

# The Clackamas Print

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## Chinese Year of the DRAGON

By **Nora Goodman**  
The Clackamas Print

During the Year of the Dragon festival, wearing red underwear has nothing to do with Valentine's Day. According to Chinese tradition, people born in the Year of the dragon wear red underwear to protect them from evil.

The Chinese New Year is the longest and most important celebration to the Chinese American population. This year marks the Year of the Dragon according to the Chinese lunar calendar. The year began on Feb. 9.

The Dragon is the fifth sign and the most popular year of the Chinese Zodiac, which consists of 12 animal signs. The Year of the Dragon only comes once every 12 years. The dragon is a creature of myth and legend; the symbol signifies success, happiness, good fortune, intense power and is considered the luckiest year of all.

"During the Year of the Dragon, there is a baby boom among the Chinese people. The strong symbolic meaning for the Chinese people will bring the birth rate up 10 to 25 percent," said Louis Lee, a Chinese accountant originally from Hong Kong. "To the Chinese people, New Year is like Christmas to the Westerners."

The year of the Dragon is an exciting year for the Chinese people all over the world. In China, people may take time off work to prepare for and celebrate the two week celebration.

Pearl Shang and Raymond Lui, the owners of the Red Rose Tea House and Cafe in downtown China Town, expressed that the Dragon is a very powerful symbol for the Chinese people.

Yunjuan Deng, came to the United States with her husband 15 months ago and has been taking ESL classes at Clackamas Community College for the past year.

Deng's family begins the Chinese New Year by cleaning their house, moving furniture, cleaning the carpet and doing laundry the week before, which signifies getting rid of all bad things. The house is not cleaned again until after the holiday is over, in order to not allow bad things to come back in. The daytime on New Year's Eve is spent decorating with flowers, lanterns and buying new clothes.

On New Year's Day, Deng's family gets together for dinner and gives traditional red envelopes filled with money to the children, along with sticky candy and oranges.

Deng commented that the American way of celebrating the New Year is simple in comparison to the way she celebrated it in China with "dragon dances" and large fireworks displays.

In Portland, the Lan Su Chinese Garden celebrated the Chinese New Year and the Year of the Dragon with two weeks of events and activities, from Jan. 24 to Feb. 6 featuring lion dances, martial arts demonstrations, feng shui classes, music, gardening discussions and much more. The Lantern Festival seemed to be the most popular traditional event when it was sold out on Feb. 6.

The Portland Chinese Times ended the Chinese New Year celebration by hosting the Year of the Dragon with a Chinese Cultural Fair at the convention center on Saturday, Feb. 11.



Photo illustration by Brad Heineke The Clackamas Print

### College receives record \$1.8 million gift

By **Joshua Dillen**  
Associate News Editor

Education is definitely not cheap. Many find it extremely difficult to make ends meet and further their education at the same time. Scholarships can be an opportunity that solves the financial woes encountered when considering the rising costs of education. The availability of this type of financial aid is looking better at the college these days.

Students who apply for scholarships may like to know the Clackamas Community College Foundation has received a \$1.8 million gift from the IFC family trust. The trust was managed by the Inskeep family until recently. This translates to an additional \$81,000 in available funds for student scholarship awards for the 2012-13 school year, according to Karen Martini, who has worked with the foundation for more than 12 years and is currently the executive director.

John Inskeep, past board member with the Foundation and son of late Jerry Inskeep was instrumental in making this gift happen. Martini explained that he had contacted her and expressed that since his father's death, the family was not going to continue the management of the trust.

Jerry had always supported the CCC Foundation. His family decided to split the assets in the trust between the CCC Foundation and Self Enhancement Inc., which is an inner city program in North Portland that helps youth to achieve success.

"John called me and said, 'This is what we're [the IFC trust] thinking of doing, Karen, and I need a proposal from you,'" said Martini. "We went back and forth a couple of times and then ultimately, they made a decision to fund it."

As president of CCC, Joanne Truesdell was proud of this significant gift and what it will do for students. The IFC trust had always provided monies for transfer students and those entering health occupations with past scholarships awards. She and Martini described that future awards as a result of this gift will go to the same types of students.

"This means scholarships in perpetuity, that's what's cool," said Truesdell.

Martini expressed that the gift will be added to the CCC Foundation's endowment, bringing its total monies up to \$11.3 million. The endowment is invested to assure the Foundation can continue to award scholarships for an indefinite amount of time.



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