



# Community Connections



## Dear Clarion University neighbor,

Since becoming Clarion University's 16<sup>th</sup> president in July 2010, I have expressed my personal goal that Clarion University becomes a more civically engaged university. I'm pleased to report that the university's strategic planning process

last year affirmed a commitment to civic engagement as a core value of our university community.

As part of Clarion University's efforts to create and maintain mutually beneficial relationships with our community partners, I'm delighted to share this newsletter with you. It will be sent twice a year—in the fall and spring—and it's designed to keep you apprised of major campus initiatives; construction projects; cultural, arts, entertainment, sporting and other events; as well as issues that we hope will be of interest to you.

I believe that as a public university, Clarion University has the obligation and opportunity to be a vital partner in making the Clarion area a great place to live and work. We remain committed to supporting regional engagement and economic development and to serving as an important educational and cultural resource for the entire area through our teaching, research and service.

I encourage you to participate in the life of the university by attending our events and activities. Please also take advantage of the university's resources and let us know how we're doing by using the contact information provided in each issue.

Have an Eagletastic fall! I look forward to seeing you on campus and in the community!

Karen M. Whitney  
President

## Being a good neighbor: 101

At the heart of a good neighborhood is the relationships established among its neighbors. The first step in building a relationship is respecting those next door, down the street and around the corner.

"A core group of community members and students, in conjunction with Clarion University/Community Alcohol and Other Drugs Task Force, developed the Good Neighbor Program to allow Clarion students and Clarion area community members to live as good neighbors in our community," said Jim McGee, coordinator of health promotions at the university.

The Good Neighbor Program is designed to work with issues that arise both on and off campus. The goal is to work with off-campus students to raise awareness of negative issues and promote positive decision making with students and community members with whom they come into contact.

Through the program, students are encouraged to:

- Recognize they are part of a neighborhood.
- Spend time getting to know their neighbors.
- Treat neighbors with respect.
- Identify potential concerns such as noise levels, trash removal, parking and property lines.
- Exchange contact information and schedules.
- Take pride in where they live.

The program recently was awarded a \$14,323 grant through Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, which will support the Good Neighbor Program's neighborhood walk-throughs. Members of the Alcohol Task Force go door to door to educate students about alcohol use and the Good Neighbor Program.

President Karen Whitney and other university administrators met recently with 22 landlords of student rentals to review changes to the university housing policy, which, beginning in fall 2013, will require students to live on campus during their first four terms. Now open, she wants to continue that dialogue.

"We want to hear from landlords how the university can work with them to ensure a quality experience that helps their student-tenants stay in school and graduate," Whitney said.

For information about the Good Neighbor Program, contact McGee at 814-393-1949 or [jmcgee@clarion.edu](mailto:jmcgee@clarion.edu), or Matt Shaffer, coordinator of judicial affairs and residence life education, at 814-393-1918 or [mshaffer@clarion.edu](mailto:mshaffer@clarion.edu).



## Community Service Day set for Oct. 20

Clarion University students will work throughout the greater Clarion area from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 20 for Fall Community Service Day. Organized by Clarion's Center for Leadership and Involvement, students work with community agencies and organizations for the betterment of the community. They will be wearing Community Service Day t-shirts.

Local agencies can register a project or other work to be done by contacting Kelly Ryan, assistant director for leadership and service, at 814-393-1688 or [kryan@clarion.edu](mailto:kryan@clarion.edu).

## Eating clean, eating green

Chartwells, Clarion University's food service, is making Eagle Commons dining facility a place that nourishes the people who eat there and the local economy by buying local.

Chartwells works with 10 farms within a 100-mile radius of Clarion to procure in-season produce. Additionally, Chartwells has committed to serving an entrée once a week using meat from local farms. Of the food offered at



*Eagle Commons dining facility, at the corner of Wood and Arnold streets, buys meat and produce from local farms when possible. The doors to Eagle Commons are open to the community, as well as to the university.*

Eagle Commons, 95 percent is made from scratch.

Chartwells has implemented Project Clean Plate, which prompts students to

take only as much food as they can eat, and Project Green Thumb, which encourages recycling and composting.

The community is welcome to dine at Eagle Commons. For hours and daily menus, visit [www.dineoncampus.com/clarion](http://www.dineoncampus.com/clarion).

## Have your say

*"We won't be building audacious buildings at Clarion. We won't be building the ones that make the paper and are splashy, because that's not Clarion. We're down to earth, we work hard and we work hard on behalf of our students."*

*Karen Whitney, President*

The Facilities Planning Department is responsible for major construction, maintenance and repair contracts at Clarion University and is guided by a facilities master plan. Clarion University will soon begin to develop a new plan and seeks community input.

The plan will provide a clear vision of the university's future, taking into

account how best to advance academics, student life, student housing, athletics, parking and landscaping, and efforts toward environmental responsibility and updated Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

"We are very committed, through our president, to be sure the borough and Oil City participate in the process so that we complement our host municipalities," said Ric Taylor, director of facilities planning and management. Open forums will be scheduled.

"It will be about a 16-month process," he said. "We want to be sure that everyone has the opportunity to be heard, and the best solution will be provided based on those comments."



## Student-supported bus service available to community

Clarion University students contribute to the community in many ways. Because of them, Clarion Area Transit (CAT) buses are available for student and community use.

Academic fees paid by Clarion University students cover 25 percent of the \$200,000 annual cost for bus service, and the university and a federal grant cover the balance.

"This is one of the most successful fixed-route, rural transportation programs in the state," said Paul Bylaska, vice president for finance and administration at the university.

The handicapped-accessible bus service is free of charge for Clarion University students with ID, senior

citizens age 65 and older and children younger than 5; other riders pay a nominal fee.

Area Transportation Authority of North Central Pennsylvania operates the CAT buses, which run Monday through Saturday, except during academic breaks. Campus loops and mall loops have pick-up and drop-off points at various locations on and off campus.

This year, the CAT bus added night service Monday through Thursday on the campus loop and Friday and Saturday on the mall loop.

For a complete schedule, visit [www.clarion.edu/bus](http://www.clarion.edu/bus).

## Athletics app keeps fans in the know

Clarion University Sports Information introduced the latest way for Golden Eagles sports fans to stay connected, an app for fans on the Android™ Operating System. Fans can download the app from their Android™ devices by visiting [www.clariongoldeneagles.com](http://www.clariongoldeneagles.com) and scanning the QR code. With the Android™ app, Clarion fans will be able to access the latest news and headlines from Clarion's athletic website, as well as team schedules and rosters and live scores from select athletic events. Fans can also use the app to buy football tickets.

Fans with smartphones or tablets can download the TuneIn app to listen to games and access stats.

## New app puts Clarion on the global map

At the fall community breakfast, which will be held at 7:30 a.m. Oct. 25 at the American Legion, Clarion, (\$7 at the door), the iClarion app will be introduced to show how the community and university are using new technology to heighten Clarion's visibility among travelers. The app, available as a free download on Apple™ and Droid™ mobile devices, will present information on the community, including local attractions, businesses and amenities.

Find out more about the app on Oct. 25.

## Learning by doing

There's nothing else like it in the United States or perhaps the world, and, for local elementary through college students, learning about amphibians will never be the same.

Clarion University, Clarion-Limestone School District in Clarion Township and the Center for Conservation Studies, Inc., are collaborating to develop the Clarion-Limestone Amphibian Research Center in a former greenhouse and building at Clarion-Limestone. CLARC is designed to aid in the research and save endangered species of amphibians.

Dr. Andrew Keth, Clarion University professor of biology, and Alysha Cypher, who graduated from Clarion in May with a degree in biology, partnered to create CLARC.

The project is important on an international scale because it will address widespread extinction of amphibian species worldwide.

*"We're about our students' success, and we're about helping our students prepare to achieve their dreams."*

*Karen M. Whitney,  
President*



*The spotted salamander is one of the amphibians that will be studied at Clarion-Limestone Amphibian Research Center.*

A 40-foot windmill and solar panel were erected on site to generate electricity to provide heat and light for the greenhouse complex. Rainwater is collected in holding tanks to provide a clean, viable water source.

Clarion-Limestone teachers have been asked to develop curriculum around CLARC.

**Would you like to make a gift  
to Clarion University? Give online at  
[www.clarion.edu/givenow](http://www.clarion.edu/givenow)  
or call 814-393-2637.**



*Clarion Area Chamber of Business and Industry Executive Director Tracy Becker, State Representative and Clarion University Council of Trustees member Donna Oberlander, Clarion Borough Mayor Andrea Estadt, Clarion University President Karen Whitney and Clarion County Commissioners Butch Campbell, Wayne Brosius and Greg Faller cut the ribbon to officially open Golden Eagle Landing, Clarion University Book Center's new downtown location at 650 Main Street. The downtown location will add vitality to the business community and provide an off-campus book center site where shoppers can find clothing, gifts and more. Store hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.*

## Building the future

The Clarion University campus is looking a bit fresher thanks to a summer of painting, masonry work and general repairs for safety and aesthetics.

"I think that our campus ought to complement the borough," said Ric Taylor, director of facilities planning and management. "By putting on a good presentation, it brings up the standards of the neighborhood and the borough itself," he said.

Along with continued maintenance and repairs, the university has several major projects slated for the near future:

- The 112-year-old Becht Hall was last renovated in 1995. Interior demolition is expected to begin this month, with a project completion estimate of spring 2014. Contractors will replace the building's wood frame with a steel frame and install geothermal heat pumps, which take advantage of underground geothermal conditions for heating in winter and cooling in summer. Becht will serve as a one-stop shop for student services.
- Waldo S. Tippin Gymnasium will undergo renovation. A start date has not been determined, but schematic design work should begin this fall. Taylor said the building needs a cosmetic upgrade, but the structure is in sound shape. Renovation will include replacement of HVAC, electrical and lighting systems.
- A new natatorium will connect to the Student Recreation Center, and the current pool will be covered over and the room used as an auxiliary gym.

The cost of renovating Tippin and building a new natatorium is about half of the cost of completely replacing Tippin. Renovation of both buildings and construction of the natatorium will be done in accordance with criteria for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification. No disruptions or road closures are expected to impact the community.

## Arts, culture and entertainment at Clarion

Detailed information about the following events is available at [www.clarion.edu/events](http://www.clarion.edu/events).

Events at Venango College are at Clarion University's Oil City campus.

For a schedule of athletic events, please visit [www.clariongoldeneagles.com](http://www.clariongoldeneagles.com).

### 2012

**Through Oct. 30, "gotta have it: collecting strategies and obsessions" (curated by Vicky A. Clark)**

2 to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 2 to 5 p.m. Friday; noon to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday; Art Gallery, Carlson Library

**Oct. 17-18, Clarion University High School Choral Festival**  
9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Marwick-Boyd Auditorium

**Oct. 25, Community Breakfast**  
7:30 a.m., American Legion, Clarion

**Oct. 26-27, Second Series (Clarion University Theatre; produced, directed, performed and often written by students)**  
8 p.m., Hart Chapel

**Oct. 28, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia American Music Concert**  
3 p.m., Hart Chapel

**Oct. 30, Terry Tempest Williams (freedom of speech activist)**  
7:30 p.m., Robert W. Rhoades Center, Venango College

**Nov. 10, Honors Colloquium**  
7:30 p.m., Hart Chapel

**Nov. 14-18, "All's Well That Ends Well" (Clarion University Theatre)**  
8 p.m. (Nov. 14-17), 2 p.m. (Nov. 18), Marwick-Boyd Little Theatre

**Nov. 27, Zach Wahls (LGBT equality activist)**  
7:30 p.m., Robert W. Rhoades Center, Venango College

**Nov. 28, Joseph Firecrow (Cheyenne flutist)**  
7:30 p.m., Robert W. Rhoades Center, Venango College

**Nov. 30, Wind Ensemble Concert**  
7:30 p.m., Marwick-Boyd Auditorium

**Dec. 1, Concert Choir and Chamber Singers Concert**  
7:30 p.m., Marwick-Boyd Auditorium

**Dec. 2, Symphony Orchestra Concert**  
3 p.m., Marwick-Boyd Auditorium

**Dec. 4, Jazz Band Concert**  
7:30 p.m., Marwick-Boyd Auditorium

**Dec. 7, "8" the Play (Clarion University Theatre)**  
8 p.m., Marwick-Boyd Little Theatre

**Dec. 9, Pennsylvania Youth Wind Symphony**  
3 p.m., Marwick-Boyd Auditorium

### 2013

**Jan. 21, Martin Luther King Breakfast, (time/location TBD)**

**March 6-10, "Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson" (Clarion University Theatre)**  
8 p.m. (March 6-9), 2 p.m. (March 10), Marwick-Boyd Little Theatre

**March 29-30, Second Series (Clarion University Theatre; produced, directed, performed and often written by students)**  
8 p.m., Hart Chapel

**April 4, Community Breakfast, 7:30 a.m. (location TBD)**

**April 7, Wind Orchestra Concert**  
3 p.m., Marwick-Boyd Auditorium

**April 8, Holocaust Remembrance Day/Esther Bauer (Holocaust survivor)**  
7:30 p.m., Robert W. Rhoades Center, Venango College

**April 9, Matt Croyle (filmmaker), 6:30 p.m., Hart Chapel**

**April 11, Kane Smego (nationally recognized spoken-word poet), 7:30 p.m., Robert W. Rhoades Center, Venango College**

**April 24-28, "Seascape" (Clarion University Theatre)**  
8 p.m. (April 24-27), 2 p.m. (April 28), Marwick-Boyd Little Theatre

**May 1-17, Bachelor of Fine Arts Show,**  
Clarion University Art Gallery, Carlson Library

**May 4, Concert Choir, Alumni, and Venango Chorus, Carmina Burana with orchestra**  
7:30 p.m., Marwick-Boyd Auditorium

**May 5, Symphony Orchestra Concert**  
3 p.m., Marwick-Boyd Auditorium

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### Two university music groups welcome community members to join.

Concert Choir meets from 3 to 3:50 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays in Marwick-Boyd Fine Arts Center and has several performances throughout the year. Contact Dr. Hank Alviani at 814-393-2384 or [halviani@clarion.edu](mailto:halviani@clarion.edu).

Symphony Orchestra performs at the end of each semester. Contact Dr. Casey Teske at 814-393-1828.

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Clarion University of Pennsylvania  
840 Wood Street  
Clarion, PA 16214

