tournament.

There were a variety of contests during the game to keep it fun and competitive. The men's longest-drive winner was Mick Hoffman; women's longest-drive went to Jeanne Caswell. Scott Munn won the closest-to-the-pin contest by coming within 13 inches of the cup.

From the moment the golfers were greeted at their vehicles by Clark's soccer teams, to dinner with volleyball and baseball players and track-and-field athletes, the participants learned how much Clark's student athletes and coaches appreciated their support.

Royal Oaks and its membership graciously welcomed the players to its beautiful, tree-lined course for the annual Penguin Charity Golf event. Premier sponsors included Wacom, US Bank, Homewood Suites, Sterling Bank, Adidas and Columbia Credit

Union.



Vice President of Administrative Services Bob Williamson, left, and Vice President of Student Affairs Bill Belden get ready to hit the links.

Additionally, tee sponsors included Clark College Bookstore, Biggs Insurance, The Blind Onion Pizza, NY Life, Keil Enterprises, First Pacific Associates, Exercise Equipment NW, Residence Inn, and Moss Adams. The hole-in-one car sponsor, Dick Hannah Kia, provided a silver Optima on the course.

No holes-in-one were made, but funds were raised in support of Clark's student athletes to ensure their bright futures through scholarships, high-quality education and facilities.

*Story submitted by Rhonda Morin and Vivian Cheadle-Manning  
Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*